

Start your New Year 5786

SWEETLY

at Society Hill Synagogue



SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

KESHER

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER 2025 • • • ELUL 5785 • TISHREI • HESHVAN • KISLEV 5786

שנה טובה ומתוקה

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah • A Good and Sweet New Year

May all of our fellow Society Hill Synagogue members be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good, healthy, and sweet new year!

Terry Novick and Bob Blacksberg

Stephen and Pelley Brown

Alan and Debbie Casnoff

Joel Chernock

Debbie Weissbach and Neil Cohen

Frank Giorgilli

Terry Graboyes, Noah Herman, and Ashley Kerns

Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman

David and Sayde Ladov

Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz

Beverly Michaels

Paula Ninerell

Harry and Eleanor Oxman

Lesli and Carter Reich

Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof

Irv and Sharon Shapiro

Barry and Joanne Slosberg

Stanley and Judith Woloff



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From the President's Desk

THE HEART OF SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE IS YOU

by Lisa Eizen

Shanah tovah! As we welcome the new year 5786 together, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to every member of our congregation for a year filled with health, happiness, and spiritual growth. **May this year continue to bring us closer as a community and inspire us to embrace hope, kindness, and peace.**

You have likely heard the clergy and some of our lay leadership speak about the remarkable growth our congregation has experienced over the past several years. This expansion is testament to the dedication, expertise, and leadership of **Rabbi Nathan Kamesar**, our Society Hill Synagogue staff, and the warmth of our community, and it fills me with gratitude and excitement for what the future will bring.



Our Coolanu: Culture and Community committee attended the US Open Cup Quarterfinals soccer game to cheer on the Philadelphia Union; David Levine.

As our membership continues to grow, it is important that we maintain a warm, welcoming community where everyone feels valued and connected. One of the best ways we can nurture this spirit is through **active participation**. There are many committees at Society Hill Synagogue that offer wonderful opportunities to get involved, contribute your talents, and build meaningful connections with others in our community.

Our newly named **Hesed Committee — Caring for our Community**, formerly called “God’s Unfinished Business” (GUB), is a perfect example. Under the able leadership of **Laurie Krivo, Natalie Landro, Debbie Stewart, and Julie Wilson**, **Hesed** has expanded its mission. This committee will not only respond to requests from our members, but will also proactively engage in outreach to ensure that everyone feels included and supported. They will be checking in with members, making “Shabbat Shalom” calls, and reaching out to those who may be vulnerable or who have needed our help in the past. For more from the **Hesed Committee**, see page 17 of this *Kesher*.

“Make room at your table.” These are the buzzwords of our **Membership Committee** as it works to help newer members integrate into our community — finding ways to connect, engage, and build relationships among congregants. Please keep an eye out for new faces at Oneg dinners and Kiddush lunches and invite them to eat with you. Coming into a new community can be uncomfortable for some, and sometimes all it takes is a small gesture — an extension of someone’s hand, a warm smile, or an invitation — to help a person who is new to our community feel welcome and comfortable. Each of us has the power to make a difference in someone’s experience, and together we can continue to build a community where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued. Membership Co-Chairs, **Debbie Stewart** and **Judy Lalli**, along with the entire committee, also reach out to prospective members to form connections, and they regularly engage with all of our members, supporting retention and fostering a strong, inclusive community.

One wonderful opportunity to put this into practice is our **Open House Shabbat**, which will take place on **September 5 and 6**. There will be new and prospective members in attendance, so it's the perfect time to welcome them, build new connections, and share the warmth that makes our congregation so special.

Speaking of inclusion, our four **Inclusion Subcommittees** — **Interfaith Inclusion, Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion, Inclusion of People of Color, and Disability Inclusion**, led by **Debbie Stewart, Gail Massey, Jared Susco, Marty Rosenberg, and Amy Goldman** — are actively researching, discussing, and planning future events. Over the past several months, they have presented Lunch 'n' Learns featuring engaging outside speakers and heartfelt testimonies from our own members. These efforts are truly fostering "an environment of belonging for all those seeking Jewish community," as stated in our core values.

Another inspiring example of our connections at work at Society Hill Synagogue took place in June. **Jeremy Newberg** and the **Israel Dialogue and Engagement Subcommittee** of the **Israel Committee** organized **Listening Circles** for congregants to share their thoughts and feelings about recent events in Israel and Gaza, and the impact of those events on our lives as American Jews.



Our community marching in the Philadelphia Pride Parade in June; LilyFish Gomberg.

Almost 70 congregants participated, and each person took turns speaking while others listened quietly, respectfully, and non-judgmentally. Even when perspectives differed, participants made the time to truly listen to one another. It was a powerful affirmation of our values in action.

Of course, there are many more ways to make connections, express your talents, and pursue your interests here at Society Hill Synagogue. Our **Book Club, Mah Jongg Club, Rosh Hodesh Group, Men's Club, Social Action Committee, Coolanu, Triple Chai (Ages 54+), Young Families Group, and Young Friends (20s and 30s)** are all dynamic groups that foster engagement, connection, and community. There truly is something for everyone!

As we enter this new year, let us remember that the core of Society Hill Synagogue is made up of the individual people in our community — your compassion, curiosity, and commitment to one another. Through our many dynamic committees and clubs, each of you strengthens our community, fosters meaningful connections, and ensures that everyone feels welcome and valued. I encourage each of you to explore the opportunities that resonate with your interests and talents, to reach out to others, and to continue **building a congregation where every voice is heard and every member belongs**. Together, we can make this coming year one filled with growth, connection, and shared joy, carrying forward the spirit of belonging that defines Society Hill Synagogue.



From the Rabbi's Desk

STRATEGIC PLANNING: THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

If you can believe it, I'm really excited for this community to continue to engage in its **Strategic Planning Process**, especially the next chapter of this work. That's because this next chapter is deeply relational: it's a chance for **each of you** to share with synagogue leadership what it is you're seeking as you connect to a synagogue community: What brings you to a synagogue community? What deepens your engagement? Where are you encountering moments of real joy and meaning and connection at Society Hill Synagogue? What do you wish were present or strengthened here that would be more inviting? What would you be willing and excited to roll up your sleeves and help build? Where does being Jewish, or being in relationship to the Jewish people, fit into your life, and how can we build off of that?

Beginning after Rosh Hashanah, everyone is going to have two opportunities to offer their perspectives: (1) through a **congregation-wide survey** available through forthcoming emails; and (2) through a series of **focus groups** offered on **November 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, and 13**. Specific times for the focus groups will be shared in September via eNews and other synagogue communications.

We encourage you to weigh in through at least one and ideally both formats, the survey and the focus groups. Your perspective will be essential as we work to craft and shape the direction of Society Hill Synagogue.

To prepare for this work, the Board of Directors articulated a refined version of our Mission, Vision, and Values, which can be found on page 11 of this *Kesher*.

Those are the principles by which we seek to chart a new course for the years to come.

Our mission (reprinted here for convenience) is:

Society Hill Synagogue nourishes, strengthens, and inspires our members, their families, and the surrounding community through the rhythms and teachings of Jewish life.

And our Vision is:

Society Hill Synagogue envisions a vibrant intergenerational community in which we nourish our souls through prayer and tradition, care for one another, form new and lasting friendships, celebrate our joys together, deepen our minds through Torah and learning, and together help author the next chapter of Jewish life as we work to repair a broken world.

This is what we are steering toward. The question is how we get there, and that's where we want your input.

A few years ago, in late 2021/ early 2022, we engaged in a



Members read our new Mission, Vision, and Values at the Congregation Annual Meeting in June; LilyFish Gomberg.

different sort of Strategic Planning process. At the time, the specter of the COVID-19 Pandemic was just beginning to recede, and our leadership convened and identified a clear set of priorities we wanted to pursue in service of our mission. Like many congregations, we were ramping up our return to in-person services and programs, and we identified clear priorities we saw as important in our goal to strengthen and grow our community. **Those priorities were:**

(1) Strengthen Our Shabbat Experience: Recognizing that Shabbat is both the core, regular moment when we engage with fundamental elements of Jewish life — spirituality, learning, and community — *and also* that it is the main time when people look for a new synagogue community to join, we prioritized investing in Shabbat as a lively, dynamic, enriching moment each and every week. This included moving our Hebrew School to Shabbat, bringing all of our community together; investing in more music; bringing meals to every Shabbat service; and pouring our hearts into teaching and praying on Shabbat.

(2) Enhance our Approach to Communications: We wanted to ensure Society Hill Synagogue was no longer the “best kept secret” in Jewish Philadelphia. We wanted to make sure everyone who might benefit from being part of our community could find us. We

formed a Communications Committee to hone our messaging of who we are and hired professionals to amplify this messaging in all the important ways and rapidly evolving online information landscape, showcasing the people who make up this community in the process.

(3) Expand Our Social and Communal Programming: Recognizing that people look to Jewish community for reasons that go beyond religion and spirituality, we sought to expand the breadth of programming we offer. Through fun programs like attending sports events with Coolanu, to interest groups organized around age and gender, like our Young Friends (20s and 30s), Triple Chai (54+), our Rosh Hodesh group (for women), and Men’s Club, we’ve found ways of gathering, both intergenerationally and diversely while also creating spaces for

people with shared experiences to connect.

(4) Become More Inclusive to a Diversifying Jewish Community: The Jewish community is changing, and our community, like all communities, needed to learn and tend to the different experiences Jews and their loved ones have had when encountering Jewish community. Some groups, including including interfaith couples and families, LGBTQIA+ people, people of color, and people with disabilities, have historically encountered more difficulties when trying to find Jewish community, and we’ve sought to lower those barriers.

In addition to these four clear areas of priority, as we began to grow, we expanded our areas of focus. We grew our highly successful once-per-month Young Families Shabbat led by **Micah Hart** to twice per month,



Our members marched with J.Proud at the Pride Parade in Philadelphia in June; LilyFish Gomberg.



