

Start your New Year 5787

SWEETLY

at Society Hill Synagogue



Participants in the recent Coolanu Philadelphia
Architecture and Public Sculpture Walking Tour

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

KESHER

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER 2026 • • • ELUL 5786 • TISHREI • HESHVAN • KISLEV 5787

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!

Stephanie Ben-Salem

Terry Novick and Bob Blacksberg

Joel Chernock and Family

Debra Weissbach and Neil Cohen

David English

Phyllis Bookspan and Ian Frank

Frank Giorgilli

Diane Graff

Carmen and Ric Hayman

Ed Hollin

Betta Kolansky

Jane and Ronnie Kotler and Family

Barbara Miller and Family

Paula and Larry Ninerell

Marlene Lachman and Alan Ominsky

Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof

Marc Walton and Tova Stifano-Walton



IN THIS ISSUE

COMMUNAL WARMTH • SPIRITUAL DEPTH • JEWISH LIFE

HANHAGAH: NOTES FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

President Neil Cohen	Pages 4-5
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar	6-7
Hazzan Jessi Roemer	8-9

KEHILAH: UPDATES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Playschool	10
Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School	11-12
Membership Committee	13-14
Israel Connections Subcommittee	14
Hesed Committee	15
Book Club	15
Sharim v'Sharot Fall Concert	16
Inclusion Committee	17
Coolanu: Culture & Community	18
Member Spotlights	19-21
L'Dor V'Dor: Generational Cohort Groups	22-25
Rosh Hodesh Group	26
Social Action Committee	27
POWER	28

TODOT U'SMAHOT: THANKS AND CELEBRATIONS

Community News	29
Autumn Birthdays	30-31
Autumn Anniversaries	32
Contributions	33-37

LA'ATID: LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

High Holidays	38
Autumn Calendar At-A-Glance	39



From the President's Desk

THE HEART OF SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE IS YOU

by Neil Cohen

I would like to open my inaugural *Kesher* column with a heartfelt *shanah tovah* (happy new year) to each and every congregant household as we usher in the year 5787. As always, **we warmly welcome all members to our extended family**, from the newly joined to our cherished lifelong members dating back to the origin of Society Hill Synagogue 60 years ago (more on that later!).

Debbie and I have been part of this special community for 13 years, and from the very start, it truly has been transformative in our lives. I was asked early on to become active in synagogue governance, and I did not hesitate. When I was first asked to be President, I was taken very much by surprise, although I was flattered. The demands of my career, as well as living in the suburbs, precluded this commitment, though I indicated that I would be ready to humbly assume this leadership position upon retirement. Well, we now live in the neighborhood, and I retired last year. So here we are!

I truly appreciate the abundance of good wishes and amazing support from so many of you as I start this journey.



Lisa Eizen and Neil Cohen at our Congregation Annual Meeting in June

I inherited an embarrassment of riches from my predecessor, **Lisa Eizen**. I can only hope that I can match her wisdom, equanimity, and ironclad commitment to this community. In Lisa's two years as President, our synagogue experienced significant growth, currently numbering over 430 member units!

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, Hazzan Jessi Roemer, and Executive Director Sahar Oz form an impressive leadership group that brings us from one success to the next. **Alexis Rosen** recently joined us as Manager of Community Engagement and Communications and is already doing a remarkable job.

Our Playschool and Hebrew School are thriving under the direction of **Megan Nachod** and

Karen Hafter, as we continue to celebrate more and more B'nei Mitzvah!

I also am very fortunate to be surrounded by an incredible **Executive Committee** and **Board of Directors**, who have seemingly boundless energy and dedication to making Society Hill Synagogue the best possible community.

With this growth and success, we face challenges. The Paula Kline Learning Center was added several years ago to accommodate our growing Playschool and Hebrew School, and we are now in need of even more space. Our Sanctuary, while beautiful and historic, needs to be more accessible to those with mobility challenges. We are thoughtfully assessing these issues and remedies for them, and I am confident that the end result will help pave a continued bright future for us. Better to have good problems than bad ones!

In the recent past, we have formulated a mission statement, asserting core values including prayer, education, social justice, and connection with Israel. We have multiple committees

dedicated to these and other issues, including just plain old socializing with fellow members — an especially important and enjoyable part of the synagogue experience! I urge you to learn about these groups, join one, and maximize your participation. **There is truly something for everyone.**

For example, our **Hesed Committee** has recently expanded and continues to provide ongoing assistance to congregants who need support with meals, transportation to medical appointments, and benefit from the company of caring congregants visiting them. **We are a community that looks after itself.**

As I referenced earlier, we are

planning a **60th anniversary celebration**, which is scheduled for **May 19, 2027**; stay tuned for more information as we pause to mark another Society Hill Synagogue milestone. We are grateful to **Lisa Eizen** for chairing the event committee.

As the *Yamim Nora'im* (High Holidays) approach, please refer to your **High Holiday** packet and our digital communications to **plan your participation.**

In addition, I urge you to get involved. Sign up for a class with **Rabbi Kamesar**, **Hazzan Jessi**, and/or one of our other great adult education faculty members. Attend a lecture or tour with **Coolanu**. Enjoy a happy hour with the **Young Friends (20s and 30s)** or a

concert or trip with **Triple Chai (54+)**. Groove and move at our **Young Families Shabbat** celebrations, come together in a space that centers women's voices at our **Rosh Hodesh** gatherings, catch up with the guys at the **Men's Club**, or bask in the glow of our unique and powerful **Shabbat experience** every Friday evening and Saturday morning. You will be the richer for it.

I look forward to celebrating the High Holidays with all of you and hope to meet as many of you as I possibly can. Please contact me any time with any questions or concerns.

From my family to yours, wishing you all a happy, healthy, and sweet new year!



SAVE THE DATE: SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Wednesday Evening, May 19, 2027

Save the date for a very special evening as we celebrate **60 years of Society Hill Synagogue!**

For six decades, Society Hill Synagogue has been a place to gather, celebrate, learn, grow, and build meaningful connections. So many memories have been made here, with many more to come! We're looking forward to gathering with our synagogue members, friends, and community to celebrate this special milestone together.

More details and RSVP information will be shared soon. In the meantime, please mark your calendar and plan to join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating 60 wonderful years of Society Hill Synagogue! We can't wait to rejoice with you!



From the Rabbi's Desk

BUILDING OUR NEXT CHAPTER

by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

As opposed to using this *Kesher* newsletter space for the spiritual and homiletic writings that typically comprise my weekly Shabbat reflections, I often use this space to reflect on a different facet of the modern rabbinate: **organizational leadership**.

At Society Hill Synagogue, our efforts, in addition to those directed toward offering up **teachings of Torah**, Jewish wisdom to bolster us as we navigate our lives, and those directed toward **pastoral care**, accompanying people as they experience need, pain, or transition, are directed toward **building community**; toward shaping this community into one that can do all of the above and more: teach Torah; accompany people on their journeys; serve as an enriching, nourishing source of Jewish living in a complex world.

Over the course of the last year or so, we have been sharing with you some of our findings as we plan for the next chapter of life at Society Hill Synagogue, drawing both on widespread surveys and focus groups we facilitated within this community in the winter of 2025 (340 of you

completed surveys, representing two-thirds of our member households), and on subsequent research projects, taking stock of the demographics surrounding our community, as well as researching possible solutions to some of the challenges we face. Here I want to share with you reflections on some of the priorities we are identifying as we work to strengthen this community and make sure that it can serve the increasing number of people who are drawn here in search of the meaningful nourishment that comes from engaging with Jewish life at places like Society Hill Synagogue.

Exploring Our Options To Address Our Space Challenges

As became clear from conversations with members of this community, both in the surveys and across our conversations with congregants, we face challenges of accessibility to our spaces: both accessibility in the sense that certain spaces — our bimah, our clergy offices, and our Beit Midrash — cannot be accessed by those with mobility challenges (and these areas just identified are some of the core features of Jewish life, now

only accessible to those who can navigate stairs), and accessibility in the sense that we want to make sure we have enough space so that anyone who wants to find a Jewish home here can do so. **Our community has increased from 270 households before the pandemic to 430; our Hebrew School has grown from a low of 65 students during the pandemic to 115.**

In addition to classrooms, Hebrew School classes meet in hallways and on top of each other in the Social Hall. While we have done this for years, the more we learn about environments that are conducive to high-quality education, the clearer it is that we can do better to support students' learning. Furthermore, more space would enable us to plan more programs for adults during the popular times when our Playschool and Hebrew School are in session.

Our additional research has demonstrated some important insights: (1) the young family population in our surrounding neighborhoods — Society Hill, Queen Village, and Bella Vista — is stable, showing no signs of decline; (2) the older population

in our neighborhood is increasing as folks downsize from the suburbs into Center City to take advantage of the cultural and communal offerings of city living. So while we have no crystal ball, we do not see evidence that we are facing an imminent decline in size; if anything, it's the opposite.

We have hired an architect to explore the feasibility of possible renovations to our Sanctuary and synagogue annex (the portion of the synagogue that houses our administrative offices, clergy offices, and Beit Midrash) to improve accessibility and add space where we can. We have similarly begun to explore possibilities that would include offsite/adjacent options for ancillary space. We want to make sure we have the best possible understanding of options available to address the space challenges we face — challenges which are the best sort to have: increasing demand among people to be part of this community, and our desire to make space for them.

Fostering Increased Intimacy and Connection Within Our Growing Community

Of course, one challenge we face when our community is growing so rapidly is that the beauty of communities is the degree to which people know each other and can forge connections with one another. While more connections are possible as the community grows, it can be challenging

when there are so many unfamiliar faces. A strategic priority for us is therefore to foster opportunities for these connections for everyone who avails themselves of them. Our programmatic efforts are aimed at ensuring people have the opportunity to feel the neighborliness and care that come from Jewish community. That includes our newly instituted **Summer Shabbat at Home** series, in which 16 hosts welcomed 131 attendees over the course of three summer Shabbat dinners; our **Hesed Committee**, through which over 30 volunteers make calls checking in on our whole congregation and offer support through food deliveries, rides to and from doctor's appointments, and more; our **60th Anniversary Celebration**, which will be held on May 19, and more.

