

Solidarity Service at SHS

In the wake of the tragedy that took place at the Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh last Shabbat, please join us for a service of mourning and solidarity on **Friday, November 2, 6:15 PM.**

We will share our grief and our tears, and then we will share our determination to fight hatred in this country and in this world.

**SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE**

Keshet



Rabbi's Column

Work for Your Democracy!

Avi Winokur

To paraphrase the prophet Jeremiah, “VOTE!”

That is most definitely a paraphrase. Jeremiah, speaking to Israelites exiled from the land of Israel to Babylonia around 587- 86 B.C.E., said something more like, “Seek the welfare of the country to which I have exiled you, for in doing so you will prosper.” (29:7)

For all of the differences between us, and our ancestors of two and a half millennia ago, it is no stretch to opine that voting is a *sine qua non* of seeking the welfare of our adopted country. Six years ago on Rosh Hashanah, I recalled my sweet grandmother Rachel Toubar. I spoke then:

“If she were alive she would be over 120 years old. She was not born in this country. None of my grandparents were. When I was a child, every so often she would show me, as if for the first time, and beaming with pride each time, the letter she received from President Franklin Roosevelt. My recollection of the letter (and remember, we’re talking about letter written over 70 years ago, that I saw around 50 years ago) was of a brief, typewritten note, with what looked like an original signature. Of that I can’t be sure. But what I remember with much greater clarity is my grandmother’s proud face that she, Rachel Toubar, had received a letter from the President of the United States. Grandma adored President Roosevelt, and wrote him fan letters often.

But even more than President Roosevelt, Grandma adored this country. She loved everything it stood for, and was a proud citizen. From the time she became a citizen, until she died in her 90s, I know that she voted in every election that she could. For her, democracy was a thing of the heart. It was sacred, and her understanding of her good fortune to be an American created within her a reverence for America and American democracy that transcended parties, platforms, personalities, and the politics of the moment.

Although SHS members include children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors and more recent immigrants, by and large, most of us are quite distant from our forebears’ persecution in Europe and elsewhere. It is easy to become cynical about the shattered state of broken democracy, which resembles more often, “one dollar, one vote” than “one person, one vote”.

The substantial anti-democratic forces in this country—many of whom give extravagant lip service to the virtues of democracy while working overtime to deny millions of Americans access to the ballot box, all while cynically feigning concern for voter fraud—are overjoyed at our exhaustion, at our cynicism. They are overjoyed every time we say, “Well the system is rigged. Voting is meaningless.” Yes, the system is rigged, but our votes **do** make a difference, a *huge* difference. The anti-democratic forces are counting on our sense of resignation to fuel their agenda.

I do not want to take my marching orders from the cynics. I would rather take my marching orders from Rachel Toubar. I would rather take my marching orders from author, educator, activist, and giant of the spirit, Parker J. Palmer. His book, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit*, is a north star, a guide to the spirit in dark times. The title alone speaks to me of what the aspirations for democracy ought to be, and Palmer begins by citing a passage from a colleague on the path of renewal; author, conservationist, and activist Terry Tempest Williams from Utah:

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President's Column

Transition

Harry J. Oxman

During the High Holy Day services, you heard several references made to our synagogue community being in a time of transition. In 2015, our leadership and this President were aware that the time of transition was beginning. We understood that the process would require several years to complete and would essentially be directed to two components of the functioning of our synagogue community: first, changes in professional staff personnel; second, modification and enhancement of our buildings.

The professional staff transition began with the cantor search and was completed after two years with the hiring of Hazzan Roemer. Jessi is in the second year of her contract, and we look forward to maintaining a long relationship with beautiful music to accompany our prayer.

Next, we determined that it was necessary to expand the role of our Education Director to include responsibility for the Playschool. This approach enabled us to hire Sahar Oz as a full-time employee and to further centralize under one person the educational activities of our community's children. Sahar has been serving in this capacity for five months, and the reviews of his work have been outstanding. In addition, enrollment in each of our three schools has increased. The Playschool is now operating at full capacity.

Effective July 1, 2020, our dedicated and talented Executive Director, Betty van de Rijn, is scheduled to retire. With her support and recommendation, the Board of Directors hired Sahar to be the next Executive Director. Effective July 1, 2020, Sahar will serve as both Executive Director and Education Director, remaining under contract with Society Hill Synagogue for three additional years. We are aware that the performance of both roles will require assistance, but we are confident that existing personnel will be available to assist in expanded roles as we move forward.

The leadership has also been aware for several years that Rabbi Winokur intends to retire at the end of his current contract. This means that, effective July 1, 2020, the Society Hill Synagogue community will have a new spiritual leader. Replacing our beloved Rabbi Winokur is a daunting but necessary leadership responsibility. Rabbi Winokur has agreed to assist in whatever manner the Board of Directors believes may be helpful as it moves forward.

The Board began a part of this process by hiring Rabbi Nathan Kamesar as Associate Rabbi, with a two-year contract that began July 1, 2018. This step will not automatically elevate Rabbi Kamesar to be the replacement for Rabbi Winokur; shortly, you will receive a letter describing the Board's plans for the Rabbi Selection Process.

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Associate Rabbi's Column

Strengthening Bonds Within Our Community

Nathan Kamesar

Building community is hard. Here at SHS, we aspire not only to put on compelling services and programs, not only to educate youth and ensure their care, not only to contribute to social justice efforts, but to build community and to foster relationships.

Jewish teachings refer often to *kehillah kedoshah*, or sacred community. In this sense, we are not trying to simply roll out programs that people want to attend—where we announce a time and place, print out a flyer, and prepare the content of that program. We are trying to create a space where people want to spend *time* with one another—where people want to hang out with each other *after* the program, to nosh and schmooze (eat and chat), and to take an active interest in each other's lives. In a sacred community, we would invite one another over for dinner from time to time, and we'd be willing to watch each other's kids in a pinch.

Now, not all of us are available to do this all the time. Maybe we don't have a home where we feel comfortable hosting guests, or maybe our child caregiving days are behind us. That's OK.

It's also true that not all members are going to share this vision of synagogue membership. Some people will see a synagogue as a place where they can connect to their tradition or where they can attend holiday services and hear a (hopefully) meaningful sermon and beautiful melodies, among other purposes. They might feel that their communal needs are either satisfied elsewhere or are not that robust. Perhaps their support of community comes in the form of payment of dues and being listed on the membership roll, but not with regular physical presence. Of course, this is 100% fine, too. The synagogue does not have to be the same thing to all people. We have people from multiple generations, at different places in their lives, and with different needs. I respect all choices.

But for many of us, a synagogue can fill a greater need than simply putting us in touch with our Judaism. It can be about embedding us within a larger support network. Sometimes, we will be the ones doing the supporting; other times, we'll be the ones being supported. Sometimes, we'll be the ones inviting others to celebrate with us in our joyous moments; other times it will be the reverse. Part of the *raison d'être*, the calling card, of a synagogue is to ensure there are strong ties among community members—ties that keep people connected to each other—almost as though the synagogue is one cohesive living organism that is in touch with itself.

Again, not everyone will take the same approach to being in a community. Some, by choice, will remain at the periphery. I remember in my early 20s, stopping through different synagogues, looking for places to *daven* (pray), and just generally looking, and I didn't particularly need the synagogues I visited to serve as my community. They were more like weigh stations on my path. But for a lot of people, the synagogue *should* be more than that. It should be a place where their kids can make friends, where you can find like-minded parents or colleagues, where you can be part of a book club, where you can explore social and intellectual pursuits, to name just a few examples.

To that end, I want to share a few suggestions for how we can strengthen our bonds within the community, understanding that, as I wrote at the beginning of this article, community building is hard. It takes patience, perseverance, and concerted efforts from all who are so inclined. Nonetheless, a few ideas:

- **Text.** Not of the ancient Jewish variety, although more of that is always good. No, I'm talking about the cellphone variety. When you know you're going to services—or an Adult Ed class, *Friday Nights with Young Families* Shabbat service, Arts and Culture event, or Social Action initiative—text your friends to let them know. Better yet, text your acquaintances, too. Better still, make it a group text. I will bet people will be more inclined to show up when they know they'll see a familiar face. I would love it if over the course of a given week there were dozens of texts flying back and forth with people letting each other know which SHS event they'll be attending.

Continued on next page



Ann Spak Thal School

November News and December Delights

Sahar Oz

The Talmud teaches us that “a little light chases away a lot of darkness.” Indeed, one of the most famous Israeli Hanukkah songs – one so popular that it was even covered and expanded upon by bestselling Israeli rappers Subliminal and the Shadow – proclaims: *We came to chase away the darkness / In our hands are light and fire / Each individual is a small light / And all of us together are a strong light / Flee, darkness! / Flee from the light!*

Both literally and figuratively, there is much inspiration to take from the song at this time of the year. The sights and sounds of almost 100 Jewish children coming together to learn, laugh, question, and reflect on life and history through a Jewish lens project an especially bright light of joy and hope.

In addition to our lessons in class, there are numerous other opportunities for Jewish living and learning in November and December. This year’s first class services will feature Gan (Pre-K and Kindergarten) students on **Saturday, November 3, at 10:30 AM**, and Kitah Dalet (4th Graders) on **Friday, November 16, at 6:15 PM**.

We invite our entire congregation to come rejoice in these children’s Jewish learning through song and spirituality. These services will be followed by a delicious lunch and dinner, respectively, so please RSVP to Betty for you and your family no later than two days before each service at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org.

