



A Lunch & Learn with POWER on Saturday, May 12

Please join us on Saturday, May 12, at 12:30 PM, in the Social Hall after Shabbat services for a Lunch & Learn featuring Andrea Moselle, Co-Chair of POWER's Strategic Team for Education, and our own Fran Newberg, Deputy Director of Information Systems, Philadelphia School District. We will discuss Philadelphia Schools—including

aspects of funding, implications of a locally selected School Board, and more. Please **RSVP** to Leanne in the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org.



Mark Your Calendars for the Next TGIShabbat Service



Join us on Friday, May 18, at 6:15 PM, for an exciting TGIShabbat service featuring Hazzan Jessi Roemer and the EZUZ Philadelphia ensemble playing Jewish World Music.

Rooted in ancient Jewish text, the rhythmic music of EZUZ traverses Middle Eastern, North American, Klezmer, Spanish, and South American styles—with lyrics in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Arabic, and Ladino. EZUZ (AY-ZOOZ) means power; it combines two words

meaning "strength" and "move!" The group features musicians Eve Friedman, Joseph Tayoun, Billy Yalowitz, Roger Mgrdichian, Loren Gildar, Karinne Andonian, and composer/director Hazzan Jessi Roemer. EZUZ moves audiences to sing, dance, clap, and participate in the joy of music and universal spirit!

EZUZ has played with esteemed musicians Zakir Hussein, Simon Shaheen, Yair Dalal, and Ohad "Udi" Bar David, George Clinton, Robert Walters 20th Congress, MOFRO, Martin and Wood, The Delaware Symphony, Vile Tyrant and the Middle Men, African Dance Troupe, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra.



SHS Members are cordially invited to attend the rabbinic ordination ceremony for Nathan Kamesar on Sunday, June 10, at 2:30 PM, at Temple Beth Am, located at 917 Old York Road, Abington PA.

On behalf of the SHS Board of Directors and the congregation, we wish Nathan a hearty Mazel Tov on this special achievement!



Rabbi's Column

Turning Discomfort Into Action

Avi Winokur

While preparing to teach an introduction to the thought of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, I came across his reflections on the American religious scene written over a half century ago. Rabbi Heschel wrote:

“Little does contemporary religion ask of man. It is ready to offer comfort; it has no courage to challenge. It is ready to offer edification; it has no courage to break the idols, to shatter callousness ... Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid.”

Although I chose other material to teach, I was agitated by how accurately Heschel's assessment describes mainstream, liberal religion today.

This feeling of agitation brought me back to last Yom Kippur, when I presented a challenge to our comfortable understanding of our own level of culpability with regard to the persistence of poverty and inequality in our city and in the world. As much as it was a sermon for you, it was aimed directly at me. I based my sermon, *Hidden Advantage*, in large part on Richard V. Reeves's, *Dream Hoarders: How the American Upper Middle Class is Leaving Everyone Else in the Dust, Why That Is a Problem, and What to Do About It* (Brookings Institution Press, 2017). Thankfully Reeves is honest enough to admit that he, too, is the object of his own critique.

Reeves is close to disdainful about our railing against the top 1%. But he is not talking only about those who earn \$250,000/year (less than 2% of the population). No, Reeves is talking about the top 20% of households—those who earn over \$112,000 as of 2014.

In other words, he is talking about me and you—or at least a considerable majority of working-age households in our community—as well as himself. The examples in the book that demonstrate how he and I, and many of you, benefit from public policies that reinforce and even help create advantages unavailable to lower income citizens, made me very uncomfortable. Reeves makes it clear that when it comes to the maldistribution of income, I am part of the problem. Of his numerous and upsetting examples I'll cite one.

We devote around \$40 billion a year to means-tested housing programs for low-income and homeless families. Meanwhile, in 2015, we provided a subsidy of over \$205 billion to homeowners, mainly through mortgage interest deductions. A whopping 72% of those benefits go to the top 20% of homeowners—and that's a conservative estimate. So we invest over three and a half times more money in tax subsidies to the top 20% of income earners than we do in housing the poor—and our secretary of HUD has just explained how we must raise the rent on the lowest income earners in public housing because we wealthier folks cannot afford the cost.

How many of us in the top 20% would be willing to forego our share of that \$205 billion and have it invested it in low and moderate income housing?

Now, add to the mortgage interest deduction any number of additional benefits—public and private, nonmonetary and monetary—that separate us and reinforce our separation from those in lower socioeconomic brackets. Reeves is no socialist or some wild-eyed radical. He is an upper middle class senior fellow at the liberal Brookings Institution.

At one point, Reeves seems to be condemning himself when he comments on a tax break near and dear to many in our synagogue and throughout America: “Look how a regressive Bush-era tax cut can become so precious to the upper middle class, including its most liberal members.”

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President's Column

Join Us for the Annual Congregation Meeting on May 23

Harry J. Oxman

On May 23, at approximately 6:30 PM, the membership of Society Hill Synagogue is invited to attend a light dinner in the Social Hall, followed by our Annual Congregation Meeting at 7 PM. During this meeting, the lay leadership will share information with members about the manner in which the synagogue has functioned in the past year and outline the leadership plans for the next year. Generally our budget, and the process by which it has been created, are subjects of significant interest. In addition, in recent years it has become our practice to honor members of the congregation who have performed extraordinary service to our community. Most important, attendees will have the opportunity to question members of the Board about the past year's programs and events, as well as future plans and directions. In addition to questions, comments and observations are always welcomed.

