Rabbi’s Column

And on Yom Kippur It Is Sealed . . .

Avi Winokur

The run-up to the High Holy Days, the Yamim Noraim/the Days of Awe, begins the month before in Elul, when we traditionally begin the process of heshbon nefesh/taking account of our lives. A week before Elul, I was in California visiting my frail almost-92-year-old mother, and by the time Elul came, she had been admitted to the hospital with difficulty breathing and fluid in her lungs and had been diagnosed with stage IIIB cancer. My sister, my mother, and I, after talking to three different physicians, decided that she belonged in hospice—that it was not worth the agony attendant to the kind of aggressive treatment that might extend her already long life.

Given my mother’s situation, it is natural at this time of year that my attention turns to one of the most well-known and unsettling prayers of the High Holy Days, the Unetaneh Tokef, with its refrain,

On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed:
Who shall pass away and who shall be born
Who shall live and who shall die.

And I know one thing for sure. If not this year, 5775, then in early 5776 my mother will be among those who die. There is no uncertainty here.*

It also brings to mind an alternative version of the Unetaneh Tokef that my father’s colleague, the late Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, of Washington, D.C.’s Adas Israel, wrote some decades ago and that appears in an edited version in our High Holy Day prayer book:

On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed:
Who shall be truly alive, And who shall merely exist. . . .
Who shall be serene, And who shall be distraught;
Who shall be at ease And who shall be afflicted with anxiety.

It is simply true that we all will die. What Rabbi Rabinowitz was trying to get at is that, given mortality, what we do with the time we have, whether long or short, is the issue that truly confronts us year after year. As medicine becomes ever more capable of lengthening our lives—whether as a 45-year-old suffering from incurable breast cancer or as a 91-year-old suffering from incurable lung cancer—the question has become urgent in a new way in recent years.

Continued on page 2
Rabbi’s Column

This year it is urgent for me. Last year it was urgent for some of you. Next year it will be urgent for others. Absent a massive fatal heart attack or stroke or a car accident or other catastrophe, that question will be urgent for almost all of us at some time—what to do with the time remaining.

At what point do we say, “Enough! I cannot endure one more desperate round of chemo, radiation, or invasive surgery with terrible side effects and pain for a 20% chance that my life will be extended three weeks or two months or even six months. Enough! Let me live my remaining days in comfort with my wits about me for as long as I can. Let me spend time with family, however much time it is. Let me spend time with closest and dearest friends. Let me tie up some loose ends, hand off some projects that are dear to me to others whom I trust. Please, let me go home with palliative and hospice care. Don’t make me end my days with tubes sticking in every orifice including some created that were never there before, unconscious and a living vegetable. Please, if you care. Please!”

This urgent question—what do we do with the time remaining in the face of terrible illness or disease—was the impetus behind Atul Gawande’s powerful book, Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End. Gawande, a surgeon in Boston, a contributing writer to the New Yorker, and bestselling author, reflects on the terrible toll that the over medicalization of life has taken.

Toward the end of this extraordinary book, after writing in poignant detail of his own father’s dying and that of many of his friends, patients, and acquaintances, Gawande reflects, “We’ve been wrong about what our job is in medicine. We think our job is to ensure health and survival. But really it is much bigger than that. It is to enable well-being. And well-being is about the reasons one wishes to be alive. . . . If to be human is to be limited, then the role of caring professions and institutions—from surgeons to nursing homes—ought to be aiding people in their struggle within those limits.” This is the role of clergy and religious communities as well.

Whether the time frame is short or long, all of us need to confront the end-of-life issues discussed in Gawande’s book. If you have not read the book, I urge you to find within yourself the courage to pick it up. Once you do, you will not be able to put it down; it is fascinating.

And I want to urge us, as a synagogue community, to embrace both the life and the death, the potential and the finality, that threads through the liturgy of this High Holy Day season. In becoming intimate with death, we can feel the sparks of courage, connection, and caring rising within us. The calendar presents an occasion not only for eating sweet challah and honey but also for pausing to inquire and to feel: What gives meaning to my life and to the lives of my loved ones, friends, and fellow community members? How can we support each other in opening both to the painful reality of constraint and to the texture of each moment?

Each year we wish each other a Shanah Tovah Um’tukah/a good and sweet year, and I certainly wish that for each of you. But may this also be a year of courage and wisdom that stands you in good stead for what we all pray will be a long time to come—time that is measured in quality, not just quantity.

*Sadly, Rabbi Winokur’s mother, Charlotte Winokur, passed away on August 27, just days after this article was written.

Please Send in Your Forms!

Before the summer began, you received your annual Membership Renewal/High Holy Day information packet in the mail. Please fill out all forms and return them in the enclosed envelope with the required membership dues and holiday-related payments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Remember, membership renewal fees and previous balances must be paid in order for you to receive your High Holy Day tickets. All entries to be included in this year’s Yizkor Book must be received by September 10. Please do not assume that names will automatically be repeated from last year.
President's column

SHS Celebrates 50 Years!
Debra Stewart

It’s hard to believe, but we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary this year!

We’ve Been Here for Half a Century – Join Us as We Envision the Second Half Together!

This is a great tagline for the next 50 years.

We are a welcoming, vibrant, independent, and progressive community.

There’s another fabulous tagline. Keep an eye out for our new banner and special event save-the-date cards. We have much to celebrate!

In preparation for our anniversary celebrations next April, we need each of you to help us collect or donate silent auction items. Be creative. Scour your homes and think about skills, services, or items you can offer. Do you have a vacation home or tickets to music, arts, or sports events? Do you know how to create unique themed baskets? Can you solicit donations from the businesses of your associates and friends? Please let me know what you can offer or call me to discuss any ideas. It is time to raise the necessary funds to “burn the mortgage” on 430 Spruce Street and begin Phase 2 of the development of this valuable property!

This year we are bringing back all of the programs that we have come to love, and we’ll be adding a few more that will further pique your interest and enrich your lives. Wait until you see the line up of activities! I do not want to tip our hand too much, but we will be learning from presentations by some of our many interesting and talented members, experimenting with some special alternative Shabbat services, cooking Jewish foods together, and enjoying exceptional Israeli art and other cultural experiences throughout the year.

During our 50th year as a community, we should take the opportunity to reflect upon the value of our relationship to one another, our responsibility to one another, and our communal and individual expectations of one another. Toward this end, I will be engaging our community in creating our first covenant, establishing SHS as a covenantal community. We will be etching in stone, so to speak, our ideals–reference points for celebrating our Jewish values as a community. This is critical to ensuring a strong, moral, caring, giving synagogue for the next 50 years and beyond. As we join together in this covenant, we will actualize our responsibilities to improve the spaces in our buildings, with the hope that one day these spaces will fully reflect our values of warmth, dignity, respect, life-long learning, diversity, and generosity. Our community will continue to thrive, as we worship together, celebrate each other’s life cycle events, and create our legacy—under sound fiscal stewardship. SHS, as a covenantal community, will provide the moral foundation and physical environment in which we can each enjoy our Jewish journey. Such a sacred community is a gift we will give not only to ourselves, but to our children, grandchildren, and all those who come to our doors seeking a spiritual home– an everlasting “Jewel of a Shul.”

In closing, I’d like to offer a hearty Mazel Tov to our members who have recently become B’nai Mitzvah: Beverly Michaels, Julie Koenig-Michaels, Carolyn Michaels, Mary Fish, Randi Glatz, and Jared Susco.

Wishing all SHS members and their families a sweet, healthy, and joyful New Year. L’Shanah Tovah.
Cantor’s Column

May the Shofar Rouse You from Your Lethargy
Bob Freedman

I bought my shofar from the big Judaica store in the middle of Me-ah Sh’arim, in Jerusalem. They had a bin of short ones, thirty or more, and a few of the long ones. I tried the long ones just for the fun of hearing their deep, mellow tone, but I really wanted a shofar that made a shrill, unpleasant, biting cry. I was thinking of the famous quote from Maimonides that we read in our Mahzor. It begins, “Awake from your slumber, and rouse yourself from your lethargy.” So I did not want a sonorous French horn sound that would remind me of peaceful forest vales and Mozart’s divine Horn Concerti. No, I was looking for a sound that would make listeners wince. So I tried all of them and finally found one that made a big, raucous BLATT, loud enough to bring down the walls of Jericho, if that was called for.

Each of the three “notes” of the shofar—t’ki-ah, sh’varim, and t’ru-ah—has its own significance. T’ki-ah is a call to gather. Sh’varim imitates broken sighs, and t’ru-ah is an alarm. When I sound them, I try to express the emotion of each, but not to emphasize one over the other, so I give the same duration to each of those three. But the fourth note, t’ki-ah g’dolah, is different from the others. When I hear someone hold it for a long time, I begin to tremble. It’s such an ancient cry that I can hardly bear the weight of the history that it carries. And the longer it goes, the more I shake, until sometimes I find myself begging for the blower to stop. Of course, when I am the one blowing the shofar, I hold that note as long as I possibly can!

Ultimately, the deepest significance of the shofar for me is that it is an empty tube. It can’t make sound by itself, and it can only shape the vibrating air that someone passes through it. I aspire to be like the shofar, a vessel through which God blows. (If “God” poses difficulty for you, try substituting “universe.”) I know that, like a shofar, I will not be completely passive to that breath; my personality, memory, and desire shape the waves of idea and event that pass through me. I’d like to be somewhere on the spectrum between open receptivity and being a partner with God in creation.

During the High Holy Days, though, I strive to approach the pole of receptivity. We pray, “Sh’ma koleinu,” “hear our voice.” Not our words, though we say a great many words during this season. Hear our voice, unladen by the lies, political games, tensions, and need for control that words inherently convey. At least for this season of turning, I’d like to be like the shofar, a clear vessel, receiving and giving pure sound.

Sally and I wish for you a sweet and healthy New Year that brings you much to be grateful for. May you be written and sealed in the Book of Life.

Center City Kehillah Pop-Up Park
Deborah Shapiro

Visit the Center City Kehillah at their pop-up park on PARK(ing) Day, September 18, from 8 AM until 5 PM, on the 200 block of South 19th Street, near Rittenhouse Square. There will be activities for all ages and information about Jewish organizations in Center City. Come out to meet your neighbors and celebrate the diversity of Jewish life in Philadelphia!

For more information on PARK(ing) DAY events across the city, visit www.parkingdayphila.org/ or email centercitykehillah@gmail.com.

KinderBat: A Special Service for Children Aged 3-7

Children between the ages of 3 and 7, along with their families, are invited to join Hebrew School teacher Rachel Moran on one Saturday each month for singing, dancing, storytelling, and interactive prayer. This 45-minute service will begin at 11 AM on the following dates: October 24, December 5, January 9, February 20, March 12, April 16, and May 7.
As we prepare to celebrate a new year, I find the digits of this year – 5776 – particularly inspiring. First, look at the last two digits: could there be a more appropriate Jewish year for Philadelphians to celebrate than one that ends with 76? To our NBA team, the Schuylkill Expressway, the Vine Street Expressway, the Blue Route, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, we can now add the new Jewish year as one more “institution” with a 76.

And since 5776 is a leap year, we get to enjoy it for 385 days, the greatest number of days possible in any Jewish year. But the Hebrew calendar uniqueness of 5776 does not end there. In Hebrew, we use letters to express dates, since each letter has a numerical value. To signify 5,000, we add a HEY to the beginning. Because the HEY is so ubiquitous in the representation of years, it is often left off the Hebrew expression of the Jewish year in printed calendars, magazines, or journals.

However, the other letters used to express the Jewish New Year never get dropped. This year, we use the TAV (value of 400) and SHIN/SIN (300) to symbolize 700; AYIN for 70; and VAV for 6. In order, that’s TAV - SHIN/SIN - AYIN - VAV. If we switch places between the SHIN/SIN and the AYIN, we get TAV - AYIN - SHIN/SIN - VAV. Now, let’s use the SIN but not the SHIN in that combination, and (with vowels) we have the word, TA’ASU, which means: “you (plural) will do.”

Indeed, I hope and believe that this will be a new year in which we all do a lot: a lot of learning, a lot of discovering, a lot of laughing, a lot of thinking, a lot of discussing, a lot of listening, a lot of questioning, a lot of opining, a lot of empathizing, a lot of helping, a lot of supporting, a lot of understanding, and a lot of welcoming. As we welcome the New Year 5776, let us welcome new students and new teachers with a smile and enthusiasm that will truly make this our sweetest year yet.

Everyone will get to meet all of our teachers and aides on the first day of classes, Sunday, September 20. In addition, we invite all parents to join us at that morning’s annual “Welcome Back to School” programs at 9:20 AM (for Sunday School parents) and 11:15 AM (for Hebrew School and Hebrew High parents).

These meetings provide a great opportunity to connect with fellow parents, members of the Education Committee, and the Rabbi and Cantor to hear about key calendar dates and Shabbat services and meals. Parents will also have a chance to learn more about our upcoming school celebrations and special programs. Light refreshments will be served at each of these “Welcome Back” sessions.

Given the High Holy Day schedule, there will only be two days of classes in September: Sunday, September 20, and Sunday, September 27. We understand that some of our families may be away in the days leading up to and including September 27, when Pope Francis visits. Traffic will be challenging, so we will be revisiting the plan to hold classes that day. Please stay tuned for an update via e-mail in case classes are canceled.
A Message From the Religion Committee
Terry Novick and Marc Schwartz

The members of the SHS Religion Committee would like to thank all of the congregants who have volunteered to participate in this year’s High Holy Day services. We would also like to invite anyone who is interested in leyning Torah or leading Musaf during our regular Shabbat services to contact one of us at terry.novick@gmail.com or marcschwartzus@yahoo.com.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year. L’Shanah Tovah!

Jewish History in 100 Nutshells
Mohammed and The Jews
Larry Spector

So how did Mohammed get along with the Jews? Was he the true founder of Islam? What is Islam’s version of the Shema? To see this Nutshell, visit the SHS website, click on the September/October link under “Nutshell Excerpts, and find the answers to these thought-provoking questions.

Social Action
School Supply Drive
Phyllis Denbo

There is a new principal at the Vare-Washington Elementary School. His name is Zachary Duberstein, and he is a graduate of Philly PLUS, a residency program created four years ago by the Philadelphia Great Schools Compact and the Philadelphia Schools Partnership to put a select group of promising educators on the fast track to leadership in the city’s public schools. This is the sixth principal with whom we have worked since we first partnered with the George Washington Elementary School more than eight years ago. There has been a lot of change for the teachers and students, but as the members of the Social Action Committee have concluded, this is another reason our help is needed there, now more than ever. Our volunteers provide continuity and our presence is very much appreciated.

Mr. Duberstein is well aware of our work with the school, and in a recent email he said, “I could not be more excited for our partnership!” Our first project with him is a school supply drive to kick off the new school year. He indicated that the most important item that teachers need is printer paper. In addition, they have requested the following items: Marble composition notebooks, #2 pencils, pencil boxes, erasers, dry-erase markers, pens, hand sanitizer, chart paper, 3x5 index cards, highlighters, 2” and 3-ring binders, and tissues.

Monetary donations to the school are also welcome. The money goes into the student activity account to be used for field trips, extracurricular activities, and related programs that benefit the students.

Please leave your donated items in the synagogue office. A member of the Social Action Committee will pick them up each week and deliver them to the school. After the High Holy Days, we will be contacting you about the many other ways our congregation can serve the Vare-Washington Elementary School.
Baby & Me & Young Families Groups
We Look Forward to Seeing You at
Joanna Hart

Society Hill Synagogue welcomes all young children to our congregation and delights in the energy and enthusiasm they bring! In the hectic rush of caring for young children during High Holy Day and regular services, we want families to feel that SHS is a warm and inviting place to reflect and find support.

We look forward to meeting new friends at the Sunday School Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During services in the Main Sanctuary, little ones are welcome to borrow a book from our Young Families’ Library located in the foyer! If we can do anything to assist your family during the High Holy Days, whether it is to provide a clean diaper or lend a helping hand, please reach out to one of the ushers.

Our Baby & Me and Young Families Groups have combined to bring together all parents or caretakers of babies and young children for activities, support, and a sense of Jewish community! Following the High Holy Days, we will celebrate Sukkot on Sunday, October 4, 10 AM, at the Family Service. Also look for us at TGISHabbat services where we dance in the aisles and do plenty of clapping!

Please join our “SHS Families” Google Group and email list by contacting me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com to stay up-to-date on events and share your parenting questions and knowledge! Prospective members, expectant parents, and any caretakers are welcome to join!

Membership Engagement Initiative (MEI)

1. “Guess Who’s Coming To Shabbas?™” (GWCTS)
Bonny Hohenberger

As I write this article, it is a sultry 92 degrees outside, and it's hard to imagine that we will soon be wearing light jackets when we gather to celebrate Shabbat dinners, luncheons, and Havdalah rituals in the homes of our friends and congregants. For the FOURTH straight year, SHS will be inviting members to participate in another popular GWCTS event during the weekend of Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17.

Again, we are looking for members to volunteer to open their homes to fellow congregant guests and prospective synagogue members to host a Shabbat dinner, luncheon, or Havdalah meal. Of course, we are also looking for guests. Gatherings can include everything from very formal sit-down meals to casual garden potluck picnics (including one which was not really casual because we ate on fine china). Past participants have commented that they really enjoyed getting to know other congregants and deepening their knowledge of Jewish rituals and prayers.

We will soon post sign up sheets at the synagogue for you to indicate whether you would like to be a host or guest (many previous guests have offered to be hosts at the next event). Or feel free to contact me (Bjh711@gmail.com or 215.263.4715) with any questions, to let me know if you’d like to participate, or to let me know about any dietary restrictions you may have, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Attention Ushers

Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers during RH & YK services. Your participation is essential to maintain the dignity of our services and to ensure appropriate decorum. We would appreciate your help at as many services as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty van de Rijn at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590.
On Sunday, October 4, we will have a school-wide Sukkot Family Service at 10:30 AM, and this is truly one of the most joyous and invigorating services of the year, during which everyone will have a chance to shake the lulav and etrog on the bimah. Come for the community spirit, come for the tradition, come for the colors and aromas, and shake, shake, shake your way to a great Sukkot celebration!

Last, but certainly not least, please mark your calendars for our Rosh Hashanah School Services on Monday, September 14, 9:30-10:30 AM for Sunday School and 10:45 AM-12:00 PM for Hebrew School. Nine days later, please join us for Yom Kippur School Services on Wednesday, September 23, 9:30-10:30 AM for Sunday School and 10:45 AM-12:00 PM for Hebrew School.

I look forward to welcoming all of you and your children to a new year of joyous Jewish learning. Shanah Tovah Um’tukah, M’le’at Ahavah V’shalvah – wishing you a good and sweet year filled with love and serenity.

Thank you for your sponsorship.

Honey Tasting Oneg
In Memory of Irma Friedman
Jonathan Feinman

In Memory of Molly and Albert Miller
Paula Ninerell

In Memory of Shirley and Joseph Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

In Memory of Our Parents
Marlene Lachman & Alan Ominsky

Break-the-Fast
Michael & Holly Gorsen
Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels

In Memory of Irma Friedman
Jonathan Feinman

In Memory of Shirley and Joseph Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Sukkah Decorations
In Memory of Irma Friedman
Jonathan Feinman

In Memory of Shirley and Joseph Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Additional Thank Yous will be printed in next Kesher.

If you are interested in purchasing a Lulav & Etrog set for Sukkot, please contact Leanne at 215.922.6590 or office@societyhillsynagogue.org. The cost is $40 per set. We have limited amounts so order soon!
Playschool

Big News:

SHS Playschool Has Extended Hours!

Gloria Parris and Ali Kaplan

We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer! Now it's time to start looking forward to another exciting school year filled with creative projects, surprise guest visitors, and NEW extended Playschool hours!

The staff has been working hard all summer to develop extended morning and afternoon programs for our Playschool families. Our extended morning hours will run from 7:45 – 8:30 AM, Monday through Friday. Our extended afternoon hours will run from 3 – 6 PM, Monday through Friday. Children in every class are welcome to stay every day or any day, as needed. Our goal is to provide our parents with more flexible hours, and to provide our students with extra time to play and learn with their friends! Ask about our available multi-day discount packages!

The Playschool also offers an engaging After School Arts program! Each weekday, students will participate in themed projects (Cooking on Mondays, Science on Tuesdays, Arts and Crafts on Wednesdays, Movement and Games on Thursdays, and Music on Fridays). The After School Arts program runs from 12:30 until 3 PM, Monday – Friday. Your child will have a blast participating in these activities, so sign up now!

Please make note of some important Playschool dates during the months of September and October. Parents are invited to stay with their children during the welcome parties and should plan to attend the Parents’ Welcome Meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

September 8    7 PM  Parent Welcome Meeting
September 9    9 AM  Puppy Class Welcome
September 10   9 AM  Puppy Class-1st Day
                 10 AM  Pre-K Welcome
                 11:30 AM  3-4 Class Welcome
September 11   First Day of School

On the first day of school, students in the Puppy Class will come to school from 9 until 10 AM, students in the class for 3 – 4-year-olds will have a regular school day from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, and students in the Pre-K will have a regular school day from 8:30 AM until 2 PM.

Playschool will be closed on the following days in September and October:

September 14 & 15  Rosh Hashanah
September 22
September 23  Yom Kippur
September 24 & 25  Philly Schools Closed
September 28 & 29  Sukkot
October 5  Sh’mini Atzeret
October 12  Columbus Day

There is still time to enroll your child in any of our Playschool classes for the 2015-2016 academic year. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, please contact Gloria Parris (gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org) or Ali Kaplan (abernstein@societyhillsynagogue.org), or call the Playschool office at 215.922.6590, ext. 28.
September Birthdays
Judy Lalli
Lyn Kirshenbaum
Robby Saligman
Neil Cohen
David Gutstadt
Anya Rosin
Madeleine Wilson
Edgar Einhorn
Andrea Ehrlich
Asher Dubin
Valerie Lichtman
Martin Rosenberg
Jay Denbo
Mel Nasielski
Stephen Stein
Karen Hafter
Bart Kaplan
Joann Slosberg
Anya Applebaum Licht
Alexandra Rosen
Brooke Salzman
Betta Kolansky
Paula Ninerell
Ann Rosen Spector
Lynne Rubenfeld
Charlotte Lawton
Jared Susco
Aldo Friedman
Doris Cohen
Fran Gallun
Michael Rochester
Benjamin Cohen
Dana Feinberg
Sari Love
Xavi Freitag
Ben Rosin
Robert Einhorn
Caryn Levitsky
Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton
Jessica Newberg
Jamie Schwartz
Josie Chrismer
Lisa Eizen
Allison Esslinger
Anne Ballen Ladenson
Andrew Bottaro
Rebecca Stolker

October Birthdays
Craig Sobel
Elizabeth Becker
Lily Hayman
Lauren Ladov
Dan Bogen
Michelle Danoff
Caleb Pirok
Cybele Pirok
Andrea Appel
Ellen Fennick
Jacob Mono
Suzanne Fierston
Gabriel Gilbert-Trachtman
Sayde Ladow
Martha Levine
Gerald Faich
Cora Rosin
Ylanah Sloane
Alexander Kranzel
Adam Shapiro
Burton Blender
Roberta Dranoff
Jay Wussow
Janet Cherry
Stephen Leshnoff
Nathan Saltz
Emma Salzman
Scott Richman
Daniel Saligman
Skylar Hunter
Maxwell Gearhart
Greg Guzman
Abraham Summers
Riva Auerbach
Betty Kaplan
Tal Prystowsky
Amy Danoff
Lawrence Goldfinger
Linda Bach
Lila Roomberg
Lena Popkin
Willia Pasternak
Abigail Wolf
Jonathan Weiss
Jacob Hayman
Thea Applebaum Licht
Olivia Backal-Balik
Hannah Feinberg
Clara Gutstadt
Joshua Nadel
Brian Mono
Sharon Shapiro

September Anniversaries
Noah & Sara Chrismer
James & Linda Rosenstein
Irwin Balik & Peggy Backal
Richard Braemer & Amy Finkel
James & Anna Whitesell
Jay Wussow & Emily Zimmerman
Carl & Caryn Levitsky

October Anniversaries
Daniel & Carol Weil
Joshua Nadel & Lana Noel
Craig Pressman & Sandra Lazovitz
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman
Don & Karen Kaufman
Nathaniel Popkin & Rona Buchalter
Sahar & Alli Oz
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Mel Nasielski & Nancy Burd

What is a Kiddush or Oneg?

Customarily at the end of Shabbat morning and holiday services, the SHS community joins together to bless the wine (make “Kiddush”) and the bread (make “Motzi”), and enjoy good food and company! This is what we call “the Kiddush.”

Similarly, at the conclusion of Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat service, we gather for an Oneg or Shabbat dinner, where we bless the wine & bread and share light refreshments or dinner. Sponsoring this weekly community event is a wonderful way to celebrate a simha or joy, mark a special moment in one’s life, honor someone, or commemorate a Yahrzeit. Sponsoring a Kiddush, Oneg, or Shabbat dinner helps the community to get to know you and share important moments in your life. It is also a way to say thank you to your community.

Please call the SHS office at 215.922.6590 or email us at office@societyhillsynagogue for more information.
Mark your calendars for the following TGIShabbat Services

October 2
October 30
November 20
December 25
January 22
February 26
March 25
April 15
May 27

Community News

Mazel Tov to
Judy & Richard Gelles on the birth of their granddaughter, Lia Gelles.

Welcome New Members & Families
G Bartell
Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich
Harold Jacobs
Harry & Sheryl Linhardt
Matthew & Laura Mehrman
Ashleigh Reibach
Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg
Charles and Nicholas
Benjamin Schindler & Rebecca Rohtbart
Noah and Kiera
Sara Steinberger & Jared Shapiro
Ryan Wheeler & Kara Suggarmann Wheeler

MARC L. SCHWARTZ, MD, FACP, FACC, FAHA
STEVEN W. BREECKER, MD, FACC

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Bonny Flanagan

In Honor of
Mary Fish, Beverly Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig, Carolyn Michaels, Randi Glatz, and Jared Susco on their recent Adult B’Nai Mitzvah
Mark & Ann Steinberger

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Joseph Poulshock, Husband of Sally Poulshock
Sally Poulshock

Dolores Borawski, Mother of Tom Borawski
Tom Borawski & Libby Cone

Jack Paller, Father of Robert Paller
Robert Paller

Roger & Lore Bryan, Parents of Jeffrey Bryan
Jeffrey & Ivy Bryan

Benjamin Levering, Father of Sally Poulshock
Sally Poulshock

Annual Giving Fund
In Honor of
Jared Susco’s Bar Mitzvah
Barbara Spector

Beverly Michaels’ Bat Mitzvah
Barbara Spector

Social Action Fund
In Appreciation of
Debbie Stewart for helping with our move
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaire-Rochester

In Honor of
Beverly Michaels on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Michele Zeldner & Ian Wachstein

Bat Mitzvah of Mary Fish
Miriam & Sandy Ain

Playschool Fund
Yahrzeit Remembrance
Bernice Lieberman, Grandmother of Andrew Hohns
Nancy Hohns

Bernice Lieberman, Great-Grandmother of Isaac Henry Hohns
Nancy Hohns

Cantor’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Preparation for Adult B’Nai Mitzvah
Jared Susco
Beverly Michaels and Family

In Honor of
Bat Mitzvah of Mary Fish
Betty & Bart Kaplan
Stanley & Judith Wolof
Mark Dembert
Peggy Anderson

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Beit Din of Beverly Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig & Carolyn Michaels
Beverly Michaels and Family

Preparation for Adult B’Nai Mitzvah
Beverly Michaels and Family

Shiva Service for Nancy Morgenstern’s Mother
Nancy Morgenstern

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Murray Rosof, Father of Libby Rosof
Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn
Herbert Cohn

Alan L. Jacobs, Father of Nancy Goldenberg
Nancy Goldenberg

Nathan Richman, Father of Scott Richman
Scott Richman

Bertram Pincus, Grandfather of Scott Richman
Scott Richman

Sara Weyland
Renee & Harris Hayman

Adult Education Fund
In Appreciation
SHS & RRC Joint Event Dinner
Steve & Susan Leshnoff

In Honor of
Mimi Stillman & Gabe Globus-Hoenich for the May TGIShabbat
Steven & Susan Leshnoff
Annual Giving Appeal

Thank you for your contributions to the SHS Annual Giving Fund which are vital to the financial health of our Synagogue. Your generosity has enabled us to make up the difference between our income from Membership dues and Playschool tuition and our operating expenses.

Harry Bach
Linda Bach
Mitchell Bach
Jim Becker
Myron Bloom & Nancy Moses
Libby Cone & Tom Borawski
Noah & Sara Chrsmer
Herbert Cohn
Theodore Danoff & Diane Siegel Danoff
Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
Robert Einhorn
Steven & Lisa Eizen
Neil Epstein
Jonathan Feinman
Cristina Dorona Fey
Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
Joseph Freedman
Avi & Debra Galler
Randi Glatzer
Michael & Holly Gorsen
Steven & Ruth Greenberg
David Gutstadt & Julia Dranoff Gutstadt
Michael & Leslie Hafter
Merle Jaffe
Edward & Susanne Kaplan
Thomas Kline
Betta Kolansky
Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
Edwin & Etta Krauss
Judith & Tony Lalli
Carl & Caryn Levitsky
Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum
Rina Mitchell
Jane Nathanson & Andrew Newman
David & Linda Paskin
Yanah Sloane
Barry & Joann Slosberg
Barbara Spector
Debra & Bill Stewart
Nuriye Uygur
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
James & Julie Wilson
Flora Wolf

Kiddush Fund
In Honor of
SHS TGIShabbat Services
Amy Michael

B’nai Mitzvah of Mary Fish, Randi Glatzer, Beverly Michaels, Carolyn Michaels, Julia Michaels-Koenig, & Jared Susco
Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of
Marjorie Pressman, Mother of Nancy Morgenstern
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre-Rochester

Shirley Spector, Mother of Barbara Spector
Steve & Susan Leshnoff

Kiddush Sponsorships
Noah & Sara Chrsmer
Mark Dembert & Mary Fish
Stephen & Susan Leshnoff
Geoffrey & Beverly Michaels
Carolyn Michaels
Julia Michaels-Koenig
Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Debra Stewart
Jared Susco

L' Shanah Tovah
Have a sweet year!

Joel Chernock
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
Diane & Theodore Danoff
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Lisa & Steven Eizen
Jonathan Feinman
Terry Graboyes, Noah Herman & Ashley Kerns
Betta Kolansky
Fred & Dinah Lovitch
Harry (aka Jerry) and Eleanor Oxman
Flora Barth Wolf & Laslo V. Boyd
Lois & Jerry Rosenberg

Additional New Year Greetings will be printed in the next issue of the Kesher.
2. Arts & Culture
Jonathan Feinman and Betta Kolansky

The members of the Arts and Culture Committee hope that all of you had a restful summer and are ready for a lot of fun activities in the coming months. We have eleven activities planned for this year so far, and we hope to add more as the year progresses. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome and encouraged. We are reaching out to people for help with some new initiatives this year including an Adult Hanukkah Party, a 2nd Night Seder (Pesah), cooking classes, and other events. If you are looking for a fun way to be involved at SHS, please join our group. Also, if you are not currently getting updates about Arts and Cultural Events please contact me so that I can include you on our email list.

Our first three offerings are connected to Marty Rosenberg’s exciting exhibition, Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art, located at the Stedman Gallery at Rutgers-Camden campus. (The Stedman Gallery is located at 314 Linden Street in Camden, NJ, near 3rd and Cooper Streets. There is a large parking lot on 3rd St., Lot 14, that offers free parking on Sundays.) The exhibition will run from Thursday, September 17 through Saturday, December 12 and includes 51 works by 36 contemporary Israeli artists, half of whom are women, and all of whom are Israeli citizens. For more information about the exhibit, you can visit the Facebook page Israeli Visions of Place, or click on the following link to view Marty’s interview with Comcast newsmakers. http://comcastnewsmakers.com/2015/07/27/visions-of-place/

The events connected to the Israeli Art Exhibition is as follows:
On Saturday evening, September 19, Marty will offer brief tours of the exhibition at 6:30 and 7:30 PM. Then, Symphony in C will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, Op. 36 in F minor with internationally renowned Russian-Jewish pianist Alexander Kobrin. For more information check out Symphony in C’s website at [http://www.symphonyinc.org/](http://www.symphonyinc.org/). A limited number of complimentary tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive two, send an email to mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu.

On Friday, October 23, Marty will give a brief overview of the exhibition following Shabbat services and dinner.

Sunday, November 1, is “SHS Day” at the exhibition. There will be tours for SHS members and guests at 1:00 and 2:00 PM, followed by a free concert by Mimi Stillman and her Dolce Suono Ensemble at 3:00 PM. The program will feature a work they commissioned from Pulitzer-prize winning contemporary Israeli composer Shulamit Ran. A reception will follow.

Please send me an email if you plan to attend and let me know if you can take an additional passenger in your car. We have many people who would like to attend this event but cannot do so if they can’t find a ride. People without rides should also contact me so that I can try to match them with a congregant who can accommodate them.

On Sunday, November 15, join us for a Hanukkah Baking Class at SHS at 1 PM, following Hebrew School. This class will be led by local neighborhood pastry chef Roz, owner of Homemade Goodies by Roz, located on S. 5th Street. The charge for the class will be $5 per person and $10 per family. Tickets for this event will be sold in advance and on a first-come, first-served basis. There is only room for 20 people to participate, so reserve your spot early.

In December, we will have our first Adult Hanukkah party. This event will include dinner, a performance by a comedian, musical entertainment on the piano by new member G Bartell, a candle-lighting demonstration, and dancing. Bring your menorah and dancing shoes—it is going to be a fun-filled evening! We need volunteers to help decorate the Social Hall a few days beforehand. If you would like to help out, please contact Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net.

On Saturday night, January 9, we will have Havdalah and Movie Night. After a short Havdalah service, we will watch a Jewish-themed movie, eat pizza and popcorn, and enjoy each other’s company. The snow date for this event will be Saturday night, January 16.

On Saturday, February 27, we will have our first SHS Open Mic Night. This is the night that all of you extroverts have been waiting for! Here is your chance to show off your special talent, whether your performance involves comedy, singing, dancing, or playing an instrument. Snacks will be served. See you there!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 13, and learn how to cook gefilte fish at SHS for Pesah.

On Saturday, April 16, Jonathan Leshnoff, noted contemporary composer, and son of Susan and Steve Leshnoff, is scheduled to perform the world premier of his clarinet concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra, featuring Ricardo Morales, at the Kimmel Center. Jonathan is a professor of music at Towson University in Maryland and has recorded several CDs. All ticket holders who attend the event will be invited to a kosher post-concert reception at the Double Tree Hotel on Broad Street in Jonathan’s honor. Please RSVP to Susan Leshnoff at susan.leshnoff@gmail.com.
On Saturday, April 23, the 2nd night of Pesah, we will be gathering in SHS Social Hall for another fun-filled Second Night Seder.

Finally, on Sunday, May 1, we will travel to NYC’s Lower East Side to visit the Tenement Museum and the nearby historic Eldridge Street Synagogue, followed by lunch at a local Jewish restaurant. Stay tuned for further details.

We hope to see you at any or all of these events and welcome your questions, suggestions and, most of all, your help. If you would like to join the Arts & Culture Committee or you would like to help just once with a specific task, please contact me at jon46feinman@hotmail.com or Betta Kolansky at bkolansky@comcast.net.

On behalf of our committee, we wish you a sweet and healthy New Year.

L’Shanah Tovah tikatevu v’tehatemu.

3. Tuesday Morning Minyan
Debra Stewart

As you may know, an SHS member leads a brief morning service every Tuesday at 7:15 AM. We need your help to secure a minyan at this service for those individuals in our SHS and local communities who wish to say Kaddish.

In the words of Judy Lalli:

“As a ‘no-longer-a-morning-person’ who attends the Tuesday morning service, I will tell you that it’s hard to get there and always worth it once I do, especially when I’m the 10th person. We have a hamish group, and it is really gratifying when someone new shows up who really needs the minyan. We start the day together, and we finish the service in under a half hour, start to finish.”

Please consider attending this brief, important service. You never know when you may be the 10th person required to make a minyan for someone who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Coffee and bagels will be provided after the service.
The Society Hill Synagogue Clergy, Staff, Officers, & Board of Directors wish you and your family L’Shanah Tovah!

May the New Year bring all that is sweet to you and your loved ones.

Help us combat hunger by participating in our High Holiday Food Drive. Your donations will help feed more than 3,000 families in need, each year through the Jewish Federation’s Mitzvah Food Project.

Donate your canned food this High Holy Day Today!

Kosher Canned Beans
Kosher Nut Butters
Kosher Canned Fish

All food must have a current date and be unopened; no bulk sizes or glass items please.

For your convenience, a large blue container will be in the lobby on the ground floor.
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<td>Rosh Hashanah II 10 AM Service</td>
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<td>Erev Sukkot</td>
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<td>Sukkot VII</td>
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<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>Service &amp; Yizkor</td>
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<td>1:15 PM HS Faculty Meeting</td>
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<td>“Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?” Weekend</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:15 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Culture Dinner &amp; Visions Slide Show presented by Martin Rosenberg Art Professor at Rutgers University</td>
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<td>6:15 PM TGIShabbat featuring Bob and Dan Blacksberg Dinner following services in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Hayman</td>
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