Providing Thought Leadership and Space for Discussion On The Complexities of Jewish Life

Being Jewish in today's world is not easy (if it has ever been). Antisemitism abounds, Israel is a point of major contention both within and outside of the Jewish community, and the role of religion in modern life is always something we grapple with. Society Hill Synagogue aims to confront these challenges head on. Whether that is through adult education courses we have offered in recent years and continue to offer on Zionism, on antisemitism, and on what it means to be Jewish (A religion? A culture? Something else?);

Scholar-in-Residence weekends featuring some of the most renowned rabbis and scholars in the country — this year we will host **Rabbi Josh Feigelson, President and CEO of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality**, on October 30 and 31, and **Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, President and CEO of the Hadar Institute**, on March 6 and 7; or through dialogue and engagement facilitated by our Israel Committee, engaging with challenging questions, and finding ways to disagree but still be in community, is an important feature of Jewish life here.

Financial Stability

Of course, undergirding all of these important features of Jewish life is the need to ensure we have the resources to support them and provide nourishment and strength to our community. Growing membership and school enrollments mean increased revenues from dues and tuition, so that goes a long way. **But to really serve our community well, we know we need philanthropic contributions — tz'dakah — over and above these payments**, especially because such contributions allow us to keep our dues and tuition rates affordable to a wide audience. So we will continue to foster a culture of giving, and in doing so, we will also ensure that we have funds to fall back on in leaner years, to withstand the vicissitudes of economic and demographic changes.

Continued on Page 9



From the Hazzan's Desk

THE JEWISH SONIC CLOCK

by Hazzan Jessi Roemer



We use Jewish music for all sorts of things — to pray, to celebrate, to mourn, to heal, to call our community together, to mark life changes, to note everyday moments and moments of significance, to signal beginnings, transitions, and endings.

Did you know that we also use music to tell Jewish time?

The music of our prayer maps out the Jewish year, seasons, week, and even times of day. Historically, any Jew familiar with their regional **Jewish musical prayer calendar** could walk into a service and, based on the music of the prayers, know what kind of season it was, whether it was a weekday, Shabbat, or a holiday, which section of the day (morning, afternoon, evening), and even which part of the service they were hearing!

If you've attended services on different occasions, you may have noticed that the same **prayers can sound different depending on whether it's the High Holidays, a festival, Shabbat, or a weekday.** You may have noticed, for example, that the *Barkhu* — the communal call to worship — sounds

different on a Friday night, Saturday morning, or at a weekday shivah (mourning) service — and the sound changes again on the High Holidays and festivals!

Jews are not the only group that uses melodic structures to tell time. Indian Hindustani classical music, for example, uses different melodic frameworks — or *ragas* — for different times of day, on the belief that the human body responds differently to different musical notes at different times. Jewish musical theory is based on a similar belief that **different melodic structures evoke different moods**; each musical mood is designed to match the intention and function of each part of the service, time of day, type of day, and season. Like the Hindustani tradition, the Jewish tradition aims to enhance the effect of the music or chant by matching the prayer and its musical mode to the time when it will resonate the most.

The tool by which we tell Jewish musical time — the Jewish sonic clock, if you will — is called *nusah* (plural: *nus'ha'ot*). In the world of Jewish music, *nusah* means a style of liturgical chant

— a set of melodic formulas — within a regionally-rooted Jewish tradition, such as Ashkenazi tradition from Europe, Sephardic tradition from Spain (and used in Hasidic communities), and Mizrahi tradition from the Middle East. **All of these Jewish *nusah* traditions have a close relationship to the centuries-old Arabic musical system known as *maqam*:** Sephardic and Mizrahi musical traditions use *maqam* directly; Ashkenazi musical *nusah* varies a bit, but mirrors *maqam* closely.

This is due to the fact that **Jews have never lived in a vacuum:** Throughout Jewish history, we have influenced and been influenced by the cultures in which we have resided.

Exchange happens within Jewish culture, as well: For centuries in Europe, for example, there has been a **rich dialogue between Jewish liturgical worship and Jewish folk music.** Think of the tune, "Hava Nagilah" (or pull up a recording if you don't know it!). This song is based on a Ukrainian Hasidic *nigun* (wordless melody) that emerged from one of the Ashkenazi prayer *nus'ha'ot* called *Ahavah Rabah* mode or *Freygish*.

The signature sound of *Freygish* is the flatted second (think of the first two notes in the *Jaws* theme). It is similar to the Arabic *maqam* called *Hijaz*, and it is used frequently in Klezmer music. In Ashkenazi prayer, we use *Freygish* on weekday mornings and evenings, in elevated form on Shabbat morning around the *Amidah* (Standing Prayer), and even at times on the High Holidays (think of the congregational tune for *Avinu Malkenu*). We also use *Freygish* for the *El Maleh Rahamim*, the mournful prayer we chant at funerals, beseeching the Holy One to envelop the departed soul in Her wings of protection.

Freygish is just one example of the melodic *nus'ha'ot* that Jews have used for centuries to place ourselves in time! As the Jewish new year begins and you step back into our Sanctuary during services, **I encourage you to listen for the changes in the musical *nusah* as we move through the service and through the season.**

Feel free to share your observations with me and ask questions — I would love to hear what you notice!

When we bring forward these tonal Jewish traditions over the course of a day, week, season, and year, we tap into rich veins in the layered bedrock of Jewish cultural geology. We also revive and replenish them, recalling and giving voice — in a more literal sense — to our ancestors.

This year, **I invite you to join me once a month for a Monthly Spontaneous Choir experience!** These are not scripted practice sessions, but rather opportunities to sink into the melodies of seasonal, weekday, and Shabbat tunes in a music-forward setting, where we can explore the joy and healing practice of communal singing!

All levels of musical experience and Jewish knowledge are welcome. It's low-commitment and guaranteed to bring mid-week joy! Register at the Adult Education page on our website.

Lastly, I want to heartily invite you to our fall concert on **Sunday, November 15, at 3:00 pm here at Society Hill Synagogue**, featuring the wonderful **Sharim V'Sharot Choir!** This 30-member, audition-based Jewish choir out of New Jersey includes our very own synagogue members, **Ellen Fennick, Marty Rosenberg, Naomi Basickes, and Stephen Cohen.** The choir's repertoire spans an impressive range of Jewish music; their concert this fall will focus on Jewish music from around the world. You won't want to miss it — register early and save with advance tickets!

Wishing you *shanah tovah u'metukah* (a good and sweet new year). As I begin my 10th year as your *Hazzan*, I look forward to continuing our journey together through the Jewish calendar — musically and otherwise!

Continued from Rabbi Kamesar:

All the Chapters of Our Lives

One of the beautiful parts of Society Hill Synagogue is how intergenerational it is. Come for a Shabbat morning, and over the course of a Torah discussion or a Kiddush lunch, you will witness nine-year-olds and ninety-year-olds engaged in the same

subject matter, sharing ideas — and cookies. At the same time, we also have groups where uniquely shared experiences can be discussed, such as our **Rosh Hodesh Group**, covering women's issues, and our **Triple Chai** group for those ages 54 and older. But there are some areas that we are in the process of strengthening: teens and their

parents, for example, who, post-B'nei Mitzvah, are looking for new footholds in community; the "sandwich generation," offering care to both young adults and aging parents; singles; and more.

We want to continue to strengthen this community, and I welcome your vision and input.



Society Hill Synagogue Playschool

A JOYFUL START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

by Megan Nachod



As we look forward to opening our doors for a new school year, **here is a preview of the joyful, meaningful journey our youngest learners will experience** during their first three months.

Every year begins with a focus on comfort, connection, and belonging. Children will learn classroom routines, explore interest centers, and build trusting relationships with teachers and peers as morning drop-off tears quickly turn into comfortable smiles. Friday routines will take root as we practice singing "Shabbat Shalom," making pretend chicken soup, and learning the steps of our **weekly Shabbat celebration**. Solitary play naturally transitions into cooperative group projects,

shared building endeavors, and rich imaginative play.

We will almost immediately begin our study of the High Holidays once the year begins. The children will **touch and listen to the shofar** for Rosh Hashanah, dip apples in honey, and **practice saying shanah tovah** (happy new year). They will practice **reflective sharing for Yom Kippur** and talk about the times they wish they'd done something differently.

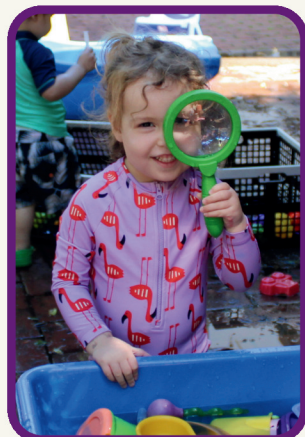
Sukkot means it's time to make decorations for our community Sukkah and eat snacks and lunch in the beautiful temporary shelter. **Marching, singing, and dancing with toy Torah scrolls** will highlight our celebration of community and learning. Every year for Simchat Torah, we unroll



Megan Nachod leading Playschool students in the weekly Shabbat celebration

a Torah scroll in a large circle and have the children stand in the middle of the circle. It's a very concrete representation of how generations of Jewish people have been held strong by the Torah and, in turn, held on to the Torah strongly. Of course, we won't miss celebrating the very welcome cooler fall weather, come October and November. **Fall sensory bins, leaf collecting, and pumpkin investigations** will connect outdoor play with gratitude for the environment.

We can't wait to watch our learners **grow in confidence, curiosity, and joy** throughout these exciting first steps of the school year! Please email me at megan@societyhillsynagogue.org if you or your friends would like to learn more about Playschool or enrollment for the summer or next fall. I would be happy to show you what we do. *Shanah tovah u'metukah!*



Playschool students enjoy water play during summer camp



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

POOL, SHMOOL. WE'RE READY FOR SCHOOL!

by Karen Hafter



It seems impossible, but the summer is over, and the Hebrew School is getting ready to open its doors for another year of joyful learning. At this time last year, I had only been the Director of Youth and Family Education for a few months and hadn't met most of the kids; we were getting ready to use a new curriculum, and I was just about ready to chew my fingers off. Now, I get to see the students I grew to love and have missed all summer, and I feel confident that they will continue to receive an exceptional education with curriculum from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, taught to them by the best Hebrew School teachers in Philadelphia. What a difference 12 months make!