Congregants gather and make Havdalah at Havdalah Down the Shore 2025 this August, hosted by Dan and Dana Feinberg; David Levine.

averaging around 85 attendees per gathering; we initiated a showcase of a twice-yearly Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat, bringing in nationally renowned speakers to deepen our learning and bring in new people to the community. And we moved from a part-time Hebrew School Director to a full-time Director of Youth and Family Education, as our Hebrew School has increased in size by over 60% over the last five years, from 65 students to 110.

To support these efforts, our Board created new governance structures, including a significant revision of our bylaws and reporting structures.

If our goal was growth, the strategy succeeded beyond what we expected. In summer 2020, we had 275 member households. As I write this, our 401st household has joined.

Numbers are not worth celebrating in and of themselves. But to the extent that they suggest more people are finding a Jewish home for themselves — finding nourishment, and strength, and inspiration — here at Society Hill Synagogue, we see that as something worth celebrating.

That said, having created a Strategic Plan in 2022 directed toward kickstarting growth, and three years later having achieved that growth, our planning process today is in many ways preparing for what it means to be present in a Jewish community with many more people in it than there were a few years ago: how do we continue to foster a sense of warmth, and presence, and interconnection within this new level of energy? How do we ensure our staff, clergy and volunteers are not

overburdened, but rather can leverage this growth into more opportunities for warmth, connection, and support? How do we ensure that we tend to our physical sacred spaces to keep them welcoming and inviting? Do we need more space, and if so, what would that look like? How do we ensure we have the resources to sustain us if and when there are lean years, so that the community can continue to serve as a source of nourishment and strength and connection for generations to come?

These are the questions we are wrestling with as we continue this strategic planning process, but we can't do it without you, so please, when the chance comes to participate in these conversations, take it. Thank you!



From the *Hazzan's Desk*

REACHING OUT AND REACHING IN

by *Hazzan Jessi Roemer*



Reaching Out

I've been thinking about how love works.

Last year, a wonderful guest scholar at Society Hill Synagogue offered an analogy to explain the limits of human capacity to actively tend to the world beyond one's tribe: she said, in conversation with our rabbi, "It's only natural that I love my children more than your children, and you in turn love yours more than mine."

This seemed, on the surface, a clear explanation for why we can't be expected to attend to everyone in the world all the time, why it is natural to circle our wagons of care in smaller, more manageable circumferences — such as tribes or families — especially in times of crisis.

It's a fair point; if we spent all our time worrying about every individual, or even every group, in the world, it would be very difficult to live our lives. We have to make practical choices regarding for whom we will drop everything to protect — and for whom we won't — in a given moment.

And yet, in the months since that conversation, I haven't been able to shake the feeling that the loving-my-own-kids-more explanation of how far human compassion can extend doesn't fully take into account how love actually works.

"It's natural that if I love my children a lot, I love yours less." This claim relies on the assumption that love — like attention, or oil — is a zero-sum resource, with a finite amount for distribution.

But that has not been my experience. Loving my kids hasn't restricted my empathy; it has expanded it. Since having kids, I've found myself feeling more love than I ever did before for kids who are not mine, because my deep love for my children is a lens through which I can see my children in every child.

Thanks to my children, my love is a portal — a wormhole — through which empathy jets well beyond the smaller circles of my family, tribe, or country. Love is, in this case, both tunnel and traveler. And when received, it multiplies, like a cell.

It's the same with pets: I see my beloved cats in every animal I encounter; this softens my heart toward them in a way it did not before I had cats. There are lots of folks on this Earth who do not need to have kids or pets of their own in order to cultivate generous hearts; they are only better proof of the tremendous human capacity for love.

What if the "nature" of love is actually not to be exclusive, but to extend itself indefinitely? And when we fail to inhabit that expansiveness, what if that's not a "natural" scarcity of love, but simply our own will pushing it back (even if for sometimes understandable reasons)?

These distinctions are important, because if we close ourselves into a tautology of restricted, zero-sum love; if we deny our own heart-knowledge of love-as-lens, love-as-portal, love-as-self-multiplying-cell; if we confuse love for attention or time or any of the more finite resources actually restricting our generosity, then we risk giving ourselves permission not to see ourselves in the other. And when we start to justify this not-seeing as "natural," we risk that permission becoming

permanent. From there, we know what can happen.

Physical resources are finite. Bandwidth is finite. But even if we cannot each take care of everyone all the time, we can act from the knowledge that all of us on Earth are not only connected; we are family. Far from being finite, love is what human rights advocate Yifat Susskind has called “an endlessly renewable resource” — if we will but cultivate it.

Reaching In

Speaking of cultivating love, one of my favorite moments as a hazzan is when someone says, “As a kid, I never had the opportunity to read Torah / learn the service / celebrate becoming B’nei Mitzvah, but I’d like to explore it now (even if I feel a little nervous!)”

“Aha!” I think in those moments, “there are so many issues in the world I that can’t solve, but *this* I can help with!”

When an adult Jew decides — in a big or small way — to claim their place in the rich spiritual and intellectual heritage we’ve been gifted and offer it back in community, everyone benefits! For the individual, it can be very grounding — even transformative. And the joy ripples outward to the community, which is all the richer and fuller for the learning and celebrations shared by its members.



Randi Kamine and Debbie Jaffe, one of our B’nei Mitzvah tutors, prepare for Randi’s adult Bat Mitzvah this August; Hazzan Jessi Roemer.

This year, Society Hill Synagogue will offer two exciting opportunities for “reaching in” to the tradition that do not come around every year:

1. In the first part of the year, I’ll be offering a **beginners’ course for adults in Torah *leyning*** (chanting). We’ll focus on learning to read and chant Torah *trope* (the melodic system for chanting Torah). If you have basic or intermediate Hebrew reading skills and have been thinking about getting into Torah *leyning*, this is your opportunity! See the Adult Education brochure or webpage for dates and more details.

2. In the second part of the year, I will work with a cohort of interested adults toward a **group B’nei Mitzvah celebration** which will take place at Society Hill Synagogue on **Saturday, October 24, 2026**. Adults in this cohort are expected to take the Torah *leyning* class in the fall (unless you already have basic Torah *leyning* skills). See the Adult Education brochure or webpage for dates and more details.

Wishing you *shannah tovah* (a good new year) and happy fall — I look forward to sharing all our joys and oys (hopefully more of the former!) in community over the coming months.

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission

Society Hill Synagogue nourishes, strengthens, and inspires our members, their families, and the surrounding community through the rhythms and teachings of Jewish life.

Vision

Society Hill Synagogue envisions a vibrant intergenerational community in which we nourish our souls through prayer and tradition, care for one another, form new and lasting friendships, celebrate our joys together, deepen our minds through Torah and learning, and together help author the next chapter of Jewish life as we work to repair a broken world.

Values

Pluralism — We believe that a diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, and approaches to Jewish life strengthens us and helps us grow. Our services are based on Conservative liturgy while incorporating influences from the Reconstructionist, Renewal, and Reform movements, and beyond.

Kehilah/Community — We believe that life is lived most richly when woven together in the fabric of community: caring for one another when sick, providing shared space for one another's children, celebrating one another's joys, mourning one another's sorrows, and finding diverse opportunities to gather and connect.

Hakhlahah/Inclusion — We believe in the wisdom of making the riches of Jewish life accessible to all. It is our responsibility to build pathways that facilitate participation in Jewish life and to foster an environment of belonging for all those seeking Jewish community, including interfaith couples and families, LGBTQIA+ people, people of color, and people of all abilities.

Talmud Torah/Lifelong Learning — We believe learning is a fundamental part of Jewish living, and it infuses everything we do: from prayer services to Board meetings; from preschool to Hebrew School and throughout adulthood.

T'filah/Prayer — We believe prayer is a vital expression of Jewish life that can connect us to God, strengthen and nourish our soul, and help us form a relationship to mystery, strengthened through music, liturgy, and reflection.

Tzedek/Justice — We believe Judaism gives voice to the eternal call incumbent upon all of us to contribute to a more just world and that the synagogue is an important vehicle for mobilizing our collective efforts.

Klal Yisrael/All of Israel — We believe that fostering a connection to Israel — the people, the land, the country — is an essential component of synagogue life. We believe in the value of expressing and exploring our connection to the Jewish people worldwide and in our ancient homeland across a diversity of perspectives.



Society Hill Synagogue Playschool

NEW YEAR, NEW DISCOVERIES

by Megan Nachod



The school year starts in September and October, so we are welcoming back familiar faces and some new children and staff as well. September is always a busy time in the school as we all settle into a new routine and manage the changes the beginning of the school year inevitably brings. When you add in the upcoming High Holidays, it only gets busier!

The holidays will be observed in the Playschool with a variety of fun activities. We go through a lot of apples this time of year, between apple taste tests, cooking, and all of our many art projects that involve apples. We will have the opportunity to delve into what makes a good friend and how we say "I'm sorry" with some of the newer books that have come out for young children. Sukkot means

we can make decorations for our congregation's sukkah and eat snack or lunch outdoors in the sukkah. Finally, we will unroll a Torah scroll and see how it ends and then begins again during Simhat Torah. The holidays mean that although we have less time in the classroom, there are more things to discover and investigate! It is rarely ever quiet in the Playschool, and even less so during this time of year.

Hopefully November will bring the cooler weather that we'll no doubt be craving by then. We will get to continue our study of harvest festivals, this time with an American twist. Who doesn't love a fall harvest festival? The bounty of vegetables are sure to make their way into our art experiences, snacks, and sensory activities.



A Playschool student dances in the sprinkler during water play at Playschool Summer Camp; LilyFish Gomberg.

November is also when we start enrolling for the next school year. If you would like more information on our wonderful program or know someone who might be interested, please reach out to me at megan@societyhillsynagogue.org or by calling 215-922-6590 x4. We are very proud of our program, and I am always happy to show what we do on a tour. I get to see what magic our teachers work in the classrooms every day, and I would love for you to see it as well.

