



**Triple Chai
(54+) Jewish
Heritage Tour of
Morocco**

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**

KESHER

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST 2025 • • • SIVAN • TAMUZ • AV • ELUL 5785

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From the President's Desk

GUIDED BY OUR VALUES, PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE: A SYNAGOGUE THAT REFLECTS US ALL

by Lisa Eizen

You may have read in my column previously that Society Hill Synagogue's Board of Directors is undertaking a **strategic planning process**. To that end, we have formed a **Strategic Planning Steering Committee** whose task it is to direct this process. This exercise was prompted by the recognition of **four issues** that we felt we wanted to address.



Our community gathered in the Sanctuary, laughing and clapping at our annual Rock Purimspiel put on by Hazzan Jessi Roemer and an intergenerational cast; LilyFish Gomberg.

First, the synagogue has experienced significant growth over the past five years. Our membership has expanded from 285 households in 2021 to 375 in 2025. One of the by-products of this is that the Hebrew School now has over 100 students, overflowing their spaces in the Paula Kline Learning Center (PKLC), and creating a scarcity of office space for additional staff. Even though we can't predict how long this growth will continue, we need to address our space constraints now.

Second, even though we have solved a major accessibility problem of having a historic structure for a home by including an elevator in the annex connecting the historic building to the PKLC, the Bimah in our Sanctuary is still inaccessible to a number of members and guests who attend services, B'nei Mitzvah, and other celebrations. We are considering solutions that would provide access for all.

Third, we have to look at other ways that our growth has impacted our community. Are there additional issues beyond space needs that we should be looking at? Have some of our community's needs changed over time? Are there opportunities that our growth presents us with?



Our members and the wider community gathered in the Sanctuary for Goal! An Evening with Tai Baribo — a Coolanu event that took place in May with Israeli Philadelphia Union striker Tai Baribo and Philadelphia Inquirer Reporter Jonathan Tannenwald; LilyFish Gomberg.

Fourth, we must ensure that we can financially support any outcomes of our planning process as well as affirm that Society Hill Synagogue will thrive well into the future.

In order to do all of this work, there must be a set of values by which we are guided. Rabbi Kamesar and a committee reviewed and refreshed our Mission, Vision, and Values statements, and the Board of Directors approved the document.

On the following page, you can see the fruit of their work, which we believe will guide us in seeking answers to our questions while staying true to the essence of who we are.

We intend to have a Board approved Strategic Plan in place by the end of 2026.

As each new issue is tackled, a committee will be activated or a task force will be formed. Our community members will be kept up to date and perhaps solicited for their opinion and/or expertise. This is an exciting time for Society Hill Synagogue!

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.

Hakhlalah/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.



From the Rabbi's Desk

OUR GROWTH JOURNEY: WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

We talk about “growth” a lot at Society Hill Synagogue. Are we growing? If so, why? Is it going to continue or might it stop? Do we even want to continue to grow? What does that mean for our future? What planning do we need to do in relation to that?

As you can read in Synagogue President Lisa Eizen’s *Kesher* article, the Board, staff, and clergy have carefully reviewed and revised our Mission, Vision, and Values statements as we engage in a strategic planning process to help us chart a course for the next chapter of life at Society Hill Synagogue. A “Mission Statement” typically articulates a community’s purpose, why it exists; a “Vision Statement” is what it looks like as the community achieves that purpose; and a “Values Statement” is a list of the community’s core beliefs in pursuit of that mission and vision.

We reviewed these statements because, as we have often shared recently, we indeed have grown a lot as a synagogue community over the past few years — 140 new households have joined since 2021, for a net increase, factoring in

attrition, of over 30%, and our Hebrew School has increased from 65 students to 105 students, a growth rate of nearly 80% over five years. **We want to ensure that, as we grow, we remain keyed into the reasons Society Hill Synagogue was formed in the first place, and to the fundamental purpose that animates us each day.**

As our new mission statement declares, “Society Hill Synagogue nourishes, strengthens, and inspires our members, their families, and the surrounding community through the rhythms and teachings of Jewish life.”

Being Jewish isn’t easy. Nor is being human, frankly. But those challenges invite us to ground ourselves in community, in tradition, and in meaning. We believe that as each of us engages with Society Hill Synagogue, we are able to draw upon experiences here that nourish, strengthen, and inspire us as we carry out the tasks that make up our lives.

I witness this each week. I witness how, on a Saturday morning after services, families and individuals of all ages, from

retirees to young couples chasing their toddlers, fill our Social Hall with laughter and connection over a Kiddush lunch. I witness how astonished people are when our Hebrew School students engage in a congregation-wide Torah discussion right alongside their elders, with insights as sharp as anyone else’s, from 10:30 to 11:00 am in our Sanctuary each Saturday. I witness people who never really imagined a one-hour Friday night or two-hour Saturday morning service being their cup of tea becoming unable to imagine their weeks without at least one of those services, feeling themselves rejuvenated after each one. I witness a bevy of communal experiences — from weekly Mah Jongg games, to Book Club, to men’s and women’s groups (Men’s Club and Rosh Hodesh), to visits from Israeli soccer stars, to meaningful commemorations of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha’Atzma’ut, in multiple expressions — enriching the lives of our members and the surrounding community.

I say this not to toot our own horn, though I do believe Society Hill Synagogue’s long-standing approach of being

deeply rooted in tradition, while also recognizing that at each juncture we need to make sure we are bringing that tradition to life through new teachings, through practices of inclusion, and through asking, frankly and open-heartedly, how ancient rhythms can be brought to bear in this moment. I say this to affirm that **engaging with communities like Society Hill Synagogue — immersing ourselves in the rhythms of Jewish communal life — can do a great deal for our souls, our psyches, and ultimately, the communities and the families in which we take part, and therefore, the broader world.**

So here at Society Hill Synagogue, growth is not just a number for us. We believe deeply in the tools we are wielding — or, really, the singular tool we are wielding: Jewish communal life. **We believe we have been bequeathed by our ancestors a true gift: the gift of Jewish tradition, which nurtures community, and that it is our task at Society Hill Synagogue to deploy that gift — to help people find strength, nourishment, and inspiration through the rhythms and teachings of Jewish life; through service of God and community.**

If we are striking a chord with people in our efforts to do that, we want to ensure that, going forward, we remain fully capable of welcoming new waves, new

generations of people who come seeking Jewish community in the ways we express it here; who come needing the strength, nourishment, and inspiration that comes from engaging with the rhythms and teachings of Jewish life facilitated by Society Hill Synagogue and other communities like ours.

