



SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE

418 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

www.societyhillsynagogue.org

215-922-6590

Dear Friend(s),

Welcome to Society Hill Synagogue (SHS)! We are so excited that you are considering joining our community. SHS offers a wide range of opportunities to build connections, celebrate Shabbat and holidays with new and familiar faces, enjoy fun excursions and specially curated events with fellow congregants, learn at all ages, immerse oneself in traditional, spiritual experiences, contribute to social action, and more.

From birth through B'nei Mitzvah, from the joy of weddings to the grief of loss and mourning, our members enable us to build and sustain a space and community that accompany people in ways that lead to meaning, connection, and holiness. Throughout the Days of Awe (the High Holidays) and into Hannukah, Purim, Passover, and beyond, we keep the flame of the Jewish journey lit for ourselves *and* for generations to come.

Our members facilitate year-round opportunities, for themselves and others, to engage with and be uplifted by a wide range of Jewish values, experiences, and points of connection. These include:

- **Weekly Shabbat and Holiday Services.** Seeking to help people connect to the richness of our spiritual tradition, SHS services channel joy, depth, and soulfulness. Our Friday evening services – TGIShabbat – from 6:00-7:15 pm are preceded by wine and cheese at 5:30 pm and followed by an Oneg dinner. These services feature multiple renowned musicians and a weekly D'var Torah (teaching). Our Saturday morning Shabbat services (9:45 am-12:00 pm) are centered around a participatory Torah discussion across generations about how the Torah portion relates to our lives and are followed by a Kiddush lunch.
- **Adult Education Classes.** Our talented faculty offer a variety of Adult Education classes each year, including an annual “(Re)Introduction to Judaism” course (*Nuts & Bolts*); weekly Hebrew classes at different levels; classes on Jewish music; and other engaging courses, including topics such as *Humanity’s Role in Repairing a Broken Cosmos*, *A Textual Exploration of Our Ancient Foremothers*, *The Mysticism of Kabbalah and the Zohar*, and *The Jewish Life Cycle: A Journey Through Time*.
- **A passion for Social Action.** SHS works with dedication and creativity on Social Action, including a food insecurity initiative which creatively and impactfully helps to feed our neighbors. For over 17 years, SHS has partnered with Vare-Washington Elementary School, where we’ve tutored students, developed a photography program, led library programs, and provided warm outerwear for children. SHS also works on broad voter engagement campaigns and is a member of POWER, an organization of over 100 Pennsylvania congregations committed to racial and economic justice on a livable planet.

- **Opportunities for Friendship and Connection.** In addition to weekly Shabbat dinners and lunches, SHS offers a wide variety of opportunities for members to get to know one another and build deep friendships. Our Young Families Group meets twice a month for kid-friendly, musical Shabbat gatherings, with meals. The Young Friends (20-and 30-somethings) bring people together for happy hours, holiday celebrations, and unique adventures. And Coolanu: Culture & Community plans year-round fun, enriching events for congregants across generations, including curated art and architecture walking tours; holiday extravaganzas such as sukkah building, the Hanukkah Happening, and our Purim Carnival; going to sports events, theatre, and more.



- **An Esteemed Preschool.** The SHS Playschool is a welcoming, inclusive school for children ages 18 months-5 years old that embraces diversity in religion, ethnicity, race, and family structure. Our philosophy is child-centered and play-based. We relish the opportunities for children to grow, socialize, and flourish in our indoor and outdoor spaces throughout the synagogue's Paula Kline Learning Center and historic building, and the natural environment in the beautiful Society Hill setting.

- **An Exciting Hebrew School.** SHS offers a vibrant learning environment and a warm, open-minded community for parents and children alike. Our immersive Shabbat Hebrew School experience includes Saturday morning classes for all students, with a Torah discussion in the Sanctuary, along with Tuesday afternoon classes for older grades. The curriculum includes B'nei Mitzvah preparation, Hebrew language study, Jewish culinary and cultural exploration, ethical debates on current events through a Jewish lens, and more.



- **Heartfelt Lifecycle Ceremonies.** At SHS, our clergy lead meaningful baby naming, B'nei Mitzvah, Confirmation, wedding, and funeral ceremonies that make space for the needs and yearnings of each individual and family, navigating the tradition with them.

- **Warm Pastoral Presence.** Our clergy support congregants and their families during times of hardship, illness, and transition, through listening, care, and attention. Our God's Unfinished Business (GUB) Committee helps arrange meal trains, rides to and from the hospital, and other care and support.

Society Hill Synagogue is a place of connection, warmth, and spiritual richness. Please reach out to us so we can get to know you better and help you feel at home in our community.

Thank you and shalom,

Carmen Hayman, SHS President

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP

Get more out of your SHS membership! Please mark if you would like to be involved with any of the following:

Prayer

- Minyan
- Leyning (Chanting) Torah and/or Haftarah
- Religion Committee

Education

- Adult Education
- Hebrew School Committee
- Playschool Committee

Facilities

- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee

Community-Building & Social Gatherings

- Coolanu: Culture & Community
- Young Families Group
- Young Friends (20- & 30-Somethings)

Membership Engagement

- Membership Committee
- Marketing & Branding Committee
- Inclusion Committee
- Shabbat Greeters



Social Action

- Social Action Committee
- God's Unfinished Business (GUB) – Tending to fellow congregants in need
- Food Insecurity Committee
- POWER - Social Justice Advocacy
- Volunteering at Vare-Washington Elementary School

I/We am/are also interested in, and members may be surprised to learn about me/us (skills, talents, or hobbies):

I/We could teach a class or workshop, or offer a lecture, on:

What accommodations, if any, are needed to facilitate your household's full inclusion and participation in synagogue services, programs, and activities? Please specify, or note if you would like to speak with a member of our Disability Inclusion Subcommittee.

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE'S FOOD INSECURITY INITIATIVE

Food insecurity refers to the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, and it **afflicts 20% of Philadelphians – 1 in 5**. At Society Hill Synagogue, we believe that we have a religious and moral imperative to do our part to address this now.



Our congregation's collaboration with Old Pine Community Center (OPCC) provides food to 30 families living in the Courtyard Apartments at South 4th Street and Washington Avenue who would not otherwise receive a food bag.

Every week, synagogue members volunteer to pack and prepare food at OPCC on Tuesday afternoon.

In addition, donations to the synagogue's Food Insecurity Fund through dues and directed giving enable us to purchase food that is highly desired by families, such as eggs and bread, but hard to obtain through donating organizations. **Thus, Society Hill Synagogue is both increasing the number of families who are helped and expanding the types of food distributed to families because of the generous contributions of our members.**

For more information about volunteering to pack and prepare food, please visit the synagogue's website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org and select "Food Insecurity Committee" under the ACTION tab.

POWER: BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY THAT WORK FOR ALL

Our congregation is a proud member of POWER, a faith-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit community organization of more than 100 congregations in southeastern Pennsylvania, the state's central counties, and the Lehigh Valley. POWER relies on the financial support of member congregations to achieve its objectives.

POWER

POWER's goal is racial and economic justice on a livable planet, and its work is organized into five major teams advocating for economic dignity, education equity, voter engagement, climate justice, and ending police brutality and mass incarceration. For more information about POWER, please visit powerinterfaith.org.

We are asking all Society Hill Synagogue members to support our congregation's fight against food insecurity and our work with POWER by making a \$72 contribution so we can continue this impactful social action. Your household's \$72 contribution will be allocated equally to these two endeavors.

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE DUES AGREEMENT 5784 • 2023-2024

Please complete the membership forms online at www.societyhillsynagogue.org using the BECOME A MEMBER tab, or fill out the forms on pages 3, 5, and 6, and indicate on the check memo line – or in the notes section, if paying online – that the payment is for “5784 Dues.” Please also see the Media Release and Membership Directory section on page 7.

Member Household Adult Name(s): _____

For archival purposes, please note the year you joined Society Hill Synagogue as a member(s): _____

Membership Categories

\$3,395 Family – Two-parent households with one or more child(ren) in the household under age 23. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the parents for the entire household to attend.

\$2,080 Single Parent Family – Single-parent households with one or more child(ren) in the household under age 23. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the parent for the entire household to attend.

\$3,130 Adult Couple – Adult couples who have no children in the household under age 23. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the members. *A discounted Adult Couple Senior Rate (for ages 65+) is available if needed. Please contact Sahar Oz, Executive Director, at soz@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215-922-6590 x3 for more information.*

\$1,883 Adult Single – Adult singles who have no children in the household under age 23. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the member. *A discounted Adult Single Senior Rate (for ages 65+) is available if needed. Please contact Sahar Oz, Executive Director, at soz@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215-922-6590 x3 for more information.*

\$371 Young Adults (Ages 23-28) – Singles or couples without children, with membership dues charged per individual. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the member(s).

\$742 Young Adults (Ages 29-30) – Singles or couples without children, with membership dues charged per individual. High Holiday tickets will be mailed to the member(s).

\$515 Associate – Individuals who have full membership at another congregation and wish to establish or maintain a connection to Society Hill Synagogue. Given that Associate Members usually attend High Holiday services at their primary congregation, High Holiday tickets are not included with an Associate Membership.

Associate Members – Please provide the name of the synagogue where you have a full membership:

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS FOR NEW MEMBERS & DUES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

New members receive a **50% discount** on their membership dues category in their first year of membership. *This discount does not apply to Young Adults or Associate Members, whose memberships are already discounted.*

New members who enroll their child(ren) in Hebrew School receive a **complimentary** synagogue membership for their first year and a **50% discount** on membership dues for their second year.

If you want to be a member(s) but are unable to pay for a full membership category, please contact Executive Director Sahar Oz at soz@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215-922-6590 x3 to discuss dues special consideration.

Please note: The Building Maintenance and Security Fee per household applies to all dues categories, apart from any discounts, and school tuition and fees are billed separately.

5784 TOTAL DUES & PAYMENT

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please note: If you are paying on an installment plan, payment of 50% of Membership Dues is required with this form.

My/Our 5784/2023-2024 Membership Category Dues (from page 5) + \$ _____

Building Maintenance and Security Fee (Required per household for all dues categories) + \$325

Annual Giving - Annual Giving is essential to the life of the synagogue. To keep our dues low, we rely on annual giving above and beyond membership dues to provide vital community building blocks: staff for our active congregation, food to bring us together, funds to engage musicians and teachers, technology to stream services and classes, and more. Will you kindly contribute \$270, \$360, or more? + \$270 / \$360

Food Insecurity Initiative & POWER Contribution I/We opt out from contributing. + \$ 72

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

- Check payable to Society Hill Synagogue
 ACH or PayPal at securepayment.link/societyhillsynagogue (No processing fee)
 Credit card or debit card at securepayment.link/societyhillsynagogue (Your card's processing fee will be added)
 Credit card below (Your card's processing fee will be added)

Amount to be applied to Credit Card: \$ _____ Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____ CVV: _____

Signature (if paying by credit card): _____

MEDIA RELEASE & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Unless the "NO" box is checked below, I/we hereby grant permission to Society Hill Synagogue to publish and/or distribute in print or electronic format, including but not limited to photographs, video images, and digital images, the likeness or image of me/us and members of my/our family, including any minor children. I/We understand that if my/our minor child(ren)'s likeness or image is published or distributed by Society Hill Synagogue, my/our child(ren) will not be identified by name unless I/we give permission. I/We release all claims against Society Hill Synagogue with respect to ownership, intellectual property rights, publication rights, privacy rights, and all such similar rights, including any compensation, related to the use of said likenesses or images. All negatives, prints, and digital reproductions shall be, and shall remain, the exclusive property of Society Hill Synagogue.

Unless the "NO" box is checked below, I/we want to be listed in Society Hill Synagogue's Membership Directory.

- NO, I/we do not grant permission for Society Hill Synagogue to share my/our images as described above.
- NO, I/we do not want to be listed in Society Hill Synagogue's Membership Directory.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____