Wishing you *shanah tovah u'metukah* — a sweet and happy new year!



Playschool students share an embrace during outside play at Playschool Summer Camp; Staff.



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

A SWEET NEW SCHOOL YEAR

by Karen Hafter



Allow me to reintroduce myself: I'm **Karen Hafter**, your new Director of Youth and Family Education! I might be new to this position, but I'm not new to the synagogue. I'm a proud third-generation congregant, and I'm thrilled to be returning home! With the start of the school year coming up, I've got some big plans. Between a packed B'nei Mitzvah schedule, special programs, and regular classes, we are in for a very sweet 5786.

Our first day of school is **Saturday, September 6**. We're welcoming families to join their kids for a "Taste of Hebrew School" from **9:30-10:30 am**, with an optional Coffee and Schmooze from **9:00-9:30 am** and our Torah Discussion in the Sanctuary from **10:30-11:00 am**. As always, Kiddush lunch will be open to everyone at **noon**.

The first big change that I'm implementing as Director is purchasing a curriculum from the **Institute of Southern Jewish Living (ISJL)** for the entire Hebrew School. I became familiar with ISJL during my years in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and can speak highly about the quality of their materials and their results.

This curriculum will provide our school with a unified, long-term vision that carries our students from year to year and ensures that they will be receiving grade-level, scaffolded, engaging lessons. Our incredible returning teachers will be using these lesson plans in combination with the projects and plans they have created over the years.

We're starting this busy B'nei Mitzvah season strong with **Isaac Hohns** (September 13), **Zev Pipano** (November 1), **Owen Fox** (November 8), and **Ari Laver** (November 22). Each celebration is a unique opportunity to support our students and their families as they become Jewish adults.

The High Holidays are quickly approaching, and I'm so excited to co-lead our **Family High Holiday Services** with "**Music Man Micah**" **Hart**, of Young Families Shabbat fame! In addition to new leaders, **LilyFish Gomberg** and I have been putting together a new *mahzor* (High Holiday prayerbook) to better meet the needs of our congregation. It is full of stories, poetry, and songs, as well as traditional prayers with translation and transliteration.

If your child is interested in reading a Hebrew prayer or presenting an English reading, let me know! More voices coming together makes for a joyful sound.

Once a month on Sundays, the Hebrew School will be taking Society Hill Synagogue *On the Move*, bringing our community to destinations all around Philadelphia for fun activities and service projects. The first of these is going to be apple picking at **Linvilla Orchards** on **Sunday, September 14**. What could better connect us to a sweet new year than gathering our own Rosh Hashanah apples? All are welcome to join us by registering online for \$11 per person. The link is in the eNews and Hebrew School emails. If cost is a barrier, please reach out.

The only thing sweeter than apples and honey is the *ru'ah* (spirit) of our students, as seen in such opportunities as our monthly **Young Families Shabbat** gatherings that the *Gan* class attends on Saturdays. This fall, those will take place on **September 20, October 11**, and **November 15**. Wishing you *shana tovah u'metukah!*

Israel Committee

ISRAEL AND OUR COMMUNITY: A YEAR OF REFLECTION, ENGAGEMENT, AND ACTION

By David Levine, Jeremy Newberg, and Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

Our community is very diverse when it comes to our relationship to Israel. In fact, in our recently published Mission, Vision, and Values (listed in full on page 11 of this *Keshet*), we articulate our relationship to Israel by underscoring exactly that notion of diversity:

Klal Yisrael/All of Israel:

We believe that fostering a connection to Israel — the people, the land, the country — is an essential component of synagogue life. We believe in the value of expressing and exploring our connection to the Jewish people worldwide and in our ancient homeland across a diversity of perspectives.

This statement, in essence, expresses two features of our relationship to Israel: **(1)** Israel is the historic homeland of the Jewish people, and today it is home to more of the Jewish people than any other country in the world. So, in order to fulfill the Jewish value of *kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh*, all of Israel/the Jewish people are responsible for one another, it is important for us to remain in a deep supportive relationship with the people of Israel. We also recognize that **(2)** our Society Hill Synagogue

community is made up of people with very **diverse perspectives** related to Israel; the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; war in Israel, Gaza, and the broader Middle East; and a host of other issues related to these topics. We believe it is important for Society Hill Synagogue to be a place where people listen to one another, where we see one another's humanity, and where we are open to learning from one another, especially in areas of significant difference.

Our Israel Committee was formed last summer to better pursue these objectives. **Rabbi Kamesar** has served as the de facto chair of the committee, whose work has largely been pursued through the creation of two volunteer-led subcommittees. The **Israel Connections Subcommittee**, chaired by **David Levine**, has been tasked with fostering this community's ties to the people of Israel, opening and tending to avenues of connection and support. The **Israel Dialogue and Engagement Subcommittee (IDEC)**, chaired by **Jeremy Newberg**, has been tasked with fostering opportunities for congregants to listen to one another across lines of significant political

disagreement with respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and beyond, to open up pathways to learning and connection with one another.

It's been a lot of work, and we are proud of all that the volunteers on these two subcommittees have accomplished, while recognizing that there is always more that can, and will, be done.

To name just a few examples, the Israel Dialogue and Engagement Subcommittee surveyed the congregation about our members' connection to Israel, the effects on their lives of the current conflicts in Israel, and their desire to talk with fellow congregants about their reactions and feelings and/or to learn more about these issues.

We received **145 responses**, summarized these responses, and shared that summary with the community. Many people expressed strong support for Israel, calling for activities to show more vocal and visible support, educational programs, and engagement with Israeli perspectives. Some wanted the synagogue to take a clear stance on support of Israel and to provide opportunities for

members to show support. Some expressed disappointment in the Israeli government and concern for Palestinians. We held two days of **Listening Circles**, with over 60 members coming together to share their perspectives, listen to the perspectives of others, learn, and build bridges. Even across these sharply differing opinions, people were respectful and kind.

We thank the members of the Israel Dialogue and Engagement Subcommittee for their efforts in making all of this happen: **Steve Greenspan, Bob Kaufman, Rob Einhorn, Libby Cone, Rafi Licht, Randi Glatzer, Phyllis Denbo, and Ilyse Kramer.**

We also added to our Shabbat morning services the *Aheinu* prayer for the return of the hostages held in Gaza and a prayer for peace.

In January, the Israel Connections Subcommittee organized a Lunch 'n' Learn panel of congregants who shared their firsthand experiences of **volunteering in Israel** both before and after October 7, 2023. Two of the organizations included were the **Jewish National Fund** and **Leket Israel**, the National Food Bank, which rescues surplus agricultural produce and collects excess cooked meals for redistribution throughout Israel.

In April, a joint program with the **Young Friends** featured guest speaker **Jordan Davis**, a

University of Pennsylvania student from Wyoming, who shared her Birthright Israel journey and how connecting with Israel helped her deepen her Jewish identity.

At the end of April, we hosted a solemn program for **Yom HaZikaron**, Israel's Remembrance Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism, which we marked with a memorial ceremony including candle lighting, the *Yizkor* prayer for the Israel Defense Forces, the reading of letters written by fallen soldiers from the battle zone, a moment of silence, the sounding of a siren, and concluding with the singing of *Hatikvah*. This was followed by a joyful **Yom HaAtzma'ut** celebration with music, games, and dinner, underscoring the profound connection between sacrifice and independence — without service and sacrifice, we couldn't celebrate Israel's independence.

A Lunch 'n' Learn in July included a screening of **The Road to Recovery**, about an Israeli association of volunteers who drive Palestinian patients — primarily children — from checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza to life-saving treatments in Israeli hospitals. Our special guest was filmmaker and Road to Recovery volunteer, **Udi Ben Seadia**, who shared the personal dilemmas he has faced.

We thank the Israel Connections Subcommittee members: **Ana**

Atach, Carter Reich, Felise and Holden Nagelberg, Rob Einhorn, Rafi Licht, Val and Michael Yasner, Rachel Howe, Fran Gallun, Stan Woloff, Sivia Braunstein, Lisa Eizen, and Deena Friedland.

The synagogue also hosted a viewing of the livestreamed 20th annual **Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony** organized by Combatants for Peace and the Parents Circle - Families Forum, a unique opportunity for Israelis and Palestinians to grieve together.

This fall, we will host an in-person event with **the Parents Circle - Families Forum**, as detailed on the next page. The event will be held on **Sunday, October 19 at 10:30 am**, with four speakers, two Israeli and two Palestinian, sharing their personal experiences of grief and their choice to pursue reconciliation, dialogue, and peace.

Ten days later, on **October 29**, we will welcome musicians from the **Israel Symphony Orchestra, Rishon LeZion**, for a concert, with details on the next page.

We'd like to thank the following congregants who have also helped bring these events to fruition: **Sahar Oz, Harry Oxman, Peter Piven, Laurie Krivo, and Nancy Wygant.** We are grateful that our community engages with Israel through dialogue, culture, reflection, and commitment.

OCTOBER 19 PARENTS CIRCLE - FAMILIES FORUM GUEST SPEAKERS



AMERICAN FRIENDS
of the **PARENTS CIRCLE**
— FAMILIES FORUM —
Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace

The **Parents Circle - Families Forum (PCFF)** is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization made up of over 800 bereaved families. Their common bond is that they have lost a close family member to the conflict. But instead of choosing revenge, they have chosen a path of reconciliation. Through their educational activities, these bereaved members have joined together to bring tens of thousands of Palestinians and Israelis on journeys of reconciliation. It is often raw, and always emotional. But out of

these interactions, comes change. Not the kind of change that makes headlines, but a more personal and profound shift in perspective.

On **Sunday, October 19 at 10:30 am-12:00 pm**, join us to welcome bereaved Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers as they share their personal stories of loss and unique journeys toward reconciliation.