We also have a Bat Mitzvah to celebrate in December, as Ella Marchant is called to the Torah on **Saturday, December 1, at 9:30 AM**. Please join us and rejoice as Ella leyns Torah, chants Haftarah, and offers her interpretation of sacred texts. In preparation for the Hanukkah Happening, **classes for all grades will meet from 9-11 AM on Sunday, December 2**. The Hanukkah Happening will follow **from 11 AM-1 PM** and will feature fun activities for all ages – including dreidel games, face-painting, Hanukkah crafts, and cookie decorating. And of course, there will be delicious latkes, cooked to perfection by our renowned Latke Brigade!

There are no classes on Sunday, November 25, due to Thanksgiving Break, and our last day of classes before Winter Break will be Tuesday, December 18. Classes will resume in 2019 on Sunday, January 6. Our faculty, aides, and I wish you a joyous Thanksgiving and a happy Hanukkah filled with love and latkes!

Associate Rabbi’s Column

Continued from previous page

- **Invite people over for a meal.** This is one of the most “Jewish” things you can do—*hakhnasat or^him*, the mitzvah (sacred tradition) of welcoming guests. I know, it’s a lot of work, and not everyone is in a position to do it. But if you are, my advice would be to not worry *too* much about the condition of your house, or the quality of your food, or whether or not you have a Kashrut practice. Chances are, whatever you do, will be more than enough for the people you invite. They’ll feel more welcome in this community, you might make a new friend, and you’ll fulfill a Jewish mitzvah.

- **Embrace new and semi-familiar faces.** We often pride ourselves on being a warm, welcoming synagogue, and it’s one of those things we have to keep working at to make sure is true. Push yourself to say, “Hi” to (and maybe even sit next to at lunch or dinner?) people with new faces. On a related note, I think it is definitely OK to introduce yourself and ask someone their name even if you’re pretty sure you’ve met before, and you just don’t remember. I had a fellow rabbi recommend to me the practice of saying to people, “We’ve met before, haven’t we?” even when she wasn’t that sure that they had. Whether or not that’s your tactic, I would recommend not letting the thought that “I know their name but I forgot” prevent you from (re)introducing yourself.

One of our most foundational texts says, “לא־טוֹב הָיִוֹת הָאָדָם לְבַדּוֹ” — “It is not good for human beings to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). I read that not just as an observation by God regarding Adam in the Garden of Eden, but as potentially a duty incumbent upon all of us to work together to make sure people have community. Here at SHS we’re off to a pretty good start; let’s keep up the good work and continue to improve.

SHS Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: January 11 & 12!



Join us at SHS on **Friday, January 11, and Saturday, January 12, 2019, for a Scholar-in-Residence Weekend** featuring activist and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College Professor and Rabbi, Dr. Mira Wasserman. The theme of Dr. Wasserman's presentations will be, "Talmudic Visions of a Just World: How Ancient Texts Speak to the Moral Challenges of our Times."

On Friday, January 11, the Kabbalat Shabbat Service will begin at 6:15 PM, in the Sanctuary followed by a delicious dinner in the Social Hall. Join us for a "Dessert & Learn," when Dr. Wasserman will present, *In Search of Women's Voices*.

In Search of Women's Voices

The Talmud was created by men—for men—but much of its content deals with women. We will read several colorful stories in which women address the Rabbis with words of wisdom and of protest. How can the voices of these female characters play a role in the creation of a contemporary egalitarian Judaism?

Join us again on Saturday, January 12, for Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary at 10 AM, followed by a Lunch & Learn in the Social Hall, when Dr. Wasserman will present, *Refuge and Responsibility*.

Refuge and Responsibility

Across the world and in our own community, millions of refugees seek safety and security. What does our tradition teach about sanctuary? Through close readings of biblical and rabbinic texts, we will consider the contours of our collective responsibility to those displaced by war and disaster.

We are truly privileged to have such an inspiring teacher bring to bear the Talmudic teachings as they relate to the challenges to today's world.

This Scholar-in-Residence program is partially sponsored by the Jay R. Baer Fund, which honors the memory of a beloved synagogue member who served as Treasurer and President in the early 1980s before his untimely death from cancer.

Jay, a corporate and securities attorney at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen, was a key force in professionalizing the operation of our synagogue. His work was essential in developing the staffing and systems that moved SHS from an initially communal, volunteer group to a proficient organization that was more appropriate for a growing synagogue. All who knew him agree that his work in the synagogue was marked by care and diligence, as well as a fine sense of humor and wit—endearing traits that his family, friends and fellow congregants continue to miss to this day.

Jay's family, business and professional colleagues, as well as many members of the congregation, made generous contributions to SHS when Jay died. These contributions were used to form the Jay R. Baer Fund to serve as a resource to help subsidize SHS's annual Scholar-in-Residence educational programs. It is fitting that this fund is used for this important purpose at the synagogue Jay so lovingly served.

Today, members can continue to honor Jay's memory and support Adult Education at the synagogue by contributing to the Jay R. Baer Fund.



Playschool Excitement and Enrichment Sahar Oz

Oscar Wilde noted that “youth smiles without any reason; it is one of its chiefest charms.” At Playschool, our children smile often and laugh with a lot of heart, and usually with very good reason! We have already seen so much growth, learning, and discovery since September. So many new friendships and connections to classmates, teachers, and the material at hand.

We're excited to deepen those Playschool bonds, not just for our children, but for their families as well, at our Playschool Shabbat dinner this **Friday, November 2, at 5:30 PM**. Thanks to our Playschool Committee for its help in organizing the celebration!

Thanks also to the Committee for its help with our new Playschool application form for the 2019-2020 school year. In response to significant interest by prospective Playschool families, we decided to start the enrollment process earlier. Current Playschool families and SHS members will receive first priority if they apply by **November 15**, and the application is on our website for any family to complete and submit now.

New families' applications will be processed according to the date received. If there are class spots available after November 15, those families will be offered spots in the order in which they applied.

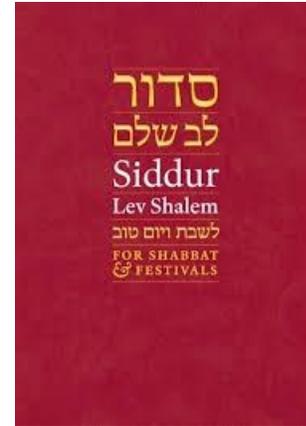
From our growing Afternoon Arts and Extended Care programs to our biweekly ZoomDance sessions, weekly Three Bears Park excursions, yoga every other week, drama classes, and our dedicated faculty that includes 11 talented teachers, our Playschool is a nurturing center for young learners, so spread the word!

School will be closed on **Monday, November 12**, in honor of Veterans Day. There will be early dismissal at **12:30 PM** on **Wednesday, November 21**, and school will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23**, for Thanksgiving.

Join us at the Hanukkah Happening and Playschool Open House on **Sunday, December 2, from 11 AM-1 PM** and enjoy delicious latkes by SHS' renowned Latke Brigade – with fun for all ages, including dreidel games, face-painting, Hanukkah crafts, and cookie decorating!

The last day of classes before Winter Break will be **Friday, December 21**, and classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 2**. Our faculty and I wish you a meaningful Thanksgiving, a happy Hanukkah, and a healthy and peaceful 2019!

Dedication opportunities are still available (\$36) for members who wish to purchase copies of the Rabbinical Assembly Shabbat and Festival Siddur Lev Shalem. For further information, contact the office by calling 215.922.6590 or email office@societyhillsynagogue.org.



If you would like to dedicate a book, please email office@societyhillsynagogue.org with the following information:

Your name:

Name for whom the book is dedicated (exactly as you would like it to appear on the bookplate on the inside cover):

In Memory of or In Honor of (indicate which):

Please send a check for \$36 per dedication, made out to Society Hill Synagogue, to 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia PA 19106, or call the office to charge the fee on your credit card (3% credit card processing fee will be applied).



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God's Unfinished Business

Bikur Holim (Visiting or Helping the Sick) Is a Mitzvah

Julie Wilson

God's Unfinished Business (GUB) consists of an active group of SHS members whose purpose is to help and care for our congregants and their families. GUB volunteers cook and deliver meals to SHS members who are ill and provide other members with rides to services, doctor's appointments, and medical procedures. They also visit or make phone calls to members who are hospitalized, under the weather, or are dealing with some type of hardship or loss.

If you know of a congregant who would benefit from the services that GUB provides, please contact me at juliewilson@yahoo.com. GUB is always looking for more volunteers—whether you can volunteer to help a congregant in need once a week, or even if you only have the time to perform one of these mitzvot, please contact me.



Best-dressed for our special guests from Engine 11

Havdalah Down the Shore

A Truly Special Evening

Debbie Stewart

On behalf of the SHS community, I wish to extend special thanks to Fran and Jeremey Newberg for hosting our wonderful Havdalah Down the Shore event, to Judy Lalli for helping to coordinate the participants and menu, and to Bob Blacksberg for creating lovely photographic memories. (See page 28 for photos.)

Veteran, new, and prospective members came together on a summer night in August to enjoy a lovely meal, warm hospitality, great conversation, and a preview of our building improvement visuals—followed by a Havdalah service on the beach, led by Rabbi Kamesar, that was filled with joy and a strong sense of community. The rain held off as we created a circle in the sand, sang, and welcomed in the new week.