Part of strengthening our capacity to do that is by investing in the staff that supports this community. Last year, as part of our previous Strategic Plan from 2022, we recognized that we needed more expertise and capacity devoted to communicating who we are and what we have to offer to our community and beyond. So we hired a full-time Communications Manager, LilyFish Gomberg, who has been able to tell our story on a variety of platforms and in our regular communications, helping more people connect to the nourishment that is present at Society Hill Synagogue.



Karen Hafter, our new Director of Youth and Family Education; submitted.

Similarly, because our Hebrew School has grown so much, we have expanded the role leading the Hebrew School from a part-time to a full-time position, recognizing how much regular thought, care, and coordination are needed to tend to a growing learning community: from regularly updating our curriculum, to offering ongoing training and support to our teachers, to strengthening our post-B'nei Mitzvah teen programs, and more. We are thrilled with the leadership Mike Roe has been able to provide to bring us to this point and thrilled that he is staying on to teach at Society Hill Synagogue.

Given that Mike is a full-time teacher at a Philadelphia public school, we have invested in our future by bringing on Karen Hafter to be our full-time Director of Youth and Family Education, overseeing our Hebrew School. Karen, a third-generation Society Hill Synagogue member, brings a range of teaching skills and experiences, and an abundance of energy and creativity, to our school.

In addition to investing in the human beings who help bring talent and leadership to this congregation, **we are also taking stock of how our physical space does or does not align with the growth trajectory of this community.** As Hebrew School class sizes grow and our Playschool once again approaches capacity limits

for early childhood education enrollment, and as we add staff to our synagogue, we are exploring the relationship between our space and the growth of this community — and whether there are any measures we need to take to increase our space capacity.

Similarly, as we grow, we want to be sure that we are devoting volunteer time and energy toward ensuring that part of what people find appealing about us — warmth and connection — continues to be a

strength. We will look to our Membership Committee and our God's Unfinished Business Committee and subcommittees to continue to help us **foster one-to-one connections and to help people feel welcome in this community.**

We know the future is never guaranteed. We know growth today does not guarantee growth tomorrow. Still, we want to understand how and why Society Hill Synagogue is serving as a draw to people, both pre- and post-October 7, 2023.

We want to know in what ways we at Society Hill Synagogue are advancing our mission successfully and where there is still room to do it better. We want to set ourselves up so that as new members of the broader community find us, we are able to receive them with love and care, so that they, too, can experience the strength, nourishment, and inspiration we provide here at Society Hill Synagogue.

Thank you to each of you for making that possible.

OUR SPRING IN PHOTOS



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Society Hill Synagogue Playschool

GROWING TOGETHER, ALL YEAR LONG

by Megan Nachod



Our school year has wound down, and the summer has begun! We will spend the next several months doing water play, visiting our neighborhood parks, and enjoying everything that the summer has to offer. Each week, our **summer camp** has a theme that lends itself to active learning. This year's themes include "Traveling through Space," "I'm Not Afraid of Monsters," and we are ending with an imagination-filled week named, appropriately, "Imagination Week." We like literal but effective names at Playschool!

Our summer camp is an 11-week experience for kids ages 18 months to 5 years old. Most of our campers are also year-round Playschool students.

Camp is also a great time for new students to be introduced to our community. There is nothing like a bathing suit and water play to make it easier to say goodbye to parents when being dropped off in a classroom! The learning carries on all summer long through the core summer experiences of outside play, getting messy with art projects, playing sports, and blowing enormous bubbles. All of these activities help children strengthen their fine-motor and gross-motor skills, as well as other essential skills in communication, engaging in social groups, and managing their emotions. The children don't know that, of course, but as educators, our plans include many opportunities for learning disguised as just plain fun.

Our next school year begins **Tuesday, September 2**, the day after Labor Day, and we are so thrilled to have **56 children enrolled for 2025-2026, and 14 of them are new students!** We are excited for the growth of our program and our community in the upcoming year. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve this role in children's and their families' lives.



Playschool children enjoying the summer weather outside our building (above) and at Three Bears Park (below); LilyFish Gomberg.



Mid-May always brings a mix of emotions — saying goodbye to children we've known for years as they move on to kindergarten while getting ready to welcome new faces to our community. We know that our time with the children is a short period compared to the rest of their lives, but we hope that we have made a positive impact on them, their families, and their future.

I wish you a lovely summer, filled with as many sun-drenched activities as you can fit and lots of joy.

Find more
Playschool
photos on
Page 23!

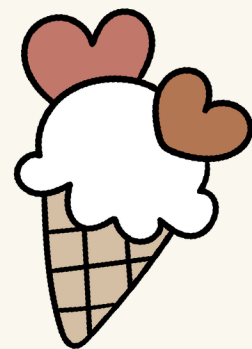


Playschool students listen intently to Miss Megan telling the story of Passover at our Playschool Seder; LilyFish Gomberg.



Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School **FILLED WITH GRATITUDE (AND ICE CREAM!)**

by Mike Roe



The bittersweet moment of reflection at the end of a school year always manages to sneak up on me. Our year ended with celebration as our students stuffed themselves to the brim with ice cream; a fitting end to a year stuffed with excitement and celebration. **There is much to be thankful for this year, and many people to acknowledge for their hard work as we wrap up our year.** I want to start off by thanking **our students.** We are so lucky to get to spend our time with your spirit, energy, and insightful comments each week. **Parents and families,** thank you again for your continued support of our school. We thank you for entrusting us with the important task of guiding and nurturing your children each year.

We are lucky to have a staff of such **dedicated teachers.** They work tirelessly each week to make this school run smoothly and make Jewish education meaningful. Thank you to **Jamie Schwartz, Jason Roe, Rose Schonfeld, Jacob Hayman, Lily Hayman, Megan Nachod, Larry Kaplan, Gabe Stemmer, Halana Dash, Dionna Dash, Morgan Cepollina, Elena Marcovici, Lillie Abella, Melissa Redlich, Shelly Faskha, Molly Cohen,**

and **Clara Skovronsky,** and also to our wonderful teen aides who spend time working with our youngest students each week: **Dylan Howe, Marc Lewin, and Stella Wolson.** The end of the academic year also marks a time for goodbyes. I want to wish an additional thank you and best of luck to **Halana, Elena, Gabe, and Morgan** as they move on to new adventures next year. They've been a huge part of our staff for several years, and they will be missed.