As a joint Israeli-Palestinian peace organization, the PCFF models constructive dialogue

around shared values. Even since October 7, 2023, its staff, members, and thousands of participants are still committed to peace and a way forward that centers around empathy and humanization.

The PCFF focuses on the shared value of the sanctity of human life. This conversation brings our attention to the values that Palestinians and Israelis can agree upon even in the darkest of times.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29: AN EVENING WITH MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, RISHON LEZION



We are honored to welcome musicians from the Israel Symphony Orchestra, Rishon LeZion (ISO) for an evening of music that bridges Israeli, Jewish, and classical traditions.

Founded in 1988 in Rishon LeZion, Israel's fourth largest city, the ISO is also the resident orchestra of the Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv. It has performed at festivals across Israel, toured internationally, and earned acclaim for its wide-ranging repertoire, from Schubert to beloved Israeli music.

Program Highlights Include:

- Franz Schubert – String Trio in B Major, D 471
- Sergei Taneyev – String Trio in D Major, Op. 21
- Gideon Klein – String Trio (1944)
- Zoltán Kodály – Intermezzo for String Trio
- Traditional favorites such as Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, Al Kol Eleh, and Hatikvah
- Leonard Cohen – Hallelujah

Musicians:

- **Doron Alperin** – Viola
- **Eyal Heiman** – Cello
- **Yana Mering** – Violin

On **October 29 at 7:00 pm**, experience a stirring repertoire weaving together beloved Israeli and Jewish songs with European chamber music masterpieces.

Tickets: \$18 for Members
\$36 General Public



Hesed Committee — Caring for Our Community

COME TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

by Laurie Krivo, Natalie Landro, Debbie Stewart, and Julie Wilson

We all need support sometimes. Holding and caring for one another during these times is at the heart of the Society Hill Synagogue community.

Now, we are expanding our work to take care of one another in the newly named **Hesed Committee — Caring for Our Community**.

Laurie Krivo, Natalie Landro, Debbie Stewart, and Julie Wilson are proud to co-lead our new efforts to support the members of Society Hill Synagogue.

We need your help! Join the **Hesed Committee** volunteers to:

- Call members to wish them Shabbat Shalom and check in from your own home,
- Visit fellow members in the hospital,
- Make a meal for a congregant who just had a baby or is recuperating from illness,
- Attend Monday evening Zoom minyan,
- Write a condolence card or attend a shivah minyan,
- Shop or deliver food for someone who can't get out,
- Give a ride to the doctor,
- Provide companionship to someone at home, or
- Just be available to help when something comes up.

You can also help by being our eyes and ears. Let us know when you or another member could use support, or just need a little love and kindness.

Email us at **hesed@societyhillsynagogue.org** to join our volunteer team or to notify us about support that might help a fellow member! We look forward to joining with you to connect with congregants and get to know the volunteers.

Our first meeting for the volunteers will take place on **Wednesday night, October 15 at 7:30 pm** at the synagogue.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

by Judy Lalli

Our congregation's Society Hill Players Dinner Theater group is proud to bring us a thrilling evening of dinner, drama, and detective work on **Sunday, Nov. 9, at 5:30 pm**.

This year's production, presented by **The Murder Mystery Company**, features a Roaring '20s theme.

Don't miss this chance to dine, delight, and discover "whodunnit" right here at Society Hill Synagogue.

Lucky you!

You've been invited to the Dunn Speakeasy for the wedding of the year. But in this "Married to the Mob" event, you never know whom to trust. With two powerful families merging, someone is bound to lose power — and someone else will lose their life. Get on the trolley and help solve the case alongside your fellow detectives.

It could even be one of you!

Register to join us at **societyhillsynagogue.org/murdermystery2025**

No rehearsals — just show up and enjoy! This evening promises fun for everyone, whether you jump into character or prefer to sit back and watch the action unfold, while enjoying a delicious dinner and finding clues to crack the case. **You're invited to dress up for this '20s mafia wedding. Props provided!**

Tickets

Members: \$36 Advance, \$45 at the Door
General Public: \$56 Advance, \$65 at the Door

The Inclusion Corner

OHEL PATU'AH – THE OPEN TENT

by the Inclusion Steering Committee

We are excited to embark on a new year of learning, sharing, community engagement, and inclusion at Society Hill Synagogue. Each of our subcommittees is exploring opportunities to bring to our congregation, solidifying dates on our busy community calendar, and/or identifying external events and resources to take advantage of as a group or individually.

In recognition of Pride Month, Society Hill Synagogue members marched with the J.Proud banner in the Philadelphia Pride Parade, and **Galia Godel of J.Proud** once again came to Society Hill Synagogue to enrich our understanding and provide insights and actionable strategies in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. The incredibly informative presentation was rich with resources and inspiration on rights and resilience.

Scan this QR Code to see the program handout:



Our Subcommittee for **Inclusion of People of Color** has been researching the right source material for our Lunch 'n' Learn next spring. We have also been refining questions that we hope to ask **Rabbi Sandra Lawson** in consultative sessions this fall. Rabbi Lawson previously led this kind of inclusion work at Reconstructing Judaism.



Our members marched with J.Proud at the Pride Parade in Philadelphia in June; LilyFish Gomberg.

Subcommittee Chairpeople

Interfaith Inclusion

Gail Massey

Inclusion of People of Color

Jared Susco

Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion

Marty Rosenberg

Disability Inclusion

Amy Goldman

The **Interfaith Inclusion** Subcommittee is always conscious of making those in interfaith relationships feel comfortable. If you are interested in a discussion about *Nobody Wants This*, the Netflix series about a young rabbi who breaks up with his longtime “nice Jewish girl” girlfriend only to fall in love with a sex and dating podcaster who is not Jewish, please reach out!

The **Disability Inclusion** Subcommittee would like to remind folks that they can reach out to any of us (or the synagogue office) if they need special accommodations (audio, visual, or physical) for the upcoming High Holiday services. We are available and happy to provide guidance and suggestions on matters of accessibility, assistive technology resources, and inclusionary strategies throughout the year. We all look forward to continuing to collaborate with our synagogue school directors on ways we can support and enrich teaching, learning, and belonging here.

If you would like to participate in the Inclusion Committee or subcommittee conversations, please contact Debbie Stewart at inclusion@societyhillsynagogue.org, or reach out directly to a subcommittee chairperson.

Coolanu: Culture and Community

SUKKAH, SALSA, AND CINEMA

by Elliot Landes and Lesli Reich

Coolanu started the season on an inspiring note with another installment of “**Museuming with Marty.**” Earlier this month, congregant and Professor Emeritus of Art History at Rutgers, Martin Rosenberg, led a group trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

These intimate tours always sell out quickly, offering participants the chance to see both classic and unexpected works through Marty’s expert lens. Thank you, Marty, for continuing this beloved tradition!

In August, Coolanu brought a spirited group to Subaru Park to cheer on the **Philadelphia Union in the U.S. Open Cup Quarterfinals** against the New York Red Bulls. Between the wild weather, the thrill of the match, and the chance to see Union striker Tai Baribo — who spoke at our synagogue last May — score a goal, it was a joyful evening of sport and community *ru’ah* (spirit).

There’s plenty more on the horizon. After the High Holiday season, **Coolanu has a full lineup of programs to keep you connected and engaged:**

On **Sunday, October 5, from 10:00 am-1:00 pm**, join us to **build and decorate our Society Hill Synagogue sukkah**. Bring your creativity and help transform this space into a beautiful, welcoming setting for the holiday.

On **Wednesday, October 8, from 6:00-8:00 pm**, celebrate **Salsa ‘n’ Sips in the Sukkah**, a zesty, intergenerational dining experience! Enjoy a delicious dairy vegetarian Mexican dinner (including fish tacos and soy chorizo tacos), various libations (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and great company!

Coolanu also hopes to add one or two more small- or medium-sized events this fall. If you have an idea you’d love to see happen, please reach out to us at: coolanu@societyhillsynagogue.org



Congregants pose in front of our newly built and decorated Society Hill Synagogue sukkah last year; LilyFish Gomberg.

On **November 2**, we’ll gather in Fairmount for lunch, followed by a **guided tour of Eastern State Penitentiary**, including a visit to its historic synagogue — the first of its kind in an American prison. Keep an eye out for the registration link in your inbox.

Later in November, join us for some cinema at the **Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival**. The specific film and time will be announced when the festival lineup is released.

Together, let’s make this fall a season of culture, community, and connection!

Men’s Club

A NEW YEAR, A FRESH START

by Harry Oxman

The Men’s Club is starting a new year of community, connection, and purpose! Join us on

Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm for a meeting as we set our schedule and plan more

activities. This is a great opportunity to shape the direction of the Men’s Club. Whether you’ve been active in the past or are brand new, we want your voice and presence. Come meet other members, and help us build a meaningful year.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Every week, Society Hill Synagogue spotlights one of our marvelous members on social media and in our eNews! Here are the members who have been spotlit this past quarter.

You can learn more about them on our social media or at societyhillsynagogue.org/member-spotlights



ROB EINHORN

I appreciate that this congregation has always been unaffiliated, which has allowed it to be open to people of all different backgrounds, as well as the whole spectrum of how people express their Judaism.

AUDREY Z. BOYTIM

I chose Society Hill Synagogue in part because it's Queer-friendly, which I really appreciate as a Queer woman. I appreciate the Renewal influence that speaks to my contemplative Jewish practices, along with the more traditional Conservative liturgy — and the clear striving for balance between being rooted and being open. I feel really at home here, and I can't imagine what I'd do without this shul.



KARL JANOWITZ

When I first came to Shabbat at Society Hill Synagogue, I immediately felt the warmth, the positive energy, and the deep sense of community. That initial welcome left a lasting impression, and over the years, I've come to see just how powerful it is to be greeted with a friendly face when entering a new space. I was so graciously welcomed when I was new — and it feels wonderful to now be able to return the favor on our greeting committee.