Here are some comments from the participants:

"Last night was a huge success thanks to Fran and Jeremey's generosity—their home was beautiful and welcoming. Judy graciously coordinated food, drinks, and guests, and Rabbi Nathan led a beautiful Havdalah service. The warmth of our community allowed our members to have easy conversation with new and prospective members. Our genuine enjoyment of one another's company combined with the perfect touch of spirituality made for a very special evening. We could stand to have a few more of these types of gatherings at SHS!"

"Thanks so much to all who made the lovely Havdalah event happen."

"What a fantastic evening!"

"The Havdalah event was lovely, and the company was warm and welcoming. It is obvious that SHS is a synagogue that fosters a caring, inviting, and exciting community. Thank you all for your friendly welcome—only wish we lived closer."

"Thank you for a lovely evening. We look forward to many more events."

"Thank you very much for hosting such a lovely, fun, warm, and joyous evening! Everyone had a wonderful time."

Rabbi's Column

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"The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up—ever—trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy?"

Because I am neither a constitutional originalist, literalist, or textualist, nor a Biblical originalist, literalist, or textualist (by the way, in law, textualism is the new originalism), I believe Jeremiah is saying something like the following to us: "Stop kvetching! Get off your duff and work for your democracy. It's not going to be given to you simply because it's your right! There's no use getting all self-righteously upset. Work for it if you really want and value it. And for God's sake, VOTE!"

Most of you who will read this article will vote. That is not our challenge. That is not the work required. Do you live near someone who is elderly, has mobility issues or other challenges that make it difficult for him or her to get to their voting location? Assist them. Don't know them well? Approach them anyway. Help them be the citizens that they want to be. I don't know which of the 613 traditional mitzvot this falls under, but I know this: it is a true mitzvah for them, for you, and for our democracy. **Get out and vote.**

President's Column

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Your leadership recognizes that our community needs to have the opportunity to engage in the discussion that will help shape the decision that the Board of Directors must make concerning Rabbi Winokur's successor, and the method by which that person is selected. To facilitate this engagement, the Board has contracted with Jewish Learning Venture to establish and conduct the process by which information will be obtained regarding the criteria to be utilized in determining the congregation's expectations for its future religious leadership.

This activity is termed the "Appreciative Inquiry" process. It will consist of meetings with various focus groups over the course of the next five to six weeks. These meetings, which will be led by members of the staff of Jewish Learning Venture, will enable congregants to express thoughts and attitudes on matters relevant to the selection process. **It is imperative that each of you attend one of these meetings.** Thereafter, a congregational survey will be formulated to gather additional information. It is anticipated that a final report from Jewish Learning Venture will be presented to the Board of Directors at its February meeting. Shortly thereafter, it is expected that the Board will announce its decision as to the manner in which it intends to proceed in selecting Rabbi Winokur's successor.

About 10 years ago, our leadership made the decision to acquire 430 Spruce Street. The rationale behind the acquisition was to put the synagogue in a position for future expansion. We now own that building without any debt. We must now transition into utilization of it as a needed resource for our regular community activities. Since announcing the Space Enhancement and Capital Campaign about two years ago, there has been little if any objection to the concept of developing this property now for our immediate use. This transition is a sound approach for the present and the future that is achievable if our community recognizes that it is our responsibility to raise the money to make it a reality. The Capital Campaign has raised in excess of \$900,000, and we are approaching the midpoint of our fund-raising efforts. In order to meet that goal, it is necessary for everyone to participate and make that "joyful stretch." The Board's view is that our Capital Campaign should be completed by June 30, 2019, enabling us to then make plans for the commencement of construction.

As we move forward to the completion of our transition activities, I urge each and every one of you to participate to the fullest extent of your capability. The leadership will reach out to you to secure your involvement and commitment to those portions of the transition that I have discussed in this column. Please remember that we are all in this effort together and that our success not only will benefit us in the present but will enable us to fulfill our obligation and responsibility to those who follow us.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Newman
 Jacob Wycoff
 Noah Ferst
 Richard Huggett
 Henry Gutstadt
 Adriel Mesznik
 Jordan Schwartz
 Stephanie Naidoff
 Gabrielle Applebaum
 Daniel Schwartz
 Gary Sutnick
 Fanny Korman
 David Ladov
 Jacqueline Pack Segal
 Mark Dembert
 Ira Kauderwood
 Sarah Levitsky
 Lia Oxman
 Gabriel Rubin
 Arthur Cherry
 Scotty Jordan
 Ron Kaiser
 Edward Kaplan
 Alan Tobacman
 Luca Bahuriak
 Frank Goodman
 Micah Hart
 Elias Mesznik
 Marcie Ziskind
 Deborah Casnoff
 Sara Chrismer
 Aaron Edelman
 Maxwell Abrams Nelson
 Cora Michaels-Koenig
 Daniel Nelson
 Eryn Appel
 Teresa Novick
 Ronald Spiegel
 Pelley Brown
 Rina Mitchell
 Rebecca Rohbart
 Sophia Rick Yudell

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Rothman
 Noah Schindler
 Sarah Buse-Morley
 Abby Krigel
 Meranda Love
 Ella Marchant
 Ezra Edelman
 Holly Gorsen
 Howard Sedran
 Joel Chernock
 Evelyn Eisenstadt
 Myron Bloom
 Ariana Eizen
 Joanna Hart
 Arthur Shapiro
 Michael Goldberg
 Wendy Greenspan
 Emerson Rosenbloom
 Talia Femia
 Dan Ehrenfeld
 Max Ladenson
 Phoebe Ladenson
 Robin Carole Schatz
 Steven Eizen
 Ami Fisher
 Judith Lalli
 Roberto Pace
 Barry Slosberg
 Ned Wolf Weiss
 Oren Pipano
 Aaron Wolson
 Margot Oxman
 Barbara Spector
 Steven Gendler
 Joshua Goldwert
 Thomas Kline
 Hannah Myers
 Daniel Weil
 Alexander Ehrlich
 Abigail Gendler
 Joan Goodman
 Steven Greenberg
 Clara Landes
 David Paskin
 Stanley Woloff
 Cole Pressman
 Rebecca Buse-Morley

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*Continued*

Lisa Coran
 Mimi Hunter
 Stephen Klasko
 Todd Schoenhaus
 Isaac Torchinsky-Field
 Barbara Miller
 Jamie Cooperstein
 Joel Hirsch
 Lindsay Saligman
 Samuel Datlof
 Stanton Salkin
 Roberta Jacobs Meadway
 Ruby Rovinsky
 Emily Zimmerman
 Wolf Iannotti
 Jessi Roemer

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

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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, following the 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. Please contact us at 215.922.6590 or by email at office@societyhillsynagogue.org for more information.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Alan Ominsky & Marlene Lachman
 Steven Datlof & Diane Harrison
 Steven & Lisa Eizen
 Dean Weisgold & Cheri Cutler
 Robert & Wilma Bass
 Michael & Holly Gorsen
 Neil Cohen & Debra Weissbach
 James & Julie Wilson
 Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
 Jane Nathanson & Andrew Newman
 Kinney Zalesne & Scott Siff
 Jeremey & Fran Newberg
 Jay & Phyllis Denbo
 Judson Aaron & Susan Snedden

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jerome Kranzel & Rian Berger
 Dan Bogen & Erica Ginsburg
 Joshua Cooper & Jamie Cooperstein
 Michael R. Rochester & Carole Le Favre-Rochester
 Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser
 Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
 Harvey & Bonnie Weiner
 Alan & Deborah Casnoff
 Susan Denbo & David Serlin
 Jonathan Weiss & Abigail Wolf
 Michael Roe & Joy Lander Roe
 Stephen & Susan Leshnoff

Community News

Mazel Tov to:

Mindy & Thaddeus Fortin on the marriage of their daughter, Caroline, to Rabbi Nathan Kamesar.

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar and Caroline Fortin on their recent marriage.

Condolences to:

Betta Kolansky on the death of her father, Harold Kolansky.

David & Sayde Ladov and Family on the death of David's mother, Ethel Ladov Gilstein.

Abbe Fletman and Family on the death of her wife, Jane Hinkle.

