An Exciting New Look for Purim at SHS!
Jessi Roemer & Sahar Oz

Purim has always been an especially festive time of the year at SHS—from our Sunday morning Purim Carnival to our Purim Cantata (shpiel) and Megillah reading on the night of the actual holiday. Our Religion and Education Committees have been discussing exciting new ideas to enhance our Purim celebrations this year so that we, as a community, can integrate our programs across all ages.

We envision a celebration where more children will get to hear adults read the Megillah and where more adults will get to see kids perform in clever Purim skits—all within earlier time frames so that younger children and their families can stay up for all of the festivities.

With the above goals in mind, our new schedule for Purim this year will begin with the **Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17, from 10 AM until 12 PM** (instead of from 11 AM until 1 PM, as was the case in previous years) in consideration of our infants’ and toddlers’ nap times. There will be no classes that morning for Sunday School, Hebrew School, or Hebrew High. Come and enjoy games, prizes, crafts, music, and food!

Then, on **Wednesday, March 20**, the Purim celebration will begin with **Scotch tasting and snacks in the Social Hall at 5:45 PM, followed by a blended Megillah reading—Purim Cantata, directed by Hazzan Jessi at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary**. Megillah readers are invited to chant their portions using the traditional trope or they may follow the silly SHS tradition of chanting to the tunes of their favorite pop melodies. Continued on page 9
**Associate Rabbi’s Column**

**Thank You for This Incredible Opportunity**

Nathan Kamesar

At around 10 PM on Monday, February 18, on the night of a special meeting of the SHS Board of Directors, my wife called me from the third floor of our home: “You just missed a call from Harry Oxman,” she yelled, my phone near her instead of me. We both knew what this phone call probably meant. After wading through over one hundred survey responses, and listening to over one hundred congregants participate in facilitated discussions about the future of the synagogue, and after having served the congregation in multiple capacities (including as Rabbinic Intern and Associate Rabbi) over a period of nearly five years, the board was considering the question of whether to offer me the position of the next rabbi of SHS. I checked the message. “Nathan, Harry Oxman calling.” “I’m standing here with [board members] Debra Stewart and Judy Lalli, who’ve insisted that I make the call [now]. You can call me, but I will tell you, it is good news.”

Good news for me, and, I hope you feel, as members of this congregation, for you as well: the board voted unanimously to extend an offer to me to be the next rabbi of Society Hill Synagogue, the third person to serve in this capacity in its relatively brief but impactful history.

This is such an honor.

For this month’s Kesher I thought it might be relevant to share just why I wanted to be a rabbi in the first place and why I’ve worked so hard to occupy, essentially, this very role. It’s a story I’ve shared before, notably at Rosh Hashanah a couple of years ago, so forgive me if it feels familiar, but it felt important to restate, in one more space, why this work, and this community, is so important to me.

There are multiple answers to the question of why I wanted to be a rabbi, operating on multiple planes. On the most basic, gut level, though, I simply felt called. Have you ever felt called in a particular direction? To a profession? Or to your loved one? Or perhaps even just to an item on the dinner menu? When I was graduating from college about fifteen years ago, I felt a cosmic tug (though maybe I wouldn’t have named it that at the time) towards the rabbinate. All subsequent explanations for why I wanted to be a rabbi are grounded in that fundamental truth for me.

Of course, being able to articulate that calling is reliant on certain life experiences of mine. As many of you know, my father was a rabbi (a classmate of Rabbi Avi Winokur’s), for four short months before his untimely death at the age of 35 in 1990. While I never consciously said to myself, “I want to follow in my father’s footsteps and be a rabbi,” it’s clear that his occupying this role, abbreviated as it was, formulated in my mind the image of a rabbi as one aspiring to truth, justice, and unity, and cemented in my mind that it was a profession worth aspiring to.

Still, I had my moments of resisting this calling. After graduating from college—a rebellious streak still somewhat vibrant within me—the idea of committing to a lifetime of very strict Jewish practice of the sort I grew up with sounded daunting. I didn’t want to feel weighed down by religion, with all of its burdens and obligations. I wanted to try my hand at succeeding in more secular enterprises. I thought a career in public service would satisfy whatever calling I felt. I committed to a year of service with AmeriCorps*VISTA in Baltimore and worked in under-resourced communities to recruit and train volunteers—helping people find work, housing, and other resources. After a second such year in Washington, DC, I decided that law school was the appropriate follow-up for me to do public service work. I largely squashed the voice inside of me that kept nagging me to follow my passion for Jewish life and learning.

Once in law school in Berkeley, California, however, I was quickly reminded how much I missed having an explicit theological and spiritual frame of reference for our discussions around service. For me (and this is purely personal, not a statement of how it should be for everyone else), if we weren’t reflecting on how our work fit into the larger scheme of the universe and the divine, then I had a hard time plugging in and getting excited about my work.

Continued on page 9
President's Column

Completion of Rabbinic Transition Process

Harry J. Oxman

I am certain that by the time you receive and read this article, you will be aware of the Board of Directors’ action of February 11, 2019, in selecting our Associate Rabbi, Nathan Kamesar, to succeed Rabbi Avi Winokur, effective July 1, 2020. You should also be aware that contract negotiations have begun.

I will spend some time in this column acquainting you with the process that led to the February 11 resolution of the Board of Directors. It actually began in the late Fall of 2017 when I asked four members of the Executive Committee—namely, Past President Debra Stewart, Vice Presidents Jeremey Newberg and David Ladov, and Religion Committee Representative Neil Cohen—to join me in preliminary discussions concerning the process by which the Board of Directors would address the responsibility of selecting a replacement for Rabbi Winokur upon his retirement. They all agreed to participate in a first meeting and then to continue to meet as the Rabbinic Transition Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Directors. Subsequently, after several meetings, we were able to articulate a preliminary plan for the engagement of the entire Executive Committee and the Board on our collective proposals. This led ultimately to the pursuit of the multiple steps that were incorporated in the Board of Directors’ February 11 resolution addressing the rabbinic transition process.