JJ GARCIA

I chose Society Hill Synagogue because it is a welcoming place that fits my Jewish practice, and because there are lots of different events, so there is something for everyone here.



AMY GOLDMAN

I love Society Hill Synagogue because of our community! I see fellow members out and about, at Philly's cultural venues and running everyday errands. We have many shared interests and philosophies and are literally neighbors!



JESSE ABRAMS-MORLEY

I love that Society Hill Synagogue is a place where people with a lot of different perspectives on and experiences with Judaism can come together to form a community. It's nice to spend time at a place that isn't pushing a particular dogma, but seeking to build connection among people who may see things a bit differently. I especially credit Rabbi Nathan and Hazzan Jessi for their incredible leadership in helping to create that community here.



YLANAH SLOANE

I was born with cataracts and came to Society Hill Synagogue with specific needs around reading the prayer book. From day one, our rabbis took the time to help me navigate services. Learning to read Hebrew — and eventually to *leyn* Torah — has been a challenge, but I've received incredible support. Thanks to this community's patience and care, prayer has become truly accessible to me. I'm so grateful.



JADA CANO

When my partner and I were searching for shuls after moving into the area, I discovered how close Society Hill Synagogue was to our home. I checked out the website and was immediately impressed by the importance placed on inclusion. After visiting a Shabbat service in person, I became confident that this would be a place where my partner and I would be welcome and that we would have no problem making friends.



RON KAISER

Society Hill Synagogue is a special place where people care about each other and go out of their way to show it. Everybody is so friendly, and the synagogue projects a value system and culture that align with mine. The amount of support I got from fellow congregants when my late wife, Libby, died was beyond belief.





YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP

By Micah and Joanna Hart

Our Young Families Group is a warm and welcoming “community within the community” for families with children from newborns to 6-year-olds, and we are so excited about the phenomenal growth of programming for young families at our congregation! Our Young Families Shabbat was voted the **Best Family-Friendly Shabbat Service** in the *Jewish Exponent’s Best of Jewish Philadelphia 2024!*



Two young children trade shaker instruments outside in the courtyard at a Young Families Shabbat; LilyFish Gomberg.

Our popular Young Families Shabbat celebrations, twice a month from September through June, blend guitar grooves, singing, instruments for all ages, blessings, dancing, and the company of new friends and familiar faces! A dairy vegetarian dinner or lunch is always included. These gatherings take place in the synagogue’s courtyard or social hall, and you can RSVP for any or all of them via the quick and easy form on our webpage: societyhillsynagogue.org/young-families-group

Fridays:

- Friday, September 5 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, November 7 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, December 5 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, January 16 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, February 20 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, March 20 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, April 24 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, May 15 @ 5:45 pm
- Friday, June 5 @ 5:45 pm

Saturdays:

- Saturday, September 20 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, October 11 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, November 15 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, January 10 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, March 7 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, April 11 @ 11:15 am
- Saturday, May 30 @ 11:15 am

PULL UP A CHAIR AT OUR YOUNG FRIENDS TABLE: AUTUMN EVENTS FOR 20- AND 30-SOMETHINGS

By Alexis Rosen and Louis Polcin

We want to thank everyone who's joined us for a summer of fun, connection, and community! From a Shavuot Potluck in the park to our Brews & Schmooze evenings, your energy has made this season special. It was wonderful seeing familiar faces and welcoming new friends.

We've got an exciting year ahead — here's what's coming up this fall:

- On **September 5**, join us for a Young Friends Table Shabbat evening at Society Hill Synagogue. We'll gather at **5:30 pm** for the Shabbat Schmooze with wine and cheese, enjoy a musical TGIShabbat service at **6:00 pm**, and sit together for a festive Oneg dinner at **7:15 pm**. This event is free, but if you're not a Society Hill Synagogue member, please register at societyhillsynagogue.org/open-house-shabbat-2025.
- On **September 14**, head to Linvilla Orchards for Apple Picking and a Cozy Flannel Contest! Enjoy fresh cider, hayrides, corn mazes, and more for a perfect autumn day out. Wear your coziest flannel outfit for a chance to win bragging rights for the day. We'll meet at **11:00 am** at 137 W. Knowlton Road in Media, PA. Please register at societyhillsynagogue.org/linvilla-sep14.
- On **October 9**, we're excited to be teaming up with Tribe 12 again for a Sukkot Happy Hour in our synagogue's beautiful Sukkah. From **7:00 to 9:00 pm**, celebrate under the stars with food, drinks, twinkling lights, and the warmth of community. Registration link coming soon.
- On **October 25**, join our Young Friends Table for a Shabbat morning at Society Hill Synagogue. Services begin at **9:45 am** followed by Kiddush lunch. Expect meaningful prayer, warm smiles, and plenty of time to chat over a delicious meal. This relaxed, friendly gathering is a wonderful way to recharge for the week ahead. Please register at: societyhillsynagogue.org/young-friends.
- On **November 7**, wrap up your week with our Young Friends Table at TGIShabbat. We'll start at **5:30 pm** with wine and cheese, enjoy a Kabbalat Shabbat service at **6:00 pm**, and share an Oneg dinner at **7:15 pm**. This free evening is filled with music and the comfort of sharing a meal with friends. Please register at: societyhillsynagogue.org/young-friends.



Society Hill Synagogue members at our July Brews & Schmooze at Yards Brewing Co.; LilyFish Gomberg

- On **November 20**, join us for our Young Friends•Giving Back Potluck. Bring your favorite dairy or pareve dish to share, and enjoy a night of delicious food and fun company. We'll also have opportunities to donate to local charities and food drives. The evening begins at **6:30 pm**, location to be announced. Please register at: societyhillsynagogue.org/young-friends.

We're looking forward to an exciting fall filled with new events, more connections, and plenty of opportunities to gather as a community. We can't wait to see you at one of these upcoming gatherings! To contact us in the meantime, please email youngfriends@societyhillsynagogue.org.

TRIPLE CHAI (54+) IS GROWING BY LEAPS & BOUNDS

By Natalie Landro and Robin Cohen

Our recent trip to Morocco was fantastic, and in 2026, we're heading to **Northern Italy for a Jewish heritage tour** that will take us to Venice, Padua, Milan, Turin, Bologna, and more. We'll savor delectable Italian cuisine, explore centuries of rich history, enjoy guided tours of both Jewish and non-Jewish landmarks, and so much more. (See the next page for full details.) We'll be embarking on this Italian adventure from **April 12-24, 2026**, featuring esteemed scholar **Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller**.

Save the Date: November 16 at 10:30 am for our Italy informational meeting, with the same wonderful tour operator we used in Morocco. Don't miss this opportunity to meet **Doron from Ayelet Tours**, hear about the trip, and ask questions. Bagels will be served.



Triple Chai travelers with their cooking class instructors in Morocco during Triple Chai's Jewish Heritage Tour of Morocco in April 2025; submitted.

We've got an exciting year ahead — here's what's coming up this fall:

- **September 14:** Lunch, followed by the **2:00 pm** performance of *The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard at the Lantern Theatre. Discounted tickets are \$43 — visit our webpage for purchase instructions.
- **October 12:** Our own Jerry Silverman will lead a walking tour of South Philly's Jewish history and murals. The two-hour tour begins at **1:00 pm** in South Philly and is limited to 20 participants. We'll stop for coffee afterward.
- **November 2:** The Jasper Quartet, one of today's preeminent quartets, performs at **3:00 pm** at the Philosophical Society, 104 S. 5th Street. Discounted tickets are \$20; dinner to follow.

Visit our webpage for full details on these and other events: societyhillssynagogue.org/triple-chai

Looking Back...

- In **May**, 65 people attended Sharon Geller's hilarious performance of *Knock, Knock... Jews There?* We're excited to have her back on **May 17, 2026**, with a brand new show — another evening of jokes and stories reminiscent of the Borscht Belt years.
- **June** brought a delicious Chinese food lunch, followed by a visit to the Rosenbach Museum where we enjoyed an extensive collection of books and manuscripts — so much so that many are eager to return.
- In **July**, we spent a lovely afternoon in West Philly with Ethiopian food and a screening of the opera, *La Traviata*. Some of us even left with tears in our eyes.

We hope to see you soon! Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year.

Society Hill Synagogue Triple Chai Presents Hidden Gems of **ITALY**

A Jewish Heritage Journey
featuring Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller



APRIL 12 - 24, 2026

Join us on an unforgettable journey through Northern Italy, exploring the rich history, culture and legacy of Jewish life in Venice, Padua, Milan, Turin and beyond. From the world's first ghetto in Venice to hidden synagogues in the Piedmont countryside, this immersive experience offers a deep dive into centuries of Jewish resilience, creativity and tradition. Along the way, enjoy guided tours of historic landmarks, engage with local Jewish communities and savor Italy's renowned cuisine. This trip promises to be a profound and inspiring adventure.

ON THIS TOUR, WE WILL...

- Enrich our knowledge of **Jewish history** from **Venice to Bologna** and beyond
- Meander along cobblestone streets of **former Jewish communities**, hear the stunning stories of the **Jewish ghettos** and discover how Jewish life in Italy has changed over the centuries
- Embark on **city walking tours**, encompassing Italy's most beautiful and famous sites, including **St. Mark's Square** and **Doge's Palace** in Venice and **Piazza Maggiore** in Bologna
- Savor the flavors of **delicious Italian cuisine and local wines** in a hands-on **culinary experience**
- Take in the **magical views** and **stunning architecture** throughout

...And SO much more!

PRICING CHART

LAND TOUR <small>(BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)</small>	\$5,915
ADD FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY	\$1,850

Rates listed above are for the Society Hill Synagogue community. Should the trip allow space for additional participants, registration to the general public will open on December 1, 2025 with an additional fee of \$360 per person.