Before the **first day of school on Saturday, September 19**, we've got **Rosh Hashanah on Friday, September 11, to Sunday, September 13**. While the grown-ups are upstairs, **"Music Man" Micah Hart and I** will be leading **Family Services** for two different age groups in the Social Hall for both **Rosh Hashanah Day One** and **Yom Kippur**. If your child is interested in reading a Hebrew prayer or presenting an English reading during the service for 7-12 year

olds, please let me know! More voices coming together makes for a joyful sound.



"Music Man" Micah Hart leading Young Families Shabbat

Speaking of the Family Services, I want to let you all know about something I am tremendously proud to have worked on this summer: **our very own, professionally printed Family Mahzor**, updated from last year's edition by **Alexis Rosen and me**, and featuring cover art from congregants **Fran Gallun and Laurie Krivo**. Even if you're not planning to hang out downstairs with the cool kids for Family Services, come on down and take a peek at the book I hope our synagogue will use for many years to come.

This school year, we'll be starting a regular **Junior Congregation every Saturday** to help get kids more familiar and comfortable with the

prayers they'll eventually lead during their B'nei Mitzvah and use for the rest of their lives. Once a month, song leader **Daniel Bernstein** will come in to add a little guitar pizzazz to the programming and give me the chance to join in on the fun.

We will also continue with **Hebrew School: On the Move**, a once a month, Sunday adventure for Hebrew Schoolers and their families to help kids understand that our religion, our values, and our community can show up anywhere! You can look forward to a **pumpkin patch visit on October 18** and a **chance to volunteer on November 15**. Keep your eyes peeled for more family friendly events in the coming seasons.



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School students and their family volunteering at the Jewish Relief Agency with Hebrew School: On the Move

This fall, we have **two B'nei Mitzvah to celebrate in our school community!** We hope that you will join us at these services, as each one is a unique opportunity to hear our students share their reflections and chant texts and celebrate traditions that bring us all together. Our first Bar Mitzvah of the season is **Daniel Bruton (November 14)**, followed by **Ari Ackelsberg (November 21)**.

The seventh graders aren't the only ones who get to stand on the bimah and lead: our **TGISHabbat services featuring Hebrew Schoolers** give all of

the students a chance to shine and show off their prayer prowess. **Kitot Dalet and Hey** (4th and 5th grades) will be featured on **Friday, October 9**, and **Kitot Bet and Gimel** (2nd and 3rd grades) will get their moment in the spotlight on **Friday, November 6**. This is actually the first year that Kitah Bet (2nd grade) will get a chance to help lead at TGISHabbat and, knowing those kids, we'll be in for a treat.

There will be a **Kitah Vav and Zayin** (6th and 7th grades) **Clergy-Parent Learning Session on Tuesday, October 27**. These

learning sessions give parents a chance to chat with **Rabbi Nathan Kamesar** and **Hazzan Jessi Roemer** about what it takes to get a tween ready to become a Jewish adult and what it takes to get a parent prepared to raise a Jewish adult. Childcare will be provided for students and their siblings during the sessions.

The summer was a nice break, but we're in for another busy year, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Wishing you *shanah tovah u'metukah!*

Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

Society Hill Synagogue's Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School grounds students' experiences in Jewish text, tradition, and community. Our vibrant school immerses children and adolescents in the rhythms of Jewish life, empowering them to forge their own authentic relationships with Judaism. We aim to help students see the Jewish community as a lifelong source of nourishment and strength while fostering a sense of responsibility.

societyhillsynagogue.org/hebrew-school-registration-5787

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.



Membership Committee

SUMMER SHABBAT AT HOME: A NEW TRADITION

by Judy Lalli and Debbie Stewart

A new tradition at Society Hill Synagogue is off and running. **Our first season of Summer Shabbat at Home was a huge success!**

Once a month from June through August, new and longtime members gathered at fellow members' homes to welcome Shabbat with food, fellowship, and joy. The outpouring of generosity by hosts and the contributions of guests were heartwarming. Simultaneous Shabbat gatherings across the city, suburbs, and down the shore reinforced our understanding of the very warm and special community we have created here at Society Hill Synagogue.

Over the course of the summer,

16 hosts opened their homes one or more times to share a special Shabbat with fellow members. **In total, we filled 131 seats for Shabbat dinners at home this summer!** The overwhelmingly positive feedback noted great food, lovely home settings, making connections, terrific conversations, and the joy of welcoming Shabbat together as a community.

Thank you to our **Membership Committee** for suggesting this endeavor; **Carmen Hayman** for joining us in the planning; **Rabbi Nathan Kamesar** and **Sahar Oz** for providing guidance and support; **LilyFish Gomberg** for creating the registration forms and host location descriptions; and **Alexis Rosen** for picking up



Summer Shabbat at Home hosted by Lisa and Steve Eizen on July 10

and running with the baton to bring us to the finish line!

Most of all, **thank you to our members**, who jumped into this new initiative full-heartedly and handedly to make Summer Shabbat at Home a wonderful reality. We've built new relationships and deepened existing ones. We honored individual dietary and accessibility needs, *kashrut* guidelines, and our sacred blessings to bring in Shabbat as a community.



Summer Shabbat at Home hosted by Debbie and Bill Stewart on July 10



Summer Shabbat at Home hosted by Hilary Levine and Tyler McKinley on June 12



Summer Shabbat at Home hosted by Steve Cohen and Naomi Basickes on June 12

Special thanks to our 2026 Shabbat at Home hosts: **Marilyn Deutsch, Robin Cohen, Neil Einleger, Stephen Cohen and Naomi Basickes, Hilary Levine and Tyler McKinley, Laurie Krivo and Bob Kaufman, Debbie and Bill Stewart, Elana Hunter and Jack Karcher, Marty Rosenberg and Ellen Fennick, Lisa and Steve Eizen, Valerie and Michael Yasner, Wendy**

and **Steve Greenspan, Jared Susco, Debra Weissbach and Neil Cohen, Sandy and Melissa Caust-Ellenbogen, and Rachel Howe.**

Please look forward to our call for hosts and guests in spring 2027!

Tradition, tradition!

Israel Connections Subcommittee

OCTOBER 10 KIDDUSH LUNCH 'N' LEARN: EXPLORING ISRAEL THROUGH CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI ART

by Dr. Martin ("Marty") Rosenberg

This October marks the tenth anniversary of ***Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art***, an exhibition I co-curated with Dr. Susan Isaacs of Towson University. It opened at Rutgers University-Camden in 2015, later traveled to seven museums and galleries across the country, and was seen by more than 30,000 visitors.

The exhibition brought together the work of **36 contemporary Israeli artists from Jewish, Arab Muslim, Arab Christian, and Druze communities**. Half of the artists are women, and all are Israeli citizens. Through painting, sculpture, photography, video, and installation, they explore identity, geography, history, and everyday life, reflecting the

many diverse perspectives that make up Israeli society.

At our **October 10 Kiddush Lunch 'n' Learn**, I'll revisit the exhibition and discuss why its themes remain increasingly relevant today. Contemporary art provides a window into Israel through the eyes of its artists and offers an opportunity to better understand the country's diversity and complexity.

Some of you have joined me over the years for Architecture and Public Sculpture Walking Tours in Philadelphia with architect Carter Reich, guided tours at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and exhibitions I have curated at Rutgers University-Camden. I'm grateful to the Israel Connections

Subcommittee for the opportunity to share this exhibition with our congregation, especially with members who were not able to see it when it first opened.

Mark your calendar, and join us at this Kiddush lunch 'n' Learn as we delve into contemporary Israeli art and what it can teach us about Israel today.



Adi Nes, Hagar, 2006, chromogenic print, presented with *Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art*

Hesed Committee

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

Society Hill Synagogue is a warm and caring community that seeks to hold us all by connecting members and supporting them in times of need. We are so fortunate that the Hesed Committee has many volunteers who support our community by making personal calls quarterly to every member household and responding to fellow members when they need help.

Being part of this team is a truly enriching experience for volunteers who connect with one another and do *mitzvot* for fellow congregants. **Email us at hesed@societyhillsynagogue.org to join us. We need you!**

As the committee approaches its **one year anniversary in November**, we look forward to celebrating our volunteers and continuing to assess the ways that we can support you.

Since November 2025, **we have responded to 37 member households' requests for assistance** and have provided meals, transportation to medical appointments, visits at home or in the hospital, done errands, and gotten assistive equipment. Some of us also send condolence notes, attend shivah minyans, and provide meals or care packages to those who have lost an immediate family member.

Our recent shift to phoning or texting our members on a quarterly rather than monthly basis has been well received. Through these calls, our volunteers are connecting with members, building bonds, and providing tailored updates on synagogue events that may be of interest to each member household.

Please do not hesitate to reach out for yourself or a friend in need. Our Hesed request form is available on the synagogue's website, in the weekly eNews, and by phoning the synagogue office at 215-922-6590. *Shanah tovah!*

BOOK CLUB

by Judith Axler and Donna Tartasky

We want to wish a happy new year to all as we approach Rosh Hashanah and the start of 5787! We've got a great lineup of books coming up this year. We meet at **10:30 am** in the Sanctuary on the second Friday of each month. This year, due to the High Holidays, we'll convene our first Book Club meeting on **Friday, September 18**. That morning, we will discuss **Rabbi Angela Buchdahl's *The Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's***

Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging. Rabbi Buchdahl, the first Asian American to be ordained as a rabbi, "has written a book that is both memoir and spiritual guide for everyday living" (*Lilith*).

