The SHS Elevator (or Beach) Speech
Debbie Stewart

This summer, as you spend time with friends, ride the elevator in your apartment houses or office buildings, or stroll on the beach at the shore, please remember that it is our collective mission to reach out to friends, family, colleagues, acquaintances, neighbors, and newcomers to the area to let them in on our secret “jewel of a shul!”

We can help you do this. In the time it takes to ride in an elevator with someone, you can put a personal spin on the SHS “elevator speech” and share details about our wonderful synagogue that will make that person run to the nearest phone and call Betty or Leanne to ask for a membership application!

If you can remember “SHS”, you are 99% there.

S: Sense of Community
You can talk about things such as our Social Action activities (George Washington/Vare School, Philabundance, POWER, and advocacy activities), our popular community-building meal-sharing events (“Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?™”, InterNOSHional Night; Holiday Meals Initiative, Kiddush meals, Hebrew School and Playschool Shabbat Dinners).

H: Hamish
You can rave about our warm community, our welcoming nature, and our diversity.

S: Spirituality
You can speak about our services (TGIShabbat, Family Services, and Holiday services for all ages). Brag about the fact that we have a Reconstructionist Rabbi with a Conservative liturgy—a unique situation with many benefits! Rave about our variety of Adult Education course, including our popular Nuts & Bolts and Beyond course.

Don’t forget to end the quick conversation with, "Hey, how about if I bring in one of our synagogue brochures for you tomorrow/next week so you can see what I’m talking about?" Or, "Hey, you should check out our website—it’s totally user-friendly and describes everything that’s going on there—then maybe we can meet for coffee and I can answer any questions you have…"

Feel free to contact me (beachetic@gmail.com) or Betty (bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org) to let us know about any interested prospective members so we can reach out to them and perhaps invite them to attend services or invite them to be guests at the next program or event.
Society Hill Synagogue's Kesher

Rabbi's Column

Enjoy the Simple Pleasures of Communitas

Avi Winokur

Sometimes fun, joy, celebration, fellowship, breaking bread, and working together for a common goal are simply about fun, joy, celebration, fellowship, breaking bread, and working together for a common goal. Sometimes it also involves something deeper. But let's start with the fun, joy, etc.

Our Membership Engagement Initiative (MEI) has three signature successes to its credit. The first is our TGISHabbat services coupled with Friday night dinners afterward. From my viewpoint and, I suspect, from the viewpoint of synagogue leadership, it is thrilling to see the fun, joy, celebration, fellowship, and bread breaking that these Friday nights engender. The second is the now clearly successful twice-yearly “Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?™” Shabbatot of meals at different congregants’ homes, where congregants get to know each other better or, in some cases, for the first time. Both the food and conversation in each of those that I have attended have been wonderful. Also, though not officially part of MEI, InterNOSHional Night has likewise provided opportunities for deeper relationships between congregants. The third I'll get to in a few paragraphs.

MEI is ongoing and I hope that the commitment never slows down. As you will read in Jonathan Feinman’s article on p. 18, we have initiated another avenue of engagement for our members that you will all be hearing more about this coming year. The Arts and Culture Initiative (we’ll have to come up with a different name) takes advantage of the fact that SHS has a number of artists and culture producers, from the visual arts to the theater arts to the written word and music.

Dayenu, it would be enough if we met these goals, but I have more in mind. It goes back to the idea that a congregation is a kehillah kedoshah, a holy community. The distinction between a warm and welcoming community, which engenders feelings of joy and opportunities for fellowship, and a true community is succinctly described by Rabbi David Teutsch in his book Spiritual Community: The Power to Restore Hope, Commitment and Joy:

“When communities are functioning well, they take care of their own members. It is important to distinguish between the feeling of community, what Jonathan Woocher calls communitas, and an actual existing community. You can have a moment of communitas in many different situations—a Kol Nidre service, a baby naming, singing ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ before a championship ball game, or singing ‘Auld Lang Syne’ on New Year’s Eve.

“The feeling of communitas, of human closeness and belonging, is a wonderful thing. It can happen any time people share a powerful moment, good or bad. But by its very nature, it is transitory. In that way communitas is unlike community, which involves a commitment to sustaining relationships of trust and caring over time. Community is a source of communitas, but is also stable and durable. No sense settling for just a feeling of belonging when you can have the real thing.”

In Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community, Gary Gunderson expresses universal hopes and anxieties about the true strength of community:

“I suspect that the measure of a community is how we and those we love expect to be treated during times of incapacity that we will surely experience. Will I be accompanied at all? Will I be surrounded only by those I can pay as long as I have the money or insurance to pay them? Will I be alone when I have no power to compel others to help me? Will those I love be alone when I cannot care for them or protect them?”

This brings us to our third success: the holiday meals that Barbara Spector describes in her article on P. 14. Opening our homes, often to people we don’t know well within our community, to ensure that no one in our congregation is alone for a Rosh Hashanah meal or Passover Seder is an act of true community: extending oneself simply because it is the right thing to do to make sure that no one in our community is alone during these times.

Continued on page 6
President’s Column
I Look Forward to Serving as Your New President

Debra Stewart

I am extremely honored to serve as President of Society Hill Synagogue. This is my spiritual home, my community—a sacred place that has nurtured me and provided me with invaluable gifts of faith, friendship, support, education and joy. Many of you have already offered a helping hand, and I am confident that going forward, any gaps in my knowledge and skills will be filled by lay leaders, clergy, staff, and members. I am thankful for your support and your commitment to this amazing shul.

On behalf of our congregation I extend sincere appreciation to our past President, Jonathan Weiss, who provided exceptional leadership and hard work over his two-year term. Jonathan supported and maintained our successful and dynamic programs such as TGISHabbat, Playschool, Hebrew School, Adult Education, InterNOSHional Night, while embarking on initiatives that have enabled us to become a more welcoming and engaged community. During Jonathan’s tenure, our Membership Engagement Initiative has added fall and spring “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” events to our calendar, we’ve trained Shul Guides to facilitate the integration of new members, we’ve implemented a New Member Aliyah and Kiddush Lunch and Learn program, we’ve instituted a Holiday Meals Initiative, and we have expanded Havdalah Pajama Parties. By encouraging sponsorship of Kiddush dinners or lunches, our community has enjoyed more frequent opportunities to schmooze, dance, and thoroughly enjoy each other’s company. We have also expanded our number of volunteer Greeters, serving a critical role for welcoming members and visitors alike.

I look forward to continuing to support these successful programs. Additionally, I hope to encourage greater participation in God’s Unfinished Business (GUB) (an important group that reaches out to our members to help them through periods of illness or mourning) and Tuesday morning minyan (an important service for congregants and members of the local community who wish to attend morning services or who need a minyan for Kaddish).

A Note From Immediate Past President
Jonathan Weiss

I just wanted to thank the congregation again for entrusting me with the task of serving as your President over the last two years. It has been an exciting and fascinating journey, and although quite time-consuming, I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to serve in this leadership position in our shul.

I have to take a moment and thank the leaders who worked so hard through this term to make my job much less difficult than it could have been. We have had a very active board, a strong Executive Committee—a diverse and devoted leadership that has allowed us to cover a lot of ground. I’d like to make a special note of thanks to several leaders who really went above and beyond the usual call of duty. Carmen Hayman, David Ladov, Laurel Landau, and Bonny Hohenberger worked extremely hard to make sure so many of our efforts were successful. I’d like to thank Walter Ferst for staying active as past president, keeping us progressing along the path that he set two years ago. I am so grateful for Debbie Stewart’s hard work on many of the Member Engagement activities, as well as the ongoing community outreach programs that help define us. I am certain that she will be a successful President and look forward to helping her over the course of her term.

Lastly, it should go without saying that the Rabbi’s hard work and Betty van de Rijn’s tireless efforts on behalf of the congregation are the real reasons behind most of the success we’ve enjoyed over the years, and I am extremely grateful for their help in making me look successful.

Thank You
Cantor’s Column

A New Prayer Book for Friday Night Services
Bob Freedman

In his collection, *Tales of the Hasidim*, Martin Buber retells a story about the importance of a prayer book to a Jew.

On the eve of the Day of Atonement the rabbi of Berditchev, waiting a while before going to the pulpit, walked back and forth in the house of prayer. In a corner he found a man crouched on the floor and weeping. When he questioned him, the man replied, “Until a short time ago I had all good things, and now I am wretched. Rabbi, in my village no hungry man went from my door unfed. My wife used to bring home wayfarers she met on the road and see to their needs. And then He comes along”—here the man pointed to the sky—“and takes my wife and my house, from one day to the next, in a terrible fire. There I was with six small children, without a wife, without a house. And I had had a thick prayer book, with all the prayers in the right order so you didn’t have to hunt around, but that burned up along with everything else. Now you tell me, Rabbi, how can I forgive Him?”

The rabbi had his congregants look for a prayer book like the one the man described. When it was brought, the man began to turn the pages to see if everything was in the correct sequence, while the *tzadik* waited. Finally he asked, “Can you forgive Him now?” “Yes,” said the man. Then the rabbi went to the pulpit and began the prayer “All Vows.”

It’s hard to overstate the importance of the *siddur* to Jewish worship. That’s because of the way our service is constructed and the way that we feel about communal prayer. Though we congregate at fixed times to pray, tradition states that each person is obligated to say the prayers for him- or herself.

Were it not for this requirement, we would not need prayer books. We could assign a cantor to recite the prayers for us, and we would listen quietly and say amen. But couldn’t everyone just memorize the prayers? That would be cheaper! The answer is obvious:

Continued on page 7

Ann Spak Thal School

A Sweet Start to Summer & Hebrew Happenings
Sahar Oz

An exciting year of Jewish learning, creativity, deeper social and historical connections, and new memories wrapped up on a sweet note as students from Kindergarten through Hebrew High enjoyed our delicious “Sundae Sunday” treats on the last Sunday of classes.

Two days later, during our last Tuesday of the school year for grades 3-7, our “Jewpardy” game of questions and answers highlighted just a snippet of what the children learned and acquired over the past nine months. From biblical figures and Jewish sports heroes to Israeli geography and Hebrew vocabulary, it was a fun way to revisit some key lessons from the year.

A number of our students frequently contribute change to tzedakah boxes placed in their classes, and this year the student body voted by large majority to support the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF). Inspired by 24-year-old Israeli Tom Peled and his Bike For the Fight (BFF) team, our students decided to donate over $200 to support the ICRF.

Tom’s father succumbed to cancer after a valiant eight-year battle, and Tom decided to turn his anguish into positive action by founding the Bike For the Fight with three young friends in 2012. Together they rode bicycles 3,000 miles from Los Angeles to New York in consecutive years, inspiring thousands of people around the world and raising $100,000 each year for the ICRF.

The Israel Cancer Research Fund supports cancer research programs in Israel, for the benefit of Israel and all mankind. You can read more about its history and timeline by visiting www.icrfonline.org/history-timeline.

As our school continues to grow, so does our ability to enhance our curricula. Following a successful conversational Hebrew segment introduced in seventh grade this year, we are rolling out a new Hebrew curriculum for all grades, beginning this fall.

Continued on page 8
Playschool
Good Luck to Our Graduates!
Gloria Parris

A fantastic school year has just been completed in the Playschool. The children in each of our five classes sang songs, received their preschool diplomas, and celebrated their graduations with class luncheons. It was only a few short months ago that many of the children entered our preschool for the very first time. Each day, the children were excited to see their teachers and play with their friends. All of the activities, projects, trips, and special events were chosen with the children in mind. Our teachers have always been dedicated to creating an outstanding preschool curriculum with age-appropriate, creative, and fun learning experiences for all.

Best wishes to the children in our graduating Pre-Kindergarten classes. Some of these boys and girls began our program at two years of age. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us to have provided them with an outstanding preschool education.

A special thank you goes to all of the Playschool parents for being such an important part of our program. The parent cooperative allows parents to experience first-hand what learning takes place in the classrooms and to meet and interact with their children’s friends. Parental involvement also includes accompanying the classes on school trips, bringing their special talents into our classrooms, attending Shabbat Dinners and parent-teacher conferences, and volunteering to assist at holiday family celebrations.

There are spots remaining in our classes beginning in September 2014. If you are looking for a fabulous “first school experience” for your child, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org or call 215.922.6590, ext. 28. The Playschool provides classes for children, aged two through four. We feature an age-appropriate curriculum, creative art projects, special events, outdoor play area, welcoming classrooms, celebration of weekly Shabbat and Jewish holidays, Pre-Kindergarten classes in preparation for elementary school, weekly yoga and drama participation, parental involvement, and a warm and nurturing staff of teachers. Our Playschool and our staff have a wonderful reputation in the Society Hill area. Parents are welcome to contact the Playschool office to set up an appointment to visit the classrooms and to find out more about our preschool program.

The Playschool also offers After-school Arts Clubs for preschool children. Check out our new flexible schedule and 5-day value packs! These clubs meet every afternoon from 12:30 PM until 3 PM. Each afternoon presents an exciting theme. On Mondays, the boys and girls prepare healthy snacks in Cooking Club. Tuesdays are for learning about Science, with hands-on scientific experiments. Wednesdays are for Art Club where all types of art media are used for creativity. On Thursdays, the boys and girls participate in Movement Club that includes parachute games, obstacle course activities, dances, and aerobics. Friday is Music Club during which the children learn new songs about the seasons, holidays, Shabbat, or songs just for fun. Children, who are not enrolled in the Playschool during the regular hours, are also welcome to attend After-school Arts. For more information, please contact the Playschool office.

The Playschool Summer Camp begins on Monday, June 2, and extends for eight weeks until Thursday, July 24. Camp is in session Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM.

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Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

Every opportunity that we have to enjoy the simple pleasures of communitas takes on a deeper dimension in a religious community. It is my hope that the bonds and friendships we develop through member engagement will be the fertile soil for the kinds of caring and commitment to each other that make vivid and real the notion of holiness in the appellation “holy community.”

Have a relaxing and renewing summer. Take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of family, friends, and fellowship.

President’s Column

Continued from page 3

As a member of the Board of Directors for the last three years, much of my energy has been devoted to member recruitment and engagement. Through this work, I have enjoyed meeting many congregants, and I am continually in awe of the truly wonderful people who make up our community. Little by little, I am building and strengthening relationships through shared enriching experiences. It is my hope that all members of our congregation will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities to build their own relationships. We will continue to “reach in” to deepen community connections. As Daniel Gottlieb shared in his recent book, The Wisdom We’re Born With:

“We know that the quality of life is all about relationships. The more we have, the more connected we are—the more love we feel coming from and going toward others—the happier we are. And the healthier we are.”

Here is where I will ask for your help. Reach out! Reach in! When you attend services or holiday events at SHS, spark up a conversation with someone with whom you are not familiar. Plan to attend our wonderful programs. Invite others to join you for a synagogue activity that is of interest to you. Share a Shabbas meal with other members. Strengthening our bonds has a direct impact upon the vibrancy of our synagogue community.

SHS is an amazing shul, but it’s probably one of the best-kept secrets in the city.

Join us in our goal to share our secret, by helping us to grow our membership and increase the enrollment in our wonderful Playschool and Hebrew School. Our collective efforts will help us financially while bringing new talents, personalities, and opportunities to benefit our entire community.

This year’s Annual Congregation Meeting, held on May 14, included the first year of a new SHS tradition whereby the Board of Director’s recognized congregants who have provided extraordinary service to our community. Please take special note of our 5774 honorees and their contributions to SHS. Mazel Tov to Nancy Burd, Phyllis Denbo, Bruce Hirsh, Ric Hayman, Roberta Jacobs Meadway, Josh Nadel, Marc Schwartz, Deborah Shapiro, Len Weinberg, and Kinney Zalesne! For further information, see P. 14.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, here is a brief recap of what was discussed:

- Jonathan recognized Board Members who have ended their terms. We extend our appreciation to Bonny Hohenberger, Laurel Landau, Jonathan Feinman, Michael Hafter, and Mel Nasielski for their wonderful service as lay leaders and look forward to their continued engagement and service to our congregation.
- New Board Officers were elected: Vice Presidents, David Ladov and Carmen Hayman; Treasurer, Mark Steinberger, and myself as President. We are thrilled to welcome new Board Members Deborah Shapiro, Jonathan Freitag, and Steven Greenberg. It was wonderful to hear heartfelt and inspiring comments from each nominee. We look forward to ways in which their particular talents, interests, and leadership will further enhance our community. One vacant seat will be filled during the course of the coming year. Mitchell Bach was introduced as our new SHS Solicitor.
- Jonathan also extended a special “shout out” to our exceptional Executive Director, Educational Staff, Clergy, and lay leadership. For without their high level of dedication, skills, knowledge, creativity, and work ethic, we would not be able to offer the quality of services and programs that we have come to love at SHS.

Continued on next page
President's Column

- The President’s Report included an update on Social Action activities, POWER initiatives, and 430 Spruce Street. We thank Irv Shapiro for leading a committee formed to determine the best plan and use for this space in view of our current needs.

- During the Rabbi’s Report, we learned that SHS has been selected to host a Rabbinical Intern from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College for the upcoming year—a true testament to their high regard for Rabbi Winokur. We look forward to engaging with the selected Intern and will no doubt benefit greatly from this shared experience.

- Rabbi Winokur also announced the creation of a new Arts and Culture Initiative to be led by Jonathan Feinman. Our congregation is fortunate to have a host of talent within our midst. We have a variety of artists, musicians, writers, directors, playwrights, art professors, and more. Together we will experience some of their special events within our local community and have a chance to “meet the artist” after the event.

- Mark Steinberger delivered the Treasurer’s Report. It was conveyed that while we are financially sound we are not strong. An increase of 6% or less will be applied to membership dues categories. Mark emphasized the need for our collective efforts to grow our membership and Playschool enrollment as a way to minimize dues increases. He also encouraged us to give generously to Annual Giving, reminding members that stock transfers can also be used to support the synagogue.

- Finally, a plug was given for the May 16-17 “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” program. Bonny Hohenberger deserves special thanks for her relentless efforts to seek hosts and match guests for this wonderful program.

If anyone has questions about what was discussed at the Annual Congregation Meeting, please feel free to contact me at beachethic@gmail.com.

Summer is a time for relaxation and a change of pace from our very busy lives. Enjoy this time to rejuvenate and look for information regarding our second Annual “Havdalah Down the Shore” event. We hope to see many of you at the host homes and on the beach.

Wishing you all a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Cantor’s Column

Some people’s memories are better than others’. In addition, without written text, teaching the prayers to the next generation would be difficult. Within a generation or two the richness and beauty of our liturgy would be lost.

This is all by way of introducing the fact that by the beginning of September we expect to provide you with a new prayer book for Shabbat eve composed by me with the help of our Religion Committee. Though Sim Shalom, our current siddur, is certainly adequate, it has shortcomings. Its print is small; its translations are at times awkward; and it offers little transliteration. Our new prayer book seeks to remedy all of those. It also includes the alternative Amidah of Marge Piercy, along with “Dodi Li” and other songs we like to sing for Shabbat eve. Its format is easy to follow and use, and it will be a durable paperback, light and easily stored.

The Religion Committee and I are convinced that the new siddur will more completely meet our prayer needs than does Sim Shalom. I’ll look forward to your feedback when you use it in the fall. Meanwhile, have a delightful summer.

Welcome new Board Members: Steven Greenberg, Deborah Shapiro, and Jonathan Freitag!
Ann Spak Thal School  Continued from page 4

The primary goals for this new endeavor are to support our students’ comprehension of prayer Hebrew during services and ritual practice at home, and to provide them with the tools to engage with the exciting ancient-modern language of the Jewish people.

Over 80% of the world’s Jewish population lives in Israel and the U.S., so this effort to build our students’ conversational Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and speaking skills is critical for Jewish understanding and continuity across borders.

School registration forms, including our new photo release form, have been sent to all currently enrolled families and can also be downloaded from our website. The completed forms and a deposit are due by Friday, July 18. Help spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join our exciting journey of Jewish learning and discovery!

Our faculty and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Sunday, September 7. Have a wonderful summer! See photos on p. 21.

Young Families Group

Young Families Group Is Looking for New Leadership!
Laurel Landau

After many years as coordinator of the Young Families Group and/or the Baby & Me Group, I will finally be stepping down. We are looking for new leadership! This group is currently for families with a child under 5, but it’s flexible! Traditionally, we have had annual Christmas Eve Chinese Dinners at Rich City Diner, an end-of-Passover pasta dinner at Pietro’s, and various social gatherings at places such as the Please Touch Museum, Franklin Square, and an apple orchard. As coordinator of the group, I have also sent out email updates on age-appropriate services/happenings at SHS, and I have prepared short articles for the Kesher to let others know about our fun activities.

This group has provided a wonderful opportunity for my family to get to know other families with young children. As coordinator, you are free to repeat the activities I have mentioned or create some of your own!

We don’t have any events scheduled for the summer yet, but stayed tuned for emails. Prospective members are welcome at these events, so as always, please pass on the information.

If you are interested in coordinating this group’s activities, by yourself or with a partner, please let me know at laurelsiegel@yahoo.com!

Playschool  Continued from page 5

Children can be enrolled for the entire camp season, weekly, on a Monday and Wednesday schedule, a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, or daily. This allows parents to enroll their children on a schedule that meets their summertime needs. Children, aged two to four years old, will participate in indoor and outdoor play, themed arts and crafts projects, circle time, storytelling, outdoor bike-riding, creative movement, camp songs, and water fun in wading pools. Each day, a snack is provided by one of our families and the children bring their own dairy lunch. Summer is almost here and camp is so much fun at the Playschool! Please contact the Playschool office for more information and to receive a summer camp application.

The Playschool will begin a new school year on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 with a Parent Meeting at 7 PM. Welcome Parties for all of the classes will be held during the first week of September. The opening day of Playschool will be on Monday, September 8. A summer mailing will provide the upcoming school calendar and other Playschool information to all enrolled families.

Have a wonderful summer.
TGISHabbat:  
Let’s take it up a Notch! 
Betty van de Rijn

As most of you are aware, our TGISHabbot celebrations have taken-off like a rocket! Often, we have been able to enrich the TGISHabbot experience even further by providing delicious meals after the service. Each member of the SHS Board of Directors, as one of his or her many Board responsibilities, is asked to sponsor one Shabbat dinner or Kiddush luncheon per year. SHS families who celebrate B’nai Mitzvah, Auf Ruf, or Baby Namings are also asked to sponsor a meal during the weekend of their event. I would like to extend the invitation to the entire congregation to sponsor one of these special meals.

If you will be celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, or you wish to commemorate your child’s or grandchild’s birth, your daughter’s or son’s marriage or graduation, or you wish to honor the memory of a loved one—please consider sponsoring a TGISHabbot dinner or regular Shabbat meal. Friday night meals are prepared and cooked in our own kitchen; Kiddush luncheons can be comprised of basic salads or they can be upgraded to include a variety of hot or cold menu selections. The options are limitless. The cost for a basic Kiddush luncheon for 60 people is $360, and the cost for a TGISHabbot Friday night dinner for more than 50 people is about $720 (and remember two or more families can split the cost of sponsorship!); the cost for a regular Friday night dinner, when we generally have fewer than 50 attendees, is $540.

If you are interested in sponsoring a Shabbat meal in honor of a special occasion, please contact me at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.5590, ext. 23, with your desired date. Remember, the SHS calendar fills up quickly!

Social Action  
Another Successful Photography Project with Vare-Washington Elementary Students  
Phyllis Denbo

This year, Judy Gelles once again led a photography and writing program for our partner public school, Vare-Washington Elementary. With a grant from the Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth Picasso Project, which is designed to increase arts education opportunities for students in the School District of Philadelphia, the program took a somewhat different direction than in past years. The primary goal was to build a strong sense of community among students at the newly merged schools. The participants were taught how to take an effective portrait and then assigned to make visual and written portraits of other students—varied by grade level, school background, and ethnicity. Working with the school’s art teacher, Dana Jenkins, and Society Hill Synagogue member, Susan Levering, Judy guided and motivated the students to produce a body of work that is personally moving and of high artistic quality.

On May 22, the students presented their photographs at City Hall to encourage members of City Council and other municipal leaders to support arts education. The full set of photos will also be displayed at Vare-Washington School, Society High Synagogue, and other locations. In addition, books of the students’ work will be published for the program participants, the principal and others. The Picasso Grant covered the cost of much-needed new cameras, computers (2), and materials.

Last year, the Social Action Committee and other SHS members covered the cost of publishing the books. We very much appreciate your generosity and once again request your support. Your contribution is optional, the amount is your choice. Please send your donation to the SHS Social Action Fund, and be sure to indicate that it is for the photography and writing program.
June Birthdays

Carol Weil
Henry Weil
Herbert Cohn
Bonnie Weiner
Jonathan Feinman
Jonathan Hunter
Lara Goldwert
Rebecca Hafter
Sharlyn Katz
Nathaniel Stover-Steerman
Joan Lear
Jack Aaron
Judson Aaron
Daniel Rottenberg
Eliana Gilbert-Trachtman
Michael Coran
Andrew Hohns
Rita Roy
Rose Berman
Avi Galler
Catherine Prokop
James Orman
Adina Goldstein
Maren Prokop
Maya Salzman
Noah Kauderwood
Jesse Flora
Clayton Whitesell
Lois Rosenberg
Don Kaufman
William Love
Geoffrey Michaels
Michael Davidson
Shira Cohen
Eve Friedman
Asa Schneeberg
Gabriel Cohen
Benjamin Zack
Samuel Hamilton
Marlene Lachman
Elaine Smith
Zelda Wolf
Libby Cone
Stephen Shiekman

July Birthdays

Neil Epstein
Abigail Shapiro
Amy Steerman
Rebecca Greenberg
Carmen Hayman
Ruth Schneeberg
Noah Davidson
Gabriel Stemmer
Jacqueline Rick
Claire Golding
Molly Kaplan
William Steinberger
Alton Sutnick
Richard Gelles
Joseph Gifford
Alice Goldenberg
Carla Krasnick
Judah Reed Meyer
Mitchell Bach
Matthew Zalesne Siff

Rachel Fish
Marc Schwartz
Betty van de Rijn
Laurette Felton
Liza Gendler
Juliet Englebard
Judith Wolof
Anna Rubinov
Gabriel Steerman
Michael Temin
Joseph Oxman
Jordan Segall
Mary Ann Stover
Macy Krohner
Harry Oxman
Craig Pressman
Michelle Sobel
James Wilson
Samantha Chaikin
Reuben Treatman
Daniel Greenberg
Zachary Goldberg
Abigail Hamilton
Libby Harwitz Blender
Gideon Siff
Xing Xing Zhang
Isaac Hohns
Joshua Smullens
Juliette Snyder
Tony Lalli
Joshua Piven
Judy Gelles
Lev Ziskind

August Birthdays

Gabriel Nadel
Peggy Backal
Samantha Goldwert
Irving Shapiro
Debra Stewart
Fran Newberg
Lex Meisel
Claire Englebard
Mark Steinberger
Jeffrey Braemer
Zachary Gearhart-Robboy
Myer Magen
Jerry Roller
Matthew Salzman
Jessa Weissman
Jane Nathanson
Abigail Reed
Leo Aaron
Elizabeth Braemer
Ian Downes
Wendy Rosen
Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
Wendy Leebow
Abigail Bladen
Nina Saligman
Marsha Silver Heit
Isaak Popkin
Debby Freedman
Caleb Landau
Harvey Weiner
Susan Eizen
Edwin Krauss
Kathryn Braemer
Terry Graboyes

Nina Feinberg
Asher Halpern
Elise Williams
Abiona Flora
Elana Hunter
Nathaniel Popkin
Brian Rotter
Ilyana Snyder
Jeffrey Lichtman
Dan Rosin
Susanne Kaplan
Sally Poulishock
Bonny Hohenberger
Melanie London
Orah Mahlab
Michael Naidoff
Barry Bernsten
Hannah Prokop
Claudia Balderston
Hillary Ladov
Marvin Sachs

June Anniversaries

Brian & Juliet Englebard
Michael & Leslie Hafter
Jonathan & Elana Hunter
Edward & Susanne Kaplan
David & Julia Gutstadt
Larry & Ann Rosen Spector
Lawrence & Jacqueline Goldberg
Robert Blacksberg & Teresa Novick
Edwin & Etta Krauss
Avi Winokur & Susan Berman
Brian & Jessica Mono
Joseph & Sheri Gifford
Micah & Joanna Hart
Michael & Lisa Coran
Michael Stemmer & Nan Schiowitz
Avi & Debra Galler
David Halpern & Samantha Chaikin
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

Leah & Brent Jordan
Harry & Sheri Feinberg
Steven & Sally Gendler
Theodore & Diane Siegel Danoff

August Anniversaries

Sidney Jacoby & Stav Tjomakaris
Andrew & Vicki Kadish
Raphael Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum
Jesse Abrams-Morley & Meredith Buse
Peter & Susan Eizen
Dan & Anya Rosin
David & Cheryle Rosen
Burton & Libby Harwitz Blender
Brent & Laurel Landau
Community News

Condolences to
The family of Gloria Steinberg
Sharon Shapiro and family on the death of her mother,
Helen Gertner.

Mazel Tov to
Mary Fish & Mark Dembert on the birth of their grand-
daughter, Sadie Eleanor Fish-Khun.

Lyn Kirshenbaum and Meg Saligman for their work in-
volving the Philadelphia Jon Bon Jovi Soul Home.

Our annual SHS High Holy Day Membership Renewal packet is on it’s way to you by mail! Please fill out all forms and return them in the enclosed envelope with the required payment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 215.922.6590.

$100 Discount on next (2015-2016) year’s membership for referring a family member or friend to SHS!
CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund
Speedy Recovery to
Larry Dyne
Judy Spiller

In Appreciation of
Kesher
Rosemarie Weinberg

Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun Hosting Shabbas dinner
Iris Levine

In Honor of
Debbie Davis’ special birthday
Judy Spiller

Jerry & Joan Roller, Birth of their granddaughter
Stan & Judy Woloff

Mary Fish & Mark Dembert, Birth of their granddaughter
Stan & Judy Woloff

Steve & Ruth Greenberg’s 30th Wedding Anniversary
Larry & Carol Bailis

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Neil Cohen

Jonathan Weiss, service as President
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Debra Stewart, as our new President
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

In Memory of
Harriette Jaffe & Family, Death of Brother
Judith Spiller

George Ehrlich
Judith Spiller

Wife of Gerald Schorr
Curtis Lizenbaum

Gloria Steinberg
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Helen Gertner, Mother of Sharon Shapiro
Walter & Margie Ferst
Jim & Linda Rosenstein

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Sarah Paller, Mother of Robert Paller
Robert Paller

Eugene Paller, Grandfather of Robert Paller
Robert Paller

Ervin Feltoon, Husband of Laurette Feltoon
Laurette Feltoon

Herman & Mae Mishkin, Parents of Laurette Feltoon
Laurette Feltoon

Rosamond Levering, Mother of Susan Levering
Susan Levering

Reva Goldner, Mother of Linda Joy Goldner
Linda Joy Goldner

Evelyn Bach, Wife of Harry Bach
Harry Bach

Annual Giving Fund
In Appreciation of
Debbie Stewart
Barbara Spector

In Honor of
Birth of Jerry & Joan Roller’s Granddaughter
Barbara Spector

Judy Lalli’s Torah Reading
Barbara Spector

Betty van de Rijn, on the occasion of Amalya’s Bat Mitzvah
The Wolf-Weiss Family

Cantor Freedman, on the occasion of Amalya’s Bat Mitzvah
The Wolf-Weiss Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Lester Eisenstadt, Husband of Evelyn Eisenstadt
Evelyn Eisenstadt

Samuel Goldner, Father of Linda Joy Goldner
Linda Joy Goldner

Restoration Fund
In Memory of
Helen Gertner, Mother of Sharon Shapiro
Rob Einhorn
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

SHS Silver Heit Salkin Fund
Yahrzeit Remembrance
Rose Michaels, Mother of Geoffrey Michaels
Geoffrey Michaels

Prayer book Fund
In Memory of
David Sheinson, Father of Elaine Shechtman
Caryl & Norman Rosenthal

Social Action Fund
In Honor of
George Washington-Vare School Photo Project
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Susan Robert Kravitz
Barbara Spector
Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
Jay R. Baer Fund
Yahrzeit Remembrance
Jay R. Baer
Carol Baer Mott

Helen Ferst
Steven & Pelley Brown

Cantor’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Cantor Freedman’s Hebrew Grammar Class
Beverly Michaels

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Rabbi Winokur on the occasion of Amalya’s Bat Mitzvah
The Wolf-Weiss Family

In Honor of
Nancy Burd’s Member Recognition Award
Mel Nasielski

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Sylvia Schwartz, Mother of Susanne Kaplan
Susanne Kaplan

Susan Dictor, Wife and Mother
Joel, Elyssa, and Sarina Chernock

Rosamond Levering, Mother of Sally Poulshock
Sally Poulshock

Harry Orman, Grandfather of James Orman
James Orman

Sadie Schwartz, Great Aunt of James Orman
James Orman

Marion Rosof, Mother of Libby Rosof
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Bernard Brown, Father of Stephen Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Tree of Life
Leaves
In Honor of
Steve & Ruth Greenberg’s 30th Wedding Anniversary
Ellen Acosta and Family

Jonathan Weiss, SHS Presidency 2012-2014
Board of Directors

Capital Campaign Fund
In Appreciation of
The Congregation on the occasion of Jonathan Weiss’ Presidency
Jonathan Weiss

Kiddush Fund
In Appreciation of
Michael Hafter, Treasurer 2008-2014
Betty van de Rijn

In Honor of
Amalya Weiss’ Bat Mitzvah
Jonathan Weiss and Abigail Wolf

Amalya Weiss’ Bat Mitzvah
Flora Wolf and Laslo Boyd

Baby Naming of Eloise Jane Wilson
Jim and Julie Wilson

Debra Stewart, as our new President
Betty and Marty van de Rijn

Steve and Ruth Greenberg’s Wedding Anniversary
Steve and Ruth Greenberg

Nancy Burd, Phyllis Denbo, Ric Hayman, Len Weinberg, Deborah Shapiro, Bruce Hirsch, Josh Nadel, Roberta Jacobs Meadway, Kinney Zalesne, and Marc Schwartz on receiving the first Annual Member Recognition Award
Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of
Helen Gertner, Mother of Sharon Shapiro
Betty and Marty van de Rijn

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Membership Engagement Initiative

1. Member Recognition Awards
Debbie Stewart

At this year’s Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, we started a new tradition at SHS. We had the pleasure of honoring 10 members of our congregation who have demonstrated extraordinary service to our shul. The Nomination Committee consisted of Jonathan Feinman, Harry Oxman, Staci Schwartz, myself, and Betty van de Rijn. We received nominations from members of the Board of Directors, the staff, and the clergy. The committee established the following eligibility criteria for this award:

- The recipient is not a current board member
- The recipient is not a past Hatan Torah or Kallat B’reishit
- The recipient is a member or Associate member in good standing
- The recipient represents any of a variety of SHS cohorts
- The recipient has demonstrated extraordinary service (significant impact, over time or duration, level of commitment, consistent service).

All award recipients were announced and celebrated with a short description of their accomplishments. They were then presented with framed certificates signed by Rabbi Winokur and President Jonathan Weiss.


2. Holiday Meals Initiative
Barbara Spector

Last year, as part of SHS’s Member Engagement Initiative, a Holiday Meals Initiative was organized to help synagogue members, who would otherwise be eating alone on the holidays, find others with whom to celebrate. After all, food is such an essential part of every Jewish tradition!

We shared our first potluck meal on the first night of Rosh Hashanah 5774 at the home of Debbie and Bill Stewart. Then, on the first night of Pesah, Debbie and Bill again opened their homes to SHS congregants, along with a few members of the Philadelphia Interfaith Community, for a potluck Seder that abounded in ruach (spirit).

“Holidays are wonderful when you have people to share them with and lonely when you don’t,” said Judy Lalli. “Having a place to go with friendly people, good food, and a lively, interesting Seder was a mitzvah for us all.”

“We used the terrific Haggadah, A Different Night, that we learned about at SHS, and of course we added and elaborated with extra readings, songs and song parodies.”

“Jim and I had a delightful evening,” said Linda Rosenstein. “Jews retell the same old story every year. With new books and friends, the Seder becomes a current event.”

“I was so happy to share a Seder with synagogue members and friends,” said Ylanah Sloane. “It was like a Pesah Havurah—full of warmth, old and new rituals, and remembered and creative melodies and commentaries. The varied recipes resulted in a great collage of flavors.”

Continued on next page
The Holiday Meals Initiative has become such a success that we have outgrown the capacity of one family to host everyone. Although we are just beginning to think about bathing suits and shore trips, believe it or not, Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner. If you have space at your table for a congregant or two this fall, or you are able to host a potluck holiday meal, please consider joining our initiative. Anyone who would like to participate in any way, as a host or a guest, please contact me at bspector@familybusinessmagazine.com. See photo on p. 18.

3. Guess Who CAME to Shabbas?
Bonny Hohenberger

“Everyone on my guest list attended! We even had a 7-year-old, two 4-year-olds, and two 15-month-olds—they all had a blast! We started with a Shabbat song session led by my husband on guitar, said all the blessings, and had a fantastic meal together. We made new friends and we were already working on the next dinner!”

Reading this email from one of our “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?ä” (GWCTS) hosts after the event and viewing their posted pictures brought tears of joy to my eyes. This quote, and many more just like it, is a testament to the success of this new program at SHS.

On the weekend of May 16 and 17, ten gracious host families: Fran Gallun and Len Weinberg, Eleanor and Harry Oxman, Jonathan Freitag and Sara Shelley, Joanna and Micah Hart, Carol LeFaire - Rochester and Michael Rochester, Ann Lebowitz and Mark Steinberger, Eve Friedman and Roberto Pace, Viktoriya Torchinsky-Field and Ben Field, Deborah Shapiro, and Debra and Bill Stewart opened their homes as hosts for Shabbat dinner, luncheons, and Havdalah events. In addition, Jonathan Feinman hosted a special Shabbat luncheon at the synagogue. Over 70 synagogue members, along with a few friends and potential members, shared conversation, food, songs, and laughter. To quote other hosts:

“All of us there made new friendships and got to know each other more because of the evening. Conversation flowed between the groups immediately. One of the guests led us in a rousing edition of Shalom Aleikhem. …everyone was smiling that evening.”

“This was such a fun program and I can hardly wait for the next one in the fall.”

“Thank you so much for hosting a very enjoyable Shabbat dinner. It just reminds me of what a great community we have at SHS.”

“…Thank you so very much for hosting such a magnificent dinner! The food was delicious and the company, even better.”

“We had a lovely dinner Saturday night. We were having such a good time that I forgot to take a picture!”

Our next step…we are planning an event to honor everyone who participated in this special weekend during which you will be able to hear more about his or her individual experiences as host or guests.

And …we are already looking at the calendar to choose a fall date for our next GWCTS event. Stay tuned! In the meantime, all Shabbat and Havdalah blessings, song sheets, ritual descriptions, and MP3’s can be found on our website for use throughout the year.

Finally, many people have expressed interest in hosting or attending potluck dinners during the summer when we have our hiatus from Friday night services. If you would be interested in participating, please contact me at bjh711@gmail.com. See photos on p. 18.
4. Announcing the New Arts and Cultural Initiative at SHS
Jonathan Feinman

There is a brand new cultural initiative hatching at SHS. The idea for this initiative grew out of our Membership Engagement Initiative meetings attended by our Rabbi and many of our congregants. During those meetings, many congregants expressed a desire for SHS to foster a cultural initiative—a logical development because we are an urban synagogue community with many members who are talented artists, playwrights, authors, etc.

Our first step is to highlight our own members’ cultural and artistic expressions. We will do this by announcing, several weeks in advance, when member artists, authors, etc. are having events or exhibits in the area. We will also try to arrange an SHS-designated time when an artist member will take time to speak with members of our congregation before or after their featured exhibit, play, or book reading.

Our Arts and Cultural Initiative group doesn’t yet have a formal name; although the title of N’share Tarbut (culture eagle) has been suggested by our Rabbi. That name is not etched in stone, however, and I am open to your suggestions. Volunteers to help spearhead and organize various projects and outings are also welcome.

Our second step in developing this initiative is for us to attend, as a congregational group, local Jewish-themed cultural events in and around the city. We need volunteers to let us know about such events and to help arrange for SHS members to attend these events on specific dates.

If you are interested in joining me to help develop this initiative, or if you would like to participate in an email discussion group that shares information about various Arts and Culture events, please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com.

In the meantime, here is a sample of the activities in which our in-house artists are currently engaged:

Liz Abrams-Morley has a new volume of poetry coming out called Inventory. Copies can be preordered online at www.finishinglinepress.com. (Preorder numbers will determine the print run so please consider ordering a copy before June 20.) Liz will be reading a selection of poetry from Inventory on Sunday, June 22, from 6-8 PM, at Karma Coffee on Pine Street between 9th and 10th Streets, as part of the Moveable Beats reading series. Liz’s earlier collections of poetry include Necessary Turns, (2010) and Learning to Calculate the Half Life, (2001); both contain many Jewish-themed poems and some “reconstructed midrash.”

Fran Gallun, renowned mixed-media artist, will be having a show featuring her beautiful artwork at the Cosmopolitan Club (1616 Latimer Street) opening September 12.
Arts & Cultural Initiative at SHS

Murray Dubin will be speaking with his co-author, Daniel R. Biddle, in Beverly, N.J. on Saturday, June 7, from 2-4 PM, about their book, *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*, which explores the civil rights history of the United States in the 1800s. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Friends of the Beverly Free Library and the Riverfront Historical Society.

Libby Cone is a writer who has published several novels and short stories that are available on Amazon. I have read all of Libby’s work, but *War on the Margins*, which came out in 2008, is my personal favorite. It is a fascinating novel set during the time of the WWII German occupation of the Channel Islands. Libby says that writing about the Shoah on a small scale has led her to question what constitutes identity and citizenship. Her research about an early Dutch settlement in what is now Delaware that switched from being Dutch-ruled to British-ruled, and then back again, led her to write a novel about a Mennonite settlement there, called *Flesh and Grass*. Libby’s research for *Flesh and Grass* then led to a separate novella, *Rebeckah Leveridge*, which Libby describes as an, “unusual divorce case in the early colonies.” I have read it and “unusual” doesn’t do it justice; it is a great read. Libby describes *Quantum Fashionistas*, her latest work, as a short story based on her fascination with multiverse theory and quantum physics and the puzzling world of high fashion.

Staci Schwartz is a physician and an educational consultant on tolerance education and bullying prevention. She has written and illustrated two books to help children understand the importance of empathy in their relationships with others. One book, *The New Bear on the Block*, focuses on acceptance and welcoming new individuals into the community. Staci says, “it also reminds children that there are at least two sides to every story and to avoid impulsive judgment of others.” What a wonderful lesson for any young child! The other book, *Billy the Baaadly Behaving Bully Goat*, is about a young bully goat who picks on other goat kids in his class. With a bit of magic dust, and support from his family, Billy chooses to treat his classmates with kindness and respect once he experiences the effects that his bullying has on others. This story encourages dialogue about the feelings associated with bullying and helps children understand how they can become an upstander instead of a bystander by making good choices. Both 32-page, soft cover books are written in rhyming verse, and each has a Teacher and Student Activity Guides available for classroom use. They are designed for kids in pre-K through 3rd grade. The books are available for $12.95 (or $15 for the book and its Guide) plus shipping & handling. Staci is always happy to sign them for children as birthday or holiday gifts. To order either book, contact Staci at stacischwartz7@yahoo.com.

These are just a few of the talented people at our jewel of a shul. You will be hearing more about them and others in the Arts and Culture section of future Kesher issues and in email updates from the office. If you are an artist in the congregation and you are having an event, exhibition, or publishing a written work, remember to let me know by sending me an email at jon46feinman@hotmail.com.
“Guess Who Came to Shabbas”

Right: Holiday Meals Initiative Seder
“Guess Who Came to Shabbas”
Member Recognition
Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP) volunteers from Germany meet with students in grades 7-11 to discuss Holocaust education, reconciliation, tikun olam, and right wing extremism in Germany today.

Kitel Gimel (3rd Grade) students learn about “matzah shmurah” by making it for Pesah.
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<td>5 Shavuot II Office/PS Closed 9:30 AM Service &amp; Yizkor</td>
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<td>7 B’ha a lot’kha 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Service of Ben Zack</td>
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<td>9 7:30 PM Justice in the City – Last Class</td>
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<td>Father’s Day</td>
<td>16 7:15 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>21 Korah 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Noah Davidson</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>23 24 7:15 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>28 Hukkat 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services Kiddush Lunch</td>
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<td>21 7 PM Board Orientation TBA</td>
<td>22 7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>23 Last Day of PS Camp</td>
<td>24 No Services</td>
<td>25 No Services</td>
<td>26 Mas’ei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services</td>
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### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE CALENDAR

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#### Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat
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Join us for this interactive workshop as we affirm our life experience, recognize our love for this world and leave with a strong sense of how we can each contribute to a thriving and just world.

Facilitated by Lynne Iser & Rabbi Mordechai Liebling

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