The process was lengthy and arduous; however, it is most important that our congregation understand the atmosphere in which the business of the process was conducted. While there was debate and disagreement, they occurred consistently in an environment of appreciation for different perspectives and great respect for the position of each participant. It was clear that all involved understood the significance of the decision to be made and, equally important, the need to do so in a manner that reflected respect for each person’s opinion. Reaching a unanimous decision epitomizes for me the spirit of this community. The tone of the meeting on February 11 was best described by the email sent about a half hour after the conclusion of it to all of the Board Members by Judi Lalli, who wrote, “I am so proud to have been part of this process. Every single person contributed valuable comments that led us to consensus by the end of the evening. Everyone’s point of view was valid and shared respectfully and was listened to. I am overwhelmed with gratitude at both the process and the result, from start to finish.”

The participation of our congregation in the process also deserves comment. The personnel from Jewish Learning Venture who conducted that portion of the process, known as the “Congregation Engagement” or “Appreciative Inquiry,” advised the Board of Directors at the meeting on January 28, 2019, that the congregational response to the focus group sessions and the questionnaire was quite remarkable considering the size of our congregation. They were also extremely impressed with statements made conveying the congregants’ view of the outstanding quality of our professional staff. Further, they concluded that our community views itself as being warm, caring, and engaging. I must admit that a smile came to my face when I heard these observations about our congregational participation. It caused me subsequently to revisit prior Kesher articles, in particular the second one that I authored, in which I opined that as a community we are at our best when we have significant numbers participating in any Society Hill Synagogue activity.

Continued on page 8
Our spring semester is in full bloom, with three class services, Purim festivities, and more special programs in the next two months that will complement the Jewish connections, questions, and learning explorations taking place our the classrooms.

Join us on Friday, March 1, at 6:15 PM, as Kitah Gimel students come up to the bimah to co-lead our Kabbalat Shabbat service. These bright, enthusiastic third graders will help you start the weekend on a perfect note, and the service will be followed by a delicious dinner, so please email Betty at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org with your RSVP for dinner.

Later that weekend, Rabbi Nathan Kamesar’s popular “Learn & Schmooze” series for parents continues with The Two Sides of Purim; Sunday School parents will meet from 9:15–10:45 AM and Hebrew School parents will meet from 11:15 AM–12:45 PM.

On the one hand, Purim is a Jewish holiday entirely geared toward kids: we dress up, we sing songs and eat sweets, and we tell a classic story with a happy ending. On the other hand, the holiday is for adults: there is a prescription for revelry, a story tinged with violence, and an idea of embracing escapism. Join fellow parents and Rabbi Nathan to explore the virtues and drawbacks of both sides of the holiday, and look for ways to make the celebration meaningful for the whole family in today’s world.

Coffee and snacks will be served, and your RSVP to Rabbi Nathan at rabbikamesar@societyhillsynagogue.org is requested by Friday, March 1.

We look forward to celebrating with everyone at the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17, from 10 AM–12 PM. Then on Wednesday, March 20, at 5:45 PM, join us in the Social Hall for a Scotch Tasting for the adults and snacks for the kids, followed by the Megillah reading and Purim Cantata skits in the Sanctuary. We expect the family festivities to conclude by 7:45 PM. Please note the new time for the carnival, and remember that there are no classes that Sunday morning.

Our next two class-led Shabbat services will each be on a Saturday at 10:30 AM, featuring Kitot Aleph and Bet together on March 23 and Kitah Vav on April 6. We invite the entire congregation to come and join us for scintillating services on these dates, courtesy of our fabulous first and second graders, and our sensational sixth grade students, respectively.

Both services will be followed by a delicious lunch, so please email Betty at bettyv@societyhillsynagogue.org with your RSVP for lunch by the Thursday preceding each service.

We are excited to celebrate Louis Golding’s Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 30, at 9:30 AM! Come experience Louis’s cantillation and biblical commentary and rejoice in the splendor of Jewish learning.

On Sunday, April 7, students in Kitah Vav through Tikhon (sixth grade through Hebrew High) will travel to the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia to pack and deliver food packages to Jewish neighbors in need of assistance. We have secured a bus to bring our delegation to the warehouse and then take us on the delivery route. Parents are encouraged to join us, and everyone going from our school can either drive on their own to JRA and meet us there at 10 AM, or arrive at the synagogue by 9 AM and board the bus. We’ll return to the synagogue by 1 PM.

Please remember that school will be closed on Sunday, April 21, for Pesah. Our faculty and I wish all of our families a joyous Purim and a happy Pesah filled with light and liberty!
Hazzan’s Column
Purim and Pesah: Remembering to Play, Grow, and Change
Jessi Roemer

We are in the double season of Purim and Pesah, a last winter hurrah before the onset of spring. Purim is the liveliest and some would say the strangest of Jewish holidays. Perhaps anticipating the upcoming, more serious observance of Pesah, Purim trucks in drama, buffoonery, and clowning; it favors the ridiculous. In place of the earnest and pious narrative of the Torah, Purim centers on Megillat Esther, the satirical fourth-century B.C.E. equivalent of The Onion or a Saturday Night Live skit. The story, which doesn’t mention God once, relishes in contradictions and reversals—reversals of fate, fortune, and opinion. Purim celebrates what is hidden and davka (contradictorily) makes a very visible spectacle of doing so.

Historically, Purim offered a yearly break from restrictive social constraints, a time to try on other sides of ourselves. This loosening of social rules, however, did not release us from the expectation to give; Purim is also a time when we traditionally exchange sweets and give tz’dakah (deeds of justice or charity) to those who need it. Judaism binds us to the concept of justice—tzedek—at our happiest as well as our saddest moments: we give tz’dakah especially on Purim and at Yizkor (when we remember those we’ve lost).