On **Friday, October 9**, we'll take a trip back in time to the Venice Ghetto of 1672, when we discuss ***What Was Forbidden***. We're excited that the author, **Jonathan Bockian**, will be joining us via Zoom.

On **Friday, November 13**, we'll meet to discuss ***This is Not About Us*, by Allegra Goodman**, a book about "growing up and growing old, the weight of parental expectations, and the complex connection between sisters — a big-hearted book about the love that binds a family across generations."



NOVEMBER 15 FALL CHORAL CONCERT FEATURING SHARIM V'SHAROT: "A RICH TAPESTRY OF JEWISH SONGS"

by Dr. Martin ("Marty") Rosenberg

After its very successful spring 2024 concert, "**Generations: L'Dor v'Dor**," hosted by Society Hill Synagogue, Sharim v'Sharot is excited to return to the congregation, particularly during Society Hill Synagogue's milestone 60th year.

On **Sunday, November 15, at 3:00 pm**, our Sanctuary will be filled with the voices of **Sharim v'Sharot: People of Song**. The theme of the 2026 fall concert is "**A Rich Tapestry of Jewish Songs**," and it will include selections from many parts of our rich, diverse Jewish musical legacy: Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi, in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino. We are delighted that **Hazzan Jessi Roemer** will be our guest soloist.

Sharim v'Sharot is an inclusive, independent, auditioned Jewish choir led by founding **Conductor and Music Director Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman**, a noted choral arranger and voice, wind, and piano teacher in the New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia areas. **Assistant Conductor Daniel Hyman**, violinist, teacher, and performer, will also conduct.

Now in its 27th year, Sharim v'Sharot's members come from central and southern New Jersey



Sharim V'Sharot 2024 concert at Society Hill Synagogue

and the Greater Philadelphia region.

Sharim v'Sharot sings a broad repertoire of Jewish music spanning a wide variety of musical eras, from the medieval period to the present, from Italian Renaissance works of Salamone Rossi to classical-romantic era liturgical works, show-tunes by Jewish composers, songs from the Yiddish theatre, Broadway, 21st century Israeli and American composers, and modern popular styles. The Sharim v'Sharot Foundation also commissions, and the choir premieres, works by contemporary Jewish composers.

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 their synagogue community.

Mark your calendar, and join us in the Sanctuary on November 15 at 3:00 pm to rejoice with a multilingual weaving of Jewish melodies, harmonies, and rhythms. A light reception will follow the concert.

Stay tuned for ticket information for synagogue members and the general public, which will soon be included in weekly eNews editions and other synagogue communications.

The Inclusion Corner

OHEL PATU'AH – THE OPEN TENT

by Amy Goldman, Gail Massey, Martin Rosenberg, Debbie Stewart, and Jared Susco

We look forward to another year of learning, sharing, and making actionable recommendations as we continue to strive to be inclusive of all who wish to visit or join our synagogue.

Coming Up

The **People of Color Subcommittee** will host a **Kiddush Lunch 'n' Learn on Saturday, October 17**, designed for self-reflection on how we listen, engage, and connect across our community — specifically around the inclusion of people of color. Please join us for storytelling, Jewish text study, and conversation facilitated by **Sarah Kolker**, Director of jkid4all, and **Julia Weekes**, Director of Professional Learning, both of **Jewish Learning Venture**.



Sarah Kolker and Julia Weekes of Jewish Learning Venture

In the spirit of “**nothing about us without us**,” if you are a person of color (or PoC adjacent) and would like to be involved with this event and/or our subcommittee, please email **Jared Susco** at inclusion@societyhillssynagogue.org.

Save the Date

On **Saturday, February 20, 2027**, the **Disability Inclusion Subcommittee** will present a **Kiddush Lunch 'n' Learn** to gather for learning and sharing thoughts in support of **Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)**.

We Dream of a Fully Accessible Building with Space for All

Did you notice? No more leaning, only leyning. **We have raised tables for Torah readers and blessers** in the Social Hall for summertime Shabbat services!

We are thrilled that the synagogue is exploring the feasibility of expanding its space and making the facility fully accessible, including the building's southern annex and the Sanctuary, with its bimah (raised platform). **We believe this dream can become a reality.**

If you would like to participate in support of interfaith conversations, gender equality, people with disabilities, people of color, and/or members of the LGBTQIA+ community, please contact Debbie Stewart at inclusion@societyhillssynagogue.org, or reach out directly to a subcommittee chairperson.

Finding Home in an Unsettled World with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Josh Feigelson

Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31

Rabbi Josh Feigelson, President and CEO of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), will explore what it means to feel at home when the world feels unsettled. Drawing on Jewish wisdom and spiritual practice, he will **examine the ancient Jewish tension between home and exile** and what it can teach us about living with uncertainty today. In a time of political turmoil in the United States and Israel, Rabbi Feigelson will consider **how Jewish spiritual practice can help us remain grounded, connected, and openhearted in turbulent times**. Mark your calendars, and join us for this very special Shabbat!

A FUN FALL AHEAD FOR ALL AGES

by Lesli Reich



It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of summer, with a new school year beginning and fall activities and events soon to be upon us.

On **Sunday, July 19**, Coolanu hosted another **Architecture and Public Sculpture Walking Tour**, this time of the University of Pennsylvania campus. Society Hill Synagogue members **Marty Rosenberg** and **Carter Reich** led the tour, which — like all of the previous tours in this series — filled up within just a few days of registration opening.

Thank you, Marty and Carter, for sharing your expertise! A second installment of the Penn campus walking tour will take place in spring 2027.

As we move through the High Holiday season, Coolanu has a full lineup of programs to keep you connected and engaged.

On **Tuesday, September 22**, from **4:15-6:30 pm**, join us to build and decorate our synagogue's sukkah. Bring your camaraderie and creativity, and

help us transform this space into a beautiful, welcoming setting for Sukkot. Building and decorating our large sukkah, working together across generations, has enabled us to make so many wonderful memories over the years.

Whether you're a veteran or a newbie, everyone can help and have fun, so join us!

On **Sunday, September 27** (rain date: September 28), from **5:00-7:00 pm**, we will have our third annual **Salsa 'n' Sips in the Sukkah**. Come enjoy a delicious dairy vegetarian Mexican dinner (including fish tacos and soy chorizo tacos), various libations (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and great company! Of course, we'll have plenty of lulav and etrog sets for participants to shake as they wish. RSVP using the link in eNews.

On **Sunday, October 4**, from **1:00-3:00 pm**, Society Hill Synagogue member, **Jerry Silverman**, will lead a walking tour called titled **"Forgotten North Broad Street."** Jerry will guide us on a walk up this vein of architectural and historical

gold, from Spring Garden to Temple University.

One hundred years ago, North Broad was *the* signature place to live in Philadelphia. Enormous mansions, such as the Widener home, a vibrant Jewish neighborhood, and great high schools were the pride of this neighborhood. The walk will cover 1.5 miles. **Registration will be limited to 18 participants**, so please look for details and online registration soon in eNews and other synagogue communications.

Come together on **Sunday, November 8**, for **Mahjong for a Cause** — a Mahjong event open to players of all skill levels from the Society Hill Synagogue community and the general public. This event is jointly sponsored by **Coolanu** and **Mahj with Heart**. A portion of the entry fee proceeds will be donated to support our congregation's fight against food insecurity. Look for registration details soon, and invite your friends to join you at Mahjong for a Cause!

If you have program ideas that you would like to share,
or if you are interested in becoming a Co-Chair of Coolanu, please email
Lesli Reich at: coolanu@societyhillsynagogue.org



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 spotlighted this past quarter.

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



HILARY LEVINE & TYLER MCKINLEY

"We were initially connected to Society Hill Synagogue by our friends Anna and Phil Wiener (former Young Friends Co-Chairs) and Steph and Adam Reinitz. Since joining, we've never looked back! We love the warm and welcoming environment and the amazing staff and clergy. We feel lucky to belong to such a special community!"

LEO SKOLNIK

"I'm glad that I've gone to Hebrew School here because the teachers are good."

Leo's Bar Mitzvah took place on June 6.



HANNAH STRUNK

"At Society Hill Synagogue, I love spending time with my friends at the Shabbat Kiddush lunch."

Hannah's Bat Mitzvah took place on June 13.

DEBBIE STEWART

"My favorite memory at Society Hill Synagogue is my B'not Mitzvah with the 'Mitzies.' The opportunity to study together with Rabbi Avi while making challah in the kitchen, bonding, and sharing our Jewish journeys was incredibly special. We led prayers, read Torah, gave our Divrei Torah, cried, and celebrated with our community. It was the most spiritually meaningful experience of my life."



ANA ATACH

"One of my favorite memories is leying Torah for the first time at Society Hill Synagogue. More recently, I had the opportunity to read the Haftarah for the first time to celebrate a milestone birthday. It's great to be in community with you all!"



ALEX SELDIN

"I'm a corporate attorney and a new Society Hill Synagogue Board member. Everyone I meet seems so happy to be here — nobody is showing up 'just because.' It is an intentional community in the best sense. Friday night services are especially meaningful to me; no matter what the week has brought, the Friday night experience brings me to a grounded, peaceful place."

NELLA BLOOM

"My favorite Society Hill Synagogue memory is seeing the Torah scroll unrolled completely in the Sanctuary for Simhat Torah. It's such a special experience to watch Rabbi Kamesar point out the stories and events on the scroll."



BEVERLY MICHAELS

"Society Hill Synagogue is filled with interesting people of all ages who are friendly, kind, and unpretentious. Both clergy and congregants share a love of learning and a deep commitment to social justice. The people I've met here have enriched my life tremendously and supported me through difficult life transitions. Society Hill Synagogue is everything a faith community should be, and more."

MINDY FINGERMAN

"I visited Society Hill Synagogue for an Open House Shabbat and was immediately drawn to the warmth and friendliness of the congregants. I appreciate the blend of traditional liturgy I grew up with while also being part of a progressive and welcoming community. I am always looking to connect and meet new people, so if you see me, come say hello!"



