The Importance of Annual Giving
Michael Hafter

If asked by a friend or acquaintance to choose one word to describe SHS, many of us would say “haimish,” a Yiddish word that means “warm and comfortable (home-like).” We have a wonderful Synagogue community, and we pride ourselves on treating each other with kindness, respect, and equality. Many of the decisions we make at the Board level reflect that sensibility. When we decided, several years ago, to invite Board Members to sit on the bimah during the High Holy Days, it was a gesture made for no other purpose than to introduce these hard-working volunteer leaders to the rest of the community.

This year, while members of the Religion Committee was tirelessly making calls to assign honors for the High Holy Days, one congregant asked, “Who decides who gets called?” It reminded us that unlike many shuls, we do not auction bimah honors or aliyyot, and we do not sell seats in the Sanctuary to raise money. Instead, we offer honors to celebrate new members, recognize people who have volunteered their time to organize Synagogue activities, or to fulfill any member’s request to participate in High Holy Day services. We do that because that’s who we are, as a community. But it also means that we have to resort to other methods to achieve our fundraising goals to support Synagogue operations. Our main method of collecting this money is still achieved through our Annual Giving Appeal.

That sense of equality and appreciation of membership helps foster the strong sense of community that was described by last year’s survey respondents. When my daughter, Karen, spoke at Yom Kippur services last year, she articulately described what it means to her to be part of our community. There were many damp eyes. Sometimes we need to be reminded of what a wonderful thing we have, and why we need to support it.

For the second year, this time at Rosh Hashanah, David Ladov eloquently addressed the congregation on the topic of Annual Giving. He reminded us that in addition to our congregation’s diverse cultural, religious, and spiritual backgrounds, our members also have different financial capabilities. We do not turn away people who can’t afford our normal dues structure; we work out a payment plan that they can afford. We hope that every member contributes what he or she can, and we recognize that these amounts will change according to an individual’s circumstances. David requested that those who are able to contribute more than their own dues will help to support the dues of individuals, couples, or families who are unable to pay the full amount. The sponsorship he described is tzedakah in its truest form.

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The Pew survey of the American Jewish community is out, and it is a big deal, and it is provoking all sorts of reactions. Little in it is new. Intermarriage continues to climb. More and more Jews are uninterested in religion. (A) This is new? (B) While the trend is much greater among younger Jewish adults (hand wringing on three), not only does it not necessarily portend a trend, but it is utterly unremarkable. When the more religiously identified GenXers and Baby Boomers were the same age as today’s Millennials, they, too, probably were less religiously identified.

Because there is so much in the survey, different people have found a lot to trumpet and a lot to fret about. Shmuel Rosner’s L.A. Jewish Journal blog notes, “The Pew survey has enough material for everyone to be able to reaffirm their previous beliefs.” It all depends on how you massage the facts. So, if you are a Conservative Jew who cares about the future of Conservative Judaism the survey is truly worrisome. If you’re an Orthodox Jew, particularly ultra-Orthodox, you have much to trumpet. Yet Donniel Hartman, himself an Orthodox rabbi, was particularly harsh on Orthodox triumphalism.

Conservative rabbi and commentator Joshua Hammerman even found a way to celebrate the “no-religion” Jews: “When 94% of U.S. Jews (including 97% of Jews by religion and 83% of Jews of no religion) say they are proud to be Jewish, this is nothing short of miraculous, given the ‘oy vey’ version of Jewish history that so many generations have been force fed. Even Jews who are bringing their kids up in another religion are proud to be Jewish! That means they are not completely lost to us” (italics in original). Hammerman’s observation that Reconstructionists will applaud is: “Ultimately, the big winners of the survey are Mordecai Kaplan and Theodor Herzl. Jewish peoplehood, culture, and civilization are prime motivators of Jewish pride and connection. Ritual observance is not.”

Broadly speaking, there do seem to be trends in favor of stronger Orthodoxy (particularly ultra-Orthodoxy, even in America) and increasing secularism, with liberal religion losing more and more adherents. While those of us who believe religion is critical may lament these trends, the real question is how we adapt communally to them.

In my opinion, these trends will not be reversed by doubling the funds for Birthright Israel or aggressively underwriting hip new synagogues led by hip young charismatic rabbis like Rommemu in Manhattan (Rabbi David Ingber) and Ikar (Rabbi Sharon Brous) in Los Angeles. That is to say, either the trends are irreversible or at the very least not subject to reversal by social engineering through Jewish venture philanthropy. In other words, should these trends reverse, it will be as a result of society-wide mega-trends. In fact, trends within the Jewish community mirror almost exactly trends in the Christian community—more fundamentalist/evangelical Christians, fewer mainline Protestant, and more secularists whose parents associated with a church.

The challenge for synagogues is especially daunting. Synagogues are much more than religious institutions but, unlike JCCs or B’nai B’rith or the Anti-Defamation League, they are primarily religious institutions. Certainly that is how people think of them. Yet a whopping 30% of all Jews see themselves as basically not religious, and, while the number is higher among the 18-29 set (41%), a significant number of older Jews (GenXers, 33%; Baby Boomers, 24%; Silent and Greatest combined, 25%) describe themselves as essentially secular. On the other hand, that means 70% of all Jews self-describe in religious terms (with a denominational affiliation). But even among those 70%, we all know that a very high percentage see themselves as largely cultural Jews or, if while more religious than cultural, then with neither the Jewish religion nor Jewish culture being of particular importance in daily life.

Here then is the situation. Many Jews are not associated with a synagogue at all. But synagogues remain the primary Jewish address for Jews who have a Jewish address at all, including secular Jews since most secular Jewish institutions have died or

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November and December classes will present a wide variety of excellent opportunities for our students and families to learn about Judaism, eat delicious food, and see Jewish values in action.

On Sunday, November 10 at 12:15 PM, we will have a school-wide observance of Kristallnacht for grades 3-11. The students will consider this tragic day in history through personal stories expressed in testimony, poetry, film, and music.

The following Sunday, November 17 at 10 AM, Hebrew School and Hebrew High students from grades 6-11 and their families will meet at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) at 10980 Dutton Road in Northeast Philadelphia, along with hundreds of other volunteers from Greater Philadelphia. Together, they will pack fresh produce and non-perishable kosher food, load their cars with boxes, and deliver food and a smile to the homes of local Jewish neighbors in need.

This is an ideal opportunity to participate in tikkun olam (repair of the world) while experiencing meaningful face-to-face interaction with people you might not otherwise meet. JRA is the largest provider of food assistance to Jewish families in need in the Greater Philadelphia region and the third largest direct-service food pantry in our area, assisting over 3,000 low-income households.

Our next TGISHabbat service is set for Friday, November 22 at 6:15 PM. Two weeks later, on Friday, December 6, our students in Kitah Vav (6th Grade) will lead Shabbat services beginning at 6:15 PM, with a delicious dinner to follow. And on Saturday, December 14, Kitah Aleph (1st Grade) students will help to lead the Shabbat morning service at 10:30 AM, with lunch following this joyous start to the day.

Enrollment fees for students in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High cover school families’ participation in such meals following class-led services.
Worshipers need to feel safe and welcome when they come into a sanctuary to participate in a service. My colleagues and I often speak about the behavior of strangers who come to the synagogue for a celebration of Bar or Bat Mitzvah. They enter tentatively, looking around as if scouting for hidden danger. Finally finding their place, they sit for the first half of the service with a “deer in the headlights” look, not participating, certainly not singing. Finally, as they realize that no one is testing or threatening them, they relax and start to have a good time. By the end of the service, they often come to me saying that it was a wonderful, meaningful, even spiritual service.

The reason for their discomfort is not complicated. We humans are hardwired to be on edge when we come into a new place with new people. It’s part of our self-protection mechanism. Of course strangers will have difficulty letting go of their vigilance, losing themselves in prayer, or singing in a new space surrounded by people they do not know.

Their difficulty touches on a deep aspect of prayer: to connect to something larger than ourselves requires that we surrender a part of our ego. Doing this when we feel threatened by unfamiliar surroundings is hard, if not impossible. Often, when I am leading a service, I will begin by asking everyone to look around and mark well where he or she is in the room. I explain that the experience of prayer will be like ascending in a hot air balloon attached by a long tether to its lift-off place. After wandering the mind pathways of the service, worshipers should know where they will return to reenter the physical realm. Those who come regularly to services are aware of this, and they tend to sit in the same place each time.

For many, even more intimidating than being in a strange place is to be with a strange group of people. Congregations that pay attention (our congregation is one!) know this. Acting on the “Walmart greeter” principle—a customer who feels secure and valued will buy more—we do all we can to make newcomers and guests feel welcome. As if they were guests at our house, we greet them at the door, hand them books and readings, help them find a seat if necessary, answer questions, and do all we can to make them feel as though they belong.

What is true for strangers is equally so for members. They also need to be greeted warmly and made to feel welcome. For any community to evolve, its members need to learn to trust each other. This is especially true for a community that engages in worship, an activity that makes us vulnerable. As trust and friendship grows, our prayer becomes richer.

So remembering how, when you first came into our congregation, you appreciated being made to feel welcome, extend your welcome to newcomers. If you are new to our community, be a little less shy and get to know us; allow us to make you part of our community. We’ll all benefit!

—Bob Freedman
Playschool
Join Us at Our Annual Hanukkah Happening on Sunday, November 24, 11 AM–1 PM
Gloria Parris

The children in the Playschool have been quite busy during their first few weeks of preschool. They are excited to come to school to play with their friends and to enjoy their fun-filled learning experiences. Even our youngest two-year-olds are now eager to participate in their class activities. All of the children have listened to storybooks, learned new songs, created holiday crafts, have been introduced to the letters of the alphabet, have expressed themselves through art, and have celebrated Shabbat with their classmates.

In our Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children learned about their community and how a community works together for its neighbors. In conjunction with what the boys and girls were learning in class, the children recently took a walking trip to visit the local fire station. Also, parents were invited to speak to the children about their own jobs, and they presented hands-on activities to the children that related to these jobs.

The Playschool recently hosted Grandparents'/Special Friends' Day for children in the 3–4-year-old class and in our two Pre-Kindergarten classes. Parents, grandparents, and family friends attended this special event. The children were very excited to introduce their guests to their teachers and to show them their preschool classrooms. A highlight of the day was for everyone to celebrate Shabbat together with songs, dance, and blessings. That same evening, the Playschool’s Fall Shabbat Dinner and Art Exhibit was held for all of our Playschool families. We were very pleased to have had a fantastic number of families in attendance.

The annual Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House will take place on Sunday, November 24, from 11 AM until 1 PM. All Synagogue

Young Families Group
Havdalah PJ Party and Annual Christmas Eve Dinner!
Laurel Landau

Please join Playschool and Sunday School families on Saturday, November 16, from 6 – 7:30 PM, for a Havdalah PJ party to end the Super Shabbat Weekend!

Eat dinner at home, then put on your cutest pair of pajamas and join us for a beautiful and fun Havdalah service, complete with wine (and grape juice), twisted candles (and glow sticks), and spices (make-your-own spice box). Enjoy a bedtime story and potluck dessert.

Please bring a new pair of pajamas to donate to children in need.

Also, plan to join us on Tuesday, December 24, at Rich City for our annual Christmas Eve Chinese Dinner!

As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes all families with a child aged 5 and under (and of course older siblings are welcome!) We go on excursions around town and attend age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue. Prospective members are always welcome at these events, so if you know anybody who may be interested in joining SHS, please pass on the information.

For more information, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com.
The Importance of Annual Giving
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One final thought. In Leviticus, the responsibilities of the tribes are delineated. The Kohanim are to be the priests, the Levites must maintain the Sanctuary, and the rest are to financially support those efforts. There is no talk of glory, only of responsibility. No role is better than another. Thousands of years have blurred the old tribal lines, but our responsibilities as a people remain the same. Our Rabbi and Cantor provide spiritual leadership, the Board of Directors looks after the interests of the community, but all of us, together, are responsible for providing the funding to maintain our Synagogue home.

Thanks very much to those of you who have already responded to this appeal. For those who have not, please make a donation to the Annual Giving Fund based on your capability so that SHS can continue to thrive.

Over the next few weeks, a member of our Board of Directors will be calling you to ask for your pledge. If you want to make your gift before these calls are made, please send your check (indicate that your contribution is to be applied to Annual Giving on the memo line) to SHS at 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, or visit our website at www.societyhillsynagogue.org and follow the instructions for making a payment to your account.

Our goal is to achieve 100% member participation in Annual Giving.

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Ann Spak Thal School
Continued from page 3

So we encourage all of our families to join us for these services and se’udot (meals). All we ask is that you e-mail Betty at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org no later than 2 days before each service to RSVP and let her know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

The much loved Hanukkah Happening is scheduled for 11 AM — 1 PM on Sunday, November 24, so all classes from Gan (Kindergarten) through Kitah Yud Aleph (11th Grade) will meet that Sunday from 9 – 11 AM. Back by popular demand, award-winning magician Poly will blend slight of hand, animal magic, and Hanukkah humor in two shows: one for Hebrew School students and another performance during the Hanukkah Happening for our younger children.

Purim Cantata auditions will take place on Sunday, December 8, and we welcome everyone interested from grades 3 – 6 to come and try out. It’s a lot of fun!

Last but not least, please remember that there are no classes on Sunday, December 1 (Thanksgiving Break), and our last day of classes before Winter Break will be Tuesday, December 17.

Third Grade students put together a giant puzzle of Israel with limited use of language, in a lesson on the Tower of Babel and communication.
Membership Engagement Initiative
There is So Much Going On!
Debbie Stewart

1) “Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?”

Strengthening the synagogue community…
Helping congregants to build meaningful memories…

SHS has adopted the highly successful Shabbat Meal Program created by Debbie Albert for Temple Sinai in Dresher, PA. It is spreading like wildfire in Philadelphia and across the country. By adding the options of Saturday afternoon Shabbat meals and Saturday evening Havdalah meals, we have adapted the model to meet our needs.

We have scheduled three weekends this year for “Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?” events and look forward to continuing this program for years to come. We hope to grow the program exponentially—with invited guests then serving as hosts at subsequent events, leading to 100% inclusion of our members by the end of next year!

We will also invite prospective members to these meals as a strategy to grow our community. SHS can no longer be the best-kept secret in Center City; we need to let people know about our amazing shul!

Hosting a Shabbat or Havdalah meal, or attending as a guest, provides a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and enhance your enjoyment of being part of this special community, so let’s get started!

Don’t be shy. Let us now if you can host! Or would you rather be a guest? We want more congregants to get to know each other outside the walls of the Synagogue.

“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?”
Super Shabbat Weekend Kick-off Event
November 15 and 16

During the weekend of November 15 and 16, in lieu of the Friday evening Shabbat Service (that’s right, there will be NO services at the Synagogue that night!), those who have signed up will gather at host homes for a Shabbat meal. Some of us will join together for a Saturday afternoon Shabbat meal following services on November 16, and still others will gather for a Saturday evening Havdalah meal.

All hosts will receive a Shabbat or Havdalah kit!

Keep it simple; invite your guests to bring an appetizer, side dish, dessert or bottle of wine. Serve buffet-style or sit-down, barbeque or pizza—it all works!

Offer to host in November, and be a guest next time. Be a guest this time and host or co-host next time.

The worst that can happen is that you will have so much fun that you cannot wait for the next “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?” meal event that will occur during the weekend of May 15—16! You may even be inspired to start your own regular practice of celebrating Shabbat by inviting or joining your SHS friends.

We want to hear from you! For more information, contact Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828 or Bonny Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or 215.463.4715.

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POWER
A Fair and Full Public School Funding Formula
Debbie Stewart and Harry Oxman

POWER is forging ahead with its campaign for a Fair and Full Public School Funding Formula for Philadelphia and statewide. We will work to make this one of the biggest issues in the 2014 gubernatorial race. Attend a SHS POWER House Meeting and learn how you can make a difference in this effort.

Our first SHS POWER House Meeting took place on October 16, and these meetings will continue through November. The purpose of each meeting is to provide a space for a small group of people to talk about some of the most important issues, such as school funding, which are impacting our families and broader community. Participants are then invited to do something about these issues by engaging at some level.

In order to gain greater insight into the public school funding strategy, all SHS members are also urged to attend the POWER “Teach-In” on Sunday, November 10, 2–6 PM, at the Old First Reformed United Church of Christ located at 151 N. 4th Street (4th and Arch Streets).

For more information please contact Harry Oxman at 215.574.9645 or Carl Levitsky at 215.923.3749.

Philadelphia Interfaith Community
Shabbat Learning Service on Friday, December 13, 6:15 PM
Debbie Stewart

Please join PIC on the 4th Tuesday of each month for exciting discussions about a variety of interfaith topics.

Tuesday, November 26 at 7 PM: “Demonology” Among the Faith Traditions” will be presented at Old Saint Joseph’s Church, located at 321 Willings Alley. The class will be held in the third floor Rectory library.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7 – 9 PM: Join us for a presentation and dialogue with Rabbi Avi Winokur at Society Hill Synagogue. The class will be held in the Sanctuary.

And please mark your calendars for a special Shabbat learning service for the members of PIC and interested SHS members on Friday, December 13 at 6:15 PM.

For additional information about these and other events please contact me at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

Adult Education
Fall & Winter Classes
Marc Schwartz

There is still time to join:

Rabbi Winokur’s Classes:
Discussions about Wendy Mogel’s The Blessing of a Skinned Knee on Sundays at 9:15 AM; 11/10, 12/8, 1/19, 2/9, 3/2, 3/30, 5/4

Nosh & Schmooze on Sundays at 11:15 AM; 11/17, 12/15, 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27, 5/18, join us for discussions about ongoing education issues in our country.

Cantor Freedman’s Class:
Introduction to Hebrew Grammar Class on Tuesdays at 7 PM; 11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/17, 1/14, 1/28, 2/18, 2/25

Rafi Licht’s Class:
Bavli and Bagels: A monthly taste of Talmud on Sundays at 11 AM; 11/10, 12/8, 1/12, 2/9, 3/2, 4/6, 5/11

Hard copies of the Adult Ed Brochure are in available in the office or you can download your own copy from the SHS website.
2) SHS’s Third Annual InterNOSHional Night: Saturday, February 8

Back by popular demand, it is time to volunteer to host or co-host a dinner at your home for 6 or more congregants featuring an international cuisine of your choice. Once we establish the host-chosen cuisine categories and associated menus, we will publicize this information so that the rest of our members can rush to sign up for a seat at one of our hosts’ tables!

Don’t miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation, all while supporting this community-building and fund-raising activity for our shul!

If you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact me at beachthic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828.

3) New Member Integration

**Saturday, November 2:** Join us for our first Annual Congregational Kiddush Luncheon (after Shabbat services) for all congregants, followed by a New Member Orientation program. Help us to welcome our newest members!

4) Member Service Recognition Event

**Wednesday, March 19 (2014):** Member Service Recognition Event

It is time to recognize the many congregants who serve our shul in any number of ways. We look forward to giving thanks to all of those individuals who share their time, interests, knowledge, and talents to benefit our congregation and surrounding community.
C O N T R I B U T I O N S

General Fund
In Appreciation of Attending Yom Kippur Services
Margaret & Lewis Heller

In Honor of Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient
Merle & Stan Salkin

Moshe & Orah Mahlab’s Grandson’s Bar Mitzvah
Iris Levine

In Memory of Sara Weyland, Great-Aunt of Ric Hayman
Dan & Dana Feinberg and Family

Sadie Baughn, Grandmother of Carmen Hayman
Dan & Dana Feinberg & Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Anna Paller, Mother of Robert Paller
Robert Paller

Anna Feinstein, Mother of Evelyn Eisenstadt
Evelyn Eisenstadt

Ilse Roller, Mother of Jerry Roller
Jerry & Joan Roller

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller
Jerry & Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund
Richard and Claudia Balderston
Burton and Libby Harwitz Blender
Deborah Block and Doug Smullens
Elayne Bloom
Thomas Borawski and Libby Cone
Alan and Deborah Casnoff
Arthur and Janet Cherry
Neil Cohen and Debra Weissbach
Murray Dubin and Libby Rosof
Robert Einhorn
Peter and Susan Eizen
Steven and Lisa Eizen
Walter and Margie Ferst
Benjamin Field and Viktoriya Torchinsky-Field
Laurie Gold
Michael and Melody Goldberg
Lawrence and Jacqueline Goldfinger
Terry Graboyes
Michael and Leslie Hafter
Noah Herman
Bonny Hohenberger and Nathan Farberman
Bart and Betty Kaplan
Don and Karen Kaufman
Edwin and Etta Krauss
David and Sayde Ladow
Brent and Laurel Landau
Susan Levering

Carl and Caryn Levitsky
Joan Markman and Jim Becker
Geoffrey and Beverly Michaels
Rina Mitchell
Jeremey and Fran Newberg
Paula Ninerell
Alan Ominsky and Marlene Lachman
Peter and Caroline Piven
Sally Poulschok
Jonathan and Catherine Prokup
Michael and Carole LeFavire Rochester
Jerry and Joan Roller
Paul and Wendy Rosen
Daniel and Barbara Rottenberg
Ira and Lynne Rubenfeld
Gerry Schneeberg
Marc and Staci Schwartz
Jordan Segall and Natalie Lesser
Alan and Elaine Shechtman
Barbara Spector
Larry and Ann Rosen Spector
Amy Steerman and Mary Ann Stover
Dennis Stein
Debra and Bill Stewart
Alton and Mona Sutnick
Len Weinberg and Fran Gallun
Rosemarie Weinberg
Harvey and Bonnie Weiner
Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf
Zelda Wolf
Richard and Elizabeth Zack

In Honor of Staci Schwartz, 2013 Kallat B’reishit Recipient
Merle & Stan Salkin
Nancy & Ray Swerdlow and Family
Rita Altman

Rena Wheaton’s Baby Naming
Evelyn Segal

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Samuel Michaels, Father of Geoffrey Michaels
Geoffrey Michaels

Henrietta Levine, Mother-in-Law of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

William Steerman, father of Amy Steerman
Amy Steerman

In Memory of Sara Weyland, Great-Aunt of Ric Hayman
Merle Salkin

Sadie Baughn, Grandmother of Carmen Hayman
Merle Salkin
Rabbi’s Column
Continued from page 2

are dying out. Synagogues are primarily religious institutions, while more and more Jews are less and less interested in religion (even though a substantial number are, in fact, interested in it). What is a synagogue to do, and what is the Jewish community to do, to find alternative Jewish addresses for non-synagogue Jews without antagonizing synagogues, synagogue movements, seminaries, etc.?

No one knows. This, however, I do know: any response to the challenges of the American Jewish community that is solely about ideas for change, even great ideas for change, are only as worthwhile as the mechanism for actually accomplishing the needed changes are realistic.

As a synagogue rabbi, it seems to me that synagogues will need to find a way to elevate cultural Judaism to a much more central place in their self-understandings while still satisfying the religious needs of Jews.

At the same time, they will have to meet the varying religious needs of Jews in ways that take into account new approaches to religion and spirituality without compromising service to the substantial number of Jews who remain committed to normative Jewish religiosity, whether, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, or transdenominational. Though this is asking a lot, anything less, it seems to me, will result in the continuing decline of synagogues in American Jewish life.

We at Society Hill Synagogue are tackling some of these issues. Our monthly Shabbat study sessions with Rabbi Marjorie Berman have added a non-liturgical component to our Shabbat offerings. Our commitments to POWER and other Social Action initiatives attract members for whom religious ritual is secondary to social justice. Even “Guess Who Is Coming to Shabbas?” our Shabbat meal initiative, though nominally about religious observance, is primarily about community-building and developing connections between members of our community. TGI Shabbat and family services provide alternative worship experiences alongside our more traditional services. Sure, there is a lot more to do, and we will continue to look for new ways to connect to our community and also to Jews beyond our synagogue walls.

Here is the link to the Pew survey:
http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Hanukkah (next to coincide some 77,000+ years in the future)! Take a look at the survey. Talk to friends about it. Follow links to some interesting commentators like Hartman and Hammerman. The issues the Pew study raises are worth spending time on. What would be your prescription for a positive and thoughtful Jewish communal response to changes within the wider Jewish community and, more specifically, within the Society Hill Synagogue community?
November Birthdays
Jim Becker
Harry Bach
Samuel Luckman
Adam Bonin
Rachel Goldfinger
Josh Meyer
Andrew Newman
Lillian Shemtov
Jacob Wycoff
Henry Gutstadt
Steven Weissman
Susan Levering
Stephanie Naidoff
Gabrielle Applebaum-Licht
Jack Little
David Ladov
Jacqueline Pack Segal
Mark Dembert
Ira Kauderwood
Yuri Rubinov
Arthur Cherry
Scotty Jordan
Edward Kaplan
Laura Bottaro
Sophie Bottaro
Nancy Burd
Micah Hart
Marcie Ziskind
Deborah Casnoff
Sara Chrismer
Robert Biron
Jake Morgan
Evyn Appel
Sydney Bladen
Teresa Novick
Pelley Brown
Phoebe Bonin
Sophia Yudell

December Birthdays
Meranda Love
Howard Sedran
Joel Chernock
Evelyn Eisenstadt
Myron Bloom
Ariana Eizen
Joanna Hart
Michael Goldberg
Joanna Bottaro
Leah Popowich
Mikhail Rubinov
Barbara Zalkind
Max Ladenson
Phoebe Ladenson
Nancy Gellman
Robin Schatz
Steven Eizen
Judith Lalli
Roberto Pace
Ned Wolf Weiss
Aaron Wilson
Margot Oxman
Barbara Spector
Dan Taub
Steven Gendler
Joshua Goldwert
Thomas Kline
Janet Kole
Hannah Myers
Daniel Weil
Debra Auspitz Galler
Abigail Gendler
Steven Greenberg
David Paskin
Stanley Woloff
Cole Pressman
Rebecca Buse-Morley
Lisa Coran
Mimi Hunter
Elliana Zack
Bruce Luckman
Marina Merlin
Isaac Torchinsky-Field
Lee Casper
Moshe Mahlab
Berk Uygur Petersohn
Lindsay Saligman
Samuel Datlof
Roberta Jacobs Meadow
Emily Zimmerman

December Anniversaries
Amy & Adam Shapiro
Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
Alan & Deborah Casnoff
Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
Andrew Seaberg & Nella Bloom
Craig Sobel & Colby Grossman

Community News
Mazel Tov to
Mazel Tov to Mary Fish and Mark Dembert
on the upcoming marriage of their son, Andrew Fish to David Ain.

Condolences to
Ric Hayman and Family on the death of his
great-aunt, Sara Weyland.

Carmen Hayman and Family on the death of
her grandmother, Sadie Baughn.

Welcome New Members
Joseph Freedman
President's Column

Continued from page 3

Additionally, take a look at Debbie Stewart’s article about “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas,” and please find a way to join us, as a host or a guest, during the weekend of November 15 – 16.

We’ll be enjoying the Festival of Lights early this year. Hanukkah begins in November (before Thanksgiving!), so keep your eyes open for an early Hanukkah Happening on Sunday, November 24.

Finally, plan to join us in December when we will have our fourth annual combination TGI Shabbat service/Chinese Food/movie celebration. More information about this event (including the title of the movie) will be posted in the weekly email updates.

Playschool

Continued from page 5

members, Playschool families, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend our Hanukkah celebration. There will be Hanukkah crafts for the children, festive music, dreidel games, cookie decorating, sweet treats, and delicious homemade latkes made by the world-famous Latke Brigade.

The Playschool Open House gives prospective parents the opportunity to meet the teachers and our current students and their families, and to learn more about the Playschool. Applications for the September 2014–May 2015 school year will be available. The Playschool’s enrollment policy offers a common deadline for submitting applications. All applications must be received by Monday, December 16, to be considered for enrollment in the upcoming school year. Priority for class preference will be given, first, to SHS members, followed by current Playschool families. The Playschool has two 2-year-old classes, one 3–4-year-old class, a Pre-K morning class session, and a Pre-K afternoon class session. The Playschool offers a wonderful “first school experience” for all young children. Parents are also involved in the preschool by participating in our Parent Cooperative. If you have any questions about our upcoming enrollment process, or if you would like to schedule an appointment to visit the Playschool, please contact me in the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. 28.

On Tuesday, December 10, the children in the 3–4-year-old class will be taking their second trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Museum Looks and Picture Books program. The theme of the lesson will be “Lines and Shapes in Art.” This program is designed for preschool-aged children and it provides a fabulous introduction to art.

On Wednesday, December 11, and Thursday, December 12, the Playschool will hold its Parent–Teacher Conferences. There will be no school in session on either of these conference days.

Friday, December 20, is the last day of Playschool before the winter break. The Playschool will open again on Thursday, January 2, 2014.
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<td>9 AM SS</td>
<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
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<td>11 AM HS</td>
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<td>5 AM SS</td>
<td>9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi</td>
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<td>11 AM HS</td>
<td>11 AM Bagels with Rabbi</td>
<td>Veterans' Day Justice in the City with Rabbi</td>
<td>7:30 PM EDM Offiste</td>
<td>No Friday Night Services</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Nosh &amp; Schmooze with Rabbi</td>
<td>7:30 PM AE-Of Longing &amp; Belonging with Rabbi</td>
<td>6:15 PM TGI Shabbat with Jack Kessler &amp; Friends Shabbat Dinner to follow services</td>
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<td>11 AM SS</td>
<td>9 – 11 AM SS/HS</td>
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<td>6 PM PJ Havdalah</td>
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<td>11 AM</td>
<td>Hanukkah Happening</td>
<td>7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
<td>Erev Hanukkah 1st Candle No PM Play-school</td>
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<td>Auf Ruf of Gerald Faich</td>
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<td>Hanukkah 1 2nd Candle Thanksgiving Day Building Closed</td>
<td>Hanukkah 2 3rd Candle Office/PS Closed 6:15 PM Services</td>
<td>Hanukkah 3 4th Candle</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td>Hanukkah 4 5th Candle 9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts with Rabbi</td>
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<td>Hanukkah 6 7th Candle 7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>No Playschool PS Conferences 7:30 PM EDM Offsite</td>
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<td>6:15 PM Services</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study With Rabbi Berman 10:30 AM 1st Grade Class Family Service</td>
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<td>15 AM Cantata Rehearsals 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh &amp; Schmooze</td>
<td>7 PM BDM</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
<td>Last Day of PS</td>
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<td>Building Closed</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan 1 PM Office Closes</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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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.

Shop For All Your Holiday Gifts on November 24!

Shop at SHS’s Hanukkah Bazaar, featuring beautiful gift items from Dim Sum (owned and operated by our own Andrea Appel) just in time for the holidays! Dim Sum’s curated collection of artisan jewelry, accessories, and housewares will be displayed in the Spruce Street lobby on Sunday, November 24, during the Hanukkah Happening in our Social Hall. As always, a portion of all sales will be donated to SHS. For a sample of the inventory, please visit www.shopdimsum.com.