Most interesting to me is the multidimensionality of Purim. It is simultaneously a very child-centered and a very adult holiday; it offers the opportunity for everyone to gather and let go a little—or a lot. There is a marked contrast between the content of the Megillah, which deals with serious issues (oppression, demagoguery, feminism, state-sanctioned violence, political savvy, and corruption), and the deliberately lighthearted context in which we are meant to celebrate and tell this story; we are literally instructed to be happy for the entirety of Adar, the Hebrew month in which Purim falls.

In a multigenerational community, presenting the Purim story can be a joyous and rich experience for everyone. One of the most creative aspects is teasing out levels of the story that speak to each age in a multigenerational audience—and making both process and product fun!

Here at SHS we will have an all-ages Purim celebration on Erev Purim (March 20), combining the best elements of Megillah reading, Cantata/Purimspiel, music, food, and drink! Everyone is invited to participate in the storytelling, including whole families, and there are lots of ways to contribute: you can dress up, play music, dance, act in a skit, mime, jump around in a minion hat, you name it! Please contact me by March 7 if you want to participate at hazzanjessi@societyhillsynagogue.org. Of course, everyone is invited to attend both the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17, 10 AM–12 PM, and the Multigenerational Purim Celebration on March 20, which will be more compact this year so that all ages can join in the fun!

Play is crucial to the ongoing, serious business of growing. This Adar, I invite all of you to allow yourselves to play a little, let go, try something whimsical. And when the month of Nisan and Pesah follow, remember that change sustains us, and sink into the deep growth of spring!

I wish you all a happy Purim and a Pesah full of renewal.
TGIShabbat Services at SHS
Jessi Roemer

Friday, March 29
Please join us on Friday, March 29, at 6:15 PM, for a TGIshabbat service featuring special musical guest Shlomit Levi.

Born in the small town of Keryat Ekron in Israel, and now living in the U.S., Shlomit Levi is a gifted and powerful performer of Jewish Yemenite music with a modern twist. Shlomit grew up surrounded by the culture and music of her ancestral home of Yemen. A highly-respected singer in her native Israel, she is well known as the voice on the hit song Sapari by Orphaned Land. Shlomit also sings for the Yemenite-Israeli award winning Dance Group Uri Teman, which performs a colorful show of exciting Yemenite song and dance. She released her first solo album in 2009 and has been performing and touring as half of the duo Shlomit & Rebbe Soul since 2012. Her music traverses traditional cultural boundaries, fusing the sounds of her Yemenite ancestors with electronica, folk, and rock. You can find her music on YouTube or by visiting www.shlomit-rebbesoul.com.

Friday, May 10
Please join us on Friday, May 10, at 6:15 PM, for a TGIShabbat service featuring special musical guest Nitzan Haroz.

Nitzan Haroz, a native of Israel, joined the Philadelphia Orchestra as principal trombone in 1995. He served as assistant principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic and principal trombone of the Rishon-Le Zion Symphony and Opera Orchestra. He was also first trombone of the Israel Defense Forces Orchestra and performed with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Haroz has appeared as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Rishon-Le Zion Symphony, and the Sofia Radio Symphony, among others, and is an active chamber musician. He won first prize at the François Shapira Competition and received America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarships. He has commissioned and premiered several works for trombone and harp and has given recitals and master classes in Israel, the United States, Europe, and Asia. Mr. Haroz has also performed with the New York, Philadelphia, and Israel brass ensembles and the Rishon-Le Zion and Israel Defense Forces brass quintets.

Mr. Haroz joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 1998. He also teaches at the Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University.
As we head from winter snow into spring sunshine, we have a number of wonderful celebrations and trips planned for our Playschoolers over the next two months. Some of these trips had to be rescheduled due to February snowstorms, so hope springs eternal as spring hopes emerge for better weather!

Our Stars Class (4-year-olds) has been rehearsing with Miss Vanda in preparation for its performance of *Giraffes Can't Dance* at 11 AM on Wednesday, March 6, and the children are excited for their schoolmates and parents to enjoy their interpretation of this beloved storybook!

Two days earlier, the Stars Class will visit the Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion on Monday, March 4, to wrap up its study unit on insects. And a month later, on Thursday, April 4, our Stars students will attend a performance of *Pinkalicious: The Musical* at the Walnut Street Theatre.

The Moon Class (3-year-olds) also has a pair of trips coming up, with visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for its *Museum Looks and Picture Books* series on Tuesday, March 19, and on Wednesday, April 17.

Our March visit to the museum is themed around “Celebrations,” and we will tour the Art of Asia galleries, read *Festival of Colors*, and make our own sand mandalas. For April’s museum trip, the children will explore “Imaginative Worlds,” read *Beyond the Pond*, and create resist art.

The Talmud teaches that “when Adar enters, we increase joy,” and this year, we have two months of Adar. With Purim coming up on the 14th of Adar II (March 20-21), there will be a variety of holiday festivities in Playschool. All of our Playschool families are invited to attend the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 17, from 10 AM–12 PM (with games, music, food, and prizes), as well as the Purim festivities on Wednesday, March 20, from 5:45–7:45 PM, including a Scotch-tasting for adults and snacks for the kids, followed by the Megillah reading and Purim Cantata skits. Costumes are encouraged!

We will make our own delicious hamantaschen in Playschool during the week leading up to Purim, and we invite all Playschoolers and teachers to come dressed up for our Purim costume parade on Thursday, March 21, at 11:15 AM.

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**Would You Like to Dedicate a Siddur?**

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).
President's Column

After completing the language of the Board’s resolution of February 11, 2019, the next task was to construct an appropriate letter announcing the Board’s decision. The letter of February 14, 2019, announcing the decision was then prepared and signed by me and Vice President Jeremey Newberg. I have received many compliments about the content and tone of that letter. I am very proud of it; however, all should know that the author of it is Jeremey Newberg. The only credit that I will accept for this letter is that of wisdom of choice. When he volunteered on the morning of February 12 to write the first draft, I was wise enough to immediately say yes. It was a beautiful, thoughtful letter. I thank him once again.