Although I have come to realize that there are occasions when some may view the Annual Congregation Meetings to be more routine than informative, I suggest that all of the readers of this column put aside that notion for this meeting, because the Board of Directors is prepared to share important details at the actual meeting about an upcoming period of meaningful transition for our congregation.

By the time you read this article, it is likely that many of you will be aware of a number of changes in the professional staff and some exciting plans for the synagogue over the next several years. No doubt you are all aware that we began this transition when we hired Hazzan Roemer, who is now finishing her first year of service to our community. I encourage members to attend the meeting to ask questions and be a part of our discussions.

Many of the members of the Board of Directors will be present at the meeting and are looking forward to participating in all discussions. So, please join us for a stimulating conversation on May 23. Please remember that our congregation belongs to each of us, and we must each play a meaningful role to support and maintain our vibrant community.

I would like also to take this opportunity to give my deep thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Winokur and Hazzan Roemer, along with many volunteers who led and participated as SHS hosts during the Interfaith Peace Walk on Sunday, April 29. Our clergy created a wonderful, moving event for visitors to our synagogue that enabled us to demonstrate our commitment to important social and moral issues that affect people of all faiths.

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Student Rabbi's Column

Don't Let The Cookie Crumble: Creating Jewish Community

Nathan Kamesar

Community comes in many forms, and one of the primary spaces it takes shape is around the table, over Kiddush (the blessing over wine or grape juice). With that in mind, I want to highlight a recent feature in *Tablet*, an online American Jewish magazine, entitled “100 Most Jewish Foods.” (You can find the full list online at 100jewishfoods.tabletmag.com.)

The piece, as its title indicates, lists and describes the 100 food items it playfully considers to be the “most Jewish;” it is an entirely subjective and entirely delightful endeavor.

The entries range from the serious (Shakshuka: “As Jews huddled for safety in their biblical homeland, fleeing violence in Rabat or Tunis or Algiers, they could take comfort in one thing: simmering onions, peppers, and tomatoes, topped with a couple of eggs, cooked on a skillet and consumed with a fresh loaf of white bread.”), to the expected (Pickles: “I’d like to say I’ve never met a pickle I didn’t like. But that would be slightly untrue. As far as I’m concerned, sweet pickles don’t count in the category.”), to the biblical (Barbeque: “If you’re looking for the world’s first recipe for grilled meat, after all, look no further than Leviticus, which instructs the Israelites how to build a pit and roast the burnt offering”), to the youthful (Bazooka Gum: “Jewish Laffy Taffy—except with even more inscrutable jokes”).

They have an entry for leftovers (“The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found”), and even venture into the land of *treyf*/non-Kosher food. (“Bacon defines Jewish food the way Voldemort defines Harry Potter; you can’t think of one without the other.”)

But there is one entry in particular I want to focus on because of its bearing on synagogue life: kiddush cookies.

You know the type: “the cookies served after Saturday-morning services—a motley crew of sweet, pasty mounds, dabbed with chocolate or colored sprinkles and engineered to make you desperately need the grape juice on which a blessing had just been bestowed,” writes *Tablet* Editor and Founder Alana Newhouse.

I mention these cookies, however, not because of their culinary attributes, but because of the imprint they left on one particular synagogue, and which feels emblematic of synagogue life in general.

“Those cookies were the beginning of the end of it all,” a rabbi tells Newhouse. This particular rabbi’s mother was “among a cohort of women tasked, for nearly two decades, with baking the cookies that would be served each Shabbat in their synagogue.”

In an effort to cut costs, however, the synagogue eventually determined that it would be cheaper to purchase store-bought cookies than to support the costs of baking them (which presumably consisted of ingredients, staffing to open the building, and the like).

According to Newhouse, this decision had disastrous, unintended consequences: In one fell swoop, the primary Jewish institution in town transmitted a dual message: To the women who put their time and affection into baking these cookies, week in and week out for nearly a quarter century, it told them their commitment to Jewishness and their community was dispensable; and to everyone else, it asserted the primacy of money as the only truly important marker of engagement in Jewish life. A decade and a half later, the shul—once a vibrant hub of American Jewish non-Orthodox success—was all but dead.

Who knows whether the breakdown in cookie baking was the primary contributing factor to the demise of the shul—it probably wasn’t. But activities such as these; rituals and routines like this; community-building exercises like the cookie-baking tradition that had been developed in this synagogue are the stuff that Jewish communities are made of. As a synagogue, it’s our job to foster a multitude of different access points for people to engage with Judaism, be it through davening (praying), learning, baking, participating in social justice activities, or most anything else.

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Ann Spak Thal School Wrapping Up the Year on the Sweetest Note

Sahar Oz

As we wrap up a fantastic year of new Jewish learning, discovery, friendships, and memories, I am excited for our students to participate in three more weeks of Tanakh journeys, conversational Hebrew in skits and songs, holiday arts and crafts, and a variety of Shabbat services featuring our students. We will celebrate two holidays with special foods: Lag Ba'Omer s'mores on May 1, and dairy delights with our Shavuot discussions on May 20.