CHRIS STEARNS

"Though I am not Jewish myself, Society Hill Synagogue has embraced me as a full member of its community. Faith and community are values I hold close, and I want them woven into our daughter Ezra's life and education. Society Hill Synagogue delivers on that promise again and again, with a warmth and openness that make everyone feel they belong."



MARILYN WEISBERG DEUTSCH

"One reason I love Society Hill Synagogue is that I immediately felt, and continue to feel, a deep sense of belonging. The leadership and congregants are extremely warm and welcoming, with a wide window of acceptance that makes everyone feel valued. I love that our worship services and programs are spiritual, diverse, and engaging, creating meaningful opportunities for connection and community."

ARIELLE LECHNER

"The Young Families Shabbatot and holiday festivities, like Hanukkah and Purim celebrations, have been some of our favorite experiences. We've met so many lovely people, and we appreciate how welcoming and accommodating Society Hill Synagogue is for families with young children. We look forward to these events each year and love creating beautiful memories together as a family."



Step Into the Spotlight!

Among the best things about Society Hill Synagogue are the wonderful people who make up our community. **Our Member Spotlight is a chance to share your story**, introduce yourself to fellow members, and let everyone get to know the people behind the names we see at Shabbat services, programs, events, and other synagogue activities.

Whether you're a longtime member, newer to the community, or somewhere in between, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested in being featured in an upcoming issue? Fill out the Member Spotlight form: societyhillssynagogue.org/member-spotlight-form

Questions? Email Alexis Rosen, Manager of Community Engagement and Communications, at alexis@societyhillssynagogue.org.



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!

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: societyhillssynagogue.org/young-families-shabbatot

Fridays:

- August 28 @ 5:45 pm
- September 25 @ 5:45 pm
- October 16 @ 5:45 pm
- January 22 @ 5:45 pm
- March 5 @ 5:45 pm
- April 16 @ 5:45 pm
- May 21 @ 5:45 pm
- June 4 @ 5:45 pm

Saturdays:

- November 7 @ 11:15 am
- December 12 @ 11:15 am
- January 9 @ 11:15 am
- February 20 @ 11:15 am
- April 10 @ 11:15 am



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

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

by Louis Polcin, Matt Cohen, and Erika Pleskunas

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our Young Friends events this summer! We spent a lot of time enjoying the sunshine while exploring some of Philly's best outdoor attractions. From celebrating **Shavuot in Washington Square Park** to enjoying drinks at the **PHS Pop Up Garden** and taking in the beautiful Delaware River views at **Spruce Street Harbor Park**, it was a fantastic season of connection and community!

We're excited to keep the momentum going this fall with two special events:

- On **Tuesday, September 29, at 7:00 pm**, we'll be **partnering with our friends at Tribe 12 for a Sukkot Happy Hour in the Society Hill Synagogue sukkah!** Food and drinks will be provided, and it will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Sukkot while meeting even more young members of the local Jewish community. The registration link will go live soon, so check your email!
- On **Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 PM**, we'll be hosting a **Young Friends•Giving Back** potluck in the Social Hall. This is one of our favorite events, offering the perfect opportunity to come together, share a meal, and give back to the community. You can register using the link we recently emailed or on our page at the synagogue's site: societyhillssynagogue.org/young-friends

We are thrilled by the continued growth of the Young Friends and look forward to creating more memories together this fall.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Young Friends, we encourage you to **join our WhatsApp group**. It's a great way to stay connected, hear about upcoming events, and participate in Shabbat dinners and other gatherings. To be added to the group or if you have any questions, please reach out to youngfriends@societyhillssynagogue.org. We hope to see you soon!



Young Friends Co-chairs from left to right, Erika Pleskunas, Matt Cohen, and Louis Polcin



Our Young Friends group at the PHS Pop Up Garden

AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD FOR TRIPLE CHAI (54+)

by Natalie Landro and Robin Cohen

Hello, Triple Chai community! We have an exciting year planned for everyone, beginning with our annual Jewish journey abroad. This year, we are heading to **Mexico City** and **San Miguel de Allende** from **February 28 through March 10, 2027!** It is going to be a fabulous immersion trip filled with memorable experiences, delicious food, and opportunities to explore the unique character of each destination.

Mexico City has a vibrant Jewish community, and during our visit, we will have the opportunity to meet with members of the community, enjoy its renowned cuisine, discover its fascinating past, and experience the energy of this remarkable city. From there, we will travel to San Miguel de Allende, an artist's town known for its beautiful galleries, charming atmosphere, and rich traditions. Please see the following page for more information. For any questions about the trip, please contact Natalie Landro at triplechai@societyhillssynagogue.org.

This fall is also going to be an exciting one for Triple Chai, with several wonderful programs planned. On **Sunday, October 18**, we will gather at the synagogue for **Lunch and Music with Les "Doc" Rachlin**. **Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm**, followed by **Les' performance at 1:00 pm**. His repertoire includes beloved songs by Jewish American songwriters such as Paul Simon and Bob Dylan, along with surprising favorites you may not know were written by Jewish artists.

Join us on **Sunday, November 8, at 3:30 pm** at the synagogue for an engaging presentation by **Bryan Kravitz**, the founder and owner of **Philly Typewriter**, a thriving typewriter repair business and typewriter salon. Explore the fascinating history and evolution of these iconic machines, and see a selection of typewriters in action.

On **Sunday, December 13**, here at the synagogue, we'll have a **Brunch and Speaker, "The Foundations of Jewish Success,"** with **synagogue member and neurologist, Dr. Joe Berger**. Starting with brunch at **11:00 am**, this talk will explore the remarkable achievements of Jews and people of Jewish descent since the Enlightenment, examining their representation in science, medicine, finance, and the arts.

Please visit our Triple Chai page on the synagogue's website, as we'll continue to add information about future activities and programs throughout the year. Wishing you a very happy, healthy, and peaceful new year!

Can American Jews Pray Again? with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Elie Kaunfer

Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, President and CEO of the Hadar Institute, will **explore how to infuse prayer with greater meaning and reconnect with its transformative power**. Drawing on Jewish practice and his expertise in liturgy, he will consider questions such as: Can doubters pray? What do we do when we disagree with a prayer's content? Does God really need our praise? **Together, we will examine how taking prayer seriously can elevate us, bring us closer to God, and focus our priorities on what matters**. Mark your calendars, and join us for this very special Shabbat!

Society Hill Synagogue Triple Chai Group Presents:
A Journey through

MEXICO CITY & SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Culture, Flavor and Community

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 10, 2027

Book by
August 31st &
**SAVE \$150
PER PERSON!**

Join Society Hill Synagogue for an unforgettable journey through Mexico City and San Miguel de Allende, where ancient civilizations, colonial history, modern creativity, vibrant Jewish life and extraordinary cuisine come together. From the Jewish institutions and historic streets of Mexico City to the pyramids of Teotihuacan, the canals of Xochimilco, the artistic neighborhoods of Coyoacán and San Ángel, and the timeless beauty of San Miguel de Allende, this experience offers a rich blend of culture, flavor, community and connection.

ON THIS TOUR, WE WILL:

- **Connect** with Mexico's vibrant Jewish communities through meaningful encounters, Shabbat celebrations and shared cultural experiences
- **Enlighten** your understanding of Mexico's rich heritage by exploring ancient pyramids, colonial cities, world-class museums and UNESCO treasures
- **Inspire** your senses with authentic cuisine, colorful neighborhoods, local artisans and the timeless charm of San Miguel de Allende

...and SO much more!

PRICING CHART	CHECK/CASH PRICE	CREDIT CARD PRICE
LAND TOUR (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)	\$6,799	\$7,039
ADD FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY	\$2,050	\$2,120

For assistance with flights,
please contact anjie@ayelet.com or
800-237-1517 x340

Learn more about this trip at
<https://secure.ayelet.com/SocietyHillMexicoCity2027.aspx>



*This tour is for members of SHS only.
A \$500 per person deposit is due upon registering.*

ROSH HODESH GROUP

by Rachel Howe

In the summer *Kesher*, we promised **big things were coming for Rosh Hodesh**; we are now ready for the big reveal! For the first two years of Rosh Hodesh, we have focused on **lay-led sessions on specific topics related to women or the feminine and Judaism or Jewish life**. For instance, this summer, we had sessions focused on women's roles in Jewish mourning rituals and women's handiwork for *hiddur mitzvah*, which is the tradition of beautifying Jewish religious and ritual objects. **Every session starts with our ritual introductions and prayers and includes time for discussion.**

These kinds of programs have been a **wonderful way to open up conversations about our own roles in Jewish life, our experiences within our families and our society, and our goals and our opinions**. But there has been a hunger for more. Some of our sessions have explored activities and even field trips. For instance, we visited the only *mikvah* in Center City — which turned out to be only a block away from Society Hill Synagogue. These events have been major crowd pleasers, and we plan to do more of them.

That's why Rosh Hodesh will take a slightly new shape for 5787. Participants can still sign up to lead sessions on relevant topics, but we will have a plethora of other programming as well. This might include field trips, visits by experts or professors, or activities. Here are some upcoming examples:

- A **professor from Gratz College** will give a presentation about **Rebecca Gratz**.
- **Rebbetzin Caroline Kamesar** will teach about the **origins of challah** (*hafrashat challah*) while we bake our own challah.
- **Hazzan Jessi Roemer** will lead a discussion about **gendered language in the Torah**.
- We will take the **"Women's Tour" of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History**.
- We will learn **Krav Maga with a focus on women's bodies and psychology**.

Don't worry — we will still start every session with our rituals, and we will still have plenty of time for discussion. **We hope we will keep most of what we love while adding some variety and energy.**

After taking a break in Tishrei, we will kick things off with a "refresh" session in Heshvan, **exploring the very idea of Rosh Hodesh** — what it is and how Rosh Hodesh groups like ours developed. We will also explore your goals and gather some input from you to continue programming that speaks to our participants. As a reminder, our **Rosh Hodesh gatherings provide a space to center the voices and needs of women**. Our programs are open to all women — cisgender and transgender — as well as to non-binary and gender-expansive individuals who wish to be part of a space centering women's voices and experiences. You can participate in every gathering or just come to the ones that speak to you.