Learn more about this trip at
secure.ayelet.com/SHSItaly2026.aspx

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Social Action Committee

TIKKUN OLAM IN ACTION: IMMIGRATION, LITERACY, AND COMMUNITY CARE



by Steve Morley

The Social Action Committee (SAC) puts *Tikkun Olam* into concrete action. Our poll of members revealed two main issues for engagement — immigration and literacy.

Our 20-year commitment to Vare-Washington Elementary School continues. The library program flourishes and is now led by two parents of Vare-Washington Elementary School kids, reflecting the success of years of involvement. Our members volunteer at the library, helping kids select books and reading to them.



Because of the success at Vare-Washington Elementary School, we have branched to a new school — **Taggart Elementary School** at 4th and Porter Streets — with easy bus access as well as available parking. Thanks to volunteers, some from Society Hill Synagogue, the library is up, and **Flora Wolf** is organizing a group of Society Hill Synagogue volunteers to replicate our Vare-Washington Elementary School program at this new location.

In April, Larry Abrams of **BookSmiles** kicked off our successful book drive, which netted over 5,000 books to benefit kids in “book deserts.” There are always volunteer opportunities at BookSmiles, and donations of any kind of book are welcome. BookSmiles is located in Pennsauken, just a hop over the bridge.

The **Food Insecurity Committee**, led by **Laurie Krivo and Bob Kaufman**, provides a hands on opportunity to better the lives of people in our community by packing food bags for over 100 families every week, as well as a monthly commitment of 50 bags to Vare-Washington Elementary School. This September marks the third anniversary of Society Hill Synagogue’s collaboration with Old Pine Community Center. The sign-up list comes out monthly from Bob Kaufman, and the slots fill up quickly!

Immigration is constantly in the news, often with heartbreaking stories. SAC has reached out to a number of non-profits, and there are volunteer opportunities now, with more to come. The need is great, nuanced, and will be with us for years. **PICC (Pennsylvania Immigrant Citizenship**

Coalition) needs volunteers to help register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies and to engage in advocacy to the state and local government. **HIAS**, with which we have worked before, is a shell of its former self, its refugee resettlement program having been gutted. They seek donations and advocacy on immigration issues. **The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians** works to economically integrate new immigrants in building lives in the Philadelphia area. SAC plans to sponsor at least one — if not more — Lunch ‘n’ Learns on facets of immigration and opportunities for engagement.

Finally, be sure to read the separate article that demonstrates our synagogue’s work with **POWER**, the amazing coalition of faith communities making a difference in our world.

As usual, any questions or interest in joining our committee can be directed to me at socialaction@societyhillssynagogue.org.

POWER Interfaith: Faith, Courage, Justice

AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, CLEAN ENERGY – JOIN POWER’S CAMPAIGN!



by Wendy and Steve Greenspan and Nancy Wygant

As our electric bills go up and power outages become more frequent, the fight for reliable, affordable energy can seem overwhelming. All this happens while Washington slashes funding for clean energy. But we can fight back!

POWER’s Climate Justice and Jobs (CJJ) team is campaigning to add more local, renewable energy to the grid — primarily solar — by engaging with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). The PUC is the state agency that regulates our utilities, including PECO.

This fall, the PUC will write new regulations for small-scale local energy sources. We want those

regulations to prioritize clean energy in ways that benefit everyone, particularly those in low income and marginalized communities. Adding more local, renewable energy to our electric supply leads to cheaper, more reliable energy for all of us.

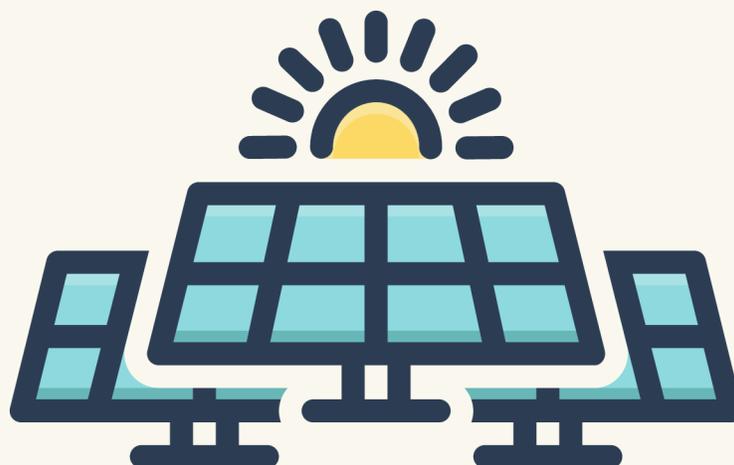
The PUC Commissioners have demonstrated their openness to talking with the public by meeting with small groups of POWER’s CJJ team. We now need to strengthen the push for reliable, affordable clean energy by involving even more people.

This is where you come in! Join POWER’s CJJ team in two actions this fall:

1) We will meet with our Pennsylvania representatives and senators in September. We will ask them to tell the Public Utility Commission that they support local solar energy. Join us! Most meetings will be on Zoom. The more constituents at the meetings, the more powerful our voice!

2) We will speak directly to the Public Utility Commission in a public hearing later in the fall. More details to come!

Want to learn more and get involved? Contact **Wendy Greenspan, Steve Greenspan, and Nancy Wygant** at **POWER@societyhillynagogue.org**.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome New Members:

Anna Rosenzweig

Kate Barrett and Christopher D'Amore
and their children, Lucy and Elliot

Jeffrey and Carol Leventhal

Lisa Rosner and John Theibault

Elliot and Heather Hendler
and their children, Jackson, Nora, and Penelope

Nancy Lubars

Roberta and Richard Katz

Christopher Banach and Elizabeth Fletman

Elaine Ezrapour and Matthew Zheleznyak
and their children, Eliora and Lev

Richard Mintz

Anne Weiss and Michael Livingston

Jeff Barg and Laura Boyce
and their children, Julian and Dylan

Colin Kelso and Rivka Yankelewitz

Hunter Cheatham and Shana Jalbert
and their children, Willa and Eli

Liz and Dan Isanuk
and their children, Leo and Naomie

Elyssa Chernock and her children,
Shayna and Margo

Sarina Chernock and Matthew Weaver
and their children, Garrett and Simon

Thomas and Emma Halpern
and their children, Walden and Norah

Stanley and Frances Barg

Arielle and Ryan Lechner
and their son, Avi

Alice Rizen

Michael Eckstein

Samantha Coran and her daughters,
Hattie and Magnolia

Sharon and Paul Waimberg

Rachel Berman and Chris Newman
and their son, Neville

William and Susan Kitei

Susan Labowitz

Pamela and Howard Gershowitz

Ava Goldman

Vicky Zwelling

Neal Sprafkin and Lisa Yaffe Sprafkin
and their daughter, Sydney

Mazal Tov to:

Lisa Eizen and Steven Eizen on the birth of their
grandson, Emmett Peter Eizen

Tom Snell and Hannah Dashefsky, and big sister
Ruby, on the birth of their daughter and sister,
Sylvie Alice Snell

David Pressel and Jill Feldman on their wedding

Wendy and Steve Greenspan on the birth of their
granddaughter, Rosalie Hazel Greenspan

Mitchell Bach and Elayne Bloom on the birth of
Mitchell's grandson, Andrew James Hall

Condolences to:

The family of past Society Hill Synagogue President
Judith Widman

Judith and Stanley Woloff and their family on the
passing of their son, Aaron Woloff

Jessica (née Stiteler) and Brian Mono and their
children, Jacob and Talia, and family on the passing
of Jessica's father, Allen Stiteler

Harriet Davidson and her son, Michael Davidson, his
wife, Christy Reardon, and their children, Noah,
Aaron, and Hannah, on the passing of Harriet's
husband and Michael's father, Stephen Davidson

Martha Levine and her daughter and son-in-law,
Elizabeth Sedran and Benjamin Sheng, and their
family on the passing of Martha's husband and
Elizabeth's father, Howard Sedran

Beth Cohen and Bruce Barris, and Beth's daughter,
Rivka Yankelewitz, and her fiancé, Colin Kelso, and
their family on the passing of Beth's mother and
Rivka's grandmother, Elaine Cohen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September Birthdays

Carol Katcher
Lyn Kirshenbaum
Robby Saligman
Rivka Weinstein
David Levine
Neil Cohen
Matthew Fingerman
Anya Rosin
Madeleine Wilson
Eva D'Ignazio
Edgar Einhorn
Andrea Ehrlich
Gail Pogach
Susan Roe
Arnie Freedman
Camila Gelman
Marty Rosenberg
Wally Halpern
Daniella Gold
Jenna Makuen
Joy Lander Roe
Tova Stifano-Walton
Stuart Deglin
Shayna Heere
Abe Silber

Karen Hafter
Justin Lilien
Paxton Ratliff
Ralph Schapira
Michal Strunk
Benjamin Cohen
Bart Kaplan
Marjorie Patterson
Joann Slosberg
Anya Applebaum Licht
Owen Fox
Josh Lehrer
Brooke Salzman
Mel Kohn
Betta Kolansky
Paula Ninerell
Hannah Dashefsky
Ann Rosen Spector
Lynne Rubinfeld
Jared Susco
Jackson Tropea
Aldo Friedman
Lori Landew
Aiden Laver
Fran Gallun
Carly Gellman
Robert Raymar

Florence Frantz
Andrea Allon
Dana Feinberg
Alex Unger
Joel Rosner
Roberta Katz
Ben Rosin
Leslie Weiss
Rob Einhorn
Adam Elbaum
Susan Labowitz
Sara Leshen-Gross
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton
Jessica Newberg
Jamie Schwartz
Maria Chambers-Goldberg
Felix Edelman
Mark Jansen
Casey Genecov
Josie Chrismer
Tim Cravens
Lisa Eizen
Shara Epstein
Mindy Fortin
Anne Ballen Ladenson
Dana Rosner
Frances Barg