We have three groups of students to congratulate who have reached milestones in their Jewish and secular education. To our students who completed **Kitah Zayin (7th grade),** thank you for making our Hebrew School your home for Jewish learning for almost a decade. We look forward to seeing you next year in Hebrew High. To our **Confirmation (10th grade)** students, mazal tov again on reaching this milestone. To our students **graduating high school,** mazal tov to all of you and your families. We hope to hear more of your journeys as you transition to adulthood. We wish you all the best!

This year is extra bittersweet for me, as I reach the end of my tenure as Hebrew School Director. **Thank you to everyone for all of your support and kind words the past few months (and the 13 years since I started here as a teacher).** An additional thank you to our **synagogue leadership and staff** for your continued support of the school, and for me, as well. Being on staff and running our school for the past five years has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and our school holds a very dear place in my life. I am excited to be returning to the teaching staff next year as the *Kitah Zayin* (7th grade) teacher, under the leadership of our new Director of Youth and Family Education, **Karen Hafter,** who will be starting on June 23.

We've been preparing for the 5786 school year and are excited for all of the celebrations in store (including **18 B'nei Mitzvah!**). Please be on the lookout for Hebrew School enrollment forms, which will be sent to families soon via email and posted on our website. Wishing everyone a great summer, and we'll see you on our first day of classes, **Saturday, September 6.**

HOLDING DIALOGUE, HONORING DIFFERENCE

by Jeremy Newberg

The IDEC is a subcommittee of the Society Hill Synagogue Israel Committee. The IDEC was formed in September 2024 in response to the diverse and often complex emotions experienced by congregants regarding Israel and the Middle East. In your relationships with friends, coworkers, synagogue members, and/or family members, you may have experienced disagreements and even anguish regarding this topic. The IDEC aims to foster improved understanding, dialogue, and compassion for one another.

Our Purpose

The IDEC's mission is to create a supportive environment for our congregants to affirm Jewish American identity, engage in meaningful discussions, and explore their relationship with Israel. Specifically, we hope to:

1. Foster safe spaces for open dialogue about Jewish American identity and connections to Israel.
2. Enhance understanding of Jewish history and values as context for challenges.
3. Provide tools to navigate the complexities of being Jewish Americans, particularly regarding Israel and the broader Jewish community.
4. Deepen the bonds of the Society Hill Synagogue congregation *Kehilah*.

Congregation Survey

In October and November 2024, the IDEC conducted an anonymous survey of synagogue members about their connection to Israel, the effects on their lives of the October 7 attacks, their thoughts and feelings about current conflicts in Israel and Gaza, and their desire to talk with fellow congregants about these issues.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the 145 members (about a 20% response rate) who participated in our survey. They answered questions about their connection to Israel, the effects on their lives of the current conflicts in Israel and Gaza, and their desire to talk with fellow congregants about their reactions and feelings and/or to learn more about these issues.

The IDEC members read all the responses, analyzed the data using simple numeric summaries of a few questions and, to minimize any biases of the team, used an artificial intelligence content analysis of responses to other questions.

A summary of the results of these analyses is available at:
societyhillsynagogue.org/IDEC-Results

Israel Listening Circles

The purpose of Israel Listening Circles is to create safe spaces for Society Hill Synagogue congregants to listen and express their thoughts, feelings, and fears regarding what has happened in Israel and Gaza, and how it has impacted our lives as Jewish Americans. Inspired by successful programs at Germantown Jewish Centre, the Israel Listening Circles reflect Society Hill Synagogue's values of respect for diverse opinions and beliefs. Israel Listening Circles are not debate forums or places for problem-solving. Participants take turns speaking while others quietly listen — without correction or judgment.

How to Join

Congregants are invited to participate in our upcoming Israel Listening Circles, scheduled for early June. The link to register has been provided in eNews editions and other publications and on our website.



ISRAEL AT 77: A NIGHT OF MEMORY, MUSIC, AND MEANING

by David Levine

As Israel transitioned on **April 30** from the grief of **Yom HaZikaron**, Remembrance Day for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism, to the joy of **Yom Ha'Atzma'ut**, Israel's Independence Day, we held a special event honoring both here at Society Hill Synagogue.

The solemn and moving program began in the Sanctuary with a presentation explaining and reflecting on these two significant days in the Israeli calendar, followed by the lighting of Yahrzeit candles. Participants watched a video showcasing the faces and names of fallen Israeli soldiers who have lost their lives since October 7, 2023.

The program included *Yizkor* and *El Maleh Raḥamim* prayers in English and Hebrew. We also heard letters from two soldiers written before they made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, read aloud by members of our community. Additionally, we enjoyed a special reading of Eli Mohar's poem, "Yoram," and listened to a recording of the poem set to music by Israeli artist Yehuda Poliker. A siren marked a moment of silence, as observed across Israel, before concluding with "Hatikvah" ("The Hope"), Israel's national anthem.

After the program, we gathered in the Social Hall to celebrate Israel's 77th year of independence. We enjoyed a delicious dinner including locally made falafel, salads, and burekas, and made-in-Israel chocolates and *halvah*. Backgammon sets, known in Israel as *Shesh Besh*, were also available. Some participants completed a giant Israeli map puzzle. We also watched a video loop that included photos of Society Hill Synagogue members who had traveled to Israel, scenes from the country, and interesting facts about Israel.

We want to extend our thanks to **Val and Michael Yasner, Ira Kauderwood, Rob Einhorn, Fran Gallun, Lisa Eizen, Rafi Licht, Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, Sahar Oz, LilyFish Gomberg, Ana Atach, and Rachel Howe** for their participation and assistance with the program.

In early April, in partnership with the **Young Friends (20s-30s)**, we

presented an Israeli Happy Hour to learn about Birthright Israel opportunities for young adults up to age 40. **Jordan Davis**, our guest speaker, shared her journey from growing up in Wyoming to experiencing antisemitism at the University of Pennsylvania since October 7. She discussed how her Birthright experience has shaped her Jewish identity. The evening included Israeli beer and treats. **Rob Einhorn** organized the program with Young Friends Co-Chair **Alexis Rosen**.