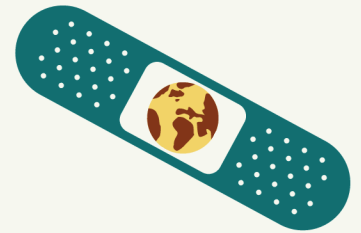
I hope you can join us in Heshvan and for all of our upcoming gatherings in 5787. Wishing the sweetest of new years to you all!



Social Action Committee

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

by Steve Morley



The Social Action Committee continues to address broad societal concerns through our commitments to combat food insecurity, improve literacy, and support immigrants' rights and policy initiatives for a better Philadelphia through POWER. (Please see the next page for more about POWER.)

Members of our Society Hill Synagogue community are among the regular attendees at the **ICE vigil held every Monday at 11:00 am** in front of ICE offices at 8th Street and Cherry Street. Come join us for a half hour of prayer, song, and solidarity in opposition to the actions of ICE in particular, and in support of immigrants in general. Can't make Mondays? There's another vigil on **Wednesdays at 12:00 pm**, sponsored by the New Sanctuary Movement at the same location.

There are many ways to volunteer in immigration work. You can train to advise immigrants attending ICE check-ins, help someone prepare for naturalization, or attend and monitor immigration court proceedings. For more info, please contact **Steve Morley** at socialaction@societyhillsynagogue.org.

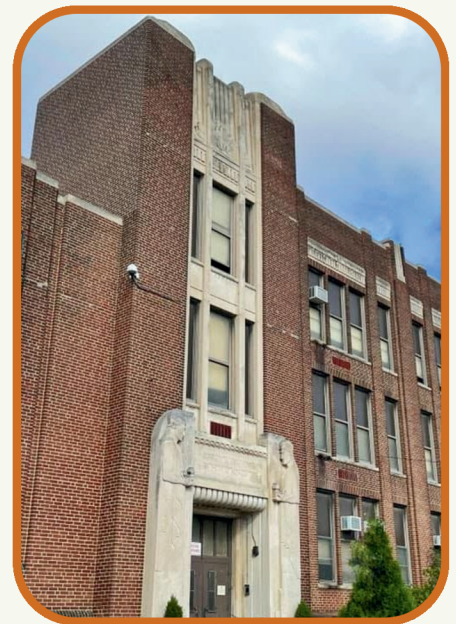
Society Hill Synagogue volunteers have been elbow deep at the **Taggart School in South Philadelphia**, helping to **organize the school library** and **reading to the children at the school**. We look forward to another successful year in coordination with the school HSA of helping kids learn the joys of reading and books. Many thanks to **Flora Wolf** for being the synagogue's coordinator for this work. Interested in volunteering? Reach out to Flora at fbwolf42@gmail.com. Note that **there still is a need for classroom help at Vare-Washington Elementary School**, with which our congregation has had a close relationship for 20 years.

Our Food Insecurity Committee, under the leadership of **Laurie Krivo** and **Bob Kaufman**, continues its collaboration with the **NeighborHub (the new name for Old Pine Community Center)** in **packing 125 bags of groceries every week** for our neighbors in the Courtyard Apartments in Queen Village. **We also provide 50 bags of groceries twice a month to Vare-Washington Elementary School families.**

Watch for Bob and Laurie's updated sign-up link to pitch in.

The Social Action Committee is **looking for help from congregants** to join us in these endeavors — and to broaden our social action commitments. With what issues do you think we should engage as part of the Society Hill Synagogue commitment to *tikkun olam* (healing the world) in the coming year?

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



Vare-Washington Elementary School

EDUCATION & CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ACTION

by Wendy and Steve Greenspan and Nancy Wygant

Education Justice: Thanks to the efforts of POWER Interfaith and other advocacy groups, Pennsylvania passed a budget this summer that directs an additional **\$565 million in adequacy funding to our most historically underfunded public schools**.

Here's a bit of background: Pennsylvania provides far less funding for public education than other states. As a result, local school districts must raise local funds through property taxes.

Wealthy school districts can raise much more money than low wealth school districts, which leads to an **enormous disparity in education budgets** across the state.

POWER and other groups have been fighting for many years to close this gap. The **\$565 million in the state budget** is one more step toward ensuring that all Pennsylvania students receive a quality education.

Climate Justice: POWER, working with other advocacy groups, won a **40% reduction in rate increases proposed by PGW** last fall. Furthermore, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), the state regulatory agency for utilities, sided with POWER and directed PGW to create a public engagement process focused on plans to **reduce Philadelphia's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050**. In June, PGW held the

first of the public engagement sessions and explored options such as **electrifying how we heat our homes and cook our food** and **weatherizing homes**. POWER is also advocating that PGW seriously consider the use of **geothermal energy**.

POWER is a multi-faith organizing force in Pennsylvania working for racial and economic justice on a livable planet.



If you are interested in getting involved with POWER Interfaith, you can contact Co-Chairs Steve Greenspan, Wendy Greenspan, or Nancy Wygant at power@societyhillssynagogue.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome New Members:

Alex Ginsberg and Sohye Park and their son, Rafael

Pesha Leichter

Dayna Finkelstein and her daughter, Reesa

Zev Einhorn

Ari Shapell and Beth Birnkrant and their children,
Roman and Mia

Sydney Berger and Dan Baum

Gabriel Rybeck and Sarah Stuccio and their son, Ezra

Sondra Rech

Madison Brooks

Jesse Krohn and Mark Fischer and their son, Ben

Henry and Molly Miller and their children,
Charlie and Leonardo

Abigail Seldin and Whitney Haring-Smith and their
children, Saul and Henry

Lisa and Greg Millhauser and their children,
Maya and Grant

Kaitlyn Edelson and Paul Braff and their children,
Maya, Elias, and Sophie

Allyson Niemi and Dean Zeldich

Warren and Julie Cramer and their son, Matthew

Tacy Ammons

Donna and Rick Heaslip and their son, Arthur

Daniel Levinthal

Paul and Alexandra Kitei and their children,
Marty and Ben

Eric Singer and Eileen Sherman

Jean Sophia Levitties

Lauren and Jeff Gladstone and their children,
Danielle and Adam

Marci and Bob Hackel

Barbara and Steven Gross

Yoav Karpenshif and Emma Satlof-Bedrick and
their children, Micah and Ezra

Barbara Holtz Levine and Michael Levine

Talia Amoyal and Daniel Bernstein

Michael and Lindsay Zaslow and their children,
Samara and Juliet

Leslie and Mitch Schwartz

Deborah Brecher

Ariel and Cassius Hayes and their children,
Nora and Esme

Alison Kessler and Brandon Shockley and their
children, Griffin and Cooper

Jill Stein

Allison and David Resnick and their children,
Maxwell and Jordan

Nancy Kirsh and Russell Cooke

Mazal Tov to:

Ben Fink and Isabella Segalovich on their wedding

Matthew Lee and Tzvia Pinkhasov on their wedding

Condolences to:

Alex Unger and Lori Landew and their sons, Griffin
and Manny, and their family on the passing of Alex's
father, Philip Unger

Pelley Brown and her family on the passing of her
husband, Dr. I. Stephen (Steve) Brown



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September Birthdays

Lyn Kirshenbaum
Ezra Karpenshif
David Levine
Neil Cohen
Matthew Fingerman
Anya Rosin
Madeleine Wilson
Eva D'Ignazio
Edgar Einhorn
Ari Shapell
Roman Shapell
Andrea Ehrlich
Alex Leed
Neville Newman
Gail Pogach
Susan Roe
Arnie Freedman
Camila Gelman
Susan Labowitz
Marty Rosenberg
Daniella Gold
Jenna Makuen
Marty Kitei
Joy Lander Roe
Tova Stifano-Walton
Stuart Deglin
Shayna Heere
Dana Rosner
Abe Silber

Nathaniel Chellel
Karen Hafter
Justin Lilien
Paxton Ratliff
Ralph Schapira
Michal Strunk
Benjamin Cohen
Bart Kaplan
Marjorie Patterson
Anya Applebaum Licht
Owen Fox
Josh Lehrer
Brooke Salzman
Mel Kohn
Betta Kolansky
Paula Ninerell
Hannah Dashefsky
Ann Rosen Spector
Lynne Rubinfeld
Mark Fischer
Jared Susco
Bob Hackel
Jackson Tropea
Sarina Chernock
Aldo Friedman
Lori Landew
Aiden Laver
Reesa Finkelstein
Anne Ballen Ladenson
Fran Gallun

Alex Ginsberg
Carly Gellman
Andi Lee
Rebecca Fishman
Florence Frantz
Andrea Allon
Daniel Bernstein
Dana Feinberg
Alex Unger
Joel Rosner
Frances Barg
Roberta Katz
Leslie Weiss
Rob Einhorn
Adam Elbaum
Sara Leshen-Gross
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton
Jamie Schwartz
Felix Edelman
Casey Genecov
Josie Chrismer
Tim Cravens
Lisa Eizen
Shara Epstein
Mindy Fortin
Ryan Lechner
Jill Stein
Ariel Hayes
Cassius Hayes



October Birthdays

George Danan
Adam Foxx
Joyce Helfman
Alexis Peskin
Mira Nachod
Dan Bogen
Matthew Cramer
Andrea Appel
Lily Hayman
Jay Shipper
Jonathan Wetstein
William Diebold
Ellen Fennick
Jacob Mono
Roberta Spivek
Sayde Ladov
Martha Levine
Marc Walton
Jay Goodman
Arthur Heaslip
Joe Manko
Chris Newman
Charlie Seltzer
Ylanah Sloane
Alexander Kranzel
Valentina Bonello
Burton Blender
Yoav Karpenshif
Aviv Silber
Roberta Dranoff
Brad Gellman
Jay Wussow
Emma Salzman
Daniel Saligman
Skylar Hunter
Caroline Bar
Kia Bickel
Eli Howe
Max Schoenhaus
Leslie Schwartz
Abe Summers
Betty Kaplan
Jesse Krohn
Warren Manning
Zev Genecov
Joanna Lack