Please join us on **Saturday, May 5, at 10:30 AM** for a **Shabbat Shahrith (Morning) Service featuring Kitah Bet (2nd Grade)** and a delicious lunch. Our sensational second graders are excited to start Saturday with plenty of spirit and smiles!

Six days later, on **Friday, May 11, at 6:15 PM**, 10th graders Hannah Feinberg, Mayah Gold, and Asa Schneeberg will address the congregation at the **Confirmation Kabbalat Shabbat** service. Our confirmands will share reflections, lessons learned, and core values gleaned from their many years as students in our Sunday School, Hebrew School, and Hebrew High School.

Your family's RSVPs for the meals following the Kitah Bet Class Service and the Confirmation Service are requested no later than two days before each service to Betty bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org .

Please remember that there are no classes on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, to enable families to celebrate together.

This year, our last day of school is the first day of Shavuot, so we will wrap up the year with a **Shavuot Shabang on Sunday, May 20, from 10 AM until 12:30 PM!** Our celebration has been designed to bring our students of all grades *and their parents* together for holiday activities, crafts, and learning in the Social Hall from 10–10:50 AM; a Shavuot Family Service in the Sanctuary from 10:50 AM–12 PM; and Sundae Sunday and other dairy delights in the Social Hall to wrap up the year on a sweet note.

The family service will include the presentation of certificates to every student for completion of another year of Jewish learning, and Shabbat service attendance certificates to students in Kitot Gimel–Zayin (3rd-7th grades) who have met their attendance goals for the year.

June brings us two B'nai Mitzvah celebrations for a trio of 7th graders, with Maya Salzman's Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, June 9**, and Chuck and Nick Schaeffer's B'nai Mitzvah on **Saturday, June 23**. These milestones featuring Maya's, Chuck's, and Nick's cantillation and commentary on their Torah portions will begin at 9:30 AM on the respective Saturdays, so come and rejoice!

Please remember to submit the completed packet of 5779 / 2018-2019 school enrollment forms for each child with your tuition deposit **by Tuesday, May 22**. And please share your family's experiences at our school and congregation with your friends and neighbors, and invite them to join our engaging, exciting, and inclusive Jewish learning community!

Our faculty, student aides, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Sunday, September 16, after our Rosh Hashanah School Services six days earlier on September 10.

Have a wonderful summer! See photos on page 18.

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Playschool

Summer Camp Begins on Monday, June 4

Gloria Parris & Ali Kaplan

This past school year was filled with creative projects, trips, special guests, and family events. The children made many new friends and enjoyed their preschool experiences.

Several new exciting events are scheduled in May. On Tuesday, May 1, the children in the class for 3–4-year-olds will participate in their fourth trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The theme for the visit is the four seasons; the children will tour works of art pertaining to nature.

On Tuesday, May 8, the *Philadelphia Little Zoo on Wheels* will visit the Playschool. All of the children will participate in this interactive program. “Around the World Safari” will introduce the children to animals from four different continents. There will be live animals, role-playing, and songs.

On Wednesday, May 9, classes will not be in session, as we will have Parent-Teacher conferences. The assistant teachers will be available to watch the children during scheduled conference times. Childcare will also be offered between the hours of 7:45 AM and 6:00 PM.

The Pre-Kindergarten class will take a trip to Morris Arboretum on Tuesday, May 15. The program will be “The 4 Seasons through the 5 Senses.” This theme encourages the children to use their senses to discover the ways that people and plants respond to changes in the seasons.

The Playschool will be closed on Monday, May 21, for Shavuot. The last day of Playschool is Friday, May 25. The Puppy Class will graduate at 10 AM, the Pre-K will graduate at 10:30 AM, and the 3-4-year-old class will graduate at 11 AM. A snack will be served following each of the graduations. Congratulations to all of the graduates, and best wishes to the children who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall.

The Playschool Summer Camp will begin on Monday, June 4, and will extend through Friday, August 3. The camp curriculum is designed for children ages 2—5 years old. Classroom playtime, circle time, arts and crafts, creative movement, story time, and music-based games are some of our fun-filled activities. Each week, the projects, stories, and songs will focus on a summertime theme. Outdoor activities include water play and tricycle riding. Children bring a dairy lunch from home each day, and a snack will be provided by Playschool parents on a rotating basis.

A full-day camp program is offered with flexible options for enrollment. Early care will be available from 7:45 AM to 8:30 AM. The Summer Camp morning program begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 12:30 PM. After-Camp Arts will be held from 12:30 PM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday. Each afternoon will focus on a different theme. We begin the week with Mitzvot (Good Deeds) Mondays; Tuesdays are for science activities; Wednesdays, for art; Thursdays, for theatre and drama; and Fridays, for karaoke. Late care will be available from 3 PM to 6 PM, also Monday through Friday. Enrollment options include the entire eight-week session, or children can be enrolled daily or weekly. We have a limited number of spots available for Summer Camp, so please submit your application as soon as possible.

Are you also looking for a camp program for your child during the weeks of August 6 and August 13? The Playschool will hold two Specialty Camps for children ages 3—7 years old. Each of the one-week programs will focus on projects based on a creative theme. The hours of Specialty Camp are 8:30 AM until 3 PM. Children may be enrolled for the two-week session or enrolled for either of the one-week programs.

For more information about Playschool, Summer Camp, or the Specialty Camp programs, please contact the Playschool office at gparris@societyhillssynagogue.org or call 215.922.6590, ext. 28. Have a great summer!

Young Families Group

Join Us for *Friday Nights with Young Families* on June 1!

Joanna Hart

Join us on Friday, June 1, for our final *Friday Nights with Young Families* program of the academic year! We will gather in the SHS Social Hall at 5:30 PM (if the weather is nice, we will sing outside in the courtyard) and 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.

Following our song-based “service,” we share a community dinner (vegetarian potluck).

Over the summer, look for information about a special community service field trip for families with young children.

Our programs are geared to kids from birth to Pre-K, but children of all ages are welcomed with open arms.

As we look towards next year, please send us any feedback about what times, days, and activities work best for your family so that we can tailor our programs to meet your needs!

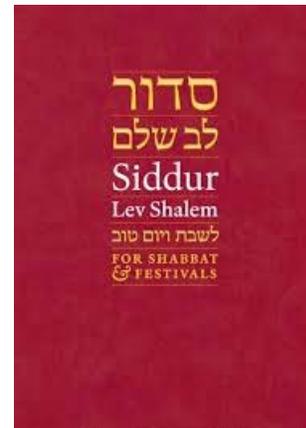
Religion Committee

Dedication Opportunities

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

In use since October, the new Rabbinical Assembly Shabbat & Festival Siddur Lev Shalem, has enhanced our worship services. This 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 are still available (\$36) to help defray the cost of these beautiful siddurim.



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Student Rabbi Column

Continued from page 4

One of the oft-told jokes in Jewish circles is of the son who asks his father, “Aba, why do people go to synagogue?” “People go to synagogue for all sorts of reasons,” his father replies. “My friend Garfinkel goes to talk to God. I go to talk to my friend Garfinkel.”

People *do* go to synagogue for all sorts of reasons. Personally, I do perhaps go to “talk to God,” but I also know that for many people, it is the vibrancy of Jewish life in non-overtly-religious settings that attracts them. Maybe this cookie-baking group would be exactly the sort of thing that would warm your heart; that could help make your week; that could help make you feel connected to your community, both in the present moment and the one dating back millennia.

I’m not saying SHS should definitely start a cookie-baking group (though I bet it would lead to some delicious results). I’m saying that I hope you see SHS as the roof under which you can create your own Jewish community, in whatever form that takes.

Please, if you do have a desire to develop an initiative, help us help you: identify a few people you’d like to get it started with, and let’s build something, together.

Board of Directors Nominating Committee & Nomination Announcement

Debra Stewart

As Chair of the 2018 SHS Board of Directors Nominating Committee, I am pleased to inform you that joining me on this year’s committee are the following members: Fran Gallun, Holly Gorsen, Natalie Lesser, and Jeremy Newberg.

We are pleased to nominate Ashleigh Reibach for a two-year term to the SHS Board of Directors. On behalf of our committee, we invite all SHS members to attend the Annual Congregation Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, at 7 PM, in the Social Hall (dinner at 6:30 PM) to hear presentations by our lay leaders and participate in elections.

Celebrate Shavuot with the Center City Kehillah!

Join other members of the Center City Jewish Community for a Jewish Night of Learning (*Tikkun Leil Shavuot 2018 5778*) at the Moore College of Art & Design (20th Street and the Parkway), beginning on **Saturday, May 19, at 7:30 PM**, until **Sunday, May 20, 7:30 AM**. Last year, there were 300 participants from over 30 organizations in attendance. Don’t miss your chance to attend twelve hours of interesting classes (all backgrounds and levels of observance welcome!) taught by local rabbis and community members, as well as multi-denominational evening and sunrise services. A dairy dinner, desserts, snacks, and coffee will be provided.

Suggested donation: \$18-36.

Register now by visiting: centercityjews.org/Shavuot For more information, contact 267.225.8701 or centercitykehillah@gmail.com.



Center City Kehillah's

JEWISH NIGHT OF LEARNING

Tikkun Leil Shavuot 2018 | תיקון ליל שבועות 5778

Saturday, May 19, 2018 – 7:30 p.m. to
Sunday, May 20, 2018 – 7:30 a.m.
Moore College of Art & Design

Register at centercityjews.org/shavuot



Hazzan's Column

On Belief, Growth, Art, and Change

Jessi Roemer

Yesterday I was outside filling pots and garden plots with soil—poking holes with a trowel and dropping seeds into them from my palm, watching them get lost in the layers of soft dirt as I covered them up and watered them.

With my mom's eighth *yahrzeit* approaching, I had been out of sorts. I spent most of the week at my computer, flipping through information, not concentrating. That afternoon, the sun shone and my partner said, "Let's go outside and plant seeds." So I put on work boots and spent the afternoon crouched over compost. Sticking my hands in the dirt and tucking a new cycle of seeds into their beds, I felt focused.

In his book, *The Torah of Music*, Joey Weisenberg (Hadar Press, 2017) points out the shared root of the words "*amen*," which indicates affirmation, "*emunah*," which means faith and steadiness, and "*oman*," which means artist. He says, "To have *emunah* means to cultivate a sense of awe and wonder, to stay with something and take care of it until it reveals its beauty." "*Emunah*," he says, "is the artistry of belief."

Staying with things and taking care of them is like saying *amen* to them ("I believe in you"). This understanding of *emunah* comes from a moment in the Torah in which Moshe has just literally supplied his people with water from a rock in the desert, and he now holds his arms high, with Aharon and Hur's support, for the duration of a battle with the people of Amalek (Ex 17:12). The picture is dramatic; Moshe's raised arms—his steady faith—sustain the Israelites and enable them to prevail. Moshe is their physical and spiritual caretaker; *emunah* is the steadiness in his arms fueled by his belief in the people.

To persevere with patience—whether it's with a plant, a child, or a people—is an act of belief. To create a melody or garden with determination and persistence—to sing it or turn it several times in a row until it flowers—is an act of faith.

What are the things that we cultivate? How much of our time do we spend cultivating projects or people versus just flipping through emails, information, and conversations?

On closer inspection, the above story of desert battle shows us that even Moshe cannot "do" *emunah* alone; partway through the battle, his arms become heavy. To continue to hold them up, he needs physical help. It is really only at this point, with Aharon and Hur supporting him, that the Torah describes Moshe's arms as having *emunah*. Therefore, implicit in *emunah* is not only faith and steadiness but a community of support.

We need each other to cultivate the steadiness of *emunah*. But what does it even mean to stay steady in the face of change, loss, and growth? It seems like a contradiction.

One answer might lie in the meaning of the word "*amen*," which, as noted, shares a root with *emunah*. We often use "amen" to mean, "I agree," but it's not exactly that. When we say "Amen" to someone's prayer, we are saying "I believe you," or better, "I believe *in* you." We are not commenting on the prayer itself so much as we are *affirming the speaker in their act of prayer*. Just as when we put a plant in the ground and care for it, there is a simultaneous standing with and letting go—a trust in the process. Instead of needing to control the prayer or its result, "Amen" means we trust the process that has been set in motion. *Emunah* is about investing in something *and* trusting it to continue to change on its own, because to not change is to die. Only by embracing change in our lives can we catch a glimpse of the Eternal.

Continued on page 14

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Noah Chrismer
 Barbara Einhorn
 Jerome Rosenberg
 Renee Edelman
 Steven Datlof
 Lynn Gottlieb
 Liz Abrams-Morley
 Etta Krauss
 Karen Palmer
 Allison Oz
 Larry Spector
 Eva Femia
 Sandra Lazovitz
 Linda Glass
 Carolyn Saligman
 Wayne Spilove
 Merrily Williams
 Emma Chrismer
 Lincoln Copans
 Theodore Copans
 Cindy Farlino
 Joan Roller
 Kinney Zalesne
 Rian Berger
 Yelena Michaels-Koenig
 Rona Buchalter
 Elizabeth Heit
 Ella Roe
 Lindsay Gorsen
 Rosemarie Weinberg
 Jayne Bird
 Sahar Oz
 David Makuen
 David Rosenberg
 Julie Wilson
 Jay Meadway

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Eli Oz
 Suzanne Sztul
 Carol Weil
 Henry Weil
 Herbert Cohn
 Bonnie Weiner
 Lara Goldwert
 Rebecca Hafter
 Roger Korman
 Stephen Silberstein
 Nathaniel Stover-Steerman
 Joan Lear
 Jack Aaron
 Judson Aaron
 Daniel Rottenberg
 Robin Feinberg
 Eliana Gilbert-Trachtman
 Zoe Nussbaum
 Michael Coran
 Fred Lovitch
 Adina Goldstein
 Maya Salzman

Elizabeth Heller-Meszniak
 Noah Kauderwood
 Charles Schaeffer
 Nicholas Schaeffer
 Lois Rosenberg
 Don Kaufman
 William Love
 Megan Marion
 Geoffrey Michaels
 Tal Pipano
 Jenavieve Kranzel
 Eve Friedman
 Asa Schneeberg
 Ezra Goldenberg
 Gabriel Cohen
 Samuel Hamilton
 Olivia Grode
 Marlene Lachman
 Libby Cone
 Joseph Oglensky
 Stephen Shiekman

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Neil Epstein
 Amy Steerman
 Carmen Hayman
 Ruth Schneeberg
 Gabriel Stemmer
 Dan Levin
 Jacqueline Rick
 Claire Golding
 Alton Sutnick
 Richard Gelles
 Joseph Gifford
 Alice Goldenberg
 Carla Krasnick
 Marsha Silberstein
 Michael Gorsen
 Mitchell Bach
 Seth Cohen
 Brett Benton
 Matthew Zalesne Siff
 Marc Schwartz
 Liza Gendler
 Juliet Englander
 Judith Woloff
 Joseph Oxman
 Jordan Segall
 Mary Ann Stover
 Harry Oxman
 Craig Pressman
 James Wilson
 Abigail Hamilton
 Libby Harwitz Blender
 Gideon Siff
 Xing Xing Zhang
 Ron Feinberg
 Jordyn Gorsen
 Alan Gottlieb
 Amelia Landes
 Michelle Nelson

Joshua Smullens
 Tony Lalli
 Judy Gelles
 Lev Ziskind

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Jonathan Grode & Jayne Bird
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 Holman & Gail Massey
 Daniel & Dana Feinberg
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FAX (215) 955-8509

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 a 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.

General Fund

Speedy Recovery to

Eleanor Oxman

Jerry & Louise Sklar

In Appreciation of

TGISHabbat Service & Dinner

Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Honor of

Ladenson Family on their recent B'nai Mitzvah

Howard & Judith Barron

Birth of Michel & Bonnie Slobodien's grandson, Lior Dean Dovere

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Birth of Stephen & Susan Leshnoff's granddaughter

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

In Memory of

Mildred Lizenbaum

Joseph Loewenberg & Marilyn Krupnick

Carol & Lenny Lebowitz

Liza Sherman

Edgar & Bobbie Einhorn

Arlene Love, Mother of Billy Love

Erik & Debra Gold

Lawrence & Denise Ketzes & Family

Tryna S. Jacobs, Mother of Roberta Jacobs-Meadway

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Jerry & Joan Roller

Harold Meadway, Father of Jay Meadway

Jerry & Joan Roller

Leon Schechtman, Father of Alan Schechtman

Jay & Jackie Hoffman

Jerry Robbins

Walter Ferst and Family

Don & Karen Kaufman

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Sarabeth Weiss, Sister of Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf

Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf and Family

Rose Eisenstadt, Mother-in-Law of Evelyn Eisenstadt

Evelyn Eisenstadt

Sam Feinstein, Father of Evelyn Eisenstadt

Evelyn Eisenstadt

Samuel Goldner, Father of Linda Joy Goldner

Linda Joy Goldner

Benjamin Dubin, Father of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

Stanley Dubin, Brother of Murray Dubin

Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof

David Merlin, Father of Marina Merlin

Marina Merlin & Yuri Rubinov

Sarah Paller, Mother of Robert Paller

Eugene Paller, Grandfather of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Milton Bass, Father of Robert Bass

Robert & Wilma Bass

David Ewens, Father of Wilma Bass

Robert & Wilma Bass

Annual Giving Fund

Mazel Tov to

Ladenson Family on their recent B'nai Mitzvah

Barbara Spector

In Memory of

Tryna S. Jacobs, Mother of Bobbie Jacobs-Meadway

Barbara Spector

Restoration Fund

In Memory of

Tryna S. Jacobs, Mother of Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway

Tuesday Morning Minyan

Harold Meadway, Father of Jay Meadway

Tuesday Morning Minyan

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Rose Hechler, Mother of Iris Levine

Iris Levine

Social Action Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Aaron Markowitz, Father of Sayde Ladov

David & Sayde Ladov

Albert Miller, Father of Paula Ninerell

Paula Ninerell

Jay R. Baer Fund

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Jay Robert Baer, Husband of Carol Baer Mott

Carol Baer Mott

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick's new home

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Sarabeth Weiss, Sister of Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf

Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf and Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Winokur's Classes & Lectures

Randi Kamine & Hop Sears

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of

Annual Passover Seder
Abbe Fletman & Pat Ryan

Hometz Sale

Iris Levine

SHS

Edward & Susanne Kaplan

In Memory of

Allen "Bruce" Driscoll, Father of Dave Driscoll
Stanley & Judith Woloff

John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre-Rochester

Harold Meadway, Father of Jay Meadway
Rina Mitchell

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Sarabeth Weiss, Sister of Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf and Family

Selma W. Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Lillian Dictor, Mother-in-Law of Joel Chernock
Joel Chernock

Jennie Levy, Mother of Stanley Levy
Abraham Levy, Father of Stanley Levy
Stanley Levy

Muriel & Rudolph Robinson, Parents of Kathy Bernsten
Kathy Bernsten

Freda Lovitch, Mother of Fred Lovitch
Fred & Dinah Lovitch

Freda Lovitch, Grandmother of Beth Dougherty & Michael Lovitch
Beth Dougherty & Michael Lovitch

Susan Dictor, Wife of Joel Chernock
Joel Chernock

Susan Dictor, Mother of Elyssa Chernock & Sarina Chernock
Elyssa Chernock & Sarina Chernock

Arthur L. Schneeberg, Husband of Gerry Schneeberg
Schneeberg Family

Arthur L. Schneeberg, Father of Ruth Schneeberg
Schneeberg Family

Arthur L. Schneeberg, Grandfather of Asa Schneeberg
Schneeberg Family

Rose Michaels, Mother of Geoffrey Michaels
Geoffrey Michaels

Bernard Brown, Father of Stephen Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Kiddush Fund

In Appreciation of

March TGISHabbat Service & Dinner
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Barry & Joann Slosberg

Betty van de Rijn

Abbe Fletman & Pat Ryan

Betty van de Rijn

Dan & Fran Swiger

In Honor of

Bart & Betty Kaplan
Harvey & Natalie Share

April TGISHabbat Sponsorship

In Honor of Dan Blacksberg
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Vav Class Service

Lyn Kirshenbaum
Carmen & Ric Hayman
Jeremey & Fran Newberg

May TGISHabbat Sponsorship

Stanley & Judith Woloff's 45th Wedding Anniversary

In Memory of

Tryna S. Jacobs, Mother of Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Harold Meadway, Father of Jay Meadway
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of

Harold Meadway, Father of Jay Meadway
Mark Dembert & Mary Fish

Martin Greenhouse, Father of Debra Stewart
Debra Stewart

Postage for Keshet

Rosemarie Weinberg

Silver Heit Salkin Fund

In Memory of

Jerry Robbins, Husband of Dena Robbins
Merle Salkin

God's Unfinished Business

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Constance Ryan, Mother of Pat Ryan
Pat Ryan

Continued

Continued on page 16

Hazzan's Column

Continued from page 9

If we were to slow down and stay with things, to cultivate meaningful projects, melodies, or moments until they reveal their beauty, and then trust them enough to let go, would that better prepare us to accept larger, unavoidable changes that might at first frighten and unmoor us? I don't fully know, but I have a hunch it would be more satisfying than the alternative.

As we head toward Shavuot—the time of harvest and learning—and beyond, I would love to hear your thoughts on these topics and more! Feel free to connect with me at any time: jessiroemer@gmail.com.



SHSpirit in Song Spring Sessions

Jessi Roemer

In the midst of our busy weeks, SHSpirit in Song is a little mid-week soul spa—an hour and a quarter of sacred time during which we can take a moment to breathe, slow down, and sink deeply into the sonic.

For four Wednesday, from April 18 to May 9, we will gather to treat the soul and the taste buds. Learn to become a prayer leader or just learn new melodies (and delve more expansively into the ones we know), build community, and experience what it's like to have a group of voices creating a shared moment in spontaneous chorus. Join us in the Beit Midrash for the last two sessions on May 2, & May 9, 6:30–7:45 PM.



A Note from the Executive Director About the High Holy Days (2018/5779)

Betty van de Rijn

During the month of June, you will receive your 2018/2019 Membership Renewal Packet in the mail. On behalf of the SHS Board of Directors, I am happy to inform you that your membership dues and fees will not increase for this coming fiscal year.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019; therefore, we request that all members fill out the required forms and return them to the synagogue office with your payment by **July 18, 2018** (before the end of our fiscal year). This applies to everyone, regardless of your membership category.

To obtain your High Holy Day tickets in September, congregants must be members in good standing—i.e., membership renewal fees and all previous balances must be paid as indicated on the form in your packet.

Here is a helpful checklist to ensure you send back the necessary payments with your forms:

- √ All outstanding balances from prior years
- √ 50% of this year's membership dues
- √ Payment for all qualified guest tickets
- √ All other contributions (Yizkor listings, holiday greetings, sponsorships, etc.)

If you have any questions or you have a financial matter you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215.922.6590 or bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org.

Please note: The deadline for entries to be included in this year's Yizkor Book is July 18.



Inter-NOSH-ional Night 2019

Amy Shapiro

We are trying a new strategy with our next Inter-NOSH-ional Night. In order to get more participants for this amazing event, we will now be alternating years with the “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?”™ events, AND we will start advertising much earlier. So please mark your calendars for the next Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night on **Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 7 PM!**

This is your chance to show off your culinary skills to members of your SHS family. We are looking for hosts to prepare, sponsor, and serve dinner (an international cuisine of your choice) for 6-12 people. In the past, some of our hosts even teamed up with a friend and cooked their meals together!

If you would like to be a host, please contact me at hasajid@gmail.com or 215.280.3005 to share your planned cuisine type and menu. Please include your email, phone number, and address in your email, and type “Inter-NOSH-ional Host” in the subject line. I will provide you with additional details (SHS Kosher guidelines, menu deadlines) at a later date.

Host homes may or may not be Kosher—however, any chicken or meat served will be from a Kosher manufacturer, no dishes will contain shellfish, and meat products will not be mixed with dairy.

Don’t miss this opportunity to have a delicious meal and great conversation on February 9—all while supporting a wonderful community-building and fund-raising event for our shull!



Arts & Culture Group

Celebrate America’s Birthday with the Philly Pops!

Betta Kolansky, Eleanor Oxman, & Ellen Fennick

Please join the members of the Arts and Culture Group as we celebrate “Erev” Independence Day on Tuesday, July 3, at 4 PM, with a cocktail party at the home of Betta Kolansky, followed by a short walk to Independence Mall to see the *Pops on Independence for Wawa Welcome America 2018* concert at 7 PM! Attendees are encouraged to pack a light picnic dinner and bring a blanket, towel, or lawn chair to sit on to enjoy the concert in comfort.

Please RSVP to Betta via email at bkolansky@comcast.net, or send her a text at 215.582.7704, or call her at home at 215.925.6610 so she will know how much delicious food to prepare. Make sure you get Betta’s address when you RSVP.

**Restoration Fund
Yahrzeit Remembrance**

Ben Zion Meyer, Father of Harold Meyer
Harold Meyer

Annual Giving: Thank You for Your Support!

Alan & Lynn Gottlieb
Ric & Carmen Hayman
Bart & Betty Kaplan
Tony & Judy Lalli
David & Jamie Nussbaum
Joseph Oxman & Christi Rosengart
Barbara Spector
David Spiegel & Maryam Naim
Debbie & Bill Stewart
Flora Wolf
David & Jacoba Zaring



2017—2018

SHS B'nai Mitzvah Celebrations

June 9

Maya Saltzman

Daughter of Brooke & Matthew Saltzman

June 23

Chuck & Nick Schaeffer

Sons of Brett Schaeffer & Sarah Rottenberg



SAVE THE DATE
Havdalah Down the Shore
Saturday, August 11,
2018, 6:30 PM

SHS Members (and their invited guests only) are invited to join us on **Saturday, August 11, 6:30 PM**, for “Havdalah Down the Shore!” We will meet at the home of **Jeremy and Fran Newberg in Ventnor, NJ**. A lite dairy supper will be served before we head to the beach around 8:15 PM for the Havdalah service at 8:40 PM. Following the service, we’ll go back to the house for wine, coffee, desserts, and schmoozing.

RSVP to Judy Lalli at judele@aol.com for the Newberg’s address and to let her know what you will contribute in the way of entrée, snack, dessert, or beverage.

Looking forward to another meaningful event!



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Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 2

The Reeves critique both awakens me and propels me headlong into confronting the thundering call of the ancient Israelite prophets who, time and again, railed against the injustice inherent in a society in which some prosper, and far too many do not. Every year in the Yom Kippur Haftarah they call us to account, and every year I come up short:

“Is this the fast that I desire, a day for people to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bul-rush, and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day when Adonai is favorable? No, *this* is the fast I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke, to let the oppressed go; to break every yoke. It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe them, and do not ignore your own flesh. Then shall your light burst through like the dawn, and your healing spring up quickly.” (Isaiah 58:5-8a)

Every year I feel inadequate in the face of the prophet's exhortation captured by Professor Benjamin D. Sommer's comment on these and surrounding verses (*The Jewish Study Bible*, “Isaiah” (2004) p.899):

“The Judeans observe rituals such as fasting, but they do so only for their own benefit, not out of true devotion. Real humility towards God would engender a desire for justice toward the weak, compassion toward the downtrodden, and charity toward the poor. The fasting would *involve a willingness to give up one's own things* rather than the hope to acquire salvation.” (Emphasis added.)

How can I best help others through my own sacrifice? How much am I willing to give up? I ask you—how much are *you* willing to give up? I am eager to turn my discomfort into action. Please contact me if you'd like to join me in reflecting and committing to action. We are called.

President's Column

Continued from page 3

As we opened the doors to our house of worship to hundreds of people from a rich variety of backgrounds and beliefs, I felt great pride that all of us were rallying together to support the values and principles which are common to us all, regardless of our particular faiths. During my years as a member of our congregation, I have experienced many spiritually uplifting events, but this one was one of the most impactful experiences I have had at SHS. For that, I am grateful.

Join me in the celebration of this new transition period for SHS. I am confident that you will share our enthusiasm for the future. I will look forward to seeing all of you on May 23.

Photo Gallery



Fourth graders with the large work of art they created together to visually represent the story of Jonah.



Third graders discovering Israeli slang and celebrities with three of the 20 Diller Teen Fellows from Herzliya, Israel.



Fifth graders learn the Hebrew lyrics and dance moves to Static & Ben El Tavor's megahit song, "Zahav"



Kindergartners with the hamsas they decorated with words and symbols for peace in celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut.



Sixth graders with some of the mosaic hamsas they created in celebration of Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzma'ut)

Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



Pre-K Class 2017-2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song		6:15 PM Memorial Plaque Service	Emor 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM B'nai Mitzvah Parent Meeting		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	6:30 PM SHSpirit in Song 7:30 PM Spiritual Direction with Rabbi Berman		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service Honoring Confirmation Class	B'har-B'hukkotai 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 12 PM POWER Lunch & Learn
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS			6:15 PM TGIShabbat Service featuring Ezuz	B'midhar 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Med. Service 10:30 AM Bet Class Service Erev Shavuot 7:30 PM Tikkun Leil Shavuot Night of Learning
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Shavuot I 10 AM Family Shavuot Shabang Service 11:15 AM Yizkor Service	Shavuot II Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 6 PM ECM 7 PM BDM	Annual Congregation Meeting 6:30 PM Lite Dinner 7 PM Meeting		Last Day of PS 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Naso 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
27	28	29	30	31		
Building Closed	Memorial Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	B'ha·alot'kha 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Building Closed	Playschool Camp Begins	7:15 AM Minyan	7:30 PM Spiritual Direction with Rabbi Berman		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Sh'lah L'kha 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Maya Salzman 10:15 AM Shabbat Study
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Building Closed	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Korah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Hukkat 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM B'nai Mitzvah of Chuck & Nick Schaeffer
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan			6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Balak 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan 4 PM Arts & Culture Cocktail Party	4 th of July Day Building Closed 	Building Closed	Building Closed No Service	Pinhas 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Building Closed	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Service	Mattot/Mas'ei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan			No Service	D'varim 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 9 PM Tisha B'Av Service
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan			No Service	Va-ethannan Nahamu 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
29	30	31				
Building Closed		7:15 AM Minyan				

Kesher

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 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**

TIME- DATED MATERIAL



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/.