Welcome New Members

Julie & David Bahuriak
Luca, Elena, and Leo

Jillian & Todd Borow
Michael

Mindy & Thaddeus Fortin

Valentyna Abraimova & Uzi Huga
Gabriel, Sasha, and Ezra

Rachel & Jason Iannotti
Mae and Wolf

Laurie Krivo & Bob Kaufman

Pam & David Levine

Julie Liedman

Gabrielle Einstein Morrow & Adam Morrow
Derek, Raven, and Cora

Joyce Norden

Christie Yamron & David Rovinsky
Ruby and Everly

Mazell & Jared Winikor
Ainara



General Fund

In Appreciation of
SHS

Nancy Wygant

In Honor of

David & Sayde Ladov

David Rasner

In Memory of

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Richard & Nancy Morgenstern

Gerry Schneeberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Herbert & Sylvia Fletman, Parents of Abbe Fletman

Abbe Fletman

Gloria Berman, Mother of Rabbi Marjorie Berman

Rabbi Marjorie Berman

Dora Lizenbaum, Grandmother of Curtis Lizenbaum

Curtis Lizenbaum

Norman Feinberg, Father of Dan Feinberg

The Feinberg Family

Anna Paller, Grandmother of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Morton Levine, Father of David Levine

David & Pam Levine

Robert Segal, Husband of Evelyn Segal

Evelyn Segal

Sigmond & Anna Weinberg, In-Laws of

Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Annual Giving Fund

In Appreciation of

SHS Community

Barbara Spector

In Honor of

Marriage of Rabbi Nathan Kamesar & Caroline Fortin

Barbara Spector

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Steven & Fran Lesser

In Memory of

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky

Barbara Spector

Social Action Fund

In Memory of

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky

Iris Levine

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of

Hazzan Jessi Roemer

Jared Susco

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Avi Winokur

Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Rabbi Avi Winokur, for his support & compassion

Betta Kolansky

SHS at the High Holy Days

Rich Goldberg

In Honor of:

Wedding of Rabbi Nathan Kamesar & Caroline Fortin

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebovitz Steinberger

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Carment Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reishit Recipient

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Rabbi Kamesar's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of:

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, for his support & compassion

Betta Kolansky

In Honor of:

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar & Caroline Fortin

Rosemarie Weinberg

Kiddush Fund

In Appreciation of:

SHS 5779 High Holy Days

Jenna Cooper & Jesse Sutow

In Honor of:

Betty van de Rijn, 13 years at SHS

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Bernard Cohen's 98th Birthday on Simhat Torah

Ron and Robin Feinberg

Bar Mitzvah of Gavi Gilbert Trachtman

Ivy Gilbert & Howard Trachtman

Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reishit Recipient

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFavre-Rochester

In Memory of:

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky

Stanley & Judith Woloff

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Abba Orlinger, Father of Barbara Einhorn

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Benjamin Einhorn, Father of Edgar Einhorn

Edgar & Barbara Einhorn

Samuel Michaels, Father of Geoffrey Michaels

Geoffrey Michaels

Continued next page

Thank you for your sponsorship...

Honey Tasting Oneg

Bruce and Carol Katcher
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In Honor of:

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Bruce Hirsch

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Paula Ninerell

Micha Hohenberger
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Our Grandparents
Dan & Dana Feinberg

Bernard & Estelle Dembert
Mary Fish & Mark Dembert

Arthur L. Schneeberg
Gerry Schneeberg

Stanley & Lorraine Goldstein
Alan & Debbie Casnoff

Break-the-Fast Meal

A special thank you to Edgar & Bobbi Einhorn and Seafood Unlimited for the Nova at Break-the-Fast

Steve & Ruth Greenberg
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Eve Friedman & Roberto Pace
Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

In Honor of:

Libby Cone
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Our Grandchildren
Michael and Carole LeFaivre Rochester

Shira, Dan, and Ben Cohen
Debbie Weissbach & Neil Cohen

In Memory of:

Benjamin Farbman
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

Mark Stanton Zimmerman
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In Memory of:

Lillian & Jack Luken, Ervin Weiner, and Josephine Weiner
Bonnie & Harvey Weiner

Ted & Fredlyn Casnoff
Alan & Debbie Casnoff

New Sukkah and Decorations

Fran Gallun & Len Weinberg
Steve & Wendy Greenspan
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

In Honor of:

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Dan & Dana Feinberg

In Memory of:

Leon & Estelle Klasko
Stephen Klasko

Harvey & Faye Nelson
Elizabeth Heller-Mesznic

Ann Farbman
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman

New Year Greetings

Stephen & Pelley Brown
Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz Blender
Joel Chernock
Neil Cohen & Debbie Weissbach
Murray Dubin & Libby Rosof
Dan & Dana Feinberg
Terry Graboyes, Noah Herman & Ashley Kerns
Rabbi Nathan & Caroline Kamesar
David & Sayde Ladov
Myer & Miriam Magen
Paula & Larry Ninerell
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Sahar, Allison & Eli Oz
Michael & Carole LeFaivre Rochester
Jerome & Lois Rosenberg
Ann & Mark Steinberger
Fran Gallun & Len Weinberg
Bonnie & Harvey Weiner
Rabbi Avi Winokur & Susan Berman
Flora Barth Wolf



**THE SHS ARTS & CULTURE
GROUP INVITES YOU TO A
PREMIERE OF:**

***DREAMING OF A JEWISH
CHRISTMAS***

Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Fest Premiere

Who would have guessed that some of the most iconic Christmas songs were written by Jewish-American songwriters such as Irving Berlin and Johnny Marks? In this charming musical documentary, Director Larry Weinstein recreates the warm, bright Christmases of his childhood memories, while documenting a broader history of the Jewish roots of Christmas songs. Set amidst a crowded Chinese restaurant on a cold winter night in the 1960s, servers break out into song and dance while musicians, comedians, and historians discuss the American Jewish relationship with Christmas. With vibrant renditions of the most popular Christmas tunes, *Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas* is a joyful holiday movie brimming with warmth and spirit!

Join us after the film for a delicious Christmas-themed Chinese buffet dinner!

RSVP to Nancy Morgenstern at nancypm54@gmail.com.

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

418 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 | 215.922.6590 | www.societyhillsynagogue.org

Where:

Gershman Y

401 S. Broad St.

When:

Sunday

November 18

Time: 5 PM

Cost: \$30

**(This price includes
film & Chinese buffet
dinner)**

**RSVP to Nancy at
nancypm54@gmail.com**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SHS ARTS &
CULTURE GROUP**

Arts & Culture Group

Soothe Your Soul and Tickle Your Funny Bone

Betta Kolansky, Eleanor Oxman, Ellen Fennick & Libby Kaiser

The Walking Tour: Where We Walked and What We Learned

On Sunday, October 14, the SHS Arts and Culture Group hosted a marvelous, informational, and fun-filled walking tour of historic Jewish Philadelphia sites. Tour guide Jerry Silverman led us through Society Hill and Queen Village as he pointed out many historic synagogues, sites of former synagogues, bath houses, shops (such as the original Snellenberg's Department Store), Levi's Hotdogs, the Foremost Building, and much more. Approximately 40 SHS members and friends participated!



Mark Your Calendars!

On **Thursday, November 29, at 8 PM**, please join us for 1812 Production's hilarious political satire show, "This is the Week That Is," at Plays and Players Theatre, located at 1714 Delancey Place. The tickets cost \$33 per person. Please RSVP to Betty at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org, and make checks payable to Society Hill Synagogue and write, "November 29 show" on the memo line. Drop checks off to the SHS office or mail them to 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 by **November 13**.

For those wishing to join us for dinner preceding the show, we will meet at La Fontana Del Citta, located at 1701 Spruce Street, (just one block away from the theatre), at 5:45 PM. The cost of the 3-course meal is \$38 per person (including tax and tip). Everyone can choose his/her own meal from the menu, and the restaurant is BYO, so please feel free to bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share. We will pay separately for our meals. Please be aware that the restaurant does not accept credit cards so attendees may either pay in cash or by check made payable to the restaurant.



Hebrew Schoolers hanging out in Lawrence Court and using their growing modern Hebrew vocabulary for fun conversations in this old-new language.

For those who were unable to attend the luncheon honoring this year's Hatan Torah and Kallat B'reishit on Saturday, October 6, here are their speeches:

Hatan Torah: Len Weinberg

When Avi called to tell me that the committee had chosen me to be the Hatan Torah for this New Year, I was pleased but afraid to say yes. It is not that I don't think well of myself, but I do not see myself getting such an honor. But, writing my spiritual journey has been instructive, and I thank the committee and Avi for pushing me on.

When I thought about what I wanted to say, an interesting coincidence occurred. I have been taking meditation courses from Dharma Ocean meditation center near Denver over these past years. This current on-line course began on September 13, a few days after Avi had called. The first talk on the meditation class opened with "This is a course on Spirituality." And my talk today is supposed to discuss just that. Coincidences like this occur frequently. I am only partially surprised! And it feeds into my belief that there is something larger and more important in our human existence. My mom would always say, after I had already completed something, "I knew you were going to do that!" I think we all have experienced such events. I may not have the facts exactly right, my myth of these memories for me is the more important part of this history.

Home

When I was growing up, we kept a kosher home. On Friday nights the only light in the house were the Shabbos candles. There was no TV and the feeling I remember was one of awe and a little bit of fear of the unknown. I can't remember what we did during those Friday nights with the lights off—probably, I teased my sister Elaine.

My Mom cooked many old style dishes. Food was an important part of my Jewish upbringing. I visited the kosher butcher with Mom, and the choices so easily available then are not available now. Large cow tongues would be immersed in boiling water for hours at home. The pot was so large, that when I went to get a glass of water, I had to bend away to avoid the boiling pot. A special dish I loved was the Eastern European equivalent of sweet breads. It consisted of animal organs: heart, lung and miltz. Miltz is the spleen. When sweet breads are available in restaurants, they never provide the same happiness. But my favorite dish that my Mom made was stuffed cabbage.

I remember one year, I asked to have a Christmas stocking like my non-Jewish friends. I expected they would say no to such a request. But to my surprise and delight, Mom said that I could. We had a fake fireplace in the living room, and that's where it went up. I came to admire my parents' flexibility, and their openness. I can't remember whether they put a present in the stocking, but their flexible approach was a lasting memory for me. I never asked again to have a stocking; that one time satisfied me.

Grandpa Watton

My dad's father and my father were businessmen, while my Mom's father was the Gabbai in the Orthodox synagogue to which we belonged. The synagogue was just 3 blocks away from our house, on Linden Blvd and 46th Street, in Brooklyn. The Gabbai assisted in running the synagogue, like scheduling Bar Mitzvahs, and during Prohibition, providing wine to the synagogue. The story goes that in his younger days, Grandpa Watton made wine in his bathtub, bottled it in gallon jugs, and carried them surreptitiously to services. He was a short and wide man, so his walking with two-gallon jugs must have been a funny sight.

Every Saturday before my Bar Mitzvah and for a short time after, I met Grandpa Watton at synagogue. His first action on seeing me was to grab a piece of my right cheek between his pointer and thumb fingers, hold it for a second or two, and then slowly twist. To this day, I believe that that action was my real initiation into the male Jewish faith, not being circumcised. I can still feel the love and the pain! My son, Jacob David, is named after Grandpa Watton.

At synagogue, I was free to spend time in the hallways with friends. We just had to go back into services for the final prayers. The synagogue had three levels below ground where a large party room was located. Most Saturdays, the steps down to the party room were totally dark. My Bar Mitzvah party was held there. For the thrill of a lifetime, my friends and I would attempt making our way down the darkened steps, scared and thrilled all at the same time. We would take one step at a time, reach a turn in the stairway, and go crazy with fright. Even holding hands did not relieve the fear.

For many years before and after my Bar Mitzvah, I went back to my grandpa's apartment for lunch. Lena, his second wife and a very sweet woman—not my grandmother, but we behaved as though she was—had lunch ready for us. Lunch always consisted of cholent, which was being warmed in a pot on the stove. They had their Shabbos Goy turn the stove light on and off. The mystery of life was present in all these actions I experienced.

Each Passover, Grandpa Watton would come over and do a certified cleaning of the house of chometz. The lights in the house were off. He would light a candle to see where he was going. He would take out a handkerchief filled with breadcrumbs and go into each room where he put some crumbs. He would say some b'ruchas, and then he would go around with a feather and sweep the crumbs back into a new handkerchief. He would tie the handkerchief and leave the house.

Continued on next page

Hatan Torah Speech*Continued from previous page***Elaine**

My sister, Elaine, had a big impact on my spiritual journey. Elaine was 4 years older than me. Growing up, our bedrooms were across a small foyer. I could easily drop in, and enjoy a small conversation, or tease her to begin my day.

When Elaine was about twelve years old, she developed spastic movements that made it awkward and difficult for her to walk unaided. I believe she was 16 when the Mayo Clinic told my parents she had Dystonia—a rare form of Parkinson's disease. She carried the gene. I remember my parents traveling to many hospitals with her to identify the cause.

As we grew, I looked to her as a source of knowledge. She was smart, she was pretty, she read lots of stories to me, and she was fun to be with. I always respected her positive approach, even though life was not easy for her. (**Do not tell anybody**, but she wrote my Bar Mitzvah speech 64 years ago, AND, I received lots of congratulations on that speech.) She always taught me the important lesson to look at the positive side of a situation, and keep going. She did that. Make it better yourself. For many years she lived at home, but later she lived in a home for the infirm on Long Island, NY. She died at age 73 in 2009. Several important events in my journey come to mind when I remember her:

•On Sundays we would go to the local Chinese restaurant on Church Ave in Brooklyn. We were religious about that! The conflict with keeping kosher at home did not seem to cause us difficulties. My dad would let us off at the restaurant door, and I would support Elaine as we walked into the restaurant. I remember strongly, even now, my embarrassment as we walked in and people would stare at us.

Years later, when I would drive back home from graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, I got these terrible headaches. After many years of therapy, I came to realize how deeply I had been affected by those earlier times with Elaine. Until her very end, she could show concern for others while she had many difficulties herself.

•About 15 years ago, I had this strong desire to define God for myself. What characteristics does God have; what is God's purview? I never understood what stimulated this interest in God all of a sudden at the age of about 65. I remember sharing my thoughts about God with our family at a sharing we did on vacation.

While writing this talk this past week, I was able to make this connection between my desire to define God and my sister Elaine. It goes something like this; I could not imagine a God with total powers who would allow a sweet person like Elaine to suffer as she did. I needed a better definition for a God. So, I define God to be within each of us, like a gene, and that gene pushes us to "love our neighbors as we want our neighbors to love us." Everything else follows from that. I call this the God gene. Elaine just had bad luck when she was born!

Summary

On the next important part of my journey, I met Frances Beth Gallun; we got married, and then we joined SHS. We are continuing that journey right now. Thank you for listening.

Kallat B'reishit: Carmen Hayman**My Jewish Journey: From Ohio to the City of Brotherly Love**

I am so honored to be chosen as the Kallat B'reishit this year for our synagogue. Many of you, have offered such kind well wishes, these past few weeks; I am incredibly humbled when I think about receiving this award from our community. When Avi called to share the news, I could not have been more surprised, and will say, a bit choked up. Having attended many of these luncheons over the years—I was even more honored to know that past recipients, I so admired, had recommended me this year. So let me just say a special thank you to the Hatan Torah and Kallat B'reishit committee for this beautiful honor.

Debbie [Stewart], thank you for such a warm introduction. Please know you have played a leading role in my journey and I am forever grateful and in awe of your warmth, spirit, and love for our shul. Please accept my heartfelt thank you!

I have always loved attending this luncheon and hearing the honorees' stories and their history with our synagogue. I also always left feeling like I knew the honorees just a little bit better. So here here's my story...

My first memory of going to church was when I was about 4 years old. I went to Vacation Bible School at Rockland United Methodist Church in my hometown of Belpre, Ohio. This was a one-week camp at the church, that featured activities around bible stories, arts & crafts, and lots of singing, which I loved. Just a little bit about the religion scene in Belpre... We had one Catholic church and about eight Protestant churches in our small town. There was not a synagogue in my hometown. There was one in the next town over, but I never knew anything about the shul when I was young. I learned about it when I was older, and learned about the history of the Jewish community in that area when I was much older.

When I was in 7th grade, I joined Rockland United Methodist church. There were two reasons I joined that particular church: 1) My best friend at the time, Debbie Swick, went to church and said she wanted someone to go to all the youth group events with her and 2) this was the closest church to my home, so I could ride my bike or walk there very easily.

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Kallat B'reishit Speech

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I attended both Sunday School and services every Sunday and was an active member in the youth group until I graduated high school. Some of you will probably not be surprised to learn that I was elected as the Youth Lay Leader for a couple of years and served on the Church Board. My role was to provide suggestions on engaging the high school students more in our community. So you can see, I had an early exposure to Board life and the challenges that surround engagement.

I am sharing this particular time in my life with you because it laid the foundation for me to make the decision about converting to Judaism much easier. When I say, "I joined Rockland United Methodist church," it was I who joined, and not my family. During my childhood, my parents were not church-goers. My Dad's family and extended family lived in and around Belpre, and they all went to church. My dad's family could be described as fairly religious folks. His brother is a minister. I have two cousins who are ministers and two cousins who are married to ministers. So, it was a bit of an oddity that our family did not go to church on a regular basis. My parents were incredibly supportive of me going to church over the years, and when I joined Rockland, that was not a problem. If my youth group or Sunday School class was leading a service, they would come to the service. But I had questions about why they had not joined a church, and my parents were very honest with me about why they were not attending church, at that time. I am not going to go into those details today, as my talk would be far too long, but I will share that my parents had then, and continue to have, what I would describe as a very deep faith. They did find a church and community that worked for them after both my brother and I had left home, and have been members of that church for nearly 30 years. I appreciate that my parents gave me the freedom to explore religion and to develop my own ideas around faith at a fairly early age. I appreciate that they supported (and still do) the decisions that I made.

So you may ask, "Carmen, how did you end up here?" I'm so glad you asked...

I was completing graduate school and moved to Philadelphia for a 10-week internship at CHOP. As you can see, I'm still in Philadelphia, and I'm still at CHOP. Some of you already know this, but on the first day I moved to Philly, I met a really terrific guy named Ric Hayman and things must have worked out because we will be married 25 years this coming May. Meeting Ric and his wonderful family, I credit as my first real introduction to Judaism. The first time I ever met Ric's parents, Renee and Harris, was at a beautiful Passover Seder in their home. If you don't know Renee and Harris, they are incredibly generous hosts, so I also met about twelve of Ric's extended family members as well that night. So no pressure, Carmen! You're just going to read from the Haggadah, sing some new tunes (in Hebrew), and eat gefilte fish for the first time. No problem!

Ric never asked me, nor spoke about me converting, before we married and I truly appreciated that. And at the time it was not something that I considered or even felt a need to do. But then we had Jacob, and I knew I wanted my children to understand a religion and have a sense of community. It was an easy decision for me that our children would be raised Jewish. But once we made that decision, I knew I needed to be a part of that on every level. So, when Jacob was nearly two years old in the fall of 2001, I enrolled in a conversion class at a synagogue on the other end of Spruce Street, and by the following Passover, I went before the Bet Din, went to the Mikvah, had a little ceremony with the other eight women in my conversion class, and hosted my first Passover Seder. Becoming a Jew—converting—was the easy part. Becoming Jewish—creating a Jewish identity—was a bigger challenge. I had gone through the educational and physical requirements of becoming a Jew, but in my mind and heart, I did not feel Jewish. Honestly, I didn't know what that was supposed to feel like. We joined BZBI for the next couple of years, but neither Ric nor I felt a connection, and we dropped our membership in 2004; we were not really looking for a new synagogue.

By the following summer, Society Hill Synagogue came on our radar. I credit two people for making that happen: Mitchell Bach and Rona Buchalter. Ric and I met Mitchell through our good friends and neighbors, Vickie Waitsman and John Smyth. Mitchell learned that Ric did IT work and asked if he could take a look at some things at Society Hill Synagogue. Also, about the same time, I ran into Rona whose daughter, Lena, was a preschool classmate of Jacob's. She asked if we had thought about sending Jacob to Hebrew School. I shared that we weren't currently members anywhere, and she suggested that we take a look at Society Hill Synagogue.

She gave such a positive review and shared how much Lena had loved the Pre-K Sunday School class and could welcomed and comfortable immediately. I said maybe we should take a look at SHS. That's when he pulled the membership folder out of his bag! We jumped in with both feet, became members, and enrolled Jacob in the Sunday school.

There are various analogies used for people who are converting or who have converted. A new convert is compared to a newly naturalized citizen in a foreign land. You're trying to speak a different language, and it takes time to absorb a whole new culture. But the image that speaks to me is that a convert is a like a transplanted flower, trying to settle roots in new soil. It may take years before you are acclimated to the elements, before your roots take hold, thrive, and eventually blossom. To get my roots partially settled, I needed a step-by-step guide in the basic practices of Judaism.

Continued next page

I enrolled in a Shabbat 101 Class with Rabbi Berman. I took the class with my good friend, Andrea Appel, and we began having Shabbat dinners together. We learned that we could help each other and teach our children how to practice Shabbat at the same. We also realized that we didn't have to have a roasted chicken or brisket every Friday night.

And that we could pick up a really yummy challah at Whole Foods and could easily order pizza and have a Shabbat pizza dinner and make it just as meaningful. Next, I took the class the Rabbi offered for a couple of years for parents of Sunday School children. The class was based on the book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, by Wendy Mogul. What I remember is that on the first day, Avi had us go around the table and tell a bit about our backgrounds. I quickly learned from listening to the other parents that I was not alone. Parents in the group brought to the table a range of experiences and varying levels of observance. Avi tried to rein us in and introduce a topic for discussion, but never minded that our discussions deviated off course in other directions. It was a lively group, and you knew by the look on Avi's face that he just loved that we were all together and tackling challenging questions about Judaism and parenting issues.

Our class with the Rabbi was once a month, and as we headed into our second year, we decided we needed more time together and began meeting almost every week at the Java coffee shop while our kids were in Sunday school. We learned together, we taught one another, and we enjoyed each other. The love and support that I experienced through that wonderful Java Parent Group allowed my roots to settle and feel at home in this community and I began to grow, thrive, and blossom as a Jewish individual.

Through that parent group I met Jonathan Weiss, and he asked if anyone was interested in joining the Education Committee. By that point, Jonathan knew my background and that I had absolutely no experience with going to Hebrew School. I wasn't sure if I would have much to offer but told him that I would be happy to lend him hand. Jonathan assured me that no previous experience was necessary to be on the Education Committee. And that really started me on my path to being involved at SHS.

Debbie has already shared with you information about my involvement at SHS, but there are few things that particularly stand out that I just want to highlight before I close. The Holiday Mitzvah project at the Vore-Washington School evolved out of a discussion in our Java Parent Group. There was a desire to do a mitzvah activity as a group with our children. I have to give credit to Elan Prystowsky for the idea and to Phyllis Denbo for helping us to make the connections at the school. I loved organizing our efforts and seeing the project grow beyond our Sunday and Hebrew School families into the broader community. I have many fond memories of our gift-wrapping extravaganza and met many of you through that project over the years.

I want to give a shout out to Bruce Hirsch for offering a Introduction to Hebrew Class at SHS several years ago. Now, Bruce may try to tell you that Charlene and I conspired during one of my dental appointments and that we created the class, and then we told him that he was teaching it. Let's just say, however it happened, I was glad to be in that first Hebrew class with some of you in this room. It laid a very nice foundation and with the encouragement of Merle Salkin and Marc Schwartz, I decided that I would try to learn a very small Torah portion for Jacob's Bar Mitzvah. By chance, Deb Stewart, who was studying with Cantor Bob, had her lesson in the time slot just before mine. She was working toward having her own Bat Mitzvah in June of 2013. On one of those weeks, Deb asked me if I would consider becoming a Bat Mitzvah with her. I don't know that I would have ever considered the idea of having a Bat Mitzvah if Deb had not asked me. I did not give an immediate yes, but after conversations with Bob, more conversations with Deb, and then an encouraging phone call from Avi—I signed on. From there, as many of you know, Phyllis Denbo and Dana Feinberg joined us. Dana taught us to make challah and affectionately referred to us as *the Mitzies*. That shared experience created a bond between us and a spiritual experience for which I will always be grateful.

Creating an authentic Jewish identity for myself took time and patience and was achieved through my experiences here at Society Hill Synagogue, being comfortable celebrating Shabbat in our home, and teaching that to my children. Doing mitzvot with my family and friends, celebrating Jewish holidays, participating in services, reading from the Torah, and becoming a Bat Mitzvah allowed me to finally identify myself as a Jewish woman in both mind and spirit.

A special thank you to Ric, Jacob & Lily. I am standing here, in this moment, because of the three of you. I love you so much. And finally: thank you, Avi; thank you, dear family and friends; thanks to the special folks I have served with on the Board of Directors and the Education Committee. And thanks to all of you who've come up to me in the past weeks to wish me Mazel Tov. Your kind words have touched me deeply. Thank you again for this tremendous honor.



TGISHabbat: Friday, November 30, 6:15 PM

Please join us on **Friday, November 30, at 6:15 PM**, for a TGISHabbat service featuring composer, pianist, conductor, and arranger Edward Kalendar.

Born and raised in Lvov, Ukraine, Edward heard jazz for the first time at age 8, but the appreciation and performance of jazz were considered to be unpatriotic activities in the Soviet Union in the 1950s. Edward was a conductor of the Tashkent Radio Orchestra from 1968 until 1976, and a music director of the State Folklore Music Theatre in Moscow from 1991 until 1994. He organized an underground big band, MODUL, which he led from 1965 until 1971. Edward introduced jazz to the public and to young musicians through his inspired teaching and his performances at newly organized jazz festivals. He has collaborated with artists such as Bob Berg, Chris Brubeck, Giora Feidman, James Cammack, and Larry McKenna, the New York Big Band with Joe Battaglia, and many more.

Edward and his family moved to New York in 1994. In 2004, Edward received an Honorable Mention from the John Lennon Songwriting Competition for his children's song entitled, *Friday*. His *Sonata for Violin* premiered at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall on October 9, 2010, and was later aired on NPR's "From the Top" for a national audience. He has composed 26 film scores, concertos for cello and piano, a violin sonata, seven volumes of Jewish song arrangements, over 200 classical, popular, and children's songs, and more. He has been a dedicated music instructor for over 35 years and his music and arrangements have been performed by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Royal Swedish Opera Orchestra, the Manhattan Symphonie Orchestra, the Bachanalia Chamber Orchestra in NYC, and by many other orchestras around the world.

Edward and his wife, Asya, now live in Philadelphia and are proud members of Society Hill Synagogue.

SHS Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night

Debra Stewart

Calling all SHS Foodies—don't miss the chance to show off your culinary skills to members of your SHS family! We are looking for hosts to prepare, sponsor, and/or serve dinner (an international cuisine of your choice) for 4 or more guests at our bi-annual SHS Inter-NOSH-ional Night celebration on **Saturday, February 9, at 7 PM**. You can even team up with a friend(s) and cook a meal together for your guests!

We would like to be able to start sharing the host-chosen cuisine categories and menus in December, so that members can then sign up for their cuisines of choice. (Remember, we request that all of our hosts use chicken or meat from a Kosher manufacturer and do not mix meat with dairy. We also ask that prepared dishes will not contain shellfish.)

If you are interested in hosting a dinner in your home, please contact Debra Stewart by email or phone: (beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828).

So get out those recipe books or check out the Food Network, and treat your fellow congregants to a feast they'll remember!

TGIShabbat: Friday, December 21, 6:15 PM



Please join us on **Friday, December 21, 6:15 PM**, for a TGIShabbat service featuring Cantor George Mordecai.

Born in Sydney, Australia, to Iraqi and Indian Jewish immigrants, George was immersed from an early age in the musical and liturgical traditions of his family. He helped to lead services at the Sephardic Synagogue in Sydney and appeared at various multicultural music festivals throughout Australia. George also sang with the Renaissance Players, a renowned and innovative early music ensemble based at Sydney University, and with the Capella Floriani, a musical and theatrical company devoted to a spiritual

vision of the performing arts.

Prior to receiving his Cantorial investiture, George worked for many years at the Emanuel synagogue in Sydney where he was lovingly mentored by Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, Cantor Michael Deutsch, and Rabbi Brian Fox. He also toured Europe with Cantor Naphtali Hershtig and the Great Synagogue Choir of Jerusalem. He received a B.A. in History from the University of New South Wales; in 2000, he received his Cantorial investiture and Master's Degree in sacred music from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He went on to work as a Cantor in Philadelphia, Miami, Stamford, and White Plains, New York. In a return to his roots, he currently serves as Cantor at the Emanuel Synagogue in Sydney.

George has performed Sephardic and Judeo-Iraqi liturgical repertoires in concert halls and synagogues in England, Paris, Israel, and in various cities throughout the United States. He has also performed in interfaith settings with Middle Eastern, Indian, and African American musicians. In 2007, he met Patrick Quigley, artistic director of the renowned choral ensemble Seraphic Fire, and together they developed a performance project, *Shalom/Pax*, which drew from the rich motivic and melismatic textures of the Gregorian and Iraqi Jewish musical traditions.

George has devoted his life to pursuing a vision of devotional music that speaks to the sacred interconnectedness of all humanity, and he continues to work on projects that support this vision.

SHS Hanukkah Havdalah Celebration: Saturday, December 8, 5 PM



Join us on **Saturday, December 8, at 5 PM**, for an all-congregation, musical celebration of Hanukkah, with featured guest Israeli flutist Mattan Klein. Members of all ages are welcome to join in the fun! As we approach the darkest moments in our solar cycle, we are reminded to bless the darkness and kindle the light of miracles—big and small. Let's celebrate together at this joyous time!

- **5 PM** - Don't miss this spirited Havdalah service in the Sanctuary, featuring music and candle lighting with Hazzan Jessi accompanied by Mattan Klein and his band.
- **6 PM** - After you've "sung up an appetite," join us for a delicious Hanukkah Dinner in the Social Hall.

Annual Giving

Thank You for Your Support!

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5779/2018–2019 B'nai Mitzvah

December 1

Ella Marchant

Child of Piers Marchant & Audrey Jaros

March 30

Louis Golding

Child of Randi Glatzer

May 4

Esme Oxman

Child of Joseph Oxman & Christi Rosengart

May 11

Ella Gutstadt

Child of David & Julia Gutstadt

May 18

Eva Femia

Child of Dave & Rebecca Femia

May 25

Emma Chrismer

Child of Noah & Sara Chrismer

June 22

Sebastian Picht

Child of Aaron & Elina Picht

June 29

Samuel Hamilton

Child of Roy Hamilton & Dawn Mechanic–Hamilton

Annual Giving:

Continued

Thank You for Your Support!

Ira & Lynne Rubenfeld

Ben & Liz Rubin

Peter & Meg Saligman

Ruth Schneeberg

Howard Sedran & Martha Levine

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Arthur Shapiro

Stephen & Marsha Silberstein

Ylanah Sloane

Barry & Joann Slosberg

Barbara Spector

David Spiegel & Maryam Naim

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Debra Stewart & Bill Stewart

Richard Summers & Merrily Williams

Jared Susco & Chris Stearns

Alton Sutnick

Joshua & Suzanne Sztul

Jeremy Tobacman & Jean Galbraith

Rosemarie Weinberg

Stanley & Judy Woloff

Continued from page 22

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund

In Honor of:

Sahar Oz

Dan & Barbara Rottenberg

Capital Campaign Phase II Fund

In Honor of:

Marc, Staci, and Jamie Schwartz

Lois Vederman

Young Families Group

Friday Nights With Young Families Event on November 9!

Joanna Hart

We are a strong, friendly, and diverse group of families who want to support you and your family as you develop your own traditions and sense of community. Our programs are geared to kids from birth to Pre-K, but children of all ages are welcomed with open arms. In addition to our monthly *Friday Nights with Young Families* events (during which we share songs, prayers, and a potluck meal—all at a bedtime-friendly hour), we maintain a children’s book collection outside of the Sanctuary for use during services, and we help to spread the word about kid-friendly Jewish events across Philadelphia.

Join us for the next *Friday Nights with Young Families* program on **Friday, November 9**. We will gather in the Social Hall at 5:30 PM and begin the program at 5:45 PM. A Jewish Education professional with years of experience will lead our short, kid-friendly Shabbat services as we celebrate the joys of community and prayer. Participants will also learn to build family traditions in their own homes. No prior Jewish knowledge or experience is necessary. Following the song-based “service” we will share a vegetarian potluck dinner. Please RSVP to me at joanna.lee.hart@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for these additional *Friday Nights with Young Families* dates: December 14, January 4, February 8, March 8, April 12, and June 14. Families of all sizes and backgrounds are welcome!

Parents and prospective members with young children, expectant parents, and any caretakers are invited to join our email list by contacting me at the address above!

Social Action

Welcoming Event for Congolese Family

Phyllis Denbo

On Sunday, October 21, members of all ages gathered at Society Hill Synagogue to welcome the refugee family we are supporting this year in collaboration with Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, under the auspices of HIAS PA. Suzana Muzungu, the mother, and Merthus Mbonigaba, the father, and four of their children, ranging in age from five to thirteen joined us, along with Suzana’s brother and his family, newly arrived from the Congo and living just a few blocks from his sister.

The afternoon began with an informal meet and greet. Members of both synagogues mixed and mingled, but our special guests were clearly the center of attention. A steady stream of people reached out to Suzana and Merthus, warmly welcoming them and engaging them in conversation. Their children played with our two synagogues’ families’ children in an easy camaraderie. And, of course, there was an abundance of delicious food that had been generously donated by many of the attendees.

After about an hour, everyone headed up to the Sanctuary for a wonderful concert. Nathalie Cerin, a singer-songwriter from Haiti with a heavenly voice, opened the program. Rabbi Yosef and Hazzan Jessi then led their band in a brilliant set that had many singing along while the children danced in a large circle. The event ended with a delectable array of homemade goodies.

We received the following note from Merthus the next day:

“Thank you so much for the invitation to the great event. It was so amazing for our two families. We love the way we have been treated with love and kindness. Our kids ate, smiled, and played with the new friends. They testify that they really enjoyed the time at the Jewish synagogue.”



Hazzan's Column

On Doubles and Dissonance: The Trouble with Joseph

Jessi Roemer

I have a beef with Joseph. The Joseph in the Torah. The sweet, dreamy, tender boy whose story we'll soon be reading as the days get shorter. The boy who is bullied by his brothers and mercilessly sold by them into slavery. Maybe he wasn't exactly the most tactful kid, Joseph, sharing with his brothers his dreams about ruling over them one day. But on balance, that's just being a younger sibling, isn't it? Joseph's dreams are not the source of my beef.

My beef with Joseph also isn't that he matured into a tender, smart, enterprising young man who served his employers faithfully, loved his father deeply, and missed his brothers so much that he finally forgave them (but not without making them sweat a little first), and then invited his whole family to come live near him in Egypt.

I have no beef with Joseph having saved Egypt, his family, and countless travelers from famine.

Just to be clear: I love Joseph. Every year I get more emotional reading his story. I see my son in that tender boy and weeping young man; I see my daughter in his ability to both dream for himself and intuitively understand others' dreams. Helped along, no doubt, by the novella-like style in which this chunk of Torah is written, I deeply identify with Joseph. These days, when I get to the part where the Torah says, "Joseph could no longer control himself" for the love and emotion he felt toward his brothers (Gen 45:1), I always seem to have a little something caught in my eye.

And the happy ending for Jacob's clan? Love it. The Broadway musical based on this story resolves with a rousing number as Father Jacob travels down to Egypt with his entire family to reunite with all of his sons. The family of Israel is re-settled in Goshen, not far from where Joseph resides. They are well-fed and cared for, with the blessing of Pharaoh himself.

So what's not to like?

Here's a hint: It's in the story after the story. After the novella ends with Israel descending happily into Egypt, the story of Joseph continues, albeit in somewhat drier prose: Verses 13-26 of Genesis 47 go on to detail how Joseph capitalizes on the remaining years of famine by selling the hungry Egyptians back their own food—the food he had initially collected from them in the preceding years of plenty. He sells it to them first for their money, then for their land—and when there is no more money or land to take from them—he institutes a tax of one-fifth of each family's harvest, to be paid directly into Pharaoh's pocket. In short, the end of *Parshat Vayiggash* explains how, bit by bit, Joseph diverts the country's wealth into Pharaoh's coffers, and converts the Egyptian farmers into serfs.

WHAT?

Joseph? A ruthless capitalist who exploits the people under his charge and enriches the king at their expense? This does not square with the tender, generous Joseph I still hold in my heart from the previous chapter.

Frankly, I don't know what to do with the end of this story. The Torah, in its more typically clinical fashion here, doesn't seem to take issue with Joseph's behavior; it merely reports the facts. A chapter ago, the prose was begging me to identify with Joseph, and I did; how can I read this part of the story and not hold him accountable? How do I grapple with the disconnect between the two Josephs—the generous, vulnerable Joseph whom I love and with whom I identify, and the Joseph who betrays and harms the people under his care?

Here's the easy answer: These two chapters possibly had two different writers, and possibly came from two

Continued on next page

different oral traditions of Joseph. This is not an unusual occurrence in the Torah, which is, after all, a big, codified amalgam of different oral traditions. So, few scholars would actually expect these two very different Josephs to be one character in the same source story.

That's the easy answer. The harder and perhaps more useful answer is this: In reality, those two Josephs can, and frequently do, reside in the same person.

Listening to the Supreme Court Justice hearings in September and reading various opinions afterward, I was struck by the fact that some of the nominee's professional peers in Washington—those who were honest with themselves—were grappling with two Josephs: The one they had known for years on the bench, and the one they were now getting a taste of as they witnessed his behavior at the nomination hearing.

Dr. Blasey-Ford already knew the second Joseph; as is often the case with women, children, transfolk, people of color, and others who are vulnerable, she was forced to experience that Joseph of whom many others were blithely unaware, or worse, accomplices.

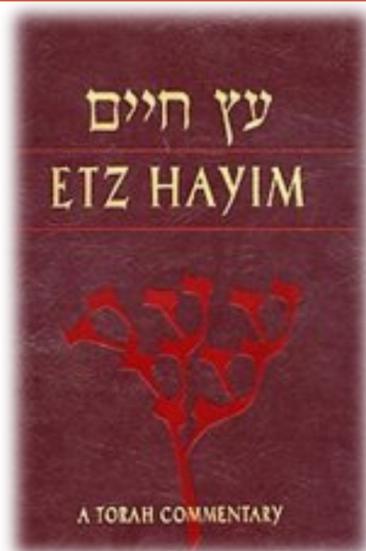
Most striking for me about those two weeks was this: Dr. Ford's testimony traversed the public sphere and sent tremors of recognition through the minds and bodies of everyone in the nation who has ever known anything along the spectrum of the fear she described. Those tremors shook our hearts and frazzled our nerves, waking many of us at night and besetting us with panic attacks, fits of sobbing, and headaches. The effect was deeply personal and very widespread. There seemed to be nowhere to put all this stirred-up emotion and body memory, and then, poof. The confirmation went through and the news cycle moved on.

But I've continued to think about all of us. I've been especially thinking about those of us still in situations where both Josephs reside in someone we love, or someone we see every day. As we saw with Dr. Blasey-Ford, it is hard enough to call out a stranger who has harmed us. If we are harmed by someone whom we love, and on whom we depend, calling them out is so much harder. We run multiple risks in naming the harm: We risk harming our sense of who we are, and in many cases we risk our own well-being and/or our only source of support.

Multiple risks can quickly translate into silence.

As a musician, I value silence. But not that kind of silence that is stifled and fearful. In the face of that silence, my goal is to do what I can to make spaces where those silences can become voices. My wish and blessing for all of us, as we approach this season of longest nights, is that we are able to find our voices and/or help others to find theirs. Sometimes this means just asking the person closest to you how the past few months have affected her, or them—and then listening to the answer, with empathy, and without trying to fix it. *Yehi ratzon* (May it be God's will) that we find the space—in our homes and in our public realms—for these conversations to continue.

Along the lines of finding our voices, please join us on December 8, at 5 PM, for a Havdalah service, food, candle-lighting, and song, with special musical guest Mattan Klein! Keep your eye out in the coming weeks for a special, all-congregation Hanukkah song to learn for that night! All ages are welcome.



Religion Committee

Would You Like to Dedicate a Humash?

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

We hope that the upcoming High Holy Days are meaningful and fulfilling for everyone in our congregation.

As you may have noticed, many copies of our Etz Hayim Humash are showing signs of wear and tear from our devoted use over the years. Some of the covers have become separated from the spines, and some pages have been torn. If you discover a damaged book during the High Holy Day services, please do not return it to bookcase; rather, place it in the box near the tallitot rack on the right hand side of the lobby outside of the Sanctuary so that it can be repaired or replaced.

We would like to offer our members the opportunity to purchase and dedicate replacement books in memory/honor of loved ones.

If you would like to dedicate a book, please send the following information to Betty or Leanne at office@societyhillssynagogue.org:

Your name:

Name for whom the book is dedicated (exactly as you would like it to appear on the bookplate on the inside cover):

In Memory of or In Honor of (indicate which)

Please send a check for \$36 per dedication, made out to Society Hill Synagogue, to 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia PA 19106, or call the office to charge the fee on your credit card (a 3% processing fee will be applied).

If you have questions, please contact Betty at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, x123.



Hebrew High teens capping a lesson on Jewish communities in various countries throughout Latin America by making (and enjoying!) sweet fried plantains. *Bete'avon!*



Photo Gallery - Havdalah Down the Shore



Adult Education

There's Still Time to Sign Up for Winter Classes

Marc Schwartz

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, it's the perfect time to stimulate your brain with SHS Adult Education classes! In addition to our long-running Nuts & Bolts classes with Rabbi Kamesar, and Shabbat Study with Rabbi Berman, here are a few new classes you may not have heard about yet:

Introduction to Reading Hebrew

Many Jews want to learn (or re-learn) to read Hebrew, and Bruce Hirsch is the perfect professor for the job. The National Jewish Outreach Program's most popular program, the Hebrew Reading Crash Course, has given more than 214,000 North American Jews a strong start. Designed for people with little or no background in Hebrew, this course will focus on the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills in only nine to ten 1.5 hour weekly sessions. Students will also learn some vocabulary—including words used in everyday speech and common prayers, and some very basic grammar. This course is free, but all participants need to register. Classes will meet on Wednesdays, 7:30–9 PM, on: 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, & 1/30.

Bagels in Babylonia

The Talmud is the foundation of Rabbinic Judaism, and in that respect, it is the foundation of Judaism as we know and experience it. The Talmud was compiled between 200 and 500 C.E. and is comprised of the Mishnah and the Gemara. While sometimes referred to as "oral law," the Talmud is much more than a legal text—it is the interpretation of all aspects of the Tanakh (the Torah, books of the prophets, and other canonical Jewish texts). Together, the Mishnah and Gemara reflect millenia of discourse about the meaning of the Tanakh—its laws, stories, and traditions. The Talmud addresses all aspects of life—from contracts to torts, to individual and societal virtues and vices, and from the private to the political. Its pages are filled with insight into why we do what we do as Jews and how we look at the world, even though we are living far from the times it describes.

The Talmud is a mixture of Hebrew and Aramaic (the lingua franca of the Middle East of the time), but thankfully you do not need to know either language to learn Talmud! There are now wonderful English translations available and we will rely on those translations when we meet. Each of our meetings will work through a particular section of Mishnah and Gemara, so if you miss a class—don't worry about it—you won't fall behind.

Join Rafi Licht for stimulating discussions from 11 AM until 1 PM on the following Sundays: 10/28, 11/25, 12/23, & 1/20, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, & 5/19. Bagels and coffee will be served!

Don't Tell Me How To Feel: Biblical Imperatives to Experience Feeling

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God; Thou shalt fear thy God. Thou shalt not covet.

These are commandments in our Torah that direct us to experience particular feelings. But could they mean what they say? Is something more at work here? Join Rabbi Nathan Kamesar to examine biblical commentary throughout the ages, including medieval and modern, in an effort to understand what is meant by these complex texts and what we, ourselves, should take from them. This class will meet from 7–9 PM on the following Tuesdays: 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, & 12/4

Voyage to The Past: A Slice of Jewish Life

Some Headlines: "German Monarchists and Republicans Will Meet In Final Battle at Approaching Elections;" "Jewish Question Issue of Campaign;" "Imprisoned Zionists in Soviet Russia Declare Hunger Strike;" "Ibn Saud Deposes King Ali, Appoints Alisdar Pasha Emir of Mecca;" "Russian 'Committee for Settling Jews on the Land' Decides to Increase Allotments for Jewish Colonization;" and "Rothschild Foundation in Paris Issues Report." Join Rabbi Winokur to discuss these headlines and more, including Canada's failure to honor a commitment to take in Russian Jewish refugees, a sermonette/editorial entitled "Jewish Ideals Must Be Revived." What are the stories behind these headlines? What can we learn about Jewish life, as it existed over 90 years ago? Thanks to Mark Steinberger for uncovering this gem! This class will meet from 7–9 PM on the following Tuesdays: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, & 1/29.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					5:30 PM PS Shabbat Dinner 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Hayyei Sarah 9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Gan Class Service
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Savings 9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM B'nai Mitzvah 6th Grade Parent Meeting	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 AM HS	7 PM Spiritual Sounds with Hazzan Jesse & Rabbi Goldman- Offsite		5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Tol'dot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans Day 9 AM SS 11 AM HS	Building Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 AM HS 6:30 PM Play- school Committee Meeting 7 PM AE Rabbi Nathan Kamesar on Biblical Imperatives	7 PM Spiritual Sounds with Hazzan Jesse & Rabbi Goldman- Offsite		6:15 PM Dalet Class Service	Va-yetzei 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service Society Hill Fall Clean Up Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11 AM Challah Making 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM Religion Committee Mtg.	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 AM HS 7 PM AE Rabbi Nathan Kamesar on Biblical Imperatives	12:30 PM PS Dismissal	Thanksgiving Building Closed	Office/PS Closed 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Va-yishlah 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Building Closed	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 AM HS 7 PM AE Rabbi Nathan Kamesar on Biblical Imperatives		Arts & Culture Dinner & Theatre	6:15 PM TGIS habbat Featuring Edward Kalendar	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Va-yeishev 9 AM Torah Study 9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Ella Marchant
First Candle 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9-11 AM SS & HS 11 AM Hanukkah Happening	7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM AE Rabbi Nathan Kamesar on Biblical Imperatives	Playschool Parent Conferences		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Mi-ketz 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 5 PM Hanukkah Havdalah with Mattan Klein
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS		7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM Play- school Committee Meeting			5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Va-yiggash 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10 AM Meditative Service
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts with Rabbi 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS Hebrew School Winter Break			Playschool Winter Break 6:15 PM TGIShabbat Featuring Cantor George Mordecai	Va-y'hi 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Building Closed	Building Closed	Building Closed Christmas			6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Sh'mot 9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
30	31	1	2			
Building Closed	Building Closed New Year's Eve	Building Closed	Playschool Resumes			

Kesher

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TIME-DATED MATERIAL

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