During Kiddush lunch following Shabbat services on **Saturday, July 26**, we will present a screening of a new documentary about **Road to Recovery**, an NGO through which Israelis drive Palestinian patients to and from border crossings for treatment in Israeli hospitals. Road to Recovery was one of the organizations in our 5785 High Holiday Israel appeal, and the film's director, **Udi Ben Seadia**, will be our guest on July 26.



Yellow ribbons worn during our Yom HaZikaron observance and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut celebration, in solidarity with the hostages in Gaza; LilyFish Gomberg.

L'DOR V'DOR: GENERATIONAL COHORT GROUPS

YOUNG FRIENDS (20s-30s)

By Alexis Rosen, Louis Polcin, and Anna Weiner

The Young Friends have had a very exciting few months! Before Pesah, we gathered for an Israeli happy hour (of course, with hametz!) to learn about Birthright Israel with our guest speaker, **Jordan Davis**. During Pesah itself, we hosted a **Matzah Pizza Party**, which not only had a great turnout but also had a number of first-time attendees, many of whom expressed interest in getting involved with our congregation.



Young Friends gather for a festive and flavorful Matzah Pizza Party during Pesah; LilyFish Gomberg.

On June 5, join us for a Shavuot potluck (with cheesecake!) picnic in Washington Square park, and mark your calendars for happy hours on **Thursdays, July 17** and **August 14**, at local breweries. **Learn more and register at:** societyhillssynagogue.org/young-friends

TRIPLE CHAI (54+)

By Natalie Landro and Robin Cohen



Triple Chai travelers explore the stunning blue-washed streets of Chefchaouen; submitted.

Triple Chai has been on the move! Our recent journey to marvelous **Morocco** exceeded expectations. Highlights included Friday night services in an Orthodox shul followed by dinner in the home of the Hazzan, who spoke only Hebrew and Arabic. Fortunately, **Sivia Braunstein** was able to interpret the conversation! We visited Jewish cemeteries, schools, museums, synagogues, and an old age home — many of which are no longer in active use due to the declining number of Jews in Morocco.

We also enjoyed a lively cooking class where we learned to use a tajine, made small mosaics at a pottery workshop, spotted camels on the beach, and explored the souks while sampling oils and spices. The rich culture and diversity of Morocco made this a truly memorable experience, and our group formed close friendships that we look forward to continuing back home.

Looking ahead, join us for an informational meeting about our next adventure abroad — a **Jewish heritage tour of Northern Italy with Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller** — on **Tuesday, June 17, at 5:30 pm**, including dinner and Q&A with Doron from Ayelet Tours. More information is on the next page.

Register for our summer events at: societyhillssynagogue.org/triple-chai

On **Sunday, June 22**, join us for lunch at 11:45 am at Dim Sum House (1930 Chestnut St.), followed by a 1:30 pm tour of the Rosenbach Museum. The \$15 tour is limited to 24 participants — RSVP online.

On **Wednesday, July 23**, we'll meet at 11:30 am for lunch and a movie. Details to come, save the date!

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 (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)	\$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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Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

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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 societyhillssynagogue.org/member-spotlights



THE BELINKIE FAMILY

Danny, Joanna,
Mira, Simon, and Zelda

We wanted to find a synagogue that was welcoming to all faiths as an “interfaith” family — though Joanna has questions on reclamation of her heritage. We wanted something local we could bike or walk to. We wanted it to feel intimate and not too big, and Society Hill Synagogue seemed to be just the right size. We also had a few friends who had recently joined and had wonderful things to say.

SOPHIA NATANIA SPIEGEL

I love the Society Hill Synagogue community! I’m so glad to have met all the children I have attended Playschool and Hebrew School with, and it’s so fun that some of my friends have attended both with me.



RACHEL HOWE

I love Society Hill Synagogue because of the community, the music, and the egalitarian and progressive approach to liturgy based in tradition and Hebrew.

AARON WOLSON

I’m glad that my parents chose Society Hill Synagogue because I find my Hebrew School class very interesting.



TERRI SOIFER

We chose Society Hill Synagogue because of our connection to the clergy, and the way they lead services is so meaningful to us. We especially love Friday night musical TGIShabbat!



NATALIE LANDRO

Walking into Society Hill Synagogue, I felt an instant connection — with the community, the rabbi, and the cantor. Sharing songs, prayers, meals and conversation each Shabbat makes me feel that I have arrived home.



HAZEL SALTZMAN

I have loved working with my Bat Mitzvah tutor, Debbie Jaffe! She made everything so fun and exciting, and she really helped me get a deeper understanding of my Torah portion.



JAMIE COOPERSTEIN

No matter how much time goes by between visits to Society Hill Synagogue or participation in a program, we feel like we are back home — always welcomed and remembered!



MARK N. STEINBERGER

When I was “shul shopping” in 1976, Society Hill Synagogue was different from other synagogues in a refreshing way.



Coolanu: Culture and Community

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS: FOOD, FIRE, AND FRIENDSHIP

by Elliot Landes and Lesli Reich

Coolanu had a joyful and jam-packed spring!

In March, our 3rd annual Hamantaschen Bake-Off took place during the dinner before the Rock Purimspiel. Mazal tov to Hebrew Schooler **Raina Lehrer**, whose lemon curd-filled hamantaschen with a white chocolate drizzle took home the top prize — delicious and creative!

On **May 8**, we welcomed **Tai Baribo**, striker for the Philadelphia Union and the Israeli Men's National Team, for a memorable evening of dinner and discussion. More than 120 people joined us for an Israeli meal and a conversation moderated by *Philadelphia Inquirer* Soccer Reporter **Jonathan Tannenwald**.

Tai shared his journey from growing up in Eilat, Israel, to playing professionally in Austria, and now here in Philadelphia. He graciously posed for photos and signed so many autographs. A raffle for a signed jersey **raised \$1,060 for Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical, ambulance, and blood bank service**. We're now exploring the idea of a Society Hill Synagogue summer group outing to a Philadelphia Union soccer game. Stay tuned!



Raina Lehrer, winner of this year's Hamantaschen Bake-Off, holds the coveted trophy alongside second-place baker Alexis Rosen; LilyFish Gomberg.

On **May 15**, over 90 people celebrated Lag Ba'Omer in the Social Hall and Courtyard with a delicious BBQ, s'mores, crafts, and Nerf archery. It was a beautiful evening of fun and connection for all ages.



Kids roasting pareve marshmallows as their parents chat at our Lag Ba'Omer Celebration on May 15; LilyFish Gomberg.