Griffin Shockley
Howard Gershowitz
Mike Roe
Michael Zaslow
Hunter Cheatham
Larry Goldfinger
Lance Goldstein
Simon Belinkie
Rafael Margolis
Sally Stiefel
Mitch Schwartz
Abigail Wolf
Carolyn Davis
Ana Gelman
Louis Polcin
David Pressel
Jonathan Weiss
Jacob Hayman
Jacob Polakoff
Dayna Finkelstein
Ronen Rosenberg Loebel
Felise Nagelberg
Willa Jalbert-Cheatham
Sandra Berger
Clara Gutstadt
Tara Singer
Victoria Tropea
Owen Baker
Shiloh Epstein
Brian Mono
Sharon Shapiro
Nancy Winkler
Nancy Kirsh
Nora Hayes

November Birthdays

Michael Grosberg
Joanna Rosner
Samantha Rosner
Carol Fisher
Thomas Snell
Ari Laver
Levon Arnold
Margot Elton-Ratliff
Ava Herrmann
Henry Gutstadt
Adriel Mesznik

Mike Fox
Daniel Bruton
Russell Cooke
Erika Pleskunas
Anita Cohen
Gabrielle Applebaum
Rachel Lee-Nigsch
Neil Bunis
Oliver Stiefel
David Ladov
Emma Satlof-Bedrick
Mark Dembert
Ira Kauderwood
Anne Elkins
Beatrice Bar
Ron Kaiser
Solomon Maiberg
Terri Soifer
Micah Hart
Elias Mesznik
Benjamin Arnold
Deborah Casnoff
Sara Schwartz Chrismer
Charles Danan
Aaron Edelman
Elijah Hazelwood
Julie Cohen
Johanna Fisher
Brayden Goldstein
Valerie Wetstein
Hilary Levine
Jillian Lieberman
Tal Singer
Evyn Appel
Megan Helzner
Terry Novick
Pelley Brown
Amy Wilson
Bill Kitei
Jeff Ratliff
Adam Reinitz
Becky Rohtbart
Cooper Shockley
Jordan Resnick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September Anniversaries

Stephanie and Adam Reinitz
Charles Danan and Taylor Boelkes
Hunter Cheatham and Shana Jalbert
Rabbi Nathan and Caroline Kamesar
Elaine Ezrapour and Matthew Zheleznyak
Noah Chrismer and Sara Schwartz Chrismer
Josh and Suzanne Sztul
Mindy and Thaddeus Fortin
Alan and Lynn Gottlieb
James and Linda Rosenstein
Margot Elton-Ratliff and Jeff Ratliff
Mitchell and Carolyn Davis
Richard Braemer and Amy Finkel
Jay Wussow and Emily Zimmerman
Paul and Sharon Waimberg
Karl Janowitz and Amy Goldman
Warren Manning and Susan Rodgin
Matthew Cohen and Erika Pleskunas
Lisa Yaffe Sprafkin and Neal Sprafkin
Elizabeth and David Rubin
Allison and David Resnick

October Anniversaries

Alex Ginsberg and Sohye Park
Daniel and Elizabeth Isanuk
Mitchel Weiss and Lilian Rosenstreich
Ilene Hollin and Brian Barenbaum
Aaron and Renee Edelman
David Weinfeld and Marjorie Patterson
Shane Malach and Hailey Rovner Malach
Felise and Holden Nagelberg
Hannah Dashefsky and Thomas Snell
Josh Goldwert and Jennifer Schwartz
Cindy Hoffman and Marty Bergman
Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof
Beth and Charlie Seltzer
Bonny Hohenberger and Nathan Farbman
Matthew Lee and Tzvia Pinkhasov
Anna and Andrew Bruton
Nathaniel Popkin and Rona Buchalter

Sahar Oz and Allison Kirshner Oz
Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz
Hilary Levine and Tyler McKinley
Michael and Lindsay Zaslow
Mike and Jaime Fox
Aaron and Alexis Peskin
Mindy and Matthew Fingerman

November Anniversaries

Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman
Alice Levy and Motty Seal
Steven Datlof and Diane Harrison
Steven and Lisa Eizen
Terri Soifer and Jake Rainwater
Robert and Wilma Bass
Michael and Holly Gorsen
Neil Cohen and Debra Weissbach
Jim and Julie Wilson
Leslie Weiss and Neil Bunis
Yoav Karpenshif and Emma Satlof-Bedrick
Kinney Zalesne and Scott Siff
Jeremey and Fran Newberg
Jodi Kefer and Adam Foxx
Terri and Mark Steinberg
Pamela and Howard Gershowitz
Jud Aaron and Sue Snedden



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund

In Appreciation of

Natalie Landro, in Gratitude for her Kindness
Marlene Lachman

Susan Leshnoff, in Gratitude for her Kindness
Marlene Lachman

Society Hill Synagogue
Dan and Barbara Rottenberg

Elana Hunter, for her Hospitality
Rabbi Raysh Weiss

Rabbi Kamesar, Hazzan Jessi, and Leanne Bendetti
Rabbi Raysh Weiss

Making Our 50th Wedding Anniversary and 75th Birthdays Party So Special
Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick

The Amazing Staff at Society Hill Synagogue
Terry Graboyes

The Mah Jongg Club at Society Hill Synagogue
Carol Abolafia

Rick Summers and Merrily Williams for Building the Torah Ark in Memory of Aaron Woloff
Stanley and Judith Woloff

Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun for Creating the Artwork inside the Torah Ark in Memory of Aaron Woloff
Stanley and Judith Woloff

The Society Hill Synagogue Community
Daniel Siryakov and Marin Kautz

My Aliyah at the May 23 Shabbat Service
Steven Sereboff

In Honor of

Rick Summers and Merrily Williams, Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun, and Stanley and Judith Woloff for Building the Torah Ark in Memory of Aaron Woloff
Paula Ninerell

Dedication of the Torah Ark in Memory of Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley and Judith Woloff
Neil Bunis and Leslie Weiss

Lisa Eizen for her Service as President of Society Hill Synagogue

Burt Ginsberg and Adele Fine
Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz
Terry Graboyes
Judy Rohtbart

Alexis Rosen, on her New Role as Manager of Community Engagement and Communications
LilyFish Gomberg

Jacob Hayman Graduating from Nursing School
Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Len and Deena Friedland's Daughter's Wedding
Michael and Valerie Yasner

Holden and Felise Nagelberg's Recent Family Simchas
Michael and Valerie Yasner

Harry and Eleanor Oxman's 65th Wedding Anniversary and Harry Oxman's 90th Birthday

Jerry and Louise Sklar
Stanley and Judith Woloff
Susan Leshnoff
Ellen and Rem Rieder
Donna Tartasky
Paula Ninerell
Bernie Gelman and Anne Elkins
Wendy and Steve Greenspan
Mary Fish and Mark Dembert
Brittany and Adam Saslow
Linda Joy Goldner
Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun
Bob Kaufman and Laurie Krivo
Ed Hollin and Liz Sall
Karen Gold
Judy Rohtbart
Francine Cohen
William and Nancy Jantsch
Neil Bunis and Leslie Weiss
Denise and David Kuritz
Elaine and Sidney Grobman
Suzanne Auten
Beverly Rosen
Carl Levitsky
Myrna Asher
Ferne Kuhn
Marlene Lachman
Marsha Cohen
Todd and Renee Goodman
Beverly Michaels

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Carter Reich's 75th Birthday

Michael and Valerie Yasner
Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz

Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick's 50th Wedding Anniversary and Their 75th Birthdays

Jerry and Joan Roller
Stanley and Judith Woloff

Marlene Lachman's 80th Birthday

Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz
JJ, Oliver, and Liev Peskin

The Wedding of Ben Fink and Isabella Segalovich

Steve and Wendy Greenspan

Aldo Friedman's High School Graduation

David Sapon

Bar Mitzvah of Leo Skolnik

Karl Janowitz and Amy Goldman

Lev Boyer's Last Day at Playschool

The Boyer Iser Family

In Memory of**Brian Englander, Husband of Juliet Englander**

Dahlia Sataloff
Terry Graboyes
Stanley and Judith Woloff

Stephen Brown, Husband of Pelley Brown

Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz
Carol Baer Mott
Tobey and Mark Dichter
Katherine Altshuler
Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick
Kristine Christensen Casullo
Carol and Matthew Marin
Elaine and Carl Steinberg
Walter Ferst
Joan Weidhorn
Ira and Robin Weidhorn
Peter Weidhorn
Scott and Elyse Everett
Victor Levy
Alice Levy and Motty Seal
Barbara Steinberg
Dr. and Mrs. David Checkoff
Elliot Fox, Eric Fox, and Karen Ragland
Ilene and Mark Rabinowitz

Debbie Chong, Sister of Judith Woloff

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Trudy Greenspan, Mother of Steve Greenspan

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Mike Slobodien, Husband of Bonnie Slobodien

Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Harvey Snyder, Husband of Babs Snyder

Jerry and Joan Roller

Al Sutnick

Susan Leshnoff
Stanley and Judith Woloff

Susan Kirshner, Mother of Allison Kirshner Oz

Stanley and Judith Woloff

Speedy Recovery to**Rabbi Avi Winokur**

Jerry and Joan Roller

Yahrzeit Remembrance of**Molly Miller, Mother of Paula Ninerell**

Paula Ninerell

Bertha Lachman, Mother of Marlene Lachman

Marlene Lachman

Helen Adelman, Mother of Merle Salkin

Merle Salkin

Marjam Behar, Mother of Robert Behar

Robert and Barbara Behar

Seymour Alper, Father of Barbara Behar

Robert and Barbara Behar

Paul Tartasky, Brother of Donna Tartasky

Donna Tartasky

Stephen Leshnoff, Husband of Susan Leshnoff

Susan Leshnoff

Aaron Woloff, Son of Stanley and Judith Woloff

Barbara Spector
Mary Fish and Mark Dembert

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Ron Herman, Husband of Terry Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Herbert and Helene Burd, Parents of Lynn Gottlieb
Alan and Lynn Gottlieb

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

Michael Giorgilli, Brother of Frank Giorgilli
Frank Giorgilli

Ida L. Kriegel, Mother of Susan Leshnoff
Susan Leshnoff

Shirley Hollin, Mother of Ed Hollin
Ed Hollin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
David Sapon
Stanley and Judith Woloff

In Honor of
Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick's 50th Wedding Anniversary and Their 75th Birthdays
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Carter Reich's 75th Birthday
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Harry and Eleanor Oxman's 65th Wedding Anniversary and Harry Oxman's 90th Birthday
Robin Cohen
Irma Becker

In Memory of
Stephen Brown, Husband of Pelley Brown
Bonnie and Ken Green
Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun
Rob Einhorn

Ruby Shana Eckstein, Granddaughter of Michael Eckstein
Michael Eckstein

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Jean Sablove, Mother of Pelley Brown
Pelley Brown

Caryn Levitsky, Wife of Carl Levitsky
Carl Levitsky

Lovey Levitsky, Mother of Carl Levitsky
Caril Levitsky

Alan J. Jacobs, Father of Nancy Goldenberg
Nancy, Marc, Jack and Alice Goldenberg

Gerta Wertheim, Mother-in-Law of Judith Wertheim
Judith Wertheim

Morris Barr, Father of Judith Wertheim
Judith Wertheim

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Bonnie Silverman
Elisheva Moses Schuchman
Stanley and Judith Woloff

In Honor of
Aldo Friedman's High School Graduation
Barbara Spector
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Aliyot at Shabbat Services
Joseph Freedman

Social Action Fund

In Honor of
Harry Oxman's 90th Birthday
Lyn Kirshenbaum
Tony and Judy Lalli

Harry and Eleanor Oxman's 65th Wedding Anniversary
Barbara Spector
Tony and Judy Lalli

In Memory of
Ron Kaufman, Brother of Bob Kaufman
Neil Cohen and Debbie Weissbach

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Rose Jacobs, Mother of Nancy Goldenberg
Nancy, Marc, Alice, and Jack Goldenberg

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Food Insecurity Fund

In Appreciation of

Marilyn Deutsch for Hosting Summer Shabbat at Home
Ric and Carmen Hayman

Lisa Eizen for Her Leadership

Ric and Carmen Hayman

In Honor of

Society Hill Synagogue

Judy Rohtbart

Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In Honor of

Neil Cohen's Election as President of Society Hill Synagogue

Carter and Lesli Reich

Rachel Howe Receiving the Extraordinary Service Award

Barbara Spector

Natalie Landro Receiving the Extraordinary Service Award

Barbara Spector

Robin Cohen

Harry and Eleanor Oxman's 65th Wedding Anniversary and Harry Oxman's 90th Birthday

David and Pam Levine

Carter and Lesli Reich

Debra and Bill Stewart

Marlene Lachman's 80th Birthday

Carter and Lesli Reich

Mayah Gold's College Graduation

Stanley and Judith Woloff

In Memory of

Brian Englander, Husband of Juliet Englander

Ric and Carmen Hayman

Lawrence Schaeffer

Holden and Felise Nagelberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector

Barbara Spector

Vitaliy Raynov, Father of Marina Cruz

Marina Cruz

Ross Klein, Brother of Pam Levine

David and Pam Levine

Raisa Levine, Grandmother of David Levine

David and Pam Levine

Elliott Berger, Brother of Adrienne Berger

Adrienne Berger

Education Scholarships and Programs

In Honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Leo Skolnik

Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun

Len and Deena Friedland's Milestone Birthdays

Missy and Bruce Saidman

Harry and Eleanor Oxman's 65th Wedding Anniversary

Lyn Kirshenbaum

Hilary Slobotkin

Harry Oxman's 90th Birthday

Hilary Slobotkin

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Jane Simon, Mother of Robert Bass

Robert and Wilma Bass

Petey Rosenberg, Uncle of Robert Bass

Robert and Wilma Bass

Sam Simon, Stepfather of Robert Bass

Robert and Wilma Bass

Thank you for Generously Sponsoring our High Holiday Meals

Joseph and Sandra Berger
In memory of Marion Motzi Berger

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

Libby Cone and Thomas G. Borawski
In memory of Samuel Levey

Debra Weissbach and Neil Cohen

Marilyn Deutsch
In memory of Henri Deutsch

Frank Giorgilli

Terry Graboyes
In memory of Susan Scarpati

Carmen and Ric Hayman

Amy Goldman and Karl Janowitz

Randi Kamine
In memory of Hop Sears

Carl M. Kaplan

Felise and Holden Nagelberg

Marlene Lachman and Alan Ominsky

Harry and Eleanor Oxman

Jill Feldman and David Pressel
In memory of Ron Feldman and Karen Pressel

Carter and Lesli Reich
In memory of our parents and grandparents

The Lander-Roe Family
In gratitude for the years of support from the Society Hill Synagogue community

Judy Rohtbart

Bonnie Silverman and Jerry Silverman
In memory of Gert and Jack Silverman

Ann Lebowitz and Mark Steinberger

Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg
In honor of Fran's 80th birthday

Judith and Stanley Woloff

Emily Zimmerman and Jay Wussow
In memory of Mark Stanton Zimmerman

High Holidays 5787: Schedule of Services & Programs

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 5

8:30 pm — Leil S'lihot Participatory Concert

Friday, September 11

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze

6:00 pm — Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

7:30 pm — Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg Dinner

Saturday, September 12

9:00 am — Rosh Hashanah Day I Service

9:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Families with Children Ages 6 and Younger

10:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Families with Children Ages 7-12

10:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Teen Program

1:15 pm — Rosh Hashanah Day I Kiddush Lunch

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am — Rosh Hashanah Day II Service

1:00 pm — Rosh Hashanah Day II Kiddush Lunch

2:30 pm — Community Tashlikh

Friday, September 18

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze

6:00 pm — TGIShabbat Shuvah Service

7:15 pm — Oneg Dinner

Saturday, September 19

9:30 am — Shabbat Shuvah Service and Torah Discussion

12:00 pm — Kiddush Lunch

Sunday, September 20

6:30 pm — Kol Nidrei Service

Monday, September 21

9:00 am — Yom Kippur Morning Service

9:30 am — Yom Kippur Family Service for Families with Children Ages 6 and Younger

10:30 am — Yom Kippur Family Service for Families with Children Ages 7-12

10:30 am — Yom Kippur Teen Program

5:00 pm — Yom Kippur Yizkor Service

5:30 pm — Yom Kippur Minhah Service

6:40 pm — Yom Kippur Ne'ilah Service

7:40 pm — Yom Kippur Break the Fast Meal

Sukkot and Simhat Torah

Tuesday, September 22

4:15 pm — Coolanu Sukkah Building and Decorating

Friday, September 25

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze

5:45 pm — Young Families Shabbat in the Sukkah

6:00 pm — TGIShabbat Erev Sukkot Service

7:15 pm — Oneg Dinner

Saturday, September 26

9:30 am — Sukkot Shabbat Service and Torah Discussion

12:00 pm — Sukkot Kiddush Lunch

Sunday, September 27

5:00 pm — Coolanu Salsa 'n' Sips in the Sukkah

Wednesday, September 30

7:00 pm — Young Friends Sukkot Happy Hour

Saturday, October 3

9:30 am — Sh'mini Atzeret Shabbat Service with Yizkor and Torah Discussion

12:00 pm — Sh'mini Atzeret Kiddush Lunch

5:30 pm — Simhat Torah Oneg Dinner

6:15 pm — Simhat Torah Service and Celebration

Friday, October 9

5:30 pm — Shabbat Schmooze

6:00 pm — TGIShabbat Service with Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit Honors

7:15 pm — Oneg Dinner with Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit Honorees' Reflections

Saturday, October 10

9:30 am — Shabbat Bereshit Morning Service and Torah Discussion, including Unrolling of an Entire Torah Scroll

12:00 pm — Kiddush Lunch 'n' Learn — *Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art*

AUTUMN 2026 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					

AUTUMN CALENDAR KEY:

-  = Book Club
-  = B'nei Mitzvah
-  = Rosh Hodesh
-  = Men's Club
-  = Building Closed
-  = Holiday Service
-  = Young Families
-  = Coolanu Events

Sep. 5: Leil S'lihot Participatory Concert

Sep. 11-13: Rosh Hashanah

Sep. 17: Playschool Back to School Night

Sep. 19: First Day of Classes for Hebrew School

Sep. 20-21: Yom Kippur

Sep. 22: Coolanu — Sukkah Building and Decorating

Sep. 26: Sukkot Service and Kiddush Lunch

Sep. 27: Coolanu — Salsa 'n' Sips in the Sukkah

Sep. 29: Young Friends (20s-30s) Sukkot Happy Hour

Oct. 3: Sh'mini Atzeret and Simhat Torah

Oct. 4: Coolanu — North Broad St. Walking Tour

Oct. 9: TGIShabbat with Hatan Torah & Kallat

Bereshit Honors, featuring Kitot Dalet & Hey

Oct. 18: Hebrew School on the Move

Oct. 18: Triple Chai (54+) Lunch & Music

Oct. 24: Adult Cohort B'not Mitzvah

Oct. 30-31: Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat with

Rabbi Josh Feigelson

Nov. 6: TGIShabbat featuring Kitot Bet & Gimel

Nov. 8: Coolanu — Mahjong for a Cause

Nov. 8: Triple Chai (54+) Typewriter Presentation

Nov. 12: Young Friends • Giving Back Potluck

Nov. 14: Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Bruton

Nov. 15: Hebrew School on the Move

Nov. 15: Sharim v'Sharot Fall Concert

Nov. 21: Bar Mitzvah of Ari Ackelsberg

This calendar is subject to change.

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



418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

215.922.6590
societyhillsynagogue.org

Neil Cohen, President
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
Rabbi Avi Winokur, Rabbi Emeritus
Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Sahar Oz, Executive Director



Mail To: