Membership Engagement Initiative
RSVP by January 24 for SHS’s Third Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night!
Amy Shapiro and Debbie Stewart

Please join us for SHS’s third annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night on Saturday, February 8 at 7 PM! The fee remains unchanged at $54 per person, and all proceeds benefit this year’s Annual Giving Fund. If space permits, this event is also open to non-members.

Our gracious hosts have prepared their menus; now you must decide which cuisine you’d prefer and RSVP for a seat at that particular table. Host homes are not necessarily Kosher, however any chicken or meat used will be from a Kosher manufacturer, no dishes will contain shellfish, and meat will not be mixed with dairy.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 24! To reserve your spot at a table, RSVP to Amy Shapiro at hasajd@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can simply CLICK HERE (if you are reading the electronic version of the Kesher), or you may respond via the weekly E-News. Hurry, the RSVP deadline is Friday, January 24!

Remember, spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, so respond quickly to ensure you will have your choice of cuisine. “A Taste of Europe “ is already full, so don’t delay in signing up!

Choose from the amazing menus on page 11!
Rabbi’s Column
A Futuristic Jewish Dystopian Vision
Avi Winokur

The Pew survey on American Jewish Life continues to spawn articles lamenting the sorry state of American Judaism, some predicting the end of Judaism in America. Here is Rabbi Ed Feinstein’s pronouncement at the recent Conservative Movement’s post-PEW conference: “Our house is on fire. . . . If you don’t read anything else in the Pew report [you should note that] we have maybe 10 years left. In the next 10 years, you will see a rapid collapse of synagogues and national organizations that support them.” These doom-and-gloom pronouncements brought to mind the classics of dystopian fiction from the likes of George Orwell and Aldous Huxley; of course, William Golding’s Lord of the Flies; and the post-nuclear-war cult classic A Canticle for Liebowitz. With those dystopian visions as my inspiration, I offer a draft of the opening of my original futuristic PEW American Jewish dystopian (soon to be a major motion picture) vision. Enjoy and remember, this is a work of fiction . . . or is it?

The couple was ushered into the attractive waiting room of Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C. They handed the receptionist a copy of the intake form, which they had filled out on line. The receptionist invited them to sit in the comfortable chairs, offered them coffee, and told them it would be only a few minutes.

Five minutes later, a well-dressed gentleman in a well-pressed suit came in and warmly shook their hands. “Hello, Mr. and Ms. K, so pleased to meet you, I’m Rabbi Tannenbaum. Follow me.” The rabbi ushered the K’s into a small conference room with a small table, more comfortable chairs, and photographs of the Western Wall–Safed at sunset against the Galilean hills and Yad Vashem on the walls.

“We at Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C., are delighted that you have chosen us for your daughter’s Bar Mitzvah. I’ve had a chance to review your information sheet. Let me just check a few things with you and we’ll begin the process.”

“Wonderful!” said Ms. K, “We’ve been to a number of your Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. You do an excellent job and we’ve spoken to parents who rave about your firm. So we know we’ve made the right choice.”

“We at Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond, P.C., know that there are a lot of rabbinic firms out there and we’d like to think that ours delivers the kind of product that parents are looking for. . . .”

That is how it begins. The ending will take a page from John Fowles’s The French Lieutenant’s Woman, in which Fowles inserts himself into his novel and offers two alternative endings. While I’m sure you can’t wait to read my foray into imaginative literature, don’t hold your breath. This short story idea came from a conversation I had with one of the more prominent and successful pulpit rabbis in the area wondering about whether the synagogue will eventually give way to the rent-a-Rabbi approach to B’nai Mitzvah celebrations.

The combination of consumerism and the growth in extreme individualism leads to the migration of religion from the realm of the sacred to the realm of the ordinary, where it becomes just another commodity among commodities. (Do I go to synagogue on Shabbat or do I go shopping?) This in turn leads to Goldman, Silverman, and Diamond. Instead of paying dues for several years and sending your children to Hebrew School (requiring the payment of tuition) under the rules of a particular synagogue (3 days/week, 2 days/week, 1 day/week) with certain requirements (10 Shabbat services, 6 Shabbat services, 2 Shabbat services), you go to the firm, and you negotiate the Bar or Bat Mitzvah of your choice, a designer Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Depending on the experience of the Rabbi (for the less affluent we have Rabbis with less than 5 years of experience, but don’t worry, they are well supervised) and the Cantor and the quality of various amenities (such as the Social Hall), one purchases a triple-hai Bar Mitzvah, a double-hai Bar Mitzvah, or a hai Bat Mitzvah, with certain a la carte extras that can be purchased in the same way that certain things are standard in new cars and other things are extra.

As Ron Wolfson illustrates in The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Synagogue into a Sacred Community and again in his new book, Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community, the factors underlying this dystopian vision have been present for decades. At SHS, we try our best to counter these considerable forces. Too many are the horror stories that adults have shared concerning their own B’nai Mitzvah. We try our best to create a different kind of Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience. Our Membership Engagement Initiative is designed to offer multiple avenues of engagement with the community far beyond the Bar and Bat Mitzvah experience for members at all life stages.

There needs to be a place where consumerism, the commodification of life, and extreme individualism do not reign supreme if we are to lead healthy lives of depth and meaning. That place ought to be your religious community. We will keep striving to be that place for each and every one of you.
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 | 5774

**Ann Spak Thal School**

**A Cornucopia of Tu B’Sh’vat and Shabbat Celebrations**

Sahar Oz

Our spring semester brings early blossoms with a delicious set of Tu B’Sh’vat festivities. Tu B’Sh’vat—the 15th day of the Hebrew month, Sh’vat—has always been one of my favorite holidays: tasty fruits, rich aromas, happy songs full of hope, and a heightened emphasis on nature and our environment.

We will celebrate Tu B’Sh’vat with a variety of arts and crafts projects, class skits in Sunday School on January 12, and a school-wide Tu B’Sh’vat seder in Hebrew School on Tuesday, January 14.

It is wonderful to see our students at Shabbat services, and this is an excellent way for them to take pride in their learning and use their growing Hebrew skills. The next two months will present a wide range of special Shabbat experiences, from three b’nai mitzvah celebrations in January to our stylish TGIShabbat service at 6:15 PM on Friday, January 31, which is also Rosh Hodesh Adar I.

The following day, February 1, our ever popular Havdalah Pajama Party will feature an interacted story performed by Staci Schwartz, songs, arts and crafts, and delicious homemade desserts for Play-school and Sunday School families. The fun starts at 5:30 PM, and parents and children are encouraged to come in pajamas!

February also will feature two class services as our Gan (Kindergarten) class helps to lead the Family Shabbat Service on February 8 at 10:30 AM, and Kitah Hay (5th grade) leads the evening Shabbat service on Friday, February 21 at 6:15 PM. These class services will be followed by lunch and dinner, respectively.

Enrollment fees for students in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High cover school families’ participation in such meals following class-led services. So we encourage all of our families to join us for these services and se’udot (meals). Please RSVP to the office no later than two days before each service to let them know about any food allergies or dietary requests.

Continued on page 12

**President’s Column**

It’s All About Offering Successful Programs and Building Our Membership

Jonathan Weiss

This month, as we settle into winter, I wanted to reflect on traditions. I think like many of you, I am comforted by some familiar traditions, but there are also traditions that I choose not to continue, for one reason or another. Having lived in Philadelphia for more than 20 years (an old-timer to some, a newbie to others), I have embraced some Philadelphia traditions (the Phillies, the Eagles, John’s Water Ice), while leaving some traditions to others (cheese steaks, scrapple). It occurred to me that part of what I’ve been enjoying over the last few years, as a member of SHS, is the opportunity to witness and participate in the creation of some new traditions.

Years ago, when the Jewish Museum existed at its previous location, my family and I used to attend an annual “Being Jewish at Christmas” event, which included a chaotic, crazy crowd of what must have been every Jewish child within a 10-mile radius packed into one room. While that was a fun tradition, I’m so glad that we have organized our own SHS version of this celebration—a TGIShabbat Service, followed by dinner and a movie. This event, in its fourth year, has gotten better and better with time. I look forward to your comments about how you thought it went, and would love to hear suggestions for next year’s movie. Thanks so much to Bob Blacksberg and Terry Novick and Harry and Eleanor Oxman for sponsoring the dinner; it was very much appreciated.

Five years ago, two parents in the Hebrew School started a program where they solicited gifts from the congregation to send to families in the Philadelphia area who would otherwise not be able to give gifts to their children. Working with the Social Action Committee, names were collected from the school that SHS has adopted, the George Washington Elementary School, which, due to

Continued on page 6
**Cantor’s Column**

**A Chance to Be Still and Quiet**

Bob Freedman

On the last Tuesday of each month we have a *ma’ariv* service for all the students in the Hebrew School. For the last forty-five minutes of the school session we invite them to come upstairs into the Sanctuary. I greet them at the door and invite them to sit in the front three rows.

In previous years we would hand each student a *Sim Shalom* prayer book, the one the adults use for Shabbat. But *Sim Shalom* is not easy for them to use. The print is small, and for most the English translations are above their reading level. So this year I prepared an eight-page *siddur* for them. It presents the prayers of the evening service in alternating English and Hebrew, and everyone reads or sings everything. There is a short silent Amidah, and we finish with Aleynu. The younger students join in as they can, and everyone daydreams some. Most of the older ones say or sing all the text. The whole service takes a little more than twenty minutes.

Before we begin, I talk to them about some aspect of prayer. In November, I spoke about being thankful. In December (it is six days before the solstice as I write this), I’ll talk about the wonder of the change of seasons.

After the Amidah we offer a prayer for healing. I ask them to say the names of those they know who are ill. They will mention a grandparent, a parent, perhaps a friend from school. The room gets very quiet.

After Aleynu I ask them to tell about something wonderful that has happened to them recently. One will say she made an A on a test. Another will report a victory for his sports team. Getting pets is a big item. These are little things perhaps, but great in the life of a small person.

At the first service this year, in September, the students ran into the Sanctuary, excited and loud. Some went off to hide under the seats; others wanted to play with the microphones. During the service they giggled and wiggled and after it was over some of the *siddur* pages lay unstapled on the benches. There was at least one paper airplane. Over the next months this changed. In October they were orderly, and at the service in November they were quiet and attentive.

One goal for our *ma’ariv* is to give students an opportunity to absorb the sequence of prayers and learn their texts outside the classroom. Another is to get them used to being attentive during a service and to appreciate worship by doing it.

A primary goal is to offer them a chance to be still and quiet. So much of their life is spent in excitement. Their school teachers exhort them to high levels of attention. Coaches encourage them to play hard and competitively. Watching fast-paced television shows and movies drives up their adrenaline levels. These *ma’ariv* services give them a respite, a time just to be. I want that to happen in the Synagogue, in a Jewish context, so that along with their learning and play they will associate quiet, meditative stillness with being Jewish.

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**The SHS Facebook Page**

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 messages on your newsfeed, feel free to email me at carey.myers@gmail.com.
The children in the 3–4-year-old class participate in free-play time, circle time, calendar, story time, art creativity, outdoor bike time, yoga, learning new songs, poems, and games, celebrating Shabbat, and focusing on a letter-of-the-week curriculum. This class uses the bright and welcoming Social Hall for their classroom which allows for a larger class size and five teaching staff each day.

There are two Pre-Kindergarten classes, a morning class and an afternoon class. The Pre-K curriculum focuses on preparing our students for entering Kindergarten. The children learn reading readiness skills, counting and numbers, writing, language arts, community living, science, art, Shabbat, and Jewish holidays and themes. Throughout the school year, the children participate in a drama class that encourages them to express themselves in fun and creative ways.

The Playschool is a parent co-operative preschool where parents are scheduled to assist in our classrooms. This aspect of our program allows parents to take an active role in the preschool. Parents assist by providing the snack, interacting with the children, bringing their own talents into our classrooms, and helping to make each day an exciting learning experience for all of the children.

If you would like to visit any of our classes or if you have any questions regarding the Playschool, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or call me at 215.922.6590, ext 28. Applications for the upcoming school year can be downloaded from the SHS Website.

The Playschool staff wishes a happy and healthy New Year to all of our SHS and Playschool families.

Our students will return to the Playschool, following the winter break, on Thursday, January 2, 2014. As they prepare for the winter season, the boys and girls will learn new songs about winter, listen to stories about the snowy weather, and make new art projects to display in their classrooms. In the Pre-Kindergarten classes, the children will focus on making resolutions for the New Year and learn about the social skills of friendship. All students will learn about Tu B’Sh’vat by planting parsley seeds. They will care for their plants and observe their plants’ growth before they take their parsley home for Passover.

The children in the 3–4-year-old class will be taking their second trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Tuesday, January 14. The theme of the lesson is “Lines and Shapes in Art.” Our preschool participates in the Museum Looks and Picture Books program where art concepts are introduced to young children. The lesson includes reading a selected book, viewing art that relates to the theme of the book, and creating an art project to take home. The AM and PM Pre-K classes will be taking a trip to Bartram’s Garden on Tuesday, January 28. They will participate in a lesson on butter-making where the children will mix cornbread and churn cream into butter. The boys and girls will also have the opportunity to take a tour of the gardens.

There are still spots available in our classes for the upcoming school year, September 2014–May 2015. The Playschool offers two classes for 2-year-old children: one meets on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule, and the other class meets on a Tuesday, Thursday schedule. In these classes, the children have the opportunity to play, interact with friends, learn new songs and movement, play outdoors, listen to storybook readings, create unique art projects, and celebrate Shabbat. These classes provide an outstanding “first school experience” for children who are two years old.

TIED OF BIG BANKS? WANT EXCELLENT PERSONAL SERVICE? For some of the best savings & mortgage rates in the area, contact us Proudly servicing our community for over 75 years Second Federal Saving and Loan 215-563-1572 1727 Chestnut St., Phila., PA Please mention you saw this ad in the shul bulletin

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender
Participants had opportunities to share a meal at a host’s home on Friday night, on Saturday following services, or on Saturday night following a Havdalah service and Pajama Party. Please see the comprehensive article by Debbie Stewart and Bonny Hohenberger on P. 7 for full details. For me, this event provided a wonderful opportunity to spend time with some congregants whom I did not know very well beforehand, allowing me to learn more about our wonderful community. You will be amazed at the extensive list of people who worked tirelessly to make this weekend a ringing success, and I thank each and every person for their efforts. We’ll be having another “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” weekend in the spring, so stay tuned for more information!

Lastly, I want to spend a moment asking again for your help. Although we received a good response for Annual Giving this fall before January 1, we have not reached our goal yet. Thanks to all of you who have already generously given. If you haven’t yet made a donation, please take a moment to send in a check, call the office and make a pledge, or pay via Paypal on the Synagogue Website. We need 100% member participation to pay for all the programs we offer, and to support our valued members who are unable to pay full dues. No amount is too small.

Another way you can support our shul is to bring your friends and colleagues to our spring programs, classes, and events. Encourage them to join the community! Spread the word about our fabulous Playschool and Hebrew School. Even though we have been focusing on “in-reach” to encourage your participation as members, we always need to keep an eye out for potential new members so that we can invite them to see the special place that is SHS.
Membership Engagement Initiative

“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?™” Event Was a Great Success!
Debbie Stewart and Bonny Hohenberger

A very special Member Engagement Program has taken root at Society Hill Synagogue; it is called "Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™"

We are proud to announce that our kick-off event, held during the weekend of November 15 — 16, offered three opportunities for our members to share a meal; either on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon for Shabbat or on Saturday evening after Havdalah at one of our 16 gracious host’s homes. On November 16, we also had a great turnout at the Havdalah Pajama Party for our Sunday and Playschool families.

Ninety-one members (including singles, couples and families) and one prospective member attended one of the planned meals, and another 15 families participated in the Havdalah Pajama Party. Another way to look at the statistics is that 86 member units participated in this kickoff event! The pictures at the end of this article tell the wonderful story of family and community joining together for rituals, song, food, and friendship. New friendships were forged and others were deepened. Sacred traditions were shared, and joy was experienced in each setting.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable:

"Thank you for inviting us to your lovely home for a Shabbat dinner. We enjoyed the good food, warm hospitality and friendly conversation! What a nice evening for a new program." –Sharon and Irv Shapiro

"Thanks so much for inviting me into your home for a warm and delicious evening. I enjoyed meeting SHS members and sharing stories with them. Best wishes to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving. May all you give to others come back to you three-fold." –Susan Levering

"Thank you for creating such a wonderful program and such a beautiful evening. I felt the warmth and bonds of our breadth of community that I remember from earlier years of my affiliation." –Linda Joy Goldner

Host, Randi Glatzer, shared how special and heartwarming it was to have her family and friends sitting in her living room as the Cantor sang Shabbat songs. This is a tradition she wants for her children. “Bringing our Synagogue community into our homes is so special.”

Our spring “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?” event is scheduled for May 16 and 17. We invite guests and organizers to pay it forward by hosting a meal that weekend. As we did this time, we will help with guest lists, rituals descriptions, and materials.

It is not too early to contact Bonny Hohenberger at bjh711@gmail.com or Debbie Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com to sign up as a host or a guest for the May event.

All Shabbat and Havdalah songs sheets, ritual descriptions, and MP3’s can be found on our Website for use throughout the year.

Host, guests, and team organizers were honored with a group aliyah on Saturday, December 7. Again, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this event! See the list on page 10

Continued on next page
Hosts:

Elayne Bloom  
Phyllis and Jay Denbo  
Jonathan Feinman and Kevin Kuehlwein  
Carmen and Ric Hayman  
Nancy and Richard Morgenstern  
Jacqueline and Lawrence Goldfinger  
Mona and Alton Sutnick  
Jesse Abrams-Morley and Meredith Buse  
Randi Glatzer  
Nan Schiowitz and Michael Stemmer  
Jesse Abrams-Morley and Chris Sterns  
Flora Wolf  
Suzanne and Edward Kaplan  
Ruth and Steve Greenberg  
Gail and Holman Massey with co-hosts Libby Rosof and Murray Dubin  
Debbie and Bill Stewart  

We also want to recognize the efforts and volunteer spirit of potential hosts Karen and Paul Flora and Ruth and Gerry Schneeberg.

Project Team:

Bonny Hohenberger - Co-coordinator  
Debbie Stewart - Co-coordinator  
Phyllis Denbo – Challah: tradition, symbolism, and recipe  
Terry Novick - Ritual booklet  
Bob Blacksberg - Google docs creator and teacher  
Jared Susco - Ritual booklet, Havdalah kits, and host liaison  
Jonathan Feinman - Host bag assembly  
Carole and Michael Rochester - Host email editors  
Ellen Fennick - Host email editor  
Betta Kolansky - Host bag assembly and editor  
Judy Lalli - Host liaison  
Marcie Ziskind - Host liaison  
Deborah Shapiro - Host liaison  
Betty van de Rijn - Office event coordinator, documents/materials printer, host bag assembly, and organizational support  
Leanne Bendetti- Administrative support, host bag assembly  
Staci Schwartz – Communications editor for all documents and printed materials  
Marc Schwartz - Hebrew editor for ritual booklet and documents  
Ric Hayman - Website support  
Rabbi Winokur - Ritual booklet  
Cantor Bob Freedman – Ritual descriptions, song sheets, and MP3’s  
Jonathan Weiss - Host bag design, leadership, and organizational support

Project Donors:

Jared Susco,  
Jonathan Weiss  
Debbie Stewart  

PJ Havdalah Team: (Who also collected a bunch of donated pajamas for Cradles to Crayons!)

Cantor Bob Freedman  
Education Director Sahar Oz  
Laurel Landau  
Brooke Salzman  
Rafi Licht

Young Families Group
You Are Invited to a Havdalah Pajama Party on February 1!
Laurel Landau

We had such a great time at our Annual Chinese Dinner at Rich City on Christmas Eve!

Please join the Playschool and Sunday School families on Saturday, February 1 from 5:30 until 7:30 PM, for another fun-filled Havdalah Pajama Party! Eat dinner at home and then head to SHS in your snazziest PJs for a beautiful Havdalah service with wine (and grape juice), twisted candles (and glow sticks), spices (make-your-own spice box), and a potluck dessert. This evening will include an interactive reading of Staci Schwartz’s book, The New Bear on the Block! Personalized, signed books will be available for purchase after the reading.

As a reminder, the Young Families Group includes families with a child aged 5 and under (and of course older siblings are welcome). Our group goes on excursions around town and attends all age-appropriate happenings at the Synagogue.

For more information, please contact me at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com. Prospective members are welcome at all of our events, so if you know anybody who may be interested, please pass on the information.
Choose from the following amazing menus:

1. A Taste of Tuscany
   **Appetizers:** Tuscan Chickpea Crostini, Olives, Pecorino Cheese
   **First Course:** Fennel and Citrus Salad; Kale, White Bean, and Sausage Soup, Pici (pasta) with Tomatoes and Fava Beans
   **Second Course:** Chicken with Artichokes, Sundried Tomatoes, and Chickpeas; Chard with Raisins and Orange Peel
   **Dessert:** Cantucci (biscotti) and Cherries Steeped in Wine
   **Beverages:** Tuscan Wine, Coffee, and Tea

2. Asian Fare With Flair Featuring Sake and Wine Pairing
   **Appetizers:** Salmon/Vegetable Sushi Rolls and Chicken Satay (Japanese), Vegetable Summer Rolls with Dipping Sauce (Vietnamese)
   **First Course:** Japchae Noodle Salad (Korean)
   **Second Course:** Lemongrass Beef Stew (Thai) and Pineapple Chicken Fried Rice (Thai/Burmese)
   **Dessert:** Mochi Ice Cream, Assorted Asian Pastries
   **Beverages:** Sake, Wine, Coffee, and Tea

3. Savory Indian Delights
   **Appetizers:** Chicken Wings and Papdum
   **First Course:** Garden Salad
   **Second Course:** Chicken Kebabs (Sauce), Salmon Fillets (Sauce), Assorted Julienned Vegetables with Roasted Garlic, Basmati Rice, Garlic Naan, Paratha (Non-Dairy Indian Flat Breads)
   **Dessert:** Parve Fresh Fruit Tarts
   **Beverages:** Wine, Coffee, and Tea

4. Southwestern U.S. Delicacies
   **Appetizers:** Spicy Polenta Squares
   **First Course:** Roasted Vegetables
   **Second Course:** Barbequed Brisket with Ancho Chile Sauce, Sweet Potato Tamales, Rice and Corn Salad, and Jicama Slaw
   **Dessert:** Chocolate Chipotle Flourless Cake, Avocado and Lime Sorbet
   **Beverages:** Tequila Sunset and Southwest Cooler Cocktails, Coffee, and Tea

5. A Taste of Europe
   **Appetizers:** Assorted Hors d’oeuvres
   **First Course:** Potage of Broccoli
   **Second Course:** Poached Salmon Roulatine with Montrachet Cheese, Pine Nuts, Greens served with Quinoa, Wheat Berries, or Faro; Roasted Vegetables
   **Dessert:** Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie
   **Beverages:** Wine, Coffee, and Tea

6. A Mediterranean Feast
   **Appetizers:** Assorted Hot and Cold Mediterranean Hors d’oeuvres
   **First Course:** Salad of Beets and Artichokes with Citrus Vinaigrette
   **Second Course:** Penne Pasta with Sauce and a Medley of Vegetables
   **Third Course:** Baked Branzino with White Wine and Herbs, Roasted Asparagus
   **Dessert:** Italian Cheese Cake with Strawberry Sauce
   **Beverages:** Wine, Coffee, and Tea

7. Smokin’ Hot Texas Barbeque
   **Main Course:** Smoked Barbequed Brisket, Grilled Smoked Chicken, Spicy Cole Slaw, Yukon Potato Salad, Vegan Black Beans, Corn Bread, Traditional Greens
   **Dessert:** A Parve Selection of treats TBD
   **Beverages:** Lemonade, Growlers of Beer, Coffee, and Tea

Don’t miss your opportunity to tantalize your taste buds by participating in this very fun and popular community-building and fundraising event at SHS!
Ann Spak Thal Hebrew School

Continued from page 3

The month wraps up with another fabulous TGIShabbat service on Friday, February 28 at 6:15 PM, so don’t miss out!

Last, but not least, given our unpredictable weather, please remember that our KYW 1060 snow closing number is 261. During inclement weather, Hebrew School will be canceled whenever the Philadelphia public schools close, dismiss early, or cancel after-school activities. If there is inclement weather on a Sunday, I will e-mail all families as soon as it is determined that school will be canceled.

SOCIETY HILL SYNAGOGUE’S KESHER

January 4: Lunch & Learn with Darfur Genocide Survivor & Award-Winning Human Rights Activist
Avi Winokur

Please join us on Saturday, January 4, as we welcome to SHS special guest Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, a former resident and survivor of Darfur, prisoner of the Sudanese government, United Nations interpreter, human rights activist, and speaker. Hawa Salih came to the US on March 3, 2012, received the International Woman of Courage Award, and claimed asylum. Alone and without a way to support herself, her struggles continued as she lived on the street, in churches, and in shelters. Finally, Hawa’s lawyer connected her with members of the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) organization who placed her with a host family in Philadelphia. Still unable to get an appropriate full-time job, and unwilling to stop her relentless pursuit of human rights causes, Hawa has moved back to a Flemington, NJ shelter and is trying to figure out if her immediate future will include school or some type of occupation. Hear her amazing story after a special Kiddush Luncheon in the Social Hall sponsored by Debby, Isaac, & Jacob Freedman in memory of their beloved husband and father, David Wycolff.

Community News

Mazel Tov to

Walter and Margie Ferst on the birth of their grandson, Noah Ferst, son of Judah and Rebecca Ferst.
Stan and Judy Woloff on the birth of their grandson, Shaya Woloff, son of Isaac and Rebecca Woloff.
Marty and Betty van de Rijn on the birth of their grandson, Cole Goldberg, son of Jeff and Michele Goldberg.

Condolences to

Family and Friends of Malcolm Kates.
Scot Ziskind and Family on the death of Scot’s mother, Harriet Ziskind.
Stan Woloff and Family on the death of Stan’s mother, Shirley Woloff.
Dan Rottenberg and Family on the death of Dan’s father, Herman Rottenberg.
Terry Graboyes and Noah Herman on the death of their father and grandfather, Joseph Graboyes.
Steve Morley and Family on the death of Steve’s mother, Lottie Morley.
Merrily Williams and Family on the death of Merrily’s mother, Elizabeth Morely Williams.
Susan Stein on the death of her father, Marvin Stein.

Shabbat Across America Comes to SHS on March 7—Be here!
Avi Winokur

What is Shabbat Across America, and why do we care? Shabbat Across America is a nationwide Shabbat program involving hundreds of synagogues. With national advertising provided by the National Jewish Outreach Program, unaffiliated Jews are connected with participating synagogues. Synagogues offer a Learner’s or Introductory Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a Shabbat dinner. It is a wonderful way to reach out beyond our membership list to introduce Philadelphia Jews to our wonderful community. In order for it to succeed, however, we need members there to welcome these new-comers. If you attend, not only will you be helping out your community, you will learn the true inner secrets of the Shabbat service—including what the prayers mean beyond the translation, why each prayer is placed precisely where it is, and the purpose of each prayer in the spiritual choreography of the service. All this, plus a free Shabbat meal! Such a deal!
SHS Hebrew School Students Help Out at JRA

Carmen Hayman

On Sunday, November 17, 37 Hebrew School children in grades 6-12 along with 13 parents, volunteered at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA). The group packed boxes and then delivered them to Jewish senior citizens. Special thanks goes to Mike Roe and Max Weisman, Hebrew School teachers who chaperoned. Our group plans to return for the April distribution date.
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<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>In Honor of</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speedy Recovery to</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Carole Rochester on the birth of their grandchildren</td>
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<td>Terry Novick</td>
<td>Barbara Spector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lore Bryan</td>
<td><strong>In Memory of</strong></td>
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<td>Shirley Woloff, Mother of Stanley Woloff</td>
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<td>Barbara Spector</td>
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<td>In Appreciation of</td>
<td><strong>Yahrzeit Remembrance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Novick</td>
<td>Adelina Ciotti, Mother of Rita Altman</td>
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<td>Lore Bryan</td>
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<td>Al &amp; Mona Sutnick</td>
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<td>Lore Bryan</td>
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<td>In Honor of</td>
<td>Rita Bellarmeno</td>
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<td>Birth of Noah Ferst, first grandson of Walter &amp; Margie Ferst</td>
<td>Rita Altman</td>
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<td>Ann &amp; Mark Steinberger</td>
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<td>William Steinberger</td>
<td>Joel Chernock</td>
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<td>Sara Steinberger</td>
<td>Doris Casper</td>
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<td>Joan &amp; Jerry Roller</td>
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<td>Edgar &amp; Barbara Einhorn</td>
<td><strong>Restoration Fund</strong></td>
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<td>Birth Cole Goldberg, grandson of Marty &amp; Betty van de Rijn</td>
<td><strong>In Honor of</strong></td>
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<td>Iris Levine</td>
<td>Walter &amp; Margie Ferst on the birth of their grandson</td>
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<td>Edgar &amp; Barbara Einhorn</td>
<td>Marc, Staci, &amp; Jamie Schwartz</td>
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<td>Birth of Shaya Woloff, grandson of Stan &amp; Judy Woloff</td>
<td><strong>In Memory of</strong></td>
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<td>Iris Levine</td>
<td>Harriet Ziskind, Mother of Scot Ziskind</td>
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<td>Jerry &amp; Joan Roller</td>
<td>Marc, Staci, &amp; Jamie Schwartz</td>
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<td>Edgar &amp; Barbara Einhorn</td>
<td>Shirley Woloff, Mother of Stanley Woloff</td>
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<td>Debra &amp; Bill Stewart for hosting a</td>
<td>Marc, Staci, &amp; Jamie Schwartz</td>
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<td>Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas dinner</td>
<td><strong>Yahrzeit Remembrance</strong></td>
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<td>Iris Levine</td>
<td>Adelina Ciotti, Mother of Rita Altman</td>
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<td>Robin Schatz</td>
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<td>Joan &amp; Jerry Roller</td>
<td><strong>SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund</strong></td>
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<td>Joseph Graboyes, Father of Terry Graboyes</td>
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<td>Jay &amp; Roberta Meadway</td>
<td>Walter &amp; Margie Ferst, birth of their first grandson</td>
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<td>Jerry &amp; Joan Roller</td>
<td>Merle &amp; Stan Salkin</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Morley Williams, Mother of Merrily Williams</td>
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<td>Michael Rochester &amp; Carole LeFaitvre-Rochester</td>
<td>Lotte Panofsky, Grandmother of Jon Panofsky</td>
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<td>Merle Salkin</td>
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<td><strong>Yahrzeit Remembrance</strong></td>
<td>Harriet Ziskind, Mother of Scot Ziskind</td>
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<td>Eugene Lizenbaum, Husband and Father</td>
<td>The Salkin Family</td>
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<td>Mildred Lizenbaum &amp; Curtis Lizenbaum</td>
<td><strong>Social Action Fund</strong></td>
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<td>Harriet Cutler Treatman, Mother of Jack Treatman</td>
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<td>Jack, Ruth, Mira &amp; Reuben Treatman</td>
<td>Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debra Weissbach</td>
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<td>Bernhard &amp; Ella Britzmann, In-Laws of Lore Bryan</td>
<td>Debra Weissbach</td>
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<td>Lore Bryan</td>
<td><strong>Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine</strong></td>
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<td>Edward &amp; Lenore Neckritz, Parents of Gloria Steinberg</td>
<td>Iris Levine</td>
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<td>Gloria Steinberg</td>
<td><strong>Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin</strong></td>
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<td>Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg</td>
<td>Murray Dubin</td>
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<td>Rosemarie Weinberg</td>
<td>Ethel Schwartz Blender, Mother of Burton Blender</td>
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<td>Burton Blender &amp; Libby Harwitz Blender</td>
<td><strong>Sarah Auerbach, Grandmother of James Orman</strong></td>
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<td>James Orman</td>
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Join Rabbi Avi Winokur on **Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 PM** and **Sunday, February 2 at 11:15 AM** for thought-provoking discussions about Michael Lavigne’s novel, *The Wanting*.

“In this exquisite novel of longing and loss, Lavigne has woven multiple stories of intersecting lives and conflicting desires. From the snowy streets of communist Moscow to the scorching heat of a Palestinian-controlled desert, we travel with characters at once ruined and resilient, some idealistic, others world-weary, all pursuing that most essential but elusive want: a place to call home. A beautiful meditation on love, and on all the ways in which stories are remembered and told.”

- Dalia Sofer, author of *The Septembers of Shiraz*

Meet the Author on Sunday, January 26, 3:30 PM, at Adath Jeshurun, located at 7763 Old York Road, Abington, PA.

All events are free and open to the public.

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**POWER**

**Voices of Power** on January 26!

Eleanor Oxman

On Sunday, January 26, from 2 until 5 PM, POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild) will hold a fundraising event at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue, located at Broad and Mount Vernon Streets AND ALL ARE INVITED. The event, entitled **Voices of Power**, will feature choir and musical performances by approximately eight member groups of this organization.

Refreshments, fellowship, and music will begin at 2 PM. The concert will begin at 3 PM.

Cantor Bob Freedman, along with several musical members of the SHS congregation, will share their musical talents before and during the concert.

This special event is of great importance to the POWER organization and its faith-based members because more funds are required to support POWER’s important initiatives. We hope that all will attend the event and contribute to the support of this organization’s worthy causes:

- A fair and equitable school funding formula
- Living wages and economic justice
- An immigration plan that provides a pathway for citizenship

A contribution of $10 per person is requested for all adults who attend this concert. Children will be admitted for free. Tickets may be purchased in the SHS office, and they will also be sold at the door on January 26.

We look forward to seeing you! If you have other questions, or you would like further information, please contact at Harry Oxman at 215.574.9645 or hjoxman@comcast.net or Carl Levitsky at 215.429.2019 or makeart4u@verizon.net.
January Birthdays
Phyllis Denbo
Daniel Feinberg
Harry Feinberg
Walter Ferst
Nathaniel Gearhart
Michael Hafter
Peter Piven
Maxine Schoenholtz
Nathan Farbman
James Rosenstein
Peter Eizen
Joshua Wolson
Nella Bloom
Karen Kaufman
Jennifer Schwartz
Ezra Goldfinger
Hava Goldfinger
Sheri Gifford
Judith Green
Leisi Hafter
Rachel Margolin
Jarad Eizen
Jack Goldenberg
Samuel Lear
Daniel Cohen
Samuel Feinberg
Elizabeth Sedran
Jesse Abrams-Morley
Samuel Shemtov
Debra Weissbach
Nancy Morgenstern
Scot Ziskind
Beatrice Acker
Jean Blumberg
Mark Dichter
Camille Orman
Ethan Peet
Talia Mono
Richard Morgenstern
Judah Galler
Steve Morley
Holman Massey
Diane Harrison
Laurel Landau
Susan Jaffe
David Rosen
Camille Weil
Jonathan Prokup

January Anniversaries
Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
Mark & Sylvia Sobol
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
Joan Markman & Jim Becker
Mitchell Bach & Cindy Elliott

February Birthdays
Nancy Goldenberg
Tobias Hart
Ric Hayman
Carl Dranoff
Susan Sneden
Ira Rubenfeld
Marc Goldenberg
Gary Love
Linda Joy Goldner
Aaron Davidson
Randi Glatzer
Sofia Newberg
Zoe Perkins
Paul Rosen
Irwin Balik
Daniel Perkins
Aminda Kirshenbaum
Len Weinberg
Jack Dubin
Hannah Smith
Edward Levenson
Gail Massey
Giacomo Weil
Adam Gifford
Elyane Bloom
Rachel Katz
Stav Tjoumakaris
Michael Yudell

February Anniversaries
William & Tracey Goldberg
David & Linda Paskin
Rina & Bill Mitchell
Paula & Larry Ninerell
Andrew Hohns & Leah Popowich
Arthur & Janet Cherry

POWER
In Honor of
Walter Ferst, 2013 Hatan Torah Recipient
Debra Stewart
Staci Schwartz, 2013 Kallat B’reishit Recipient
Debra Stewart

Playschool Fund
In Appreciation of
Gloria Parris and Teachers for Grandparents Day
Beverly Paulvin
Ed & Suzanne Kaplan, for a wonderful evening
Steven & Lisa Eizen

In Honor of
Betty van de Rijn on the birth of her grandson
Steven & Lisa Eizen

In Memory of
Bernice Ettingoff, Great-Grandmother of Hudson Weissman
Beverly Paulvin
Elizabeth Morley Williams, Mother of Merrily Williams
Steven & Lisa Eizen

Cantor Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Cantor Bob Freedman
Juliet Englander

In Honor of
Thea Applebaum-Licht’s Bat Mitzvah
The Applebaum-Licht Family

Rabbi Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Rabbi Winokur
Rabbi Valerie Joseph

In Honor of
Thea Applebaum-Licht’s Bat Mitzvah
The Applebaum-Licht Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Beatrice Chernock, Mother of Joel Chernock
Joel Chernock

Steven Dranoff, Brother of Carl Dranoff
Carl & Roberta Dranoff

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herb Cohn
Herb Cohn

Selma Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown
Social Action
Please Complete Our Volunteer Survey by January 10
Phyllis Denbo

Six years ago, the Hebrew and Sunday School parents donated gifts for students at George Washington Elementary School, who, because of significant economic challenges, would likely find few, if any, presents from Santa under the Christmas tree, if indeed there were a tree. In what is now an annual drive, individual gifts are provided for each needy student identified by the school and categorized by family, age, and gender. Often an SHS family is matched with a school family, so that our children can select gifts for children in need of similar age and gender. In addition, we provide grocery gift cards to the families. Fifty SHS families, a record number, collected toys and clothing this year for 87 children from 32 families, and donated $2,200.00 in grocery cards! SHS members helped to wrap the presents, organize the packages for delivery, fill out holiday cards, and decorate the gifts with candy canes. The gifts, given anonymously, were delivered to the children’s homes by our amazing delivery team (several members returned for their 5th year) the week before Christmas.

The gift drive is our first project with our new partner, the Vare-Washington Elementary School, but we anticipate many more in the coming months and years. At a Lunch and Learn in early December, we met the principal, Joanne Capriotti, and seven teachers—four from the former Vare School and three from the former Washington School. Ms. Capriotti spoke about the many challenges they faced in the past year and expressed appreciation and excitement regarding a Vare-Washington/Society Hill Synagogue partnership. Especially gratifying were the comments of the three Washington teachers, who spoke warmly about our past volunteers, our continuing commitment to the school, and the value of our work to the students and teachers.

The SHS volunteers have, in turn, found the experience very enjoyable and rewarding. As Judy Gelles says, “Volunteering adds many wonderful surprises to your life.”

I hope many of you are now wondering what you can do. There are lots of opportunities at the school to work with students one-on-one or in small groups, to assist teachers in the classroom or to offer after-school programs, to provide much-needed services that don’t require regular student interaction, to help with the school play or a class trip, to make a presentation on a topic of interest to you, and much more.

To let us know what you would like to do will take just a few minutes of your time. Go to the SHS website, click on SURVEY at the bottom of the home page, indicate your preferences, and press send when you complete the questions. We will work with the principal and teachers to match you with the most appropriate opportunities. Please complete the survey by Friday, January 10. Our goal is to have the volunteer program in place by the end of January.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 215.755.2734 or prdenbo@gmail.com.

Finally, I am delighted to report breaking news that will further solidify our partnership with the Vare-Washington School! We just received word that Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) has awarded a Picasso Grant to the school that will enable Judy Gelles, in cooperation with the art teacher, to offer a new version of the photography and writing program. The focus will be on building a strong sense of community at the recently combined school—to encourage students who differ by school background, grade level, and ethnicity to understand and appreciate one another. Ten students in grades six to eight will be given cameras and will receive instruction in portrait photography and interviewing. They will then compile visual and written portraits of fifty additional Vare-Washington students. An exhibit of the students’ work will be displayed at the school, at Society Hill Synagogue, and at other venues. As in previous years, a book of the students’ work will be published at the conclusion of the project.

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<td>New Year's Day Building Closed</td>
<td>Playschool Resumes</td>
<td>6:15 PM Services</td>
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<td>9 AM Cantata Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 AM SS</td>
<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
<td>11 AM HS</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>9 AM Finance Mtg</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>7 PM ECM</td>
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<td>Tu B'Sh'vat</td>
<td>9 AM Cantata Rehearsal</td>
<td>9 AM SS</td>
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<td>11 AM Bavi &amp; Bagels with Rafi</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>7 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi W and Susan Berman</td>
<td>7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
<td>11 AM HS</td>
<td>11 AM Bavli &amp; Bagels with Rabbi W</td>
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<td>9:15 AM Skinned Knee with Rabbi W</td>
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<td>MLK Day Building Closed</td>
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<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Justice in the City with Rabbi W</td>
<td>5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi W</td>
<td>7:30 PM God's Lecture &amp; More with Rabbi W</td>
<td>12:30 PM ELM</td>
<td>7:30 PM EDM</td>
<td>6:15 PM Services</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Eliana Gilbert Trachtman</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Nosh &amp; Schmooze</td>
<td>2 PM POWER Choir Event</td>
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<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
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<td>9 AM Cantata Rehearsal</td>
<td>7 PM ECM</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Penn Lecture Series</td>
<td>12:30 PM ELM 7:30 PM God’s Lecture &amp; More with Rabbi W</td>
<td>6:15 PM Services T’zavveh 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Gan Class Family Service Inter-NOSH-ional Night Off-site</td>
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<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 5:15 PM Bible Study with Rabbi 6:15 PM B/M Parent Meeting</td>
<td>7 PM POWER Meeting 7:30 PM God’s Lecture &amp; More with Rabbi W</td>
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<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Hebrew Grammar with Cantor</td>
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<td>6:15 PM TGI Shabbat Service featuring Dan and Bob Blacksberg</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.