We will plan our fall calendar very soon.

As always, we welcome your ideas for future Coolanu events — please reach out to us at

coolanu@societyhillsynagogue.org and help us keep building joyful Jewish community! Have a great summer!



Young fans proudly sport their Philadelphia Union gear while meeting striker Tai Baribo (back row, center) during his visit to Society Hill Synagogue; LilyFish Gomberg.

The Inclusion Corner

***OHEL PATU'AH* – THE OPEN TENT**

by the Inclusion Steering Committee

We are closing out our year of learning, sharing, community engagement, and support of inclusion at Society Hill Synagogue with a celebration of **Pride Month** at a Shabbat Lunch 'n' Learn on June 28.

Society Hill Synagogue is a member of **J.Proud**, a Philadelphia organization supporting the Jewish LGBTQIA+ community. J.Proud is headed by **Galia Godel**, the program manager for the LGBTQ Initiative of Jewish Family and Children's Service. Please join us for a Pride Shabbat with a Lunch 'n' Learn sponsored by the **Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Subcommittee**.

Galia will present a program, ***Our Existence Is Resistance: What's Coming Our Way, and What Can We Do About It?*** In this important, timely session for our entire community, Galia will break down the fast-moving legal and social changes affecting LGBTQIA+ individuals, families, and communities, examine what may be coming next, and give us strategies to support and protect the LGBTQIA+ community.

Our **Interfaith Inclusion Subcommittee's March 15 Lunch 'n' Learn** panel discussion on experiences with conversion was very well attended, heartfelt, engaging, and thought provoking. Overwhelmingly positive feedback to the event supports the need to continue to explore matters of interfaithness. One congregant in the audience who openly shared a personal experience later offered that "until I stood up there with a mic, I didn't realize how important it is to me, as a convert, to be able to be my full self. The program... helped make that possible."

The **Subcommittee for the Inclusion of People of Color** is exploring a screening and discussion session for next year, building on the successful similar program we held last fall. Hearing from someone outside of our community, while we are building internal understanding and momentum, is helpful to bring needed perspective. We are also very interested in learning from people of color in our synagogue community and about their experiences at Society Hill Synagogue regarding feelings of belonging.

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.



Josh Brugger focuses on his artwork during Society Hill Synagogue's first Hangout for Young Adults with Special Needs event in the Beit Midrash; Mark Brugger.



Please feel free to reach out to Jared Susco at inclusion@societyhillsynagogue.org to share your thoughts and perhaps join our conversations! In addition, our committee is exploring institutional assessment tools to guide future strategy.

Subcommittee Chairpeople

Interfaith Inclusion

Gail Massey

Inclusion of People of Color

Jared Susco

Gender Equity and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion

Marty Rosenberg

Disability Inclusion

Amy Goldman

Social Action Committee

LITERACY, IMMIGRATION, AND ENERGY JUSTICE

by Steve Morley



The Social Action Committee continues its mission of repairing the world. Thanks to everyone who participated in our Social Action Survey. The two top issues for engagement were immigration and literacy.

Even before the survey results were tabulated, the committee sponsored a Lunch 'n' Learn on April 26 featuring Larry Abrams of BookSmiles and kicked off a book drive to support children's literacy. BookSmiles donates books to children for whom books are not a regular part of life and does this through donations of all books.

Kids' books that are in good shape will go to kids who need them. Adult books are sold, and funds are used to purchase books for kids. Any unusable and unsellable books are sold for pulp, and the proceeds go toward purchasing books for kids — the ultimate in reuse, recycle, and repurpose! If you missed the book drive — through which our congregation collected and donated more than 5,000 books — you can bring books directly to BookSmiles in Pennsauken. For more information, check out [BookSmiles' website](#). We plan to continue Society Hill Synagogue's involvement with BookSmiles.

Look for announcements in the future on immigration initiatives at Society Hill Synagogue. In the meantime, our congregation continues to help with voter registration of new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. Please join our efforts by contacting the **Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition (PIC)** [online here](#).

POWER's Climate Justice and Jobs Team works for affordable, renewable energy for everyone in two ways. First, the **PGW Transition Team** works to align Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) with Philadelphia's goals for clean, affordable energy. The team is fighting against excessive rate increases and against seasonal, unpredictable rate increases during warm winters that yield lower-than-expected revenues for PGW. These rate increases unfairly burden low-income households, which already spend about 10% of their income on energy.



Second, the **People's Energy Plan** focuses on affordable renewable electricity for everyone — including strengthening our local electric grid in hotter summers and more extreme storms and protecting all neighborhoods from outages. We are working with officials at the state Public Utility Commission, which will decide this fall how to ensure utilities adopt plans to make the local electric grid more resilient. We're working to build more public input and accountability — more democracy — into the system we all pay for through our electric bills. To learn more, contact: power@societyhillssynagogue.org.

Finally, the Social Action Committee continues to work with the library at Vare-Washington Elementary School and is exploring opportunities to work with another school for library support. We will keep you posted on developments. If you would like to share any ideas, comments, or suggestions, please email us at socialaction@societyhillssynagogue.org.

Bonny Hohenberger of the Social Action Committee and BookSmiles Founder Larry Abrams loading our books onto the BookSmiles truck; Submitted.

BOOK CLUB by Donna Tartasky

We've just wrapped up another great year of the Society Hill Synagogue Book Club!

Attendance has grown, with 10 to 16 participants regularly joining our lively discussions. A recent highlight was author **Esther Safran Foer** joining us via Zoom to discuss her memoir, *I Want You to Know We're Still Here*, which sparked a meaningful conversation.

On **June 6**, we're excited to welcome **Molly Golubcow**, who will lead a discussion about her book, *The Hotel on St. James Place: Growing Up in Atlantic City Between the Boardwalk and the Holocaust*.

Looking ahead to the fall, we have a wonderful lineup of books. On **Friday, September 12**, we'll meet to discuss *The Wolf Hunt* by Ayelet Gundar-

Goshen. On **October 10**, our selection is *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. **November 14** will feature *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* by David Laskin. Our **December 12** book is still to be announced.

In the fall, we hope to meet in the front of the Sanctuary to accommodate our readers with mobility challenges.