October Birthdays

Adam Foxx
Joyce Helfman
Alexis Peskin
Jane Greenberg
Mira Nachod
Dan Bogen
Andrea Appel
Lily Hayman
Jonathan Wetstein
William Diebold
Ellen Fennick
Jacob Mono
Roberta Spivek
Sayde Ladov
Martha Levine
Marc Walton
Jay Goodman
Joe Manko
Cora Rosin
Charlie Seltzer
Ylanah Sloane
Alexander Kranzel
Valentina Tassone
Burton Blender
Aviv Silber
Roberta Dranoff
Howard Gershowitz
Brad Gellman
Edward Weinstein
Jay Wussow
Emma Salzman
Daniel Saligman
Skylar Hunter
Kia Bickel
Eli Howe
Max Schoenhaus
Marcy Weiner
Abe Summers
Betty Kaplan
Warren Manning
Max Seldin
Amy Danoff
Zev Genecov
Claire Ireland
Joanna Lack
Michael Roe

Larry Goldfinger
Lance Goldstein
Simon Belinkie
Lena Popkin
Rafael Margolis
Abigail Wolf
Carolyn Davis
Louis Polcin
David Pressel
Norah Halpern
Jonathan Weiss
Jacob Hayman
Jacob Polakoff
Thea Applebaum Licht
Felise Nagelberg
Hannah Feinberg
Willa Jalbert-Cheatham
Victoria Tropea



November Birthdays

Michael Grosberg
William Kitei
Joanna Rosner
Samantha Rosner

Rachel Goldfinger
Thomas Snell
Ari Laver
Levon Arnold
Margot Elton-Ratliff
Ava Herrmann
Mike Fox
Miriam Magen
Adriel Mesznik
Daniel Bruton
Erika Pleskunas
Anita Cohen
Gabrielle Applebaum
Neil Bunis
Colin Kelso
David Ladov
Mark Dembert
Ira Kauderwood
Scotty Jordan
Ron Kaiser
Solomon Maiberg
Terri Soifer
Micah Hart
Elias Mesznik
Benjamin Arnold
Deborah Casnoff
Sara Chrismer
Aaron Edelman
Elijah Hazelwood
Johanna Fisher
Brayden Goldstein
Cora Michaels-Koenig
Valerie Wetstein
Hilary Levine
Jillian Lieberman
Eryn Appel
Megan Helzner
Yann Lebar
Terry Novick
Pelley Brown
Amy Wilson
Rivka Yankelewitz
Jeff Ratliff
Adam Reinitz
Becky Rohtbart

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September Anniversaries

Adam & Stephanie Reinitz
Rabbi Nathan & Caroline Kamesar
Matthew Zheleznyak & Elaine Ezrapour
Noah Chrismer & Sara Schwartz-Chrismer
Josh & Suzanne Sztul
Thaddeus & Mindy Fortin
Alan & Lynn Gottlieb
Jim & Linda Rosenstein
Jeff Ratliff & Margot Elton-Ratliff
Mitchell & Carolyn Davis
Richard Braemer & Amy Finkel
Jay Wussow & Emily Zimmerman
Paul & Sharon Waimberg
Karl Janowitz & Amy Goldman
Warren Manning & Susan Rodgin
Neal Sprafkin & Lisa Yaffe Sprafkin

October Anniversaries

Dan & Elizabeth Isanuk
Brian Barenbaum & Ilene Hollin
David Weinfeld & Marjorie Patterson
Holden & Felise Nagelberg
Thomas Snell & Hannah Dashefsky
Josh Goldwert & Jennifer Schwartz
Marty Bergman & Cindy Hoffman
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Charlie & Beth Seltzer
Nathan Farbman & Bonny Hohenberger
Andrew & Anna Bruton
Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter
Sahar Oz & Allison Kirshner Oz
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz
Tyler McKinley & Hilary Levine
Mike & Jaime Fox
Aaron & Alexis Peskin
Matthew & Mindy Fingerman
Howard & Pamela Gershowitz



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November Anniversaries

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman
Motty Seal & Alice Levy
Marc & Jane Greenberg
Steven Datloff & Diane Harrison
Howard & Gloria Briskin
Steven & Lisa Eizen
Jake Rainwater & Terri Soifer

Robert & Wilma Bass
Michael & Holly Gorsen
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
Jim & Julie Wilson
Neil Bunis & Leslie Weiss
Scott Siff & Kinney Zalesne
Jeremey & Fran Newberg
Adam Foxx & Jodi Kefer
Jud Aaron & Sue Snedden

ANI L'DODI V'DODI LI

This past summer, we marked Shabbat Nahamu (the Shabbat of comfort) on Tu B'Av (the Jewish day of love) — a pairing of consolation and joy — with a special post celebrating marriages in our Society Hill Synagogue community. This popular post featured weddings officiated (or co-officiated) by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, with the exception of his own wedding, which was co-officiated by Rabbi Emeritus Avi Winokur.



Pictured (left to right):

Top: Benjamin and Stacey Cohen (married February 23, 2025), Jill Feldman and David Pressel (married July 13, 2025), Maria Chambers-Goldberg and Max Goldberg (married May 12, 2023), and Jason Flamendorf and Megan Helzner (married May 16, 2021)

Bottom: Caroline and Rabbi Nathan Kamesar (married September 2, 2018), Adam and Stephanie Reinitz (married September 1, 2019), and Maddie and Zac Winkler (married January 25, 2025)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund **In Appreciation of**

Susan Leshnoff
Betta Kolansky

Society Hill Synagogue Staff and Community
Hazzan Jessi Roemer and Family

Society Hill Synagogue
Henry J. Steiner

In Honor of
Wedding of Robin Cohen's Daughter, Brittany Cohen,
and Adam Saslow
Larry & Paula Ninerell

Bat Mitzvah of Judy Wertheim
Lois & Lewis Barr
Dennis Faucher
Sylva Baker

Birth of Steve & Lisa Eizen's Grandson, Emmett Eizen
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
Jeremey & Fran Newberg
Walter Ferst
Francine Cohen
Barbara Spector
Neil Einleger
Terry Graboyes
Marc & Staci Schwartz

Wedding of David Pressel & Jill Feldman
Nancy Morgenstern
Marc & Staci Schwartz

Second Bar Mitzvah of Jerry Silverman
Robin Garber

Bat Mitzvah of Randi Kamine
Nora Dougherty
The Rosh Hodesh Group
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

In Memory of
Howard Lander, Father of Joy Lander Roe
Elizabeth Roller Dilworth
Jerry & Joan Roller
Terry Graboyes

Peter Roemer, Father of Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Jerry & Joan Roller
Carole Rochester
Judy Rohtbart
Francine Cohen

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Robin Cohen
Adam & Sara Laver
Larry Spector & Ann Rosen Spector
Debbie Stewart
The Williams Family
The Summers Family
The Zhang Family
Julie Mount
Rhonda Bello
Nicholas Skipper
Linda Joy Goldner
Walter Ferst
Philip Metz
The SeatGeek Team
Lauren Brown
Patricia Greene
Peter & Natalie Jaros
David Blask
Kelly Manno
Bobby Cremins
Jon Tuck
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz
Ryan Connelly
Tyler Dratch
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Betta Kolansky
Varda Makovsky
Lisa & Craig Meritz
Michelle Kessler
Marjorie Goldstein
Sharee Jones
Frances & Eugene Miglio
Jerry Silverman
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Jerry & Joan Roller
Roni & David Noland
Maria Lapetina
Francine Cohen
Neil Bunis & Leslie Weiss
Susan Gilbert
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Bill & Rina Mitchell

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund

In Memory of

Richard Hafter, Father of Michael Hafter
Carole Rochester

Allen Stiteler, Father of Jessica Mono
Marc & Staci Schwartz

Stephen Davidson, Father of Michael Davidson
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz
Thomas Queenan

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Irving Warren
Renee Edelman

Susie Krupnick, Mother of David Krupnick
David Krupnick

Marjam Behar, Mother of Robert Behar
Robert & Barbara Behar

Seymour Alper, Father of Barbara Behar
Robert & Barbara Behar

Mannie & Rose Hechler, Parents of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

Bonnie Abramsky, Sister of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

Molly Rohtbart, Mother-in-Law of Judy Rohtbart
Judy Rohtbart

Murray & Marion Rosof, Parents of Libby Rosof
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

**Judith Widman, Former Society Hill Synagogue
President and Cousin of Paula Ninerell**
Iris Levine
Robin Cohen

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

Gustav Wertheim, Father-in-Law of Judy Wertheim
Judy Wertheim

Michael Giorgilli, Brother of Frank Giorgilli
Frank Giorgilli

Elliott Berger, Brother of Adrienne Berger
Adrienne Berger

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of

Birth of Ellianna Frank
Hephshibah Loeb

Assistance with Bat Mitzvah Preparation of Tamara Bloom
Elayne Bloom

Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Weinstein
Ed & Rivka Weinstein

Birth of Steve & Lisa Eizen's Grandson, Emmett Eizen
Bob Kaufman & Laurie Krivo
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Bat Mitzvah of Randi Kamine, in Appreciation of the Clergy
Randi Kamine

In Memory of

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Ed Hollin
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Stephen Davidson, Father of Michael Davidson
Nestor Davidson

Peter Roemer, Father of Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Paul Tartasky, Brother of Donna Tartasky
Donna Tartasky

Ron Feldman, Husband of Jill Feldman
David Pressel & Jill Feldman

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

Assistance with Bat Mitzvah Preparation of Tamara Bloom
Elayne Bloom

In Memory of

Peter Roemer, Father of Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Walter Ferst
Len & Gail Pogach
Robin Cohen
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Holman & Gail Massey
Bill & Debbie Stewart
Colleagues at the RRC

Social Action Fund

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Judy Wertheim
Phyllis & Peter Snyder

In Memory of

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Paul & Delaney Neuwirth
Daniel Burg
Lynn & Mitchell Edelman
Susan & Howard Hoffman
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Estelle Dembert, Mother of Mark Dembert
Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Food Insecurity Fund

In Honor of

Birth of Steve & Lisa Eizen's Grandson, Emmett Eizen
Tony & Judy Lalli

Wedding of David Pressel & Jill Feldman

Judy Lalli
Carter & Lesli Reich

Bat Mitzvah of Randi Kamine

Carter & Lesli Reich

In Memory of

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Tony & Judy Lalli
Carter & Lesli Reich
Sheila Sataloff
Bob Kaufman & Laurie Krivo

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Russ & Fagel Goldsmith, Parents of Judy Lalli
Tony & Judy Lalli

Jack Forbes, Grandfather of Carter Reich

Carter & Lesli Reich

Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In Honor of

Anna Wiener for her service to the Society Hill Synagogue Board of Directors
Ric & Carmen Hayman

David Ladov for his service to the Society Hill

Synagogue Board of Directors
Ric & Carmen Hayman

Robin Feinberg for her service to the Society Hill

Synagogue Board of Directors
Ric & Carmen Hayman

Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton for her service to the

Society Hill Synagogue Board of Directors
Ric & Carmen Hayman

The Custodial Staff: Kenyatte, Chris, Chris, and Katelyn, for all that they do!

David & Pam Levine

Birth of Steve & Lisa Eizen's Grandson, Emmett Eizen

Natalie Landro
Bill & Debbie Stewart

Judith Woloff's Birthday

Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Bat Mitzvah of Judy Wertheim

David & Pam Levine

Bat Mitzvah of Randi Kamine

David & Pam Levine

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In Honor of

Birth of Rosalie Hazel Greenspan, Granddaughter of Steve and Wendy Greenspan
Ric & Carmen Hayman

Aliyah on Shabbat

Joseph Freedman

In Memory of

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Natalie Landro
Ric & Carmen Hayman
David & Pam Levine
Gail & Holman Massey
Lynne & Art Ellis

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector
Barbara Spector

Leah Raynova, Mother of Marina Cruz

Marina Cruz
The Israel Connections Subcommittee

Mariya Raynova, Aunt of Marina Cruz

Marina Cruz

Education Scholarships and Programs

In Honor of

Mike Roe and his Dedication to the Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School of Society Hill Synagogue
Philip & Anna Wiener

Marc Schwartz for being an awesome Hebrew teacher

Susan Roe

Karen Hafter on "Returning" to Hebrew School

Merle Salkin

In Memory of

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley & Judith Woloff
Barry & Joann Slosberg
Merle Salkin
Rebecca Leaf
Barbara Spector
The Solebury School
Lynne & Ira Rubenfeld

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Jane Bass Simon, Mother of Robert Bass
Robert & Wilma Bass

Samuel Simon, Stepfather of Robert Bass

Robert & Wilma Bass

Donations through August 22

Take the Next Step in Your Planning SUSTAIN JEWISH LIFE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

There are various ways to leave a bequest to Society Hill Synagogue! Gifts in wills, trusts, IRA beneficiary designations, and no-longer-needed life insurance policies enable you to make a meaningful impact on your community for years to come.

Your personal financial advisor can help you explore these options, and volunteer congregants are also available to chat (without serving as professional advisors).

To learn more and plan ahead, please contact our Executive Director, Sahar Oz, at 215-922-6590 x3 or soz@societyhillsynagogue.org.



***Todah rabah* (thank you very much) for
generously supporting our High Holiday meals**

Sylva Baker

Stephen Cohen and Naomi Basickes

Terry Novick and Bob Blacksberg
In honor of our Society Hill Synagogue Community

Marsha Cohen

Debbie Weissbach and Neil Cohen
In memory of our parents

Lisa and Steven Eizen
In memory of Peter Eizen

Bonny Hohenberger and Nathan Farbman

Martin Rosenberg and Ellen Fennick
In honor of our upcoming birthdays

Mark Dembert and Mary Fish
In memory of Bernard and Estelle Dembert

Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun
In honor of Len's 85th birthday

Frank Giorgilli

Terry Graboyes
In memory of my parents and grandparents

Carl Kaplan

Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman

Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz

David and Pam Levine

Carl Levitsky
In memory of Caryn Joy Levitsky

Beverly Michaels
In memory of Geoffrey Michaels

Harry and Eleanor Oxman

Carter and Lesli Reich
In memory of our parents and grandparents

Randi Kamine and Hop Sears

Michael and Bonnie Slobodien

Barry and Joann Slosberg

Barbara Spector

Emily Zimmerman and Jay Wussow
In memory of Mark Stanton Zimmerman

High Holidays 5786: Schedule of Programs

Yamim Nora'im: Days of Awe

Monday, September 22

5:30 pm — Apples & Honey Schmooze
6:00 pm — Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
7:30 pm — Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg Dinner

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 am — Rosh Hashanah Day I Service
9:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Families with Children Ages 7 and Younger*
10:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Families with Children Ages 8-12*
10:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Teen Program*
1:15 pm — Rosh Hashanah Day I Kiddush Lunch
2:30 pm — Community Tashlikh

Wednesday, September 24

9:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Day II Service
1:00 pm — Rosh Hashanah Day II Kiddush Lunch

Friday, September 26

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze
6:00 pm — TGIShabbat Shuvah Service
7:15 pm — Oneg Dinner

Saturday, September 27

9:45 am — Shabbat Shuvah Service and Torah Discussion
12:00 pm — Kiddush Lunch

Wednesday, October 1

6:15 pm — Kol Nidrei Service

Thursday, October 2

9:00 am — Yom Kippur Morning Service
9:30 am — Yom Kippur Family Service for Families with Children Ages 7 and Younger*
10:30 am — Yom Kippur Family Service for Families with Children Ages 8-12*
10:30 am — Yom Kippur Teen Program*
4:45 pm — Yom Kippur Yizkor Service
5:15 pm — Yom Kippur Minhah Service
6:15 pm — Yom Kippur Ne'ilah Service
7:21 pm — Yom Kippur Sounding the Shofar and Break the Fast

Sukkot and Simhat Torah

Sunday, October 5

10:00 am — Sukkah Building and Decoration

Tuesday, October 7

9:30 am — Sukkot Morning Service
12:00 pm — Sukkot Kiddush Lunch

Wednesday, October 8

6:00 pm — Coolanu Salsa 'n' Sips in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 9

7:00 pm — Young Friends Sukkot Happy Hour

Friday, October 10

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze
6:00 pm — TGIShabbat in the Sukkah
7:15 pm — Oneg Dinner

Tuesday, October 14

9:30 am — Sh'mini Atzeret Morning Service with Yizkor
12:00 pm — Sh'mini Atzeret Kiddush Lunch
5:30 pm — Simhat Torah Dinner
6:15 pm — Simhat Torah Service

Friday, October 17

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze
6:00 pm — TGIShabbat Service, with Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit speeches at Oneg dinner

Saturday, October 18

9:45 am — Shabbat Bereshit Morning Service, including Unrolling of an Entire Torah Scroll
12:00 pm — Kiddush Lunch

* Service/program requires advance registration for both members and the general public



AUTUMN 2025 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

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				

OCTOBER

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	

NOVEMBER

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					

AUTUMN CALENDAR KEY:

-  = Book Club
-  = B'nei Mitzvah
-  = Rosh Hodesh
-  = Men's Club
-  = Building Closed
-  = Holiday Service
-  = Young Families
-  = Strategic Planning Focus Group
-  = Other Synagogue Events

Synagogue Events:

- Sep. 2:** First Day of Classes for Playschool
- Sep. 5-6:** Open House Shabbat
- Sep. 6:** First Day of Classes for Hebrew School
- Sep. 13:** Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Hohns
- Sep. 13:** *Erev S'lichot* Participatory Concert @ BZBI
- Sep. 14:** Apple Picking @ Linvilla Orchards
- Sep. 14:** Triple Chai — Lunch and *The Real Thing*
- Sep. 22-24:** Rosh Hashanah
- Oct. 1-2:** Yom Kippur
- Oct. 5:** Sukkah Building and Decoration
- Oct. 7:** Sukkot Service and Kiddush Lunch
- Oct. 8:** Coolanu — Salsa 'n' Sips in the Sukkah
- Oct. 9:** Young Friends Sukkot Happy Hour
- Oct. 10:** *Kitot Gimel* and *Dalet* at TGIShabbat
- Oct. 12:** Hebrew School Sukkot Pumpkin Picking
- Oct. 12:** Triple Chai — Tour of Jewish South Philly
- Oct. 14:** Sh'mini Atzeret and Simhat Torah
- Oct. 15:** Hesed Committee Volunteer Meeting
- Oct. 17:** Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit Celebration
- Oct. 19:** Parents Circle - Families Forum Event
- Oct. 29:** Israel Symphony Orchestra Trio Concert
- Nov. 1:** Bar Mitzvah of Zev Pipano
- Nov. 2:** Triple Chai — The Jasper Quartet
- Nov. 7:** *Kitah Zayin* and Hebrew High at TGIShabbat
- Nov. 8:** Bar Mitzvah of Owen Fox
- Nov. 9:** Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
- Nov. 16:** Triple Chai Italy Trip Interest Meeting
- Nov. 20:** Young Friends Giving Back Potluck
- Nov. 22:** Bar Mitzvah of Ari Laver

This calendar is subject to change.

For up-to-date information, check
www.societyhillssynagogue.org/calendar
 or contact our office.

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**

418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

215.922.6590

www.societyhillsynagogue.org

Lisa Eizen, President

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

Rabbi Avi Winokur, Rabbi Emeritus

Hazzan Jessi Roemer

Sahar Oz, Executive Director

LilyFish Gomberg, Communications Manager



Mail To: