SHS Annual Community Seder
Saturday, March 31, 6 PM

Come to SHS’s Annual Second Night Passover Seder!

Join us in the Social Hall where Rabbi Avi Winokur will lead a creative, fun-filled, and interactive Community Seder on the second night of Passover.

We will be ordering delicious kosher meals from Panache Catering. ([www.foodarama.com](http://www.foodarama.com))

- **Cost:** $48 per adult
- Includes full chicken and brisket dinner
- (Salmon is available for an additional cost of $6).
- **$20 per child (under 13)**

Fee includes a complete Seder plate for each table.

**See full menu to the right.**

Bring your own **Kosher for Passover** wine!

RSVPs and payments are REQUIRED by Monday, March 21. Seating may be limited, so please contact the office at [office@societyhillsynagogue.org](mailto:office@societyhillsynagogue.org) or 215.922.6590 ASAP.

Wishing everyone a sweet and happy Passover!
Rabbi’s Column
Let Us Not Give in to Despair
Avi Winokur

I’m writing in the aftermath of the massacre in Florida. Given the 24/7 news cycle, it will unfortunately be old news by the time you read this. I join with the voices who say, “We offer our thoughts and prayers, but thoughts and prayers are not enough.” Possessing or owning a deadly firearm ought to be at least as well regulated as owing or driving a car.

This brings me to Tuesday evening, February 13, when a group of us got together to deal with the chaos of our time—a session on the day before the Florida massacre. The class was designed for those of us who are agitated, angry, fearful, and at the same time overwhelmed and don’t see ourselves as activists. Many spoke about being glued to the TV, social media, and the news, mostly shouting and screaming at screens in the privacy of our own living spaces. We spoke about the feelings of despair that can wash over us. Yet, to paraphrase Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in his impassioned response to 9-11, *The Dignity of Difference*: Despair is not a Jewish emotion.

What a relief, then, to gather together and begin to think about how those of us who are not likely to transform into full-blown activists can become involved in ways that fit our personalities and can support each other. It was gratifying that so many self-described introverts showed up, just as impassioned as those of us who are more comfortable playing more public roles. The four-session course/workshop/schmooze, etc., ends March 6, but do contact me if you want to get involved. We’ll gladly expand the circle of mutual support that encourages modest efforts to be, as the saying goes, “part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

One major strand of this effort is to provide encouragement to contribute to the repair or healing of the world and to break the isolation that we so often feel amidst the barrage of disturbing news stories and images. Breaking the isolation is critical—feeling part of a group that exemplifies hope in dark times. On Sunday, April 29, join me in the Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Walk. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, Ba’hai, and others are all joining together. It is scheduled from 2 until 5 PM, and we will begin at Arch Street Meeting House at 4th and Arch Streets. We will then walk (or ride) to Society Hill Synagogue, and from there we will walk/ride to Al Aqsa Mosque, at 1501 N. Germantown Avenue (at Jefferson Street). The walk is designed to do something very simple but potentially quite powerful—to bring people of goodwill from different faith traditions together. I urge you in the strongest possible terms not to ask the question “Yes, but what good will a largely apolitical, feel-good interfaith walk do when our world is falling apart?” In and of itself very little, but you might ask yourself the next question: “If it will do very little, then why are so many of the leading activists in Philadelphia participating?” A partial answer is that unless we make connections across faith traditions and broaden our understanding of the Beloved Community (to use a term favored by the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.), then our isolation in self-contained silos will weaken our capacity to realize a vision of the world we want to construct.

As those of us who met on Tuesday, February 13, noted, cheering on our favorite hip, cool progressive commentator and sharing social media of same with like-minded friends does little good and, as we ruefully admitted, it does not make us feel much better (even though that is at least part of the reason we do it). Likewise, screaming at the more outrageous commentators and politicians on our screens is equally ineffective.

Knowing that you are a contributing member of a community of folks working toward realizing a more just, compassionate, and loving world—that is invigorating. Often we will become discouraged. At times like that, let us remember the centuries-old statement of our ancient rabbis: “Lo alekha ha-m’lakha ligmor, v’lo atah ben horin l’hivatel menna.” “It is not up to you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.” There have been darker times in our history, and we did not survive by giving in to despair.

March/April 2018 Newsletter
On Tuesday, February 13, twelve congregants gathered with me in the Social Hall at Society Hill Synagogue to participate in the first class of Rabbi Winokur’s new Adult Education course entitled “Finding Balance: Pursuing Justice & Nourishing the Soul.” Rabbi eased us into the discussion by asking us a series of questions giving each participant an opportunity to express his or her social and political concerns related to the present environment in which we live. He then asked us about our capability to take action with regard to these concerns, and to consider the obstacles that we might encounter if we did so. Next, he invited us to express how we would prioritize this list of actions in the absence of any personal obstacles.

The two-hour class flew by. It was quite obvious from the discussion that members of this group were kindred spirits, socially and politically. Equally obvious was the fact that each congregant felt a sense of frustration in not being able to do more to address the issues that they found so important. I believe that, perhaps, subsequent classes under the Rabbi's guidance will lead us to the course's titular goal of “finding balance” in our pursuits. I left the class with the expectation that more meaningful discussions would likely occur in future classes, and I felt a sense of contentment when I realized that I was not alone and that others shared my concerns and struggles. Our group formed a connection by addressing these complex issues that helped to ease the anxiety and discomfort that I felt when I first arrived; I reflected that it almost felt like a group therapy session.

Unfortunately my sense of contentment from this class experience came to an abrupt halt after learning about the tragic events of Wednesday, February 14—Valentine’s Day—a holiday usually devoted to a national celebration of love. Tragically, it was not such a day for the students and faculty at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. We all know what occurred there on this day, so there is no need to repeat a description of the horrific events in any detail in this column. The horrific carnage resulted from the actions of an obviously mentally deranged 19-year-old male who used an assault weapon known as an “AR-15 semi-automatic rifle” to gun down students and teachers inside the school.

I am writing this column on Sunday, February 18—President’s Weekend. I must admit that I was disappointed in the response to this horrific event that we heard from our federal government leaders, namely: President Trump, Senate Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Speaker Paul Ryan. Not one of these individuals in speaking about the event ever mentioned the word “gun.” Nor did any of them express a need to take action by instituting meaningful legislation to ban ownership of assault weapons. Rather, they stated openly that in the face of this tragedy, they felt it was too soon for us to discuss the politics of rational gun legislation. I suggest to you that it is the right time for this discussion. I am thankful that the students, teachers, and parents affected by this horrific event in Parkland, Florida agree.

Continued on page 8
Is Judaism a means to an end or an end in and of itself? This probably oversimplified question has many important ramifications.

To some young people, the notion that you “do Jewish,” i.e., that you stay engaged in Jewish life and perform Jewish rituals, simply because your parents did and their parents did before them, is devoid of something. There are many practices, superstitions, and traditions from a number of cultures that have fallen by the wayside over the years because they did not remain compelling. If Judaism doesn’t do something for you—provide your life with a sense of meaning, for instance—then what is the point? Are we simply idolizing the past? That doesn’t feel Jewish.

For these Jews, Judaism is—subtly and implicitly—a means to an end. Judaism is a pathway to a sense of greater purpose.

As was probably evident in this description, there is something both understandable and dangerously solipsistic—self-centered—about this approach. On the one hand, there are so many compelling ways to spend our time nowadays: yoga, exercise, perusing a museum, attending a ballgame, showing up for social justice protests. With these meaningful ways to spend my leisure time, doesn’t Judaism need to do something for me, for it to attract my—and other folks’—attention? Don’t I need to be able to identify how it uplifts me in some way?

On the other hand, is that the right way to approach something as fundamental as religion? As belonging to a people? Aren’t there obligations that stem from belonging to a religious civilization—sitting shivah (visiting mourners), for example—that have nothing to do with the benefits that redound to me? Shouldn’t I feel a sense of obligation to the Jewish people, to the Jewish tradition, and even to God, that does not ask ‘what I get out of it?’

This latter framing could be described, in alignment with the question I laid out at the outset, as approaching Judaism as an end in and of itself. Under this frame, Judaism needs our service to it, regardless of what we get out of it as individuals.

This is not an easy question. On the one hand, if we fail to articulate compelling reasons to be Jewish and to do Jewish, it is hard to imagine future generations engaging themselves with Judaism, particularly in a world where many of us don’t see ourselves as “commanded” by a Biblical God to observe the 613 mitzvot (commandments) found in the Torah. If we don’t see ourselves as commanded by an Outside Force, what reason do we have to engage? Doesn’t there need to be something personally fulfilling to keep us coming back—to synagogue life, to Jewish ritual, to tradition?

On the other hand, if there needs to always be a reason to do something that relates to what we get out of it, have we not lost something of the essence of what Judaism was constructed to do? The Torah spells out a covenantal relationship between the Israelites and the Divine—something we were essentially contractually obligated to carry out. While the covenant spells out certain benefits we would get from the relationship (see, e.g., Deut 30:5 “And the LORD your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers.”), that sense of obligation pervaded the ethos of our ancestors in a manner that was more prominent than it is for non-Orthodox Jews today.

Today I find it to be both important to spell out what “the point” of doing Jewish is and to acknowledge an aspiration that we commit ourselves to a larger sense of purpose—service to the Divine, for example—without wondering ‘what’s in it for us.’ The former is important so that we continue the Jewish legacy of constantly questioning, constantly wrestling—yearning to wring the most out of our engagement with Torah; the latter, so that, in our search for personal fulfillment, we do not lose sight of our commitment to the Divine—a commitment to a greater purpose than ourselves.
A popular Israeli song released by Micha Shitrit almost exactly 20 years ago on his debut album reminds listeners several times that “We’ll get through the winter, and then we’ll see, in the spring, in the spring.” Well, winter has passed and spring is here, and with the new season come a variety of celebrations, special events, and school-wide observances.

March begins with three consecutive Shabbatot of B’nai Mitzvah services, with the Saturday, **March 3**, intergenerational B’nai Mitzvah of Max and Rachel Ladenson and their mother, Anne; Sadie Margolin’s Bat Mitzvah on **March 10**; and Raphael Englander’s Bar Mitzvah on **March 17**. Each service will begin at 9:30 AM, so come experience the achievements of these fellow congregants in Jewish learning and Torah leyning and Haftarah chanting!

On **Sunday, March 18**, students from Kitot Vav–Yud (grades 6-10) will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia to pack and deliver food packages to Jewish neighbors in need of assistance. We have secured a bus to bring our delegation to the JRA and then take us on the delivery route. **Parents are encouraged to join us**, and everyone going from our school can either drive on their own to JRA and meet us there at 10 AM or **arrive at the synagogue by 9 AM and board the bus**. We’ll return to SHS by 1 PM.

The following **Sunday, March 25**, our Hebrew High students will meet at the National Liberty Museum for the “Be An Upstander” guided tour and “Upstander Strategies” activity.

With Pesah beginning on **Friday, March 30**, there will be **no classes on Sunday, April 1**.

The following **Sunday, April 8**, students in grades 3–10 will participate in a memorial observance of Yom Hasho’ah (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day) starting at **12:15 PM**. A week later, on **April 15**, we will have our Yom Ha’atzma’ut (Israel Independence Day) celebrations in Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High.

Our older students will precede their Yom Ha’atzma’ut celebration with a brief ceremony at **12 PM**, to mark Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day for Israel’s Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism). **Parents are encouraged to join us for these school-wide remembrance programs and celebrations on April 8 and 15**, respectively.

April will also feature a pair of class-led services, with Rabbi Avi and Hazzan Jessi being joined on the bimah by Gan and Kitah Aleph (Kindergarten and 1st Grade) students on **Saturday morning, April 14**, and by Kitah Vav (6th Grade) students on **Saturday morning, April 28**. Each service will begin at **10:30 AM**, and will be followed by a delicious lunch. Your RSVP for each lunch is requested to Executive Director Betty van de Rijn at (bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org) at least two days before the respective service.

Last, but certainly not least, **Friday, April 27**, will feature a Kabbalat Shabbat service honoring our congregation’s high school seniors, who will be graduating soon. Please join us for the service and RSVP to Betty for the dinner following the service.

Our faculty, classroom aides, and I wish you and your family a happy Pesah and a spectacular spring!
SHS Capital Campaign Update
Jeremey Newberg

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to announce that, so far, we have secured just under half a million dollars in pledges for the Society Synagogue Building Improvement Capital Campaign. We sincerely thank the 55 members who have already made their pledges.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please take a moment to show your love and support for SHS.

The goal of the Building Improvement Capital Campaign is to upgrade our synagogue spaces to enhance our religious, educational, cultural, spiritual, and communal experiences with improvements in accessibility, safety, functionality, beauty, and comfort. This effort will include renovating two properties: 418 Spruce Street, where the synagogue is currently located, and 430 Spruce Street, the building we own next door (into which we plan to expand).

Through a dedicated series of surveys and group discussions, we asked SHS members to prioritize the ways in which we can make our synagogue the best place it can be. As a community, we determined we want to:

- Improve our facilities to help make our historic building a more functional, welcoming, and dignified space for our congregants and guests;
- Expand, improve, and upgrade the classroom spaces for the Playschool and Sunday and Hebrew Schools;
- Increase the number of Adult Education classes offered by SHS;
- Create more accessible and vibrant outdoor spaces; and
- Create more accessible and beautiful spaces that support the range of religious, educational, and community activities that define the SHS experience.

It is my honor to serve as Chairman of the SHS Capital Campaign Committee. Although we have hard work ahead, I have already enjoying this leadership position. Board and Capital Campaign Committee members are looking forward to meeting with you and learning about your relationships with our shul. Our goal is to help each and every member say, “Yes, I will make a Joyful Stretch pledge in support of SHS!”

In May my wife, Fran, and I will receive the 2018 B’nai B’rith Educators Unit #5290 Service to the Jewish Community Award. At that ceremony, I will share my love for Society Hill Synagogue and how, since 1996, the SHS kehillah has nourished my soul, affirmed my faith, and blessed me and my family with a community of friends.

SHS continues to buoy my family and me as we go through our life journeys, and we are excited by the prospect of creating spaces in our buildings that will enrich our experiences in education, connection, worship, service, and celebration.

If you visit SHS on a Sunday, you will find every corner—and I mean every corner—put to use. Hebrew school students are hunkered down in every inch of the Social Hall and rear Playschool classroom, with small groups spilling over into the Sanctuary; Adult Education classes are being conducted in the Beit Midrash and in the hallways outside the Sanctuary. Our building overflows with Jewish learning and living.

While this is inspiring, it is also challenging. In 2007, we were fortunate to purchase the building next door was so that we could expand and renovate our usable spaces.

Continued on page 8
Join us Friday, March 9, for a special edition of *Friday Nights with Young Families!* We will welcome families from across Philadelphia through a partnership with *JKidPhilly*. We will gather in the Social Hall (now that we’ve outgrown the rear Playschool classroom) starting around 5:30 PM, and we’ll begin the program at 5:45 PM.

Once a month, we come together to share songs, prayers, and a potluck meal—all at a bedtime-friendly hour. A Jewish Education professional with years of experience leads our short, kid-friendly Shabbat services. We celebrate the joys of community and prayer, and participants will also learn to build their own memories and family traditions in their homes. No prior Jewish knowledge or experience is necessary.

We welcome all families with young children to join our warm and welcoming community! Parents, prospective members with young children, expectant parents, and any caretakers are invited to join our email list by contacting me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com. Our programs and group are geared toward kids aged birth to Pre-K, but kids of all ages will be welcomed with open arms.

Additional dates that we will meet: Fridays: April 27 and June 1.

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**Religion Committee**

**A New Siddur for Shabbat Services**

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

In use since October, the new Rabbinical Assembly Shabbat & Festival Siddur Lev Shalem, has enhanced our worship services. This new siddur has the same format as the Lev Shalem Mahzor, with extensive modern transliteration and translation, prayer commentary on the right side of the Hebrew text, and insightful adjunctive readings on the left side of the English text.

Dedication opportunities exist ($36) to help defray the cost of these beautiful siddurim.

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SHS Capital Campaign Update  
Continued from page 6

Fortunately, we were able to raise the capital funds to purchase the building. However, due (in part) to the economic downturn, we did not achieve our goal of raising the dollar amount necessary to also complete the necessary renovations.

On occasion, SHS president Harry Oxman has asked me to congratulate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah on behalf of the Board during his or her special Saturday morning service. My message to those children is, “This is your House. Make it your home. YOU are loved; we are proud of you, and we expect you to continue to contribute to the SHS community as you grow.”

I would say the same to all SHS congregants, “This is your House. Make it your Home.”

Please help SHS finish the job of expanding and improving our home to meet the needs of our growing SHS kehillah. If you haven’t yet made a Capital Campaign contribution, please pick up the phone and call the office at 215.922.6590 to make your pledge. Or you can make a pledge online at www.societyhillsynagogue.org/2017-capital-campaign.

We aim for each member of the congregation to make what we call a “joyful stretch.” We want you to feel good about your gift. May your participation bring you fulfillment. May your contribution make you feel like you are part of something bigger—as you help our community achieve our goals.

If you have any questions or would like to meet with me, I would love to visit with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jeremeynewberg@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping to make our community vibrant, loving, and full of life.

President’s Column  
Continued from page 3

Upon retrospective consideration of the topics we discussed in class on February 13, only one member of our socially conscious group raised the issue of gun control, and it was at the bottom of that person’s list of 5 or 6 priority concerns. I have asked myself, “How can this be?” I find this to be incredible, especially when one considers the frequency with which mass murders have been committed by American citizens over the last five years. So, why was the need for gun control legislation barely mentioned by any of us during this class? I suggest that this could be the case because we have been the victims propaganda put forth by the gun lobby and their constituents, many of whom are involved in governing our country and state. While serving their constituents, these people have persuaded us to believe—that in the aftermath of every horrific gun tragedy that has occurred—that the time was not appropriate for political action. We have been deceived and likely silenced by that message for far too long. We can no longer be silent. We must do something now.

My purpose in writing this column is to invite SHS members to unite with the students, parents, and teachers of Parkland, Florida. Hopefully, all of us working together—along with many other individuals and groups committed to sensible gun legislation—will succeed in banning the ownership of assault weapons in our country.

It is my plan to meet with our Social Action Committee, led by Phyllis Denbo, to discuss methods for our congregants to become involved with this initiative. I invite you to reach out to me by email at hjoxman@comcast.net for further information.
Playschool
Summer Camp is Around the Corner!
Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

March begins with the celebration of Purim in the Playschool. Each of the classes will sing Purim songs for their families and invited guests while wearing costumes that are traditional to Purim or costumes of their choice. On Thursday, March 1, at 10:30 AM, the Pre-Kindergarten Class will perform, followed by students in the class for 3–4-year-olds at 11:30 AM. Students in the class for 2-year-olds will perform their songs on Friday, March 2, at 11 AM. After each class performance, the children and their families will have lunch together. All children are invited to participate with their class even if Thursdays or Fridays are not their usual days to attend the Playschool.

On Tuesday, March 13, the children in the 3–4-year-old class will be going on their third trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Museum Looks and Picture Books program. This program introduces art concepts to preschool-aged children. The theme of the lesson will be “Triangles, Circles, Lines – Oh, My!” while the children tour the Modern Art galleries.

Each month, a special presentation takes place during our After School Arts program. On Wednesday, March 14, playschool teacher Miss Stephanie will lead an arts class in drama, role-playing, and music.

On Tuesday, April 10, Playschool parent Jessica Downes Stuebner will teach the children about fitness and exercise in After School Arts. We hope that all of the children will extend their school days by participating in our After School Arts programming.

The Playschool will be closed beginning on Friday, March 30, through Friday, April 6, for Passover.

On Thursday, April 12, the Pre-K Class will attend a performance of The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley, Jr. at the Walnut Street Theatre.

The Playschool Spring Potluck Shabbat Dinner will take place on Friday, April 13, 5–6:30 PM. The children will recite the blessings that they have learned during our weekly Shabbat celebrations. Shabbat dinners are always a wonderful way to welcome Shabbat with other Playschool families.

There are a few spots remaining for the upcoming school year beginning in September 2018. Please make an appointment by calling the Playschool office to visit our classes and to learn why the SHS Playschool is a wonderful “first-school experience” for all children.

SHS Summer camp information and applications will be available soon. The Playschool Summer Camp will run from Monday, June 4, through Friday, August 3. Children aged 2–5 may enroll for certain days and/or weeks, according to parents’ needs. The regular camp hours are 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Early care (beginning at 7:45 AM), After Camp Arts, and Late Care (until 6 PM) will also be available. Outdoor tricycle riding, circle time, music, arts and crafts, story time, movement activities, and water play are some of our fun-filled camp activities. Children are asked to bring a dairy lunch each day, and Playschool parents are asked to provide daily snacks on a rotating basis.

The Playschool Specialty Camps will run during the weeks of August 6 and August 13. All projects and activities will focus on a weekly theme. Children may be enrolled during either week or for both weeks of Specialty Camp. To learn about any of the Playschool programs, please contact us at 215.922.6590, x28, or send an email to gparris@societyhillsynagogue.org.
APRIL BIRTHDAYS
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Alan Casper
Steve Graham
Robert Blacksberg
Rebecca Femia
Natalie Lesser
Alan Ominsky
Barbara Rottenberg
Miriam Pogach
Zachary Downes
Isaac Freedman
Jordan Gifford
Gerry Schneeburg
Evelyn Segal
Harrison Feinberg
Ashleigh Reibach
Stella Wolob
Josephine Cooper
Jessica Downes
William Goldberg
Toby Dichter
Brian Englander
Kathy Bernsten
Stephen Brown
Pekka Hakkarainen
Meredith Buse
Ella Gutstadt
Mary Fish
Ruth Greenberg
Matilda Hart
Bruce Katcher
Michael Raphael
Adina Zalesne Siff
Robert Bass
Bruce Hirsch
Derek Jordan
Iris Levine
Richard Balderston
Emma Graham
David Miller
Esme Oxman
Scott Siff
Thomas Borawski
Jessica Mono
Rafael Winokur
Beverly Michaels
Luke Makuen
Aaron Picht
Carl Levitsky
Murray Dubin

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES
David & Rebecca Makuen
Scot & Marcie Ziskind
Arthur & Miriam Shapiro
Seth & Rachel Cohen
Michael Yudell & Jacqueline Rick
Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley
Bruce & Carol Katcher
Anthony & Judith Lalli
Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES
Carl & Roberta Dranoff
Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich
Joshua & Stephanie Wolson
Mary Fish & Mark Dembort

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 simcha 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.
Save the Date
POWER Lunch & Learn
Gerald Faich

Please join us for a Lunch & Learn on Saturday, May 12, at 12:30 PM, after Shabbat Morning services to hear Andrea Moselle, Co-Chair of POWER’s Strategic Team for Education. We will discuss Philadelphia Schools, including aspects of funding, the new School Board and POWER Initiatives.

Community News

Speedy Recovery to
Eleanor Oxman
Carole Le Faivre-Rochester

Mazel Tov to
Stanley & Judith Woloff on the birth of their grandson, David Henry Woloff.

Stephen & Susan Leshnoff on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Zayne.

Condolences to
Curtis Lizenbaum on the death of his mother, Mildred Lizenbaum.

Billy Love and Family on the death of Billy’s mother, Arlene Love.

Julie Liedman and Family on the death of Julie’s husband, John Liedman.

Welcome to New Members
Dan Ehrenfeld & Sue Huang
Una and Mei

Adriel Mesznik & Elizabeth Heller-Mesznik
Elias

Aaron & Elina Picht
Sebastian

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### General Fund

**In Honor of**

- Abigail Weiss & Jonathan Weiss  
  Joan & Mark Weiss

**Stanley & Judith Woloff, birth of their grandson, David Henry Woloff**  
Jerry & Joan Roller

**In Memory of**

- Mildred Lizenbaum  
  Marian Derins  
  Rita Altman Weinberger  
  The Derins Family

- Deborah Stoloff  
  Curtis Lizenbaum

- Arlene Love, Mother of Billy Love  
  Faye Allard & Matthew Glass  
  The Vadino-Rux Family  
  Jane Jacobs  
  Lisa Sellers-Friedman  
  Paul & Nancy Panepinto  
  Donna Spector  
  Alen & Bettryuth Aisenstein  
  Kristi A. Bergman  
  Ron Shamwell

**John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman**  
Jay Meadway & Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway  
Stanton & Merle Salkin  
Susan Baren-Pearson & Family  
Linda Joy Goldner

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**

- Alvin & Gloria Berman, Parents of Rabbi Marjorie Berman  
  Rabbi Marjorie Berman & Rabbi Daniel Swartz

- Sam Rosenberg, Father of Jerome Rosenberg  
  Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

- William Feldstein, Father of Lois Rosenberg  
  Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

- Philip Rose, Father of David Rosen  
  David & Cheryle Rosen

- Adam Levy  
  Dorene Rosenthal

- Louis Blender, Father of Burton Blender  
  Burton Blender

- Morris Serlin, Father of David Serlin  
  David Serlin & Susan Denbo

- Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller  
  Jerry & Joan Roller

- Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn  
  Herbert Cohn

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| **Clarence Lovitch, Father of Fred Lovitch**  
  Fred & Dinah Lovitch |
| **Clarence Lovitch, Grandfather of Beth Dougherty & Michael Lovitch**  
  Beth Dougherty & Michael Lovitch |

### Annual Giving Fund

**Mazel Tov to**

- Stephen & Susan Leshnoff, birth of granddaughter, Noa Zayne  
  Barbara Spector

**In Honor of**

- Stanley & Judith Woloff, birth of grandson, David Henry Woloff  
  Barbara Spector

**Purim Celebrations**

- Barbara Spector

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**

- Leon Spector, Father of Barbara Spector  
  Barbara Spector

### Social Action Fund

**Yahrzeit Remembrance**

- Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin  
  Murray Dubin

- Jules Cohen, Father of Neil Cohen  
  Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**

**Get Well Wishes to**

- Linda Joy Goldner  
  Stanley & Judith Woloff

**In Appreciation of**

**Torah Study with Rabbi Winokur**

- Rabbi Valerie Joseph

**Barry Slesberg’s January Lunch & Learn**

- Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

**Rabbi Avi Winokur**

- Nuriye Uygur and Family

**In Honor of**

- Stanley & Judith Woloff, birth of grandson, David Henry Woloff  
  Mary Fish & Mark Dembert  
  Rina & Bill Mitchell

**In Memory of**

- John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman  
  Linda & Jim Rosenstein  
  Stanley & Judith Woloff

- Mildred Lizenbaum, Mother of Curtis Lizenbaum  
  Stanley & Judith Woloff

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Continued next page
**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Isadore Schertz, Grandfather of Pelley Brown
Stephan & Pelley Brown

Micah Hohenberger, Late Husband of Bonny Hohenberger
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farberman

Bernard Farberman, Cousin of Nathan Farberman
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farberman

Anna & Benjamin Farberman, Parents of Nathan Farberman
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farberman

Ann Isacoff, Mother of Judy Gelles
Judy Gelles

Richard Druckman, Father of Karen Palmer
Karen Palmer

Baruch Blumberg, Husband of Jean Blumberg
Jean Blumberg

Michael Palmer, Former Husband of Karen Palmer
Karen Palmer

**Kiddush Fund**

Speedy Recovery
Eleanor Oxman
The Hayman Family

In Appreciation of
December TGIShabbat
Amy Michael

In Honor of
Stanley & Judith Woloff, birth of grandson, Henry David Woloff
Marty & Betty van de Rijn
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Stephen & Susan Leshnoff, birth of granddaughter, Noa Zayne
Jane Nathanson & Andrew Newman
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of
John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman
Andrew & Joanna Bottaro
Marty & Betty van de Rijn
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Mildred Lizenbaum, Mother of Curtis Lizenbaum
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Arlene Love, Mother of Billy Love
Marty & Betty van de Rijn

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

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**Prayerbook Fund**

In Honor of
Roberta Jacobs-Meadway on her recent retirement
Tuesday Morning Minyan

New Lev Shalom For Shabbat Festivals
Prayerbook Dedications
Tom Borawski & Libby Cone
Claire Dubin
Joseph Freedman
Linda Joy Goldner
Marc & Staci Schwartz
Manuel and Beatrice Sloane Foundation
Barbara Spector
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

**Silver Heit Salkin Fund**

In Memory of
John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman
Stanton & Merle Salkin

**Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund**

In Honor of
Sahar Oz
Tal & Valerie Pipano and Family

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Dorothy Serlin, Mother of David Serlin
David Serlin & Susan Denbo

Lawrence Kaiser, Father of Ron Kaiser
Ron & Libby Kaiser

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March/April 2018 Newsletter
The 15th Annual
Philadelphia
Interfaith Walk
for Peace
and Reconciliation

2018 Theme: “Recognizing The One In All of Us”


Sunday April 29, 2018 from 2:00 to 5:00

For parking and other information
www.InterfaithPeaceWalk.org
InterfaithPeaceWalk@gmail.com
facebook.com/PhiladelphiaInterfaithPeaceWalk

2018 Peace Walk Venues

1. Arch Street Friends Meeting House
   320 Arch St.
   Philadelphia 19106

2. Society Hill Synagogue
   418 Spruce St.
   Philadelphia 19106

3. Al Aqsa Islamic Center Mosque
   1501 Germantown Ave.
   (3rd & Jefferson Sts.)
   Philadelphia 19122
Social Action
Updates on Two Social Action Programs
Phyllis Denbo

Emergency Fund for SHS’s Refugee Family

After an extended period of exploration and deliberation, Society Hill Synagogue has decided to adopt a refugee family. We have been working closely with representatives of HIAS PA and are taking on the project in collaboration with Temple Beth Zion Beth Israel. In January, the HIAS Director of Refugee Planning and Programming, SHS member Rona Buchalter led a session about the history of HIAS’s work, the current status of immigration to Philadelphia, and provided a detailed description of what supporting a refugee family entails.

Given the current constraints regarding immigration to the U.S., we may have to wait several months for HIAS to identify a family who would be an appropriate match for us. In the meantime, we have been developing a support team with the skills and interests to meet the family’s most pressing needs. Among these needs, especially in the early months after their arrival, is financial assistance for such items as transportation, household goods, and fees related to housing, employment, etc. There will be a drive to collect some of these items, but HIAS recommends that, for now, we raise funds (approximately $3,000 between SHS and BZBI) for our future adopted family.

When we conducted a survey of SHS members last year, we asked what action(s) you would like SHS to undertake in support of immigrants/refugees. The two choices checked most often were: raise funds for unanticipated family needs and collect clothing, small household items, and furniture. To contribute to the fund, please make your check out to Society Hill Synagogue and note on the memo line of the check that your donation is for the Refugee Emergency Fund. HIAS has asked us not to begin a drive for clothing, household items, etc. until they provide us with an itemized list of current needs. Please wait for that list to be published in the Kesher before making any in-kind donations.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to announcing that we have been matched with a refugee family.

Martin Luther King Day at Vare-Washington Elementary School

Once again, there was an excellent turnout of SHS members at the Vare-Washington Elementary School on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this year. More than 30 people of all ages cooperated in the effort to organize the library. Books were divided by grade level, labeled, and shelved in a format that will help library volunteers to maintain the new level of organization, while making it easier for students to select books. A well-organized system was critical to establish, because there has been a significant increase in the number of library books added to the inventory. In addition to many generous book donations, the purchase of a large number of new books was made possible by a successful annual book fair supervised by Flora Wolf and her team of volunteers. In fact, there were so many books that despite the hard work of the dedicated team of SHS volunteers on MLK Day, there is still more work to be done. Additional SHS volunteer days at the Vare-Washington library will be scheduled in the coming months. Please watch for the dates and join us.
**Annual Giving: Thank You for Your Support!**
Robert & Wilma Bass
Susan Denbo & David Serlin
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
Tony Lalli
Iris Levine
Louis & Lauren Marion
Brian & Jessica Mono
Jeremey & Fran Newberg
Barbara Spector
Debra Stewart
Jeremy Tobacman & Jean Galbraith
James & Julie Wilson

“Hebrew School students enjoy Our annual Tu B’Sh’vat Seder”

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**2017—2018**

**SHS B’nai Mitzvah Celebrations**

March 3
Rachel and Max Ladenson
Anne Ballen Ladenson
Daughter and Son of Anne Ballen Ladenson &
Michael Ladenson

March 10
Sadie Margolin
Daughter of Rachel Margolin

March 17
Raphael Englander
Son of Brian & Juliet Englander

June 9
Maya Saltzman
Daughter of Brooke & Matthew Saltzman

June 23
Chuck & Nick Schaeffer
Sons of Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg
Purim Party 2018 at World Café Live!
Larry Goldfinger

HS members are invited to see a concert on Thursday, March 1, at 8 PM (doors open at 7 PM), at World Café Live. Performers will include the West Philadelphia Orchestra with Philly Klezmer All-Stars, featuring Susan Watts and Dan Blacksberg.

From the World Café Live website:

“With a line-up of Philadelphia musicians whose influences range from Sun Ra to Bulgarian brass bands, West Philadelphia Orchestra is a unique live ensemble in today’s auto-tuned musical world. They began playing Romanian ballads, Macedonian folk-dance songs, Bulgarian wedding music, and Klezmer in late 2006, and have continued expanding their repertoire of Eastern European music. The band also plays original tunes which blend other sounds, like jazz and classical, together with traditional Balkan sounds. As much a community as a band, WPO’s performances are celebratory events. With blistering beats and walls of brass, they inspire audiences to hold hands, gyrate, howl, and otherwise slip the yoke of the homogenized culture industry.”

“Zla S’dba’ is a joyful Balkan dance number that gets everyone in the room swaying. Bulgarian language skills not required; the song’s irresistibly celebratory spirit needs no translation.” – Rachel, NPR Tiny Desk Contest

“Despite a sizeable portion of the crowd likely not understanding the various languages of the southeastern Europe region, there always seems to be a supernatural synergy between them and the band.” – JUMP Philly

“– this is by far one of the most energetic acts in the city. Check them out, they host the Balkan Dance party at Underground Arts [now at Franky Bradley’s].” – Get Lucid

World Café Live is located at 3025 Walnut Street. Tickets: $15 (plus fees) For further information, or to purchase tickets online, visit https://www.worldcafelive.com/event/1639757-purim-party-2018-west-philly-philadelphia/.
MLK Day of Service at Vare-Washington
**Adult Education**

**Introduction to Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel**
Marc Schwartz

Join Rabbi Avi Winokur on Tuesday 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, & 4/3, at 7:30 PM, for an engaging lecture series. Three towering thinkers/theologians/religious leaders of the last century in America were Mordecai Kaplan, Joseph Soloveitchik, and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Heschel embodied the cultivation of a deep inner spiritual life in tandem with a passionate commitment to social justice. He is a rabbi for our times. A student of Martin Buber and close friend of Martin Luther King, Heschel did more than strike a balance—his passionate commitment to God and humanity is exemplified in his statement, “A prophet is a person who holds God and men in one thought at one time, at all times.” This statement was part of the keynote address—a speech we will study—during a conference on religion and race in 1963.

![Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel](image)

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**The Young Friends of SHS**

**Join Our E-Mail List!**
Natalie Lesser & Jordan Segall

The Young Friends of Society Hill Synagogue are a group of individuals who are creating a community that fosters Jewish identity, culture, and friendship. We meet for potluck dinners, pre-Shabbat drinks, and discussions about spiritual exploration. Join our e-mail list to learn about upcoming events.

For further information, please contact us at: (Natalie Lesser) lesser.natalie@gmail.com or (Jordan Segall) segall.jordan@gmail.com.

We invite you to "like" our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/](http://www.facebook.com/SHSYoungFriends/).
Mark Your Calendars for These TGI Shabbat Services

**Friday, March 23, at 6:15 PM**

Join us on Friday, March 23, 6:15 PM, as we give a warm SHS welcome to Astral Artist and trombonist Brittany Lasch.

Trombonist Brittany Lasch has appeared as soloist with the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” the Queens Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Manhattan School of Music Philharmonia. With playing described as “masterful” (*Syracuse Post-Standard*), Ms. Lasch is the new Instructor of Trombone at Bowling Green State University. She is a winner of Astral’s 2017 National Auditions. Ms. Lasch was also the winner of the 2015 National Collegiate Solo Competition hosted by the U.S. Army Band. Her trombone quartet Boston Based was just named the winner of the 2017 International Trombone Association’s Quartet Competition. Ms. Lasch has performed with the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Vermont Symphony, Albany Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Symphoria, Bangor Symphony Orchestra, and the New World Symphony in Miami Beach.

Brittany earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University, where she received the Brass Department Award. She also holds a Master of Music degree from Yale School of Music. Upon graduation from the Manhattan School of Music, she received the coveted John Clark Award for outstanding accomplishment in Brass Performance.

Brittany Lasch is an Edwards Trombone Performing Artist.

**Celebrate Israel’s 70th Independence Day on Friday, April 20, at 6:15 PM**

A special birthday calls for a special celebration, and we are very excited to mark the State of Israel’s 70th Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Independence Day) with TGI Shabbat on Friday, April 20, at 6:15 PM, featuring internationally renowned trombonists Nitzan Haroz and Dan Blacksberg! Performing together for the first time, Nitzan and Dan will add an unforgettable blend of Shabbat spirituality, Sabra soul, and world-class sound to Kabbalat Shabbat.

The service will be followed by a delicious Israeli dinner, and RSVPs to Betty are kindly requested by Wednesday, April 18 (*bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org*). The service and dinner are open to the entire community.

Israel native Nitzan Haroz has been Principal Trombone of the Philadelphia Orchestra since 1995, except for a brief period when he held the same position with the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 2012–2014. Nitzan previously served as Assistant Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic and Principal Trombone of the Israel Symphony and Opera Orchestra. He was also First Trombone of the Israel Defense Forces Orchestra and performed with the Jerusalem Symphony. Nitzan has appeared as a soloist with many orchestras, and he is an active recitalist and chamber musician.

Nitzan has commissioned and premiered several works for trombone and harp with his mother, harpist Adina Haroz. He has given master classes and recitals in Israel, the U.S., Europe, and Asia. His recording, *Towards the Light*, was released in 2004. Nitzan currently serves on the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Spanning avant-garde jazz, modern classical music, improvised music, and klezmer, Society Hill Synagogue congregant Dan Blacksberg brings a rough-edged voice that pushes at the technical and textural extremes of the trombone. A 2012 Pew Fellow in the Arts, the Philadelphia native has made a name for himself as a leader, with projects such as the Daniel Blacksberg Trio, Hasidic doom metal band Deveykus, and as a co-leader of the musical duo Archer Spade. Dan is one of the few musicians in the world who perform and teach traditional klezmer music on the trombone. Recognized as a master of the traditional trombone style, he can often be found performing with the field’s top artists. He is a founding member of Alan Bern’s The Other Europeans and has performed and recorded with Frank London, Adrienne Cooper, Michael Winograd, Daniel Kahn, Hankus Netsky, Alicia Svigals, and Elaine Hoffman-Watts. Dan has taught and performed in festivals all over the world, such as KlezKamp, KlezKanada, Lowell Folk Festival, the Krakow Festival of Jewish Culture, and Yiddish Summer Weimar.
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<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Balancing the Pursuit of Social Justice</td>
<td>7:30 PM Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat Service 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>Vaya-p’kudei 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Margolin 10:15 AM Shabbat Study</td>
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<td>No Education Committee Mtg.</td>
<td>Erev Passover 1st Seder No Services 6 PM Community Second Night Seder</td>
<td>Good Friday Passover Day 1 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services</td>
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March/April 2018 Newsletter
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**Easter**

**Passover Day 2**
- Building Closed

**Passover Day 3**
- Building Closed

**Passover Day 4**
- 7:15 AM Minyan
- 4:15 PM HS
- 7 PM Introduction to Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

**Passover Day 5**

**Passover Day 6**

**Passover Day 7**
- Office Closed
- 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Passover Day 8**
- 9 AM Torah Study
- 10 AM Services with Yitzkor

**9 AM SS**
- 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi
- 11 AM HS

**7:15 AM Minyan**
- 4:15 PM HS

**7:30 PM Spiritual Direction**

**Yom Hashoah**

**5 PM Playschool Shabbat Dinner**
- 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Sh’muni**
- 9 AM Torah Study
- 10:15 AM Shabbat Study
- 10:30 AM Gan/Aleph Class Service

**9 AM SS**
- 11 AM HS
- 11 AM The Jewish Nation with Rafi Licht

**7 PM ECM**

**7:15 AM Minyan**
- 4:15 PM HS

**6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song**

**Yom Ha’atzmaut**
- 6:15 PM TGIShabbat featuring Nitzan Haroz & Dan Blacksberg
- Honor Graduating Seniors

**Tzaria-m’tzora**
- 9 AM Torah Study
- 10 AM Services
- 10 AM Meditative Service

**9 AM SS**
- 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi
- 11 AM HS
- 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze

**7:15 AM Minyan**
- 4:15 PM HS

**6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song**
- 7 PM Education Committee Mtg.

**5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat**
- 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service

**Aharei-Kedoshim**
- 9 AM Torah Study
- 10:30 AM Vav Class Service

**9 AM SS**
- 11 AM HS

**7 PM BDM**

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March/April 2018 Newsletter
Kesher

Society Hill Synagogue
418 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone 215.922.6590
Fax 215.922.6599
www.societyhillsynagogue.org

Avi Winokur, Rabbi
Nathan Kamesar, Student Rabbi
Jessi Roemer, Hazzan
Harry Oxman, President
Betty van de Rijn, Executive Director & Kesher Publisher
Sahar Oz, Education Director
Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan, Playschool Co-Directors
Staci Schwartz, Kesher Editor

Save the Date!
Sunday afternoon
April 29, 2018

Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation

Information at: www.InterfaithPeaceWalk.org
InterfaithPeaceWalk@gmail.com
facebook.com/PhiladelphiainterfaithPeaceWalk

March/April 2018 Newsletter