As our congregation moves forward with the process of further interacting with Rabbi Kamesar, I am certain that you will encounter all of those qualities that he possesses that met the Board’s rabbi selection criteria as stated in the February 11 resolution. For me personally, I admit to having been a strong advocate on his behalf for some time. I was confident that he not only was capable but also would meet the Board’s rabbinic criteria. My personal interactions with him at services, at Executive Committee and Board Meetings, in personal discussions, as a student in his classes, and through a review of his articles written for our Kesher were strong, influential factors in the formation of my opinion. I am also quite aware of his personal résumé of accomplishments and his vision statement, which was prepared and presented to both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in the spring of 2018. My opinion was decidedly enhanced when I read the following in “Strengthening Bonds Within Our Community,” his article for the November–December 2018 issue of the Kesher: “Part of the raison d’être of a synagogue is to ensure there are strong ties among the 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.”

Reading Rabbi Kamesar’s words reminds me again how I, as a result of being a part of this wonderful synagogue community, think about it. We have demonstrated over time our strong connection with one another and the value of it. Rabbi Winokur has always advocated the importance of community. I am proud that the Board of Directors of Society Hill Synagogue has decided that Rabbi Kamesar represents the person best suited for us to continue that philosophy.

I end this column with a statement of deep appreciation to the entirety of the congregation for your participation and your kind words of support.

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.
As some of you already know, Rabbi Winokur is taking the second of two well-deserved brief sabbaticals during the months of February through mid-May 2019.

Rabbi Winokur has been with us since 2001 and had a sabbatical after his first seven years at SHS. He elected to divide his second sabbatical into two more brief terms, the first part of which he took from February to mid-May of 2017.

We at SHS are extremely lucky that our Associate Rabbi, Nathan Kamesar, will be taking on all of Rabbi Winokur’s responsibilities during his absence.

I know that you join me in wishing Rabbi Winokur a relaxing and productive sabbatical.

An Exciting New Look for Purim

Between each Megillah reading, there will be a brief skit/performance/song performed by the kids (with some adults helping out as needed), highlighting the next thread in the Megillah story. Rabbi Nathan will contribute brief narration to provide context. Also, during the Megillah readings, we will have actors of various ages miming what is being chanted. So there will be a lot to see, hear, and enjoy!

We’re planning to wrap up the whole shebang between 7:30 and 7:45 PM, after which time those who are interested can head back downstairs for further imbibing and schmoozing.

We are so excited to try this new intergenerational format, and we invite all of you to participate—whether as Megillah readers, actors/singers/mimes, costumed audience members, or some combination of these!

Please contact Hazzan Jessi if you would like to be involved in reading, acting, singing, or miming. Rehearsals for the performance elements will take place in the Sanctuary, from 9:30–11 AM, on the following Sundays: February 24, March 3, and March 10, with a final rehearsal on Sunday, March 17, from 9–10 AM.

So please mark your calendars and join us for an exciting new Purim experience at SHS!

Associate Rabbi Column

The means—the language, the symbols—for my reflection on how everything fit together was made up of Jewish language and symbols. The rituals and stories through which I wrestled with the universe were Jewish rituals and stories. I committed to myself during my first year of law school that I would follow my perceived calling into the rabbinate. Not wanting to be overly rash, I finished out law school and worked for a few years to help subsidize the now mounting costs of multiple graduate programs, but before I knew it, I was back here in Philadelphia at my father’s alma mater, coming full circle in my journey.

Applying to rabbinical school also helped crystalize for me just why I wanted to be a rabbi. I realized that the constant thread throughout this journey was the way in which Judaism—and through it my relationship to the Divine, to Jewish tradition, and to the Jewish community—both presently and historically, helped sustain me. Through ups and downs, uncertainty and self-doubt, Judaism helped provide me with a framework through which to live life: davening (praying) helped me feel buoyed and lifted up in spirit; Shabbat helped anchor each week, centering me, and reconnecting me to my tradition; Jewish holidays served as opportunities for reflection and for reconnecting to my family and the ones I love. All of these features of Jewish life, I believe, helped me to grow toward becoming a better person and helped me connect to that which unites us all.

My hope, in serving as a rabbi, is to enable others to experience Jewish life as I have. My hope is to facilitate Jewish experience that lifts us up and allows each of us to connect to that spark of life inherent in all of us. That I will now have the opportunity to do this work at SHS, a community I truly love, is a blessing. Thank you for this incredible opportunity.
**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**
Theodore Danoff  
Sasha Huga  
Caroline Kamesar  
David Bahuriak  
Joshua Cooper  
Libby Rosof  
Sadie Margolin  
Lily Abelsohn Newman  
Maxon Raphael  
Raphael Englander  
Mayah Gold  
Raven Morrow  
Linda Rosenstein  
Samuel Marion  
Jessica Rosenbloom  
Sophia Spiegel  
Amy Finkel  
Ann Lebowitz Steinberg  
Zachary Lilien  
Diane Siegel Danoff  
Charlotte Yudell  
Alan Casnoff  
Marjorie Goldstein  
Rachel Ladenson  
Lysander Michaels-Koenig  
Richard Braemer  
Leni Levi  
Evon Matthews  
Raphael Licht  
Charlotte Rotter  
Libby Kaiser  
Eli Levi  
Jeremey Newberg  
Anita Stein  
Annabelle Levi  
Dinah Lovitch  
Eloise Wilson  
Charlotte Coran  
Margot Englander  
Jacqueline Goldfinger  
Noah Herman  
Julie Liedman  
Curtis Lizenbaum  
Staci Schwartz  
Benjamin Kauderwood  
Ondila Kirshenbaum  
Sebastian Picht  
Mazell Winikor  
Amalya Wolf Weiss  
Susan Berman  
Nancy Moses  
Sally Gendler  
Eleanor Oxman  
Daniel Sztul  
Aaron Silberstein  
Bob Kaufman  
Cheri Cutler  
Carole Le Faire-Rochester  
Paul Offit