ROSH HODESH GROUP by Rachel Howe

What a great first year this has been for the Rosh Hodesh group! A rotating group of about 30 women have met nearly every month since Elul to discuss issues and topics related to the month and to women and Judaism. Sometimes we focus on the holidays of the month; other topics have included — or will include — the concept of Rosh Hodesh, women's Yiddish prayers called *tehines*, women's past and present connection to Torah, and coming of age and the Bat Mitzvah. Often beginning with a short teaching, we usually break into small groups to reflect on how these topics affect us personally. Sometimes we incorporate creative activities like writing, and we hope to add other modalities in the future.

Over this first year, we've developed a strong but flexible structure that includes ritual

elements — like lighting candles and saying a blessing — to frame our ever-changing topics. The format also allows for lay leadership. Each month is led by a different community member or pair, offering a range of perspectives. We started with committee members leading and then invited regular attendees to contribute — and they have stepped up in wonderful ways! I'm excited about all of our upcoming topics and leaders.

Perhaps the most important part of our gatherings is the time we spend socializing. As we gather around tea and cookies to welcome each new month, members exchange hugs and catch up. At the end, people are often reluctant to leave, staying to continue the conversation or to compliment one another on what was shared. We get to know each other in a different

way and feel bonded by the shared and varied experiences of Jewish womanhood.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting plans. In the fall, we'll host a special event during Tuesday Hebrew School, inviting girls and non-binary students approaching B'nei Mitzvah to join us for an intergenerational discussion on Jewish coming of age. We're also working with Rabbi Kamesar and Hazzan Jessi to plan a women's "takeover" of a Shabbat service in 2026. In preparation, Hazzan Jessi will lead several Rosh Hodesh gatherings to help us grow into that moment.

The Rosh Hodesh committee has been amazing and dedicated, and our regulars have made this a warm and welcoming space. I'm so excited for what's ahead in year two!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome New Members:

Cindy Hoffman and Marty Bergman

Shecharya Flatte and Samantha Nadel

Susan Stein

David Lerner and Valeria Ramirez Siller

Geoff Kelly

Ben Arnold and Emalie Clamage and their son, Levon

Joey Cahn and Jordan Roe

Ben Fink and Isabella Segalovich

Yann Lebar and Emma Korein

Mazal Tov to:

Matt and Mindy Fingerman on the birth of their son, Samuel William Fingerman

Condolences to:

The family of **Neil Epstein** on his passing

Mike and Jaime Fox and their children, **Owen** and **Jordan**, on the passing of Mike's mother, **Gail S. Fox**

Carmen and Ric Hayman and their children, **Jacob** and **Lily**, on the passing of Carmen's mother, **Jo Ann Davis**

Michael and Leslie Hafter and their children, **Rebecca** and **Karen**, on the passing of Michael's father, **Richard Hafter**

Joy Lander Roe and Mike Roe and their children, **Ella** and **Jackson**, on the passing of Joy's father, **Howard Lander**

Steve Cohen and Naomi Basicckes and their family on the passing of Steve's mother, **Brenda Helene Cohen**

Hazzan **Jessi Roemer** and **Josh Block** and their children, **Hannah** and **Nati**, and extended family on the passing of Hazzan Jessi's father, **Peter Roemer**

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Birthdays

Hannah Cohen
Joyce Norden
Eli Oz
Frida Berlin
Rachel Robbins
Sarah Friedman Hersh
Suzanne Sztul
Judy Wertheim
David Weinfeld
Brian Barenbaum
Lara Goldwert
Stephen Silberstein
Leonard Pogach
Ira Richards
Jack Aaron
Jud Aaron
Francine Cohen
Noam Maas-Enish
Lila Kamesar
Natalie Landro
Dan Rottenberg
Robert Behar
Robin Feinberg
Holden Nagelberg
Eva Tassone
Andrew Hohns
Hannah Strunk
Maddie Winkler
Fred Lovitch
Daniel Brugger
Matt Skolnik
Deena Friedland
Adina Goldstein
Maya Salzman
Jasmin Schoenhaus
Elizabeth Heller-Mesznik
Noah Kauderwood
Steve Cohen
Chuck Schaeffer
Nick Schaeffer
Benny Herrmann

Hop Sears
Megan Marion
Tal Pipano
Leo Skolnik
Hannah Angert
Michael Davidson
Micah Honig
Jenavieve Kranzel
Eve Friedman
Liev Peskin
Beverly Levy
David Serlin
Anna Wiener
Ezra Goldenberg
Ramin Mohajer
Gabe Cohen
Ralph Horwitz
Lesli Reich
Noah Goldstein
Samuel Hamilton
Olivia Grode
Marlene Lachman
Judith Axler
Len Friedland
Libby Cone
Dan Gross
Stephen Shiekman
Philip Wiener

July Birthdays

Avi Margolis
Eva Mohajer
Emilio Robbins
Charlie Dreisbach
Carmen Hayman
Noah Kornblith Pulido
Claire Golding
Stefanie Seldin
Valerie Yasner
Adrienne Berger
Al Sutnick
Richard Zamarin

Joseph Gifford
Marsha Silberstein
Michael Gorsen
Eddie Seaberg
Eva Kornblith Pulido
Mitchell Bach
Seth Cohen
Rise Newman
Lilly Tablin-Wolf
Karl Janowitz
Matthew Zalesne Siff
Dan Litwack
Marc Schwartz
Billy Boardman
Max Genecov
Alexis Kornberg
Mark Brugger
Juliet Englander
Matthew Morano
Judith Woloff
Brandon Raab
Joe Oxman
Marilyn Schapira
Violet Goldstein
Liel Maas-Enish
Harry Oxman
Jim Wilson
Naomi Basickes
Aaron Peskin
Jonathan Zimmerman
Eva Berlin
Mia Foxx
Ben Fink
Abigail Hamilton
Libby Harwitz Blender
Gideon Siff
Xing Xing Zhang
Marina Cruz
Ron Feinberg
Isaac Hohns
Robin Cohen
Jordyn Gorsen
Alan Gottlieb



Jordan Roe
 Amelia Landes
 Brendan Lowe
 Marin Nagelberg
 Josh Smullens
 Raina Lehrer

August Birthdays:

Deena Goldstein
 Mitchell Davis
 Cory Bortnicker
 Sam Goldwert
 Irv Shapiro
 Debbie Stewart
 Frank Giorgilli
 Fran Newberg
 Adam Saltzman
 Claire Englander
 Linda Freedman
 Mark Steinberger
 Eileen Abrahams
 David Krupnick
 Myer Magen
 Jerry Roller
 Matthew Salzman
 Alex Urevick-Ackelsberg

Grace Bonovitz
 Valerie Pipano
 Daniel Weinstein
 Bjorn Seaberg
 Leo Aaron
 Andrew Bruton
 Rosie Grosberg
 Shai Mallin
 Ari Ackelsberg
 Julia Dranoff
 Coby Fisher
 Maya Nagelberg
 Gabe Mohajer
 Daniel Cohen
 Isaak Popkin
 Aviva Weinstein
 Nancy Wygant
 JJ Garcia
 Jennifer Porges
 Harvey Weiner
 Gloria Briskin
 Susan Eizen
 Oran Imas
 Carly Neidorf
 Joseph Freedman
 Terry Graboyes
 Steven Greenspan

Jackson Roe
 Jonathan Auerbach
 Susan Denbo
 Howard Briskin
 Keira Schindler
 Elana Hunter
 Zev Pipano
 Nathaniel Popkin
 Avi Winokur
 Rachel Cohen
 Phoebe Zaring
 Marty Bergman
 Jason Flamendorf
 Vivian Polakoff
 Dan Rosin
 Kellen Hanley
 Rebecca Makuen
 Dana Ovadia
 Lucas Gorsen
 Bonny Hohenberger
 Jacob Marion
 Jerry Kranzel
 Hershel Gross
 Asher Mink
 Emma Choinski
 Neil Einleger
 Dave Femia

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



June Anniversaries

Michael & Leslie Hafter
Brian & Juliet Englander
Richard & Florence Frantz
Marc Walton & Tova Stifano-Walton
Samuel Mink & Anthony Padilla
Robert & Joan Greenstein
Deena & Len Friedland
Larry Spector & Ann Rosen Spector
Larry & Jackie Goldfinger
Alex Urevick-Ackelsberg & Amy Wilson
Tal & Valerie Pipano
Marc & Anita Cohen
Blair & Lance Goldstein
Ira & Leslie Richards
Michael Grosberg & Carly Neidorf
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
Stephen Kastenbergs & Robin Ireland
Stephen & Marsha Silberstein
Rabbi Avi Winokur & Susan Berman
Daniella Gold & Jonathan Zimmerman
Brian & Jessica Mono
JJ Garcia & Charlie Dreisbach
Joseph & Sheri Gifford
Micah & Joanna Hart
Mark & Stacey Jansen
Richard & Barbara Zamarin
Mariel Kornblith Martin & Miguel Pulido
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Marc & Nancy Goldenberg
Stephen & Pelley Brown
Adam Ziegfeld & Michele Margolis
Thomas Borawski & Libby Cone
Ben Arnold & Emalie Clamage

July Anniversaries

David Lerner & Valeria Ramirez Siller
Jessica & Tom Tropea
Steve & Wendy Greenspan
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton & Roy Hamilton

Elliot & Morgan Landes
Ben Honig & Dana Ovadia
Peter & Caroline Piven
Marilyn & Ralph Schapira
Joyce Helfman & Ron Klein
Valentina & Vincent Tassone
Leah & Brent Jordan
Beth Schwartz & Ramin Mohajer
Jonathan Wetstein & Ashley Toal
Theodore Danoff & Diane Siegel Danoff

August Anniversaries

Allison & Justin Herrmann
Alex Imas & Aislinn Bohren
Ana Atach & Dan Litwack
David & Nancy Winkler
Rick Summers & Merrily Williams
Gdaly & Eva Berlin
Todd & Leily Schoenhaus
Rachel & Eli Robbins
Susan & Stewart Fisher
Debby Freedberg & William Diebold
Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum
Mark & Tobey Dichter
Brad & Carly Gellman
Jesse Abrams-Morley & Meredith Buse
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Abe Summers & Xing Xing Zhang
Jerry & Joan Roller
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Stanton & Merle Salkin
Dan & Anya Rosin
Gail & Leonard Pogach
Fred & Dinah Lovitch
Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
Marty Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick
David & Sayde Ladov
Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender
Valerie & Michael Yasner
Adriel Mesznik & Elizabeth Heller-Mesznik

PLAYSCHOOL END-OF-YEAR CEREMONIES



Playschool teachers, students, and families at their End-of-Year Celebrations; LilyFish Gomberg

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund
In Appreciation of
Society Hill Synagogue
H. Chimoff

Passover Second Night Seder
Amy Michael

In Honor of
Wedding of Ben & Stacey Cohen
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

Eleanor Oxman's Birthday
Louise & Jerry Sklar

Linda Rosenstein's 80th Birthday
Peter & Caroline Piven

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Chrismer
Susan Schwartz

In Memory of
Kathy McKoskey, Mother-in-Law of Leanne Bendetti
Terry Graboyes
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Esther Feinberg, Mother of Ron Feinberg
Michael & Valerie Yasner
Debbie Lisker & Ed Chernoff
Marc Goldstein & Arlene Lauf

Davetta Greenberg, Mother of Gregg Greenberg
Jerry & Joan Roller

Richard Hafter, Father of Michael Hafter
Walter Ferst

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

General Fund In Memory of

Jo Ann Davis, Mother of Carmen Hayman
Stanton & Merle Salkin
Harris & Renee Hayman
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman
Francine Cohen
Jan & Glenn Ehrich and Family
Debra & Bill Stewart

Howard Lander, Father of Joy Lander Roe
Walter Ferst
Benjamin Bloom & Esther Stern-Bloom

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

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

Aaron Markowitz, Father of Sayde Ladov
Sayde & David Ladov

David Kaplan, Father of Carl Kaplan
Carl Kaplan

Anthony Giorgilli, Father of Frank Giorgilli
Frank Giorgilli

Samuel & Reva Goldner, Parents of Linda Joy Goldner
Linda Joy Goldner

Ervin Weiner, Father of Harvey Weiner
Harvey Weiner

Mollie Hilf, Mother of Susan Roe
Susan Roe

Kurt Hopfer, Father of Judi Deglin
The Deglin Family

Mildred C. Alpar, Mother of Barbara Behar
Barbara & Robert Behar

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
In Honor of**
Wedding of Ben & Stacey Cohen
Beverly Michaels

**Rabbi Kamesar for Officiating the Wedding of Ben
Cohen & Dylan Morpurgo**
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach

**Rabbi Kamesar for Leading the Passover Second
Night Seder**
David & Pam Levine
Carter & Lesli Reich

Bat Mitzvah of Hazel Saltzman
Adam & Jenny Saltzman

Rabbi Kamesar for Leading Shivah Minyan
Mike & Jaime Fox

In Memory of
Richard Hafter, Father of Michael Hafter
Linda & Jim Rosenstein

Howard Lander, Father of Joy Lander Roe
Carl Levitsky

Yahrzeit Remembrance of
Herman Eisenberg, Father of Valerie Yasner
Valerie & Michael Yasner

Craig Eisendrath, Husband of Roberta Spivek
Roberta Spivek

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Elizabeth Rubenstein-Ferrara, Sister of Pelley Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Ruth Stark, Grandmother of Jonathan Auerbach
Jonathan Auerbach

Riva Auerbach, Mother of Jonathan Auerbach
Jonathan Auerbach

**Hazzan's Discretionary Fund
In Honor of**
Hazzan Jessi's Sabbatical
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Bat Mitzvah of Hazel Saltzman
Adam & Jenny Saltzman

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Hazzan's Discretionary Fund **In Honor of**

Hazzan Jessi for Leading Shiva Minyan
Mike & Jaime Fox

Social Action Fund **In Memory of**

Jo Ann Davis, Mother of Carmen Hayman
Robin Cohen
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Albert Miller, Father of Paula Ninerell
Paula Ninerell

Food Insecurity Fund **In Memory of**

Jo Ann Davis, Mother of Carmen Hayman
Jerry & Joan Roller
Laurie Krivo & Bob Kaufman

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Samuel Levitsky, Father of Carl Levitsky
Carl Levitsky

Oneg and Kiddush Fund **In Honor of**

Society Hill Synagogue
Charles Rybeck and Family
Rachel Isenberg
Enid Krasner & Alan Rothenberg
The Women's Group of Park Synagogue

Engagement of David Pressel & Jill Feldman
Carter & Lesli Reich

Caroline Kamesar's Birthday
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Sahar Oz, for his Assistance in Planning the Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Program
David & Pam Levine

Mike Roe and his Leadership of the Hebrew School
The Hayman Family
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz

Robin Cohen for Organizing the Morocco Trip
The Hayman Family

Natalie Landro for Organizing the Morocco Trip
The Hayman Family

In Memory of

Jo Ann Davis, Mother of Carmen Hayman
David & Pam Levine
Carter & Lesli Reich
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz

Howard Lander, Father of Joy Lander Roe
The Hayman Family
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Mendel Reich, Father of Carter Reich
Carter & Lesli Reich

Anne Levine, Mother of David Levine
David & Pam Levine

Education Scholarships and Programs **In Honor of**

Marc & Staci Schwartz
The Swerdlow Family

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Chrismer
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Mike Roe and his Leadership of the Hebrew School
The Makom Community
Holman & Gail Massey

Terry Novick for Leading Shiva Minyan
Mike & Jaime Fox

Rabbi Avi Winokur for Leading Shiva Minyan
Mike & Jaime Fox

In Memory of

Jo Ann Davis, Mother of Carmen Hayman
Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Richard Hafter, Father of Michael Hafter
Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Yahrzeit Remembrance of

Menashe Rohtbart, Father-in-Law of Judy Rohtbart
Judy Rohtbart

**THE 5786/2025-2026
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PACKET
WILL BE MAILED AND AVAILABLE
ONLINE IN MID-JUNE!**

HIGH HOLIDAYS



Start the new year 5786 sweetly at Society Hill Synagogue! Join us this High Holiday season as we come together to celebrate, reflect, and grow.

As always, in addition to three services for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlikh, and services for Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur in our historic Sanctuary, we will also have two service options for kids and parents on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: one for families with children ages seven and younger, and one for families with children ages eight to twelve, as well as a teen program.

Detailed information for High Holiday services, meals, and celebrations will be mailed to members in mid-June.

SUMMER SPOTLIGHT: HAVDALAH DOWN THE SHORE



Saturday, August 23 @ 6:30 pm



Dan and Dana Feinberg are graciously hosting our congregation's **Havdalah Down the Shore** this summer, so come together for this special evening.

We will meet at 6:30 pm for a light potluck dairy meal, proceed to the beach for our 8:30 pm lay-led Havdalah service, and return for dessert.

To join us, **RSVP by August 10** to Judy Lalli at judele@aol.com, and she will provide you with the address and note your contribution of dairy food items or beverages.

SUMMER 2025 CALENDAR

JUNE

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					






JULY

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		

AUGUST

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						

SUMMER CALENDAR KEY:

-  = Book Club
-  = B'nei Mitzvah
-  = Rosh Hodesh
-  = Men's Club
-  = Building Closed
-  = Save the Date for a Special Event

Synagogue Events

- June 1-2:** Center City Jewish Night of Learning — *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*
- June 2:** Shavuot Morning Service with Yizkor
- June 2-3:** Shavuot — Office Closed
- June 4:** First day of Playschool Summer Camp
- June 4:** Congregation Annual Meeting
- June 5:** Young Friends Shavuot Potluck in the Park
- June 6:** Book Club — *The Hotel on St. James Place*
- June 6:** Young Families Shabbat with Dinner
- June 14:** Bat Mitzvah of Judy Wertheim
- June 19:** Juneteenth — Building Closed
- June 21:** *Planting Seeds of the Divine* Lunch 'n' Learn with Yiscah Smith
- June 22:** Triple Chai Tour of the Rosenbach Museum
- June 26:** Men's Club Meeting
- June 28:** Pride Shabbat and Lunch 'n' Learn
- June 29:** Rosh Hodesh Tamuz Gathering
- July 4:** Independence Day — Building Closed
- July 12:** Auf Ruf of David Pressel and Jill Feldman
- July 17:** Young Friends Brews & Schmooze
- July 23:** Triple Chai Lunch & A Movie
- July 26:** Road to Recovery Lunch 'n' Learn
- July 27:** Rosh Hodesh Av Gathering
- August 2:** Bat Mitzvah of Randi Kamine
- August 2:** Erev Tisha B'Av Evening Service
- August 14:** Young Friends Brews & Schmooze
- August 15:** Last Day of Playschool Summer Camp
- August 23:** Havdalah Down The Shore

Saturday morning Shabbat services continue all summer long, and Friday evening TGISHabbat will resume on **September 5** with our Open House.

This calendar is subject to change.

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



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: