Welcome to Our Newest Board Members!
Walter Ferst

As Chair of the 2013 Nominating Committee, I am delighted to announce the names of our three nominated and newly elected members of the SHS Board of Directors:

Brian Mono
Jonathan Prokup
Mark Steinberger

All nominees were unanimously elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 22. Mazel Tov!

Thank You For Your Service
Jonathan Weiss and Walter Ferst

Three SHS Board members have completed their terms and stepped down at the end of May. On behalf of the 2013 Nominating Committee, the Board of Directors, and the entire congregation, we’d like to thank them for their commitment and dedicated service:

Alan Casnoff
Dan Feinberg
David Paskin

Thank You to the 2013 Nominating Committee
Walter Ferst

As Chair of the 2013 Nominating Committee, I would like to thank the following committee members for their time and help in nominating, vetting, and recruiting three excellent new candidates to fill our open Board seats for the coming year. It is through their dedication that we maintain the highest quality of layleadership at SHS:

Andrea Appel
Fran Gallun
Laurel Landau
Jeremey Newberg
Staci Schwartz
Summer time and the livin’ is easy, or at least, easier.

There is more time for the things that matter, more time to catch our breath, to look around—whether we are looking at the ocean or the green of a park or wilderness. There is more time to take leisurely strolls in the evening while taking advantage of the extended daylight. There is more time to spend with the people that matter—our family and friends. Generally, there is more time to just be, and that seems so difficult for Americans. Part of the reason for this is reflected in our country’s approach to the value of free time and leisure.

In preparing this column, I did a little research and found what I suspect many of us already know: The United States is the only advanced country that does not require all employers to give employees paid vacation (usually two weeks). In fact, as of 2008, 137 countries mandated paid vacation. And it is not only the mandate (or lack thereof) that sets us apart. It’s also the length. The average paid vacation time for Americans is 14 days, for British, 26 days, and for the French, 37 days.

Furthermore, it is not simply about the relative value that American society puts on work as opposed to free time and downtime. Long before the social sciences began reporting that Americans are overworked, others had observed what appears to be our inability to relax, a restlessness that can almost be described as an allergy to quiet. Over a half century ago, Chinese expatriate Lin Yutang wrote in his 1950 book, *On the Wisdom of America*:

“What does humanity want in life? Do we want to change the universe? Time flows forever; the past cannot be recaptured and the future is uncertain; only the day, the present hour, is a solid good. Perhaps the best way to thank God is to appreciate the present hour, to sit quietly and hear your own breathing and look out on the universe and be content. One can see time flow sometimes; one does not have to do something to pass the time; time can pass by itself. And there is infinite pleasure in watching the color of the day change from hour to hour and being able to say to oneself, ‘I have passed a leisurely afternoon’...The world goes by; it is enough. How rarely one dares to steal such a perfect day and snatch freedom from time itself!”

Yutang’s observation poses quite a challenge. I suspect that for many Americans—and for me—it is almost a frightening prospect to “sit quietly and hear your own breathing and look out at the universe and be content.” The closest I have come to meeting his challenge was years ago when I took up white water rafting. In addition to a number of brief trips to the Sierra Nevadas, I also took one or two week rafting trips on the Rogue, the Salmon, and the Colorado Rivers. Isolated from all means of communication (long before the there was an internet or cell phones) and all distractions, I camped in the middle of the wilderness—nowhere near cabins or any signs of human habitation. My world was comprised only of my companions and the river. Though very few people have ever accused me of being the silent, reserved type—even I, was reduced to stillness. There was no need to speak. The only thing that spoke was the flowing, leaping, singing river; it spoke hour after hour after hour, soothing, calming. Navigating Western Class Four rapids certainly produced adrenalin rushes and excitement, but within moments of clearing the rapids, the river’s speech was dominant once again. It was magical.

Now when I go “down the shore” to relax during the summer, I get a little of that magical feeling again, but almost always I remember that I have with me a book that I “should” read. As much as I love to sit on the beach and do nothing (I’m still a true Californian), it is rare that I make a commitment to spend the time to do so.

There is a wonderful midrash, or biblical interpretation, that I shared with the congregation at my very first service when I was “auditioning” to become Society Hill Synagogue’s Rabbi. In Exodus 24, God says to Moses, “Come up the mountain (Sinai) and be there.” The early Hasidic master, the Kotsker Rebbe (1787-1859) wonders, “If God told Moses to come up the mountain, why would God add, ‘And be there’?” The Kotsker answers, “The goal, you see, is not merely to ascend, but also to be there, to be actually present there, and nowhere else—and not to be going up and down at the same time.”

In the words of the Li Yutang, and the Kotsker Rebbe, this summer I hope that each of can carve out time to “sit quietly and hear your own breathing and look out at the universe, ‘to be there, to be actually present there and nowhere else’ and be content.”

Have a wonderful summer. I hope to see you when you are in town.
Join Us for Two Exciting Summer Events

Jonathan Weiss

There are many exciting things going on at Society Hill Synagogue! We have just wrapped up our spring activities, and I wanted to mention a few of the highlights.

We had a wonderful end to the school year with a meaningful Confirmation ceremony for Jamie Schwartz and Gary Love, two graduates who also work as teacher’s aides in our Sunday School. Also, for the first time in years, the Ann Spak Thal School participated in the citywide Israel Day celebration parade on the Parkway. Educational Director Sahar Oz enthusiastically helped our students and teachers build a large float celebrating Israel’s diversity. The float included Styrofoam models of the Bahai Gardens, Masada, and the Western Wall. Nearly 70 SHS-ers came and marched in the (drizzly) parade that ended at the Convention Center, which featured an impressive display of different Israeli activities, crafts, and food.

As I write this article, we’re preparing for our last TGISHabbat service of the year; it is going to be another potluck dinner, as a bookend to the one we held last September. I am not certain exactly how I will survive the summer without TGISHabbats, but fortunately, we are planning two wonderful summer events during which we can all get together. On Saturday, August 3, Walter and Margie Ferst, along with several other SHS members, will be hosting a “Havdalah Down the Shore.” The preliminary plans include cocktails and dinner at the Fersts’ home, starting at about 6:30 PM.

Then everyone will walk to the beach for a Havdalah service led by Rabbi Winokur, followed by dessert at a location to be determined. For those who spend their weekends at the shore, attending this event will involve a short drive to do something fun, while for others of us, it will provide a rare opportunity to end Shabbat on the beach. If you are unable to join us at the shore, we are also planning a Friday Night Potluck Shabbat Dinner for those of us who stay in the city during the summer. Please check your email and the SHS Website and Facebook page for more information about both of these events (remember, this is the last Kesher issue until September!) and to reserve your spot.

Many of you joined us last month for our Annual Congregation Meeting on May 22. As you know, this meeting serves many purposes. As required by our bylaws, this meeting serves as a mechanism to allow for open discussions about our leadership, financial status, and congregational plans for the coming year.

During last year’s Annual Meeting, we presented and discussed the results of the congregational survey that was sent to each household as part of our Membership Engagement Initiative. I am proud to report that we have already implemented many of the ideas for community-building activities that were suggested by members who filled out the survey.

This year, we discussed several topics that relate to our plans for the coming year. First, Harry Oxman presented a concise and clear description of a multi-denominational, faith-based organization, POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild), with whom we have recently joined forces. Many of you attended the weekend Lunch & Learn a few months ago when we had a presentation from some of the founding members of POWER; these leaders explained that the group, now almost 40 congregations strong, meets to help advance ideas about equality and social justice in Philadelphia. After several follow-up discussions with this group, about 15 SHS members enthusiastically attended a citywide rally in April and were quite impressed with POWER’s agenda. (Please see Debbie Stewart’s article on page 8 of the April Kesher for details.) Last month, the Board of Directors approved the Social Action Committee’s recommendation for SHS to join forces with this organization.
Cantor’s Column
Becoming a Member of the Mitzvah Tribe as an Adult
Bob Freedman

I’m looking forward to Saturday, June 8 when Debra Stewart, Carmen Hayman, Phyllis Denbo, and Dana Feinberg will be called to the Torah as B’not Mitzvah.

Bat Mitzvah brings up the image of a not-yet-woman, excited and beautifully dressed, eager for the approval of her parents, friends, and community. She’s right on the cusp of realizing that she can do anything; the world is her playground. During the year of her Bat Mitzvah, she may also play sports, join school projects, play an instrument, perform in the school play, do tons of homework, and somehow she still finds time to learn to chant a text and study Torah. Judaism, and the responsibility of being a Jew, is beginning to be real to her.

“Adult Bat Mitzvah” is the same, and oh so different. Like the not-yet-woman, the celebrant is a multi-tasker – working, tending to family, being involved in the community, and somehow still finding time to learn to chant a text and study Torah. On the day of the celebration she is excited, beautifully dressed, and nervous. And there, the similarities start to fade.

An adult Bat Mitzvah is a woman. She’s been dedicated to Judaism for a long time, accustomed to making her Jewish responsibility to her family and her community a priority. Life has given her the wisdom to understand the deep meaning of this “Bat Mitzvah experience,” how it confirms what she has done until now and stirs her to continue to deepen her connection to Judaism.

A central act in the celebration of a Bat Mitzvah, whether youth or adult, is chanting from the Torah. I’ve written in this column before about its profound effect. Like Jacob’s ladder, the Torah is the Jewish symbol of the highest realm of the spirit. From there it reaches through all the lower realms, down to the physical earth where we touch, hear, see, and speak. (Torah scrolls even have their own peculiar fragrance!) To chant from a scroll with the words of Torah written on it, turning that script into sound formed by breath, lips, and tongue, is to set foot on the first rung of that ladder. The chanter’s inner eyes open and she can see far up the stairway. It’s thrilling, a little terrifying, and has the magical quality of focusing her entire Jewish life into that moment.

These women are truly b’not mitzvah. B’not is the plural of bat, which literally means “daughter.” But here it is an idiom that means “belonging to the tribe of.” They are members of the tribe of mitzvah, determinedly and proudly recognizing and re-affirming their commitment to the responsibilities of being Jews. Mazel Tov!

By the way, Rabbi Winokur and I hope that this will not be an infrequent event. If you are interested in following the example of Debra, Carmen, Phyllis, and Dana, and others who have achieved this goal in the past, let us know. Women and men who never had the opportunity to celebrate being a member of the mitzvah tribe, or who went through the celebration with an unseeing mind when they were young, or who had such a good time they want to do it again, are welcome. Contact us!

Young Families Group
Stay Tuned for Summer Events!
Laurel Landau

As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes families with a child aged 5 and under (and of course older siblings are welcome), and the Baby & Me Group is for babies and toddlers aged 2 and under and their parents or caregivers. The members of the Young Families Group go on excursions around town and attend age-appropriate happenings at SHS, including Tot Shabbats, Family Services, or other special events.

Our most recent fun-filled event was a group dinner celebrating the end of Passover at Pietro’s!

We don’t have any events scheduled for the summer just yet, but stayed tuned for emails. For more information, or if you have any suggestions for activities, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com. Prospective members are always welcome at these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested, please pass on the information.
Playschool

Summer Camp Begins on Monday, June 3!
Gloria Parris

Playschool graduations marked the end of another fantastic school year. The children in each of our five classes sang songs, received their preschool diplomas, and celebrated their graduations with class luncheons. Throughout the school year, the children interacted with friends, listened to stories, created unique art projects, learned about all sorts of age-appropriate concepts, visited local museums and theaters on class trips, celebrated Shabbat each week, and so much more. Our teaching staff has always been dedicated to making classroom experiences creative and fun for our students.

Many of our graduating Pre-Kindergarten boys and girls have been in the Playschool since they were two years old. It has been so wonderful for us to be part of their preschool education. We send our best wishes with all of these children when they attend their new schools.

A special thank you goes to all of the Playschool parents for their devoted participation in our parent cooperative program. Our co-op structure has always been successful because our parents are eager to experience the activities that take place in our school on a daily basis—including meeting and interacting with all of the children in their child’s class, accompanying the children on school trips, sharing special “parent skills or talents” into our classrooms, and attending Shabbat Dinners, holiday celebrations, and parent-teacher conferences.

There are still a few spots available in the Playschool for the upcoming school year (beginning in September). We have limited spaces available in our two–year–old, 3–4–year–old, and PM Pre-Kindergarten classes. Spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you are interested in enrolling your child for fall classes, please contact me as soon as possible at 215.922.6590, ext. 28 or gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Summer camp will begin on Monday, June 3, and will continue for eight weeks until Thursday, July 25. The camp hours are 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM each day, Monday through Thursday. Children, ages two to four years old, will have the opportunity to play in our classroom, create themed arts and crafts projects, listen to stories, sing songs, participate in movement and dance activities, play outdoors, ride bikes, and have water fun in our wading pools. Each day, a snack will be provided by one of our families, and the children bring their own dairy lunches. Children can be enrolled for the entire camp season, or they can attend camp on a shorter schedule. Summer is almost here and camp is so much fun at the Playschool! Feel free to contact me for more information.

Our new academic school year will begin on Tuesday, September 3, with a Parent Meeting at 7 PM. Welcome parties for each of the classes will be held on Monday, September 9. The first day of Playschool for the children will be on Tuesday, September 10.

Have a wonderful summer.

President’s Column

Another meeting highlight involved a demonstration of the newly redesigned SHS Website. Staci Schwartz, Chair of the Communications Committee, with help from Ric Hayman and Betty van de Rijn, presented a brief description of the Website’s newest features. Please see page 8 for a summary of these exciting new functional characteristics.

One of the most important parts of the Annual Congregation Meeting was, and always will be, welcoming new Board members and thanking those members who have completed their Board terms. First, I would like to thank the members of this year’s Nominating Committee: Andrea Appel, Fran Gallun, Laurel Landau, Jeremey Newberg, and Staci Schwartz, and Chair Walter Ferst, for their hard work in finding three wonderful candidates to fill our open Board seats for the coming year. I am delighted to report that all members who attended the meeting voted unanimously to elect the three nominees to the Board. Congratulations to Brian Mono, Jonathan Prokup, and Mark Steinberger! I’m looking forward to introducing these new Board members into the
energetic community that is our current board and watching them take on the various responsibilities involved in the lay leadership of our shul. All Board members will elect their officers during the first Board meeting of the new fiscal year.

The three individuals who have completed their Board terms include Alan Casnoff, David Paskin, and Dan Feinberg, and I am very grateful for their contributions and the great impact they had on our community during their years of service to the Congregation.

As I begin my second year as President of SHS, I look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming engaging events. I hope that each of you has a joyful and relaxing summer!

Would You Like to Get Messages About SHS Events on Facebook?

Hannah Myers

Apparently there has been some confusion regarding our SHS Facebook (FB) page. Years ago, a page was started that can no longer be accessed. So, if you are interested in receiving information about SHS through FB, type Society Hill Synagogue in the Search box and open the page that has the picture of the outside of our building with a horse-drawn carriage on the street in front of it. “Like” this page and from then on, you will receive posted information about upcoming SHS events and programs on your newsfeed. If you have any difficulty joining the group, or getting the
Our other seven teachers and I have started to plan for the fall. Please look for more information soon about a few more teachers who will be joining our faculty. In addition to new staff members, we have a couple of other exciting changes for next year.

First, the Hebrew names for all of our grade levels are changing in a way that will make the Hebrew-English equivalence much clearer for everyone. Going forward, the new grade names in Hebrew School will be as follows in parentheses: Pre-Kindergarten (Ganon, literal translation of “Pre-Kindergarten”), Kindergarten (Gan, literal translation of “Kindergarten”), 1st (Aleph), 2nd (Bet), 3rd (Gimel), 4th (Dalet), 5th (Hay), 6th (Vav), 7th (Zayin), 8th (Het), 9th (Tet), 10th (Yud), 11th (Yud Aleph), and 12th (Yud Bet).

Another change for next year will involve the introduction of a new curriculum for our Hebrew High, which will be based on the award-winning service-learning programs of PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. “Panim” means “face” in Hebrew, and over the past 26 years, this pluralistic institution has brought tens of thousands of Jewish teens from across the US to Washington, DC, for two-day and four-day seminars that explore the intersection between core Jewish values and American values through face-to-face service, advocacy, debates, leadership training, and lobbying on Capitol Hill.

Our year-long curriculum will blend multidimensional study of local, national, and global concerns with practical approaches to creating positive change. Guest speakers and local service projects outside of the classroom will enhance the experience for our students. Having directed the PANIM curricula at Jewish community high schools in Rochester, Pittsburgh, and the Philadelphia suburbs, I have witnessed the remarkable impact this experience has had on students. We are very excited to bring this to our Hebrew High!

School registration forms for all grades will be sent to everyone in mid-June. We are not asking for any payments before then, but we are looking for an enrollment head count as we plan for the fall. If your child/children is/are continuing next year, which we certainly hope is true, then you do not need to do anything yet, and a registration packet(s) will be sent to you.

If, however, you need to change your child/children’s enrollment status for any reason, please contact Betty van de Rijn (215.922.6590, ext. 23) or me (215.922.6590, ext. 29) by June 7.

For our last day of Hebrew School, one of our third graders drew a mask with a sad face and tears running down, then put it on and said to her classmates and me, “I don’t want the year to end.” Call it a healthy mix of emotions: sadness that the school year has ended, and gladness that our children so enjoy and look forward to the Jewish learning, creativity, and friendships that bloom at our school.

Spread the word and invite your friends to join us for this dynamic journey of Jewish learning! I wish you all “kayitz mehane” – have a wonderful summer!

See some wonderful photos from Hebrew School on page 16.
Have You Seen the New and Improved SHS Website?
Staci Schwartz

At the Annual Congregation meeting on Wednesday, May 22, as Chair of Communications, I had the privilege of announcing that we have launched a new and improved version of the SHS Website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org)! Many of you know that we had to shut down our former site because it was hacked for the second time, and it was flooded with...shall we say...very inappropriate material. Ric Hayman recruited a wonderful new Web designer and we have upgraded our software and installed many new security features that should prevent future problems of this nature.

I am also delighted to report that, along with the improved security, the upgraded software offers many new perks for our users. We are not quite finished with the tweaking process, but I think that you will find the new site to be attractive, functional, and exciting.

- The new site is much more user friendly. With the previous version of our software, adding new information to the site was quite tedious, in some cases, impossible for our office staff to do. Consequently, we employed the services of a very nice gentleman in India to update our site and change features as required. Both the time difference and working with someone who was not familiar with Hebrew terminology provided significant challenges. Now, most updates and troubleshooting will be able to be managed in-house.

- On the new site, when you enter the password-protected “Members Only” section, you can edit and update your own profile! That means that you don’t have to fill out the paperwork we send you each year asking for household member names, Hebrew names, children’s birth dates, yahrzeit information, emails, and phone numbers. You can fill in this information on your computer profile, and all of this information will be directly transferred to our Rakefet database. The information can be updated as often as you’d like. SHS staff can serve you the best when they have your complete profile of information!

- When you enter the site, you will see a Member Login spot on the left hand side of your Home Page screen. Your previous user name and password may work- but if not, please contact the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590 and if you give your email address, the office will assign a temporary password. You can log in using that password and then change it to a password of your choosing. Once in the password-protected area, you will have access to the Membership Directory, Member News and Forums, the Greeter Schedule, Member Messages, and Profile Update. *When you update your profile, please remember to check the box indicating that you agree to have your contact information included in our password-protected Membership Directory.

- On the new site, anyone who is interested in joining our shul can go to the “Contact” screen (far upper right corner of Home Page), click on Member Sign up, where they can request a membership application by sending an immediate message to the office, instead of trying to find time during the day to call the office in person. New members can also send requests for password access when they send their email address to the office. New members should also check the box indicating their contact information can be included in our password-protected Membership Directory.

- On the new site, when you click on “News” in the upper right hand corner of the Home Page, not only will you have access to current Synagogue news and old Kesher editions...now, you can also click on World News events with Jewish content (find World News in right lower corner of the News page).

- On the new site, members can click on “Contact” (upper right hand of Home Page) and then click on “Payments or Donations” to make direct payments to the Synagogue through PayPal or a credit card (please note: there will be a 3% processing fee for all payments involving credit cards). In the Description Box, members can specifically state toward which balance they would like their payments to be applied, e.g., to tuition, to Membership Dues, or to an event fee. Donations can also be made through this screen by following the same directions as above.

Continued on page 13
Enrich your SHS experience by building new relationships and strengthening existing ones:

- Join others for holiday meals.
- Host or attend a Shabbat meal on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon where everyone brings a dish – keep it simple and let us know if you would like help with the rituals. Find out who lives in your neighborhood and get connected!
- Host or attend a Saturday evening Havdalah Service and meal – let us know if you would like help with the rituals involved in this delightful, family-friendly service.
- Connect with other families for an early Sunday evening meal – prepare a simple dinner together - kids can hangout and play together while adults socialize.
- Enjoy musical, arts, and other cultural activities together.
- Welcome, and help to integrate, new members in our community.
- Participate in Social Action programs, Adult Education classes, or join an SHS committee.
- Share your talents, interests, and knowledge with others:
  - Start a book club.
  - Organize some of the musicians in our congregation, and plan a musical service or event.
  - Run a hands-on Art workshop.
  - Give a lecture.
  - Host a salon meeting in your home.

- The options are endless! Don’t miss out. Check out the new Member Engagement section that will appear in each edition of the Kesher to learn of upcoming activities. But remember, you are the key to creating and supporting these opportunities!

- Let us know what interests you, and we will help you connect with other members to get started. Contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828 for more information or to discuss new ideas.

Upcoming Membership Engagement Events

**Board-Sponsored Shabbat Dinner**—Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our Annual Board-Sponsored Shabbat Dinner on Friday, September 20. Enjoy a spectacular TGISHabbat Service followed by a special congregational dinner. Welcome new members and build relationships!

**Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me a Match**—For all new SHS members– there is an SHS Shul Guide waiting to be matched with you to provide a warm welcome and support your integration into the SHS community. For more information, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or Libby Cone at cone@effectivenglish.com. You will hear from the SHS Matchmaker if she does not hear from you!

**Shabbat Afternoon Meal With Friends**—Spice up your summer by joining other families for a delicious Saturday afternoon Shabbat meal. A volunteer host family is seeking a few other families to join them for lunch one fine summer day, following services. For more information, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com.
### Contributions

#### General Fund
- In Appreciation of Community Support of SHS
  - Jessi Roemer

- In Honor of Dana Feinberg on her Bat Mitzvah
  - Linda & Paul Katz

#### Confirmation of Jamie Schwartz, Daughter of Marc & Staci Schwartz
- Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
  - Mark & Ann Steinberger

#### Yahrzeit Remembrance
- Evelyn Bach, Wife of Harry Bach
  - Harry Bach

- Mannie & Rose Hechler, Parents of Iris Levine
  - Iris Levine

- Senta King, Sister of Lore Bryan
  - Lore Bryan

- Anna J. Cohen, Grandmother of Judith & Mindy Widman
  - Judith Widman
  - Mindy Widman

- Jack Paller, Father of Robert Paller
  - Robert Paller

#### Annual Giving Fund

- Yahrzeit Remembrance
  - Solomon Altman, Father-in-Law of Rita Altman
    - Rita Altman

- Kirk & Leah Saltz, Parents of Nathan Saltz
  - Nathan Saltz

- Shirley Kline, Friend of Nathan Saltz
  - Nathan Saltz

- Ada Karp, Sister of Nathan Saltz
  - Nathan Saltz

#### Social Action Fund
- In Appreciation of George Washington School Photography Program
  - Carl & Caryn Levitsky
  - Debbie Casnoff
  - Brian & Juliet Englander
  - Carl & Caryn Levitsky
  - Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

- In Honor of Birth of granddaughter to Jay and Phyllis Denbo
  - Mark & Ann Steinberger

- Confirmation of Jamie Schwartz, Daughter of Marc & Staci Schwartz
  - Iris Levine

#### Silver Heit Salkin Fund
- In Honor of Confirmands Gary Love & Jamie Schwartz
  - Merle Salkin

#### Playschool Fund
- In Honor of Confirmation of Jamie Schwartz, Daughter of Marc & Staci Schwartz
  - Gloria Parris

#### Prayerbook Fund
- Yahrzeit Remembrance
  - Arthur Schneeberg, Husband of Gerry Schneeberg
    - Gerry Schneeberg

- Yahrzeit Remembrance
  - Sadie Schwartz, Great Aunt of James Orman
    - James Orman

#### Restoration Fund
- In Appreciation to Rabbi Winokur for his help in preparing Jamie for Confirmation
  - Cantor Freedman for his help in preparing Jamie for Confirmation
  - Marc & Staci Schwartz

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Summer Office Hours:

Monday through Wednesday: 9 AM to 5 PM  
Thursday: 9 AM to 4 PM  
Friday: 9 AM to 3:30 PM  

During the month of August, the office will be closed on Fridays.

An Important Reminder

Please remember that during the summer, there are no Friday Night Services in July and August. Friday Night Services will resume September 6 at 6:15 PM.

Memorial Plaque Dedication Service

Friday, May 2, 2014

The SHS Memorial Plaque Dedication service is for all families who have purchased a memorial plaque over the past year in memory of a loved one. Each family will be invited to “unveil” the plaque during a special memorial portion of this Friday night Shabbat service.

The next Memorial Plaque Dedication Service is scheduled for **Friday, May 2 at 6:15 PM.** All are welcome to attend.

Plaques need to have been ordered by January 1, 2014, to be ready in time for this annual dedication service.
June Birthdays

Mark Schoenholtz
Carol Weil
Henry Weil
Bonnie Weiner
Jonathan Feinman
Jonathan Hunter
Rebecca Hafter
Sharyn Katz
Nathaniel Stover-Steerman
Joan Lear
Jack Aaron
Judson Aaron
Daniel Rottenberg
Eliana Gilbert-Trachtman
Michael Coran
Andrew Hohns
Rita Roy
Avi Galler
Catherine Kiefer
James Orman
Adina Goldstein
Maya Salzman
Noah Kauderwood
Jesse Flora
Clayton Whitesell
Lois Rosenberg
Gloria Steinberg
Sophia Yudell
Don Kaufman
William Love
Geoffrey Michaels
Michael Davidson
Shira Cohen
Eve Friedman
Asa Schneebreg
Gabriel Cohen
Benjamin Zack
Samuel Hamilton
Marlene Lachman
Zelda Wolf
Karen Zur
Libby Cone
Stephen Shiekhman

July Birthdays

Joseph Gifford
Alice Goldenberg
Carla Krasnick
Judah Meyer
Jilan Sackett
Mitchell Bach
Matthew Zalesne Siff
Rachel Fish
Marc Schwartz
Laurette Feltoo
Liza Gendler
Juliet Englander
Judith Wolof
Anna Rubinov
Gabriel Steerman
Michael Temin
Joseph Oxman
Jordan Segall
Mary Ann Stover
Arielle Biron
Ellie Biron
Harry Oxman
Craig Pressman
James Wilson
Samantha Chaikin
Reuben Treatman
Daniel Greenberg
Zachary Goldberg
Abigail Hamilton
Libby Harwitz Blender
Gideon Siff
Manny Porat
Joshua Smullens
Juliette Snyder
Tony Lalli
Joshua Piven
Judy Gelles
Lev Ziskind

August Birthdays

Cobrin Ballen Stanish
Maya Porat
Wendy Rosen
Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
Wendy Leebov
Abigail Bladen
Nina Saligman
Marsha Silver Heit
Isak Popkin
Debby Freedman
Caleb Landau
Harvey Weiner
Susan Eizen
Edwin Krauss
Kathryn Braemer
Terry Graboyes
Nina Feinberg
Andrew Fish
Asher Halpern
Elise Wolf Williams
Abiona Flora
Lauren Harel
Elana Hunter
Nathaniel Popkin
Brian Rotter
Ilyana Snyder
Karen Edelstein
Jeffrey Lichtman
Dan Rosin
Sally Poulschok
Bonny Hohenberger
Michael Naiddor
Barry Bernsten
Hannah Prokup
Claudia Balderston
Jon Edelstein
Hillary Ladov
Marvin Sachs

June Anniversaries

Samuel & Joan Lear
Stanley & Judith Wolof
Marc & Nancy Goldenberg
Yuri Rubinov & Marina Merlin
Stephen & Pelley Brown
Jay Meadway &
Roberta Jacobs Meadway
Roberto Pace & Eve Friedman
Steven & Jessa Weissman
Thomas Borawski & Libby Cone

July Anniversaries

Daniel & Madeleine Becker
Richard & Judy Gelles
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton &
Roy Hamilton
Leah & Brent Jordan
Harry & Sheri Feinberg
Steven & Sally Gendler
Marvin & Ruth Sachs
Theodore Danoff &
Diane Siegel Danoff

August Anniversaries

Alan M. Zuckerman &
Rita Bernstein
Sidney Jacoby & Stav Tjoumakaris
Richard Summers &
Merrily Williams
Andrew Kadish &
Vicki Clark-Kadish
Bruce & Charlene Hirsch
Raphael Licht &
Gabrielle Applebaum
Mark & Tobey Dichter
Alton & Mona Sutnick
Julian & Sheila Katz
Jesse Abrams-Morley &
Meredith Buse
Peter & Susan Eizen
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Brian Rotter & Marsha Silver Heit
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Jerry & Joan Roller
Stanton & Merle Salkin
Dan & Anya Rosin
Jeffrey & Jodi Scott
Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
David & Cheryle Rosen
Melody & Michael Goldberg
Martin Rosenberg & Ellen Fennick
William & Sari Love
David & Sayde Ladov
Burton Blender &
Libby Harwitz Blender
Ronald & Carla Krasnick
Brent & Laurel Landau
On the new site you will see all upcoming SHS events listed on the left side of the Home Page screen with calendar dates. If you are interested in attending any of these events, when you click on that event, you will now see a prompt to transfer the date and event information directly to your Google calendar (if you have a gmail address) or to your smart phone (through Outlook)! The same feature is available when you click on events in the Calendar section as well (See Calendar to the left of Contact). The calendar can be viewed in daily, weekly, or monthly formats. We hope to also create sorting capabilities on the calendar so that members may customize which programs and events they would like to have transferred to their own calendars. For example, perhaps all Adult Education courses will be listed in blue and all Tot Shabbats will be listed in yellow. For now, you can do a “Site Search” which is located on the left side of the screen of the Home Page and type in the events or committees in which you are interested, e.g. Social Action, and the entire site will be searched for events involving Social Action.

On the new site, any member can check the Greeter Schedule when they are logged in to the site with their password. Just click on Greeter Schedule and a Google calendar version will appear. If you see a Shabbat, holiday, or event that needs a greeter on the calendar, and you are available to help, please contact Bonny Hohenberg at bjh711@gmail.com and she will add you to the schedule and provide you with information about greeting. Greeting is a wonderful way to meet other members and welcome new and potential members to our shul. Adults and children are welcome to help with this delightful task.

Take a few minutes and explore the new site. I think you will be pleased with its appearance and exciting new features. Many thanks to Ric Hayman and Betty van de Rijn for the hours they spent helping to create this new and improved version of our Website! Please feel free to make comments and suggestions at webmaster@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community
Death & Afterlife: Beliefs and Practices of the Three Abrahamic Faiths
Debbie Stewart

Please join the Philadelphia Interfaith Community (PIC) on **Wednesday, June 5 at 7 PM** for our continuing discussion on Life Cycle Rituals among the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths. This session will focus on death and afterlife, beliefs and practices of the three Abrahamic faiths.

We will gather at Old St. Joseph’s Church located at 321 Willings Alley. Attendees should enter the courtyard and go down the stairs to the Social Hall.

For additional information about this event, please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or
You are cordially invited to attend a special Shabbat service during which four women will become Bat Mitzvah! On Saturday, June 8 at 9:30 AM, Debra Stewart, Carmen Hayman, Dana Feinberg, and Phyllis Denbo will be called to the Torah as B’not Mitzvah.

All are invited to join them at a Friday night dinner and Oneg Shabbat on Friday, June 7, and a celebratory Kiddush Luncheon that will follow services on June 8.

To commemorate the occasion, Debra, Carmen, Dana, and Phyllis bonded as they baked homemade challot in our very own Synagogue kitchen. They recited the appropriate blessings as they lovingly prepared these delicious loaves for their upcoming celebration. Lucky for Rabbi Winokur that he was in the right place at the right time—he got to do an official taste test!
Another Group B'nai Mitzvah Took Place at SHS in 1997!
Staci Schwartz

In the May Kesher, I announced that the first quadruple B’not Mitzvah will be taking place on Saturday, June 8, and while that is still true, I have learned that this will not be the first group B’nai Mitzvah at SHS. Harvey Weiner was kind enough to inform me that his wife, Bonnie, along with seven other SHS members, were called to the Torah in 1997 for a group B’nai Mitzvah with Cantor Alan Cohn. According to Carole LeFaivre Rochester, they each read Torah from Lekh L’kha, and some of them gave commentaries on that parashah.

Above is a photo of these 8 inspiring individuals, who along with this year’s group including Dana Feinberg, Carmen Hayman, Phyllis Denbo, and Debra Stewart, had the drive to join the Mitzvah Tribe as adults.

Thanks to Bonnie and Harvey, Carole, and Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick for providing the names of all who participated in the 1997 service. From left to right, they are: Linda Gross, Bonnie Weiner, Linda Glass, Merrily Williams, Cantor Cohn, Nancy Machinist, Burton Weiss, Carole LeFaivre Rochester, and Lisa Moroz.

Society Hill- Hot & Healthy Series Continues in October
Lisa Unger

On May 13, 2013, the Society Hill- Hot and Healthy! Speaker Series continued with Andrew B. Newberg, M.D., Director of Research, Myrna Brind Center for Integrative Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Newberg presented the topic "How To Keep Your Brain Healthy!" The well-attended event featured a lively and informative question and answer session. Following the lecture, delicious refreshments were provided.

Mark your calendars and join us at SHS on Wednesday, October 2 at 7 PM, for a presentation entitled, "Is Alternative Medicine Right For My Aches & Pains?" Our speaker will be Sharon L. Kolansinski, M.D., Head, Division of Rheumatology, Cooper University Hospital.

SHS Potluck Shabbat Dinners
Bonny Hohenberger

Two couples, Steve and Ruth Greenberg and Al and Mona Sutnick, broke bread (challah) with Nate Farbman and Bonny Hohenberger at our second SHS Potluck Shabbat Dinner last Friday night.

Ruth contributed a delicious ratatouille, and Mona brought a gorgeous floral centerpiece. After the Shabbat blessings were recited, the engaging discussions began, and two of the men discovered that they had a topic of interest that might result in a mutually beneficial business arrangement. Conversation only ended when one couple realized that, if they stayed longer, they might not be able to get up early enough for Torah study the next morning!

Everyone in attendance agreed that these evenings are a wonderful way to create a closer SHS community and hope more people will participate in the future.
First Grade students proudly display the hanukiyot they made.

Hebrew School Tu B'Shvat Seder.

Seventh grade students and the edible kibbutz they designed.

Sixth grade students building the Baha’I Gardens for the Israel 65 Parade float.
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1 PM ELM  
7 PM ECM | 7:15 AM Minyan | 7:30 PM EM | No Camp | Korah  
9 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM Quadrupl B'not Mitzvah Service  
Phyllis Denbo  
Dana Feinberg  
Carmen Hayman  
Debra Stewart | 6:15 PM Services |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| Building Closed | 7:15 AM Minyan | | No Camp | Hukkat  
9 AM Torah Study  
9:30 AM 2nd Bar Mitzvah Service of Jerome Rosenberg | 6:15 PM Services |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| Father’s Day  
Building Closed | 7:15 AM Minyan | | No Camp | Balak  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service | 6:15 PM Services |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| Building Closed | 7:15 AM Minyan | | No Camp | Pinhas  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service | 6:15 PM Service |
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9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | "Havdalah Down   
the Shore" |
| 1   | 2   | 3   |     |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | Building Closed |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| Building Closed | 7 PM ECM | 7:15 AM Minyan | No Services | Shof'tim  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| Building Closed |     | 7:15 AM Minyan | No Services | Ki Tetzei  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| Building Closed | 7 PM BDM | 7:15 AM Minyan | No Services | Ki Tavo  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
| Building Closed |     | 7:15 AM Minyan | No Services | Nitzavim  
Va-yeilekh  
9 AM Torah Study  
10 AM Service |
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 9 PM Selihot |
Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat is a story, written in lighthearted rhyming verse, about a young goat named Billy who constantly picks on the other “kids” in his class. From stealing their lunch money to pulling their hair, Billy is making life miserable for his primary grade peers. When Mr. and Mrs. Goat realize that they have exhausted all of their own strategies to stop their son’s unacceptable behavior, they finally seek help from “The Wise Old Goat Upon the Hill,” a certified Goat Therapist. With a little bit of magic dust, some common sense, and family support—a brilliant plan is initiated to cure Billy of his bullying ways.

By describing the circumstances and feelings associated with bullying, *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat* provides children with the opportunity to identify bullying behavior and share their personal experiences with bullying—either as an intimidator, a victim, or a witness. This story should be part of every child’s personal and classroom book collection because it can open the lines of communication between child and parent, or child and teacher, and promote the discussion of strategies for dealing with peer-related verbal or physical aggression.

If you’d like to purchase a copy of *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat*, please contact Staci at stacischwartz7@yahoo.com. Soft cover copies are available for $12.95 a piece.