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**
Jennifer Albert  
Louis Golding  
Elliot Landes  
Hannah Marion  
Stephanie Wilson  
Ken Tobacman

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**
Richard Summers  
Morgan Landes  
Susan Leshnoff  
Hyla Rosenberg  
Mey Ehrenfeld  
Leah Jordan  
Jacob Newman  
Alan Casper  
Steve Graham  
Robert Blackberg  
Rebecca Femia  
Natalie Lesser  
Alan Ominsky  
Barbara Rottenberg  
Miriam Pogach  
Zachary Downes  
Isaac Freedman  
Gerry Schneebaer  
Evelyn Segal  
Harry Feinberg  
Ashleigh Reibach  
Beth Schwartz  
Stella Wilson  
Josephine Cooper  
Jessica Downes  
Madeline Mohajer  
William Goldberg  
Tobey Dichter  
Brian Englander  
Kathy Berntsen  
Stephen Brown  
Matthew Goldberg  
Hannah Davidson  
Meredith Buse  
Ella Gutstadt  
Nathan Kamesar  
Leily Schoenhaus  
Isaac Wolff  
Mary Fish  
Ruth Greenberg  
Matilda Hart  
Bruce Katcher  
Michael Raphael  
Adina Zalesne Siff  
Robert Bass  
Bruce Hirsch  
Derek Jordan  
Iris Levine  
Emma Graham  
Esme Oxman  
Scott Siff  
Thomas Borawski

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

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**
Continued on page 11

**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 simcha or joy, mark a special moment in one’s life, honor someone, or commemorate a Yahrzeit. Sponsoring a Kiddush, Oneg, or Shabbat dinner helps the community to get to know you and share important moments in your life. It is also a way to say thank you to your community. Please contact us at 215.922.6590 or by email at office@societyhillsynagogue.org for more information.

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

**CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE**  
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**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107**

(215) 955-8706  
Fax (215) 955-8509
Playschool

Thanks to our Playschool Committee of parents from all three classes—Sun (2-year-olds), Moon (3-year-olds), and Stars (4-year-olds)—for its help in organizing our second Playschool Shabbat dinner of the year on Friday, April 12, at 5:30 PM. This fun get-together provides a perfect way for our Playschool families to start Shabbat and to start the weekend with great company and good food. An electronic sign-up will be sent to all Playschool families for this potluck dinner.

Please remember that Playschool will be closed for the Passover break from Friday, April 19, through Friday, April 26, with classes resuming on Monday, April 29.

We look forward to a sensational spring!

Community News

Mazel Tov to:
Jonathan Grode and Jayne Bird on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Bird Grode.

Jacqueline Goldfinger on the upcoming world premiere of her new play, CLICK, at Simpatico Theatre in Philadelphia, March 27—April 14. Flyers with further details are available in the lobby or visit https://simpaticotheatre.org/click.

Condolences to:
Jud Aaron on the death of his mother, Gerri Aaron.
Billy Love on the death of his father, Norman Love.
Debra Weissbach on the death of her mother, Lorraine Weissbach.
Robin Feinberg on the death of her father, Bernard Cohen.
The Levy family on the death of Stanley Levy.

Welcome New Members
Deena and Leonard Friedland

SHSpirit in Song

Spring Spirit in Song is Back!
Jessi Roemer

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

Please join us for our spring dates on Wednesdays: April 3, 10, and 17, from 6:45 – 7:30 PM. 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.

No musical experience is necessary—all you need is a willingness to sing!

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew & Dana Ufberg
David & Pam Levine
Carl & Roberta Dranoff
Daniel & Hani Dressler
Alexander & Andrea Ehrlich
Joshua & Stephanie Wolson
Mary Fish & Mark Dembert
General Fund
In Appreciation of
Mark & Ann Steinberg
Howard & Janine Vigderman

In Honor of
50th Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Paula Ninerell
Susan Zeelander
Mitch & Barbara Freedman
Steve Weinberg & Family
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Jim Klein & Addy Schwartz
Rick & Nancy Morgenstern

Bar Mitzvah of Stanley & Judith Woloff’s Grandson
Jerry & Joan Roller

Terry Graboyes’, Birth of Granddaughter, Anabelle Herman
Jerry & Joan Roller

Jonathan Grode & Jayne Bird, birth of their daughter,
Sophia Bird Grode
David & Pam Levine

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar,
Being Named the SHS Rabbi in 2020
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre- Rochester
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of
Stanley Levy
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Nanci Goldman & Steve Bergstein
Edgar & Barbara Einhorn
Alice Levy & Molty Seal

Bernard Cohen
David & Pam Levine
Joan & Jay Bloch

Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
Mark & Sue Wolinsky
David & Pam Levine
Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre- Rochester
Amy Bookbinder
Dr. & Mrs. M. Rubenstein
Joan & Stan Karp

Norman Love, Father of Billy Love
Bob Blackberg & Terry Novick
Lois Warren-Kyler
Nancy & Paul Panepinto
Melvyn Freid

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Mark S. Zimmerman, Husband of Barbara Zimmerman
Barbara Zimmerman

Roy Rieder, Father of Joan Roller
Jerry & Joan Roller

Annual Giving Fund
In Honor of
50th Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Barbara Spector
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of
Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
Barbara Spector

Restoration Fund
In Honor of
Jeremey Newberg
Marshall & MaryEllen Gorodetzer

Social Action Fund
In Appreciation of
Laurie Krivo & Bob Kaufman
hosts of Inter-NOSH-ional Night
Ric & Carmen Hayman

In Honor of
Congo Family
Perry Steindel

In Memory of
Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Larry & Robin Moses

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Stanley Dubin, Brother of Murray Dubin
Murray Dubin

Ben Dubin, Father of Murray Dubin
Murray Dubin

Rabbi Winokur’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
SHS
Clifford Klein

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Lyn Kirshenbaum
Ron & Robin Feinberg

In Honor of
50th Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Holman & Gail Massey
Harry & Eleanor Oxman

In Memory of
Stanley & Martha Levy
Howard & Janine Vigderman

Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser
Bonny Hohenberger & Nathan Farbman
Yahrzeit Remembrance
Ann Isacoff, Mother of Judy Gelles
  Judy Gelles
Mary Dubin, Mother of Murray Dubin
  Murray Dubin
Martha Levy, Wife of Stanley Levy
  Stanley Levy
Ben Levine, Father-in-Law of Iris Levine
  Iris Levine
Clarence Lovitch, Father of Fred Lovitch
  Fred & Dinah Lovitch
Frank Katz, Father of Eleanor Oxman
  Harry & Eleanor Oxman
Selma W. Brown, Mother of Stephen Brown
  Stephen & Pelley Brown
Lilien Dictor, Mother-in-Law of Joel Chernock
  Joel Chernock

Rabbi Kamesar’s Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation of
Rabbi Kamesar, officiating at Funeral of Katie Loeb
  Peter & Rhoda Trooboff

In Honor of
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
  Randi Kamine
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
  Ron & Robin Feinberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Dorothy Solomon, Aunt of Mitchell & Linda Bach
  Mitchell Bach & Linda Bach
Beatrice Oken, Aunt of Mitchell & Linda Bach
  Mitchell Bach & Linda Bach

Kiddush Fund
In Appreciation of
December TGIShabbat Dinner
  Arlene Fickler

In Honor of
SHS
  Lawrence Cramer
Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick
  Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Memory of
Bernard Cohen, Father of Robin Feinberg
  Barbara Spector

Prayerbook Fund
In Honor of
Terry Graboyes, birth of Granddaughter, Anabelle Herman
  Myer & Miriam Magen

50th Wedding Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
  Stanley & Judith Woloff

In Memory of
Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
Norman Love, Uncle of Carole Britchkow
Norman Love, Father of William Love
Norman Love, Brother of Cylvia Leonard
  Marty & Betty van de Rijn
Norman Love, Father of William Love
  Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund
In Appreciation of
SHS
  Lyn Kirshenbaum

God’s Unfinished Business
In Memory of
Lorraine Weissbach, Mother of Debra Weissbach
  Iris Levine

Capital Campaign Fund
In Honor of
50th Wedding Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
  Shana Enns

In Memory of
Norman Love, Father of William Love
  Jeremy & Fran Newberg

Adult Education Fund
In Honor of
50th Wedding Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
  Iris Levine

In Memory of
Muriel Rubin, Mother of Bonni Rubin Sugarman
  Steven & Lisa Eizen

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Morris Serlin, Father of David Serlin
  David Serlin

Jay R. Baer Fund
In Appreciation of
Scholar-in-Resident Weekend
  Carol Baer Mott
Inter-NOSH-ional Night Recap
Debra Stewart

On Saturday, February 9, we noshed, schmoozed, and enjoyed a wonderful community-building event with the added benefit of raising funds for our synagogue at this year’s fabulous Inter-NOSH-ional Night. As always, it was a night of forming new relationships and strengthening existing ones. Thanks to all who participated in exploring interesting cuisines and cultures.

On behalf of SHS, I would like to extend special thanks to our gracious “Mystery Hosts” and reveal the types of cuisine they prepared:

Laurie Krivo & Bob Kaufman – Indian Cuisine
Ruth & Steve Greenberg – Italian Cuisine
Monica Fread & Bruce Hirsch – French Cuisine
Abigail Wolf & Jonathan Weiss – Middle Eastern Cuisine
Judy and Tony Lalli and Debra and Bill Stewart – Basque Region of Spain Cuisine

We are also grateful for the participation of our delightful guests who make this event so successful every two years. We are all looking forward to the next Inter-NOSH-ional Night in February 2021! In the meantime, we hope members will participate in home-based Shabbat dinner gatherings and the next “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbas?™” in February of 2020.

Here is a sampling of comments from this year’s Inter-NOSH-ional Night participants. Check out the photos on p. 23.

“Thank you for the care and creativity with which you hosted us—and for a good cause. A bonus from the evening is that we have six new friends at the synagogue.”

“We had a great time at our house Saturday evening.”

“Our evening was delightful! Food, ambiance, and conversation were all terrific. It was so nice to get to know some members of our SHS family even better.”

“Thank you again for a wonderful and delicious evening!”

Thank you for attending the Inter-Nosh-ional night dinner on Saturday night. We’ve hosted this event a few times, and I’m always a little nervous about how the group of folks will mix given that we don’t know up front who knows whom. We had such a great time, enjoying the good conversations, and we had fun making the food.”

“It was interesting to hear a lot about our shared experiences in Philadelphia and our individual histories here as well.”

“Very creative, unusual, and delicious food. Beautiful presentation and gracious hosts. The warm Havdalah service was greatly appreciated. Enjoyed the opportunity to connect with people that I didn’t know very well.”

“We talked a lot about how much fun we had preparing and hosting the dinner and getting to know new friends. We were even in a good mood during the cleanup, which says something!”

“We had a delightful evening of good food, good drinks, and good company. It was nice to spend a night with old and new friends from SHS.”

“Merci beaucoup for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It was a lovely get-together with great food, libations, and great conversation. It was a pleasure to get to know everyone a bit more.”
Arts & Culture Group
Join Us for Film Events and Tours!
Betta Kolansky, Eleanor Oxman, Ellen Fennick, & Libby Kaiser

Museuming with Marty

On Wednesday, March 13, from 6 PM until 8 PM, please join us for a special tour at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, led by Professor Emeritus of Art History at Rutgers University Martin Rosenberg, our resident expert in 18th–20th century works of art by Jewish and/or women artists. Marty will meet SHS congregants at the admissions area on the main floor. Admission fees on Wednesday nights are "pay what you wish." The tour will be limited to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking will be available on the street or in the museum's garage. Please RSVP to Betty or Leanne at office@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Lecture and Film Event
Identity and Change: The Orthodox Community in Israeli Film

On Saturday, March 16, at 7 PM, please join Triple Chai and Arts & Culture groups for a light dinner at 7 PM, followed by a lecture and film screening at 7:30 PM, featuring Udi ben Seadia—an engaging speaker who is well known to SHS—as he guides us to take a fascinating look into Israeli society through film. An accomplished Israeli writer, director, and lecturer, Udi currently has three plays in production.

The three films he will present and discuss are My Father, My Lord, Ushpizen, and Camp Fire. Dessert and coffee will follow the presentation. The fee to attend is $18 per person. Please send a check to SHS at 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or call the office to charge the fee to your credit card (3% processing fee required). Please RSVP to Fran Gallun at frangallun@gmail.com.

Lunch & Learn Event
The Fourth Grade Project by Judy Gelles

Judy Gelles, a longtime member of SHS and the Social Action Committee, began the Fourth Grade Project in 2008, which was developed from a prototype born during her volunteer work at George Washington Elementary School, now Vare-Washington School.

Over the past 11 years, she has interviewed and photographed over 300 fourth grade students from the USA, China, Dubai, England, India, Israel, Italy, Nicaragua, St. Lucia, South Africa, and South Korea. She asks each student three questions: Who do you live with? What do you wish for? What do you worry about?

Judy is now is creating a website (www.fourthgradeproject.com) that will include images from each school and curriculum guides to assist teachers in the classroom, and forums for students to respond to the photos and share their own portraits and interviews.

The project is now being piloted in a number of fourth grade classrooms in Philadelphia. The mission of the Fourth Grade Project is to share the hopes and fears of fourth graders from around the world to foster empathy and understanding.

Join us on Saturday, April 13, after Shabbat services when Judy will present and discuss her magnificent film The Fourth Grade Project.

Continued on page 16
Second Night Community Pesah Seder

Mark your calendars for the fifth annual Second Night Community Pesah Seder, which will take place in the SHS Social Hall on April 21, at 6 PM. Rabbi Nathan Kamesar will lead this fun and meaningful service.

See Page 18 for full details.

Philadelphia Architectural Walking Tour

Save the date: Sunday, May 5, 1–3 PM, when Marty Rosenberg will lead a special walking tour of Philadelphia. Details to follow.

Society Hill Synagogue Players
“Community Synagogue Holds a Board Meeting”
Judy Lalli

Come and laugh with us on Sunday, April 7, from 6 until 9 PM, when we will have our first comedic dinner theatre event featuring our own Society Hill Synagogue Players. This one-act comedy is based on a typical synagogue board meeting from the past. Don’t worry—Community Synagogue’s Board has nothing in common with the SHS Board … or does it? As they used to say on Dragnet, “Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.”

Dinner will be served, but it’s BYOB, so bring your favorite libation to share. Pre-sale tickets cost $18 per person until April 5; after that and at the door the fee will go up to $20 per person. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the SHS website (www.societyhillsynagogue.org), calling the office at 215.922.6590, emailing the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org, or sending a check to 418 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19106. Please include “SHS Dinner Theater” in the memo line.
Get Connected with a New Group at SHS: Triple Chai

SHS is one busy place! While we already have many programs and activities for children of all ages, engaging classes in Adult Education, and wonderful opportunities to participate in Arts & Culture events in and around the city, some of our members have recently expressed interest in forming a social group, which will be called Triple Chai, for individuals aged 54 and above.

What will this group do? That's what we're going to continue to discuss at our next event: a brunch at the home of SHS members Nancy and Richard Morgenstern on Sunday, March 24, at 1 PM, where we will relax and enjoy each other’s company while we discuss future Triple Chai events and programming—which could include ball games, movies, salons, card games, lunches, or whatever we want!

If you'd like to RSVP for the brunch or have your name added to the Triple Chai email list so that you can communicate with other members in the group, please contact Rabbi Kamesar at rabbikamesar@societyhillsynagogue.org.

Hope to see you March 24!

Looking for a New Bank?

Sunday, March 17
10 AM to 12 Noon

During the Purim Carnival, a representative from Republic Bank will be joining us to open New accounts. For every account that is opened, Society Hill Synagogue will receive $20.

Hebrew School students and teachers enjoying “Pirkei Avot through Improv” — a contemporary take on classical texts!
SHS ANNUAL COMMUNITY SEDER

Saturday, April 20, at 6 PM

Celebrate the second night of Passover at SHS!
Join Rabbi Nathan Kamesar as he leads a creative, fun-filled, and interactive Community Seder in the Social Hall for synagogue members and guests.

We will be ordering delicious kosher meals from Panache Catering. (www.foodarama.com)
Cost: $54 per adult, $20 per child (under 13)

This meal includes tender roast prime brisket with beef au jus, classic roasted chicken, and grilled salmon, gefilte fish and chopped liver, salad, vegetables, dessert, and a complete Seder plate for each table.

See full menu to the right.

Bring your own Kosher for Passover wine!

RSVPs and payments are REQUIRED by Monday, April 5. Seating will be limited, so please contact the office at office@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590 ASAP.

Wishing everyone a sweet and happy Pesah!

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

PASSOVER MENU

GEFILTE FISH WITH HORSERADISH OR CHOPPED CHICKEN LIVER

CLASSIC ROASTED CHICKEN GRILLED FRESH ATLANTIC SALMON BRISKET

BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER, & CARROTS POTATO KUGEL

MIXED GARDEN SALAD WITH DRESSING

PICKLES, SOUR TOMATOES, OLIVES, & MATZAH

ASSORTED PASSOVER CAKES, COOKIES, AND FRESH FRUIT

SEATING REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE
Annual Giving
Thank You for Your Support!
Alan and Deborah Casnoff
Jay and Phyllis Denbo
Peter Gearhart and Alex Robboy
Bart and Betty Kaplan
Bruce and Carol Katcher
Jerome Kranzel and Rian Berger
Laurie Leas
Iris Levine
Barbara Spector
Wayne Spilove
Mark Steinberger and Ann Lebowitz Steinberger
Avi Winokur and Susan Berman
Joshua and Stephanie Wolson

Young Families Group
Join Us for the Next Friday Nights With Young Families Event on March 8!
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, March 8. 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: 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!
## 5779/2018–2019 ב’נai Mitzvah

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Louis Golding</td>
<td>Child of Randi Glatzer &amp; Mitchell Golding</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Esme Oxman</td>
<td>Child of Joseph Oxman &amp; Christi Rosengart</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Ella Gutstadt</td>
<td>Child of David &amp; Julia Gutstadt</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Eva Femia</td>
<td>Child of Dave &amp; Rebecca Femia</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Emma Chrismer</td>
<td>Child of Noah &amp; Sara Chrismer</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Sebastian Picht</td>
<td>Child of Aaron &amp; Elina Picht</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Samuel Hamilton</td>
<td>Child of Roy Hamilton &amp; Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton</td>
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</table>
Adult Education

Check out Rabbi Kamesar’s New Class!
Marc Schwartz

King David: Our All-Too-Human Paragon

Depending upon whom you ask, he is a hero or a murderer, a lover or a fighter, a musician or a lyricist. King David is one of the most complex figures in our sacred text and worthy of deeper examination. With reference to Rabbi David Wolpe’s wonderful book, David: A Divided Heart (part of the Jewish Lives series), as well as a close examination of excerpts from the Book of 1 Samuel, we will explore the life of this ancient king, his trials and tribulations, and look for lessons about how we live our own lives. Join Rabbi Nathan Kamesar for this thought-provoking class on Tuesdays: 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, & 4/16, 7–9 PM.

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: 3/24, 4/28, & 5/19. Bagels and coffee will be served!
PHOTO GALLERY

Challah Making Event
Inter-NOSH-ional Night
Religion Committee
Would You Like to Dedicate a Humash?
Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

As you may have noticed, new volumes of the Etz Hayim Humashim have been purchased to replace damaged copies.

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 office@societyhillsynagogue.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 $54 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@societyhillsynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. #123.

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2019, AT 6 PM
RSVP’S REQUIRED
The 16th Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation

This Year’s Theme: Seeking the Light in All


Sunday afternoon, April 28, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

 Stops at three Houses of Worship in Center City:
Society Hill Synagogue, Arch Street United Methodist Church and Friends Center. Plus a pre-walk gathering at the Al Aqsa Islamic Center.

INFORMATION

www.InterfaithPeaceWalk.org
InterfaithPeaceWalk@gmail.com
Facebook: InterfaithPeaceWalk
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<td>6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
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<td>Parents with Rabbi Kamesar</td>
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<td>7 PM ECM</td>
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<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>7 PM Finance Committee Mtg.</td>
<td>5:30 PM Young Family Shabbat</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 PM Hebrew with Marc Schwartz</td>
<td>7 PM ECM</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>7 PM Dinner Theatre Rehearsal</td>
<td>6:15 PM TGI Shabbat Service</td>
<td>Sh'mini</td>
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March/April 2019 Newsletter
## APRIL 2019

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<td></td>
<td>7 PM ECM</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>6:45 PM Spirit in Song</td>
<td>6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>Tazri-a</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>7 PM Adult Ed w/ Rabbi Kamesar</td>
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<td>10:30 AM Vav Class Service</td>
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<td>7 PM Dinner Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 AM SS</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>6:45 PM Spirit in Song</td>
<td>5:30 PM Young Family Shabbat</td>
<td>Mitzora</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td>11 AM HS</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
<td>7:30 PM Education Committee Mtg.</td>
<td>5:30 PM PS Shabbat</td>
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<td>10 AM Services</td>
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<td>4:30 PM Religion Committee Mtg.</td>
<td>7 PM Adult Ed w/ Rabbi Kamesar</td>
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<td>6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>10:15 AM Shabbat Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 AM SS</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>6:45 PM Spirit in Song</td>
<td>Last Day of PS</td>
<td>Erev Pesah First Seder</td>
<td>Pesah 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>Good Friday No Services</td>
<td>Second Seder</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM HS</td>
<td>7 PM Adult Ed w/ Rabbi Kamesar</td>
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<td>Office/PS Closed</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 AM B’nai Mitzvah Parent Meeting</td>
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<td>10 AM Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesah 2 Easter Building Closed</td>
<td>Pesah 3</td>
<td>Pesah 4</td>
<td>Pesah 5</td>
<td>Pesah 6</td>
<td>Pesah 7</td>
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<td>Pesah 2 Easter Building Closed</td>
<td>No Playschool</td>
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<td>Office/PS Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesah 2 Easter Building Closed</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
<td>6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>9 AM Torah Study</td>
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<td>9 AM SS</td>
<td>PS Resumes</td>
<td>7:15 AM Minyan</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM Nuts &amp; Bolts</td>
<td>7 PM BDM</td>
<td>4:15 PM HS</td>
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<td>11 AM Bagels in Babylonia</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Nosh &amp; Schmooze</td>
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<td>2 PM Interfaith Peace Walk</td>
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March/April 2019 Newsletter
Kesher

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Jessi Roemer, Hazzan
Harry Oxman, President
Betty van de Rijn, Executive Director & Kesher Publisher
Sahar Oz, Director of Education
Staci Schwartz, Kesher Editor

TIME-DATED MATERIAL

Rabbi Nathan and Hazzan Jessi with some friends from Playschool and Sunday School, sharing one of several stories at our recent Havdalah PJ Party.