



Politics & Religion Lunch & Learn—February 23, 2019

Join us on Saturday, February 23, for a Lunch & Learn in the Social Hall following Shabbat services, when SHS member and University of Pennsylvania Professor Michele F. Margolis will discuss her new book, *From Politics to the Pews: How Partisanship and the Political Environment Shape Religious Identity*.

Take a look at these great reviews:

“There are no other books like *From Politics to the Pews*, with its original and persuasive argument that the relationship between political partisanship and religious identity is a reciprocal one. Margolis has added much to the research on partisan conflict and polarization.”

—Robert Y. Shapiro, *Columbia University*

“Anyone interested in the outsized role played by religion in American politics should read this book. So should anyone who doubts that politics and religion are deeply intertwined, as it will put those doubts to rest. . . . Quite simply, this book sets a new standard for the study of religion and politics—theoretically rich, empirically innovative, and beautifully written.”

—David E. Campbell, *University of Notre Dame*

Don't miss this timely discussion of a critically important topic in the life of our nation.

SOCIETY HILL
SYNAGOGUE

Keshet



Rabbi's Column

Anti-Semitism: Neither Benign nor Fading Away

Avi Winokur

This is my first Keshet article since the Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh massacre. How the Jewish community will deal with this incident going forward was partially the subject of the most recent Nosh & Schmooze meeting. During the first session of my four-part Adult Education class scheduled to begin on January 8, at 7 PM, we will reflect on this terrible event. I will reprise the lecture that I gave on November 26, at the National Museum of American Jewish History commemoration. The remaining three sessions will revert back to the original topic.

Until the shooting in Pittsburgh, my understanding of anti-Semitism has been relatively consistent. My thinking has been as follows: Anti-Semitism is endemic to Western Society. Its underpinnings are the anti-Jewishness of significant portions of the Christian Bible and as importantly—perhaps more importantly—how those portions have been interpreted/emphasized over the centuries by Church and secular leaders who have assimilated anti-Jewish stereotypes from Christianity. Even if an anti-Semite has no connection to Christianity and is completely secular, I have always argued that Christian anti-Judaism infects the thought of all anti-Semitism.

Over the years I have come to believe that anti-Semitism will never go away—and I do mean never—but that it is not nearly as pernicious and threatening as other kinds of bigotry.

Recently, my thinking has changed, but I do not know that this change means that I actually see anti-Semitism as more threatening. I am self-aware enough to know that the *feeling* that anti-Semitism is more threatening is certainly due, in large part, to the Squirrel Hill massacre.

What, then, is new about my thinking about anti-Semitism? Some of Christian anti-Judaism is pure Christian anti-Judaism, and it is part of Christianity—that I say without hysteria. Jewish trauma could lead one to believe that it is a central part of gentile personality makeup. I don't buy that. I no more buy the centrality of anti-Judaism to today's average Christian than I buy its opposite—that it is relatively benign, and is fading away. Neither one is true in my opinion.

There has always been a part of anti-Semitism that looks at Jews as “other”, as folks with no allegiance to anyone except to ourselves, as unreliable citizens. How is it that we can be both the ultimate evil communists to certain capitalists, and the ultimate rapacious capitalists to certain socialists?

This anti-Semitism recalls the words of Haman to King Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther that we read on Purim: “There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the kings' laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them.”

It is that kind of thinking which has led more than one commentator/observer of the White Nationalist movement to observe that, according to this venal ideology, it is the Jews who are responsible for civil rights being extended to African-Americans, and, as the Pittsburgh murderer thought (in this he was not a lone wolf), it is the Jew who is encouraging immigration from non-European countries to undermine the white race in America. We are the ultimate traitors.

This anti-Semitism is different from and predates Christianity and rears its deadly head today. It is the recognition of this anti-Semitism—that is not rooted in Christianity—that has influenced my thinking lately.

At the same time, I recognize that this particular form of bigotry, since it is not theologically based, is not only directed toward Jews. Ask the Kurds who are persecuted in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. In the wake of the tragedy on 9-11 (and its aftermath) and the mass shooting in Pittsburgh, a closer relationship has developed between the Jewish and Muslim communities. Muslim communities had raised funds to repair vandalized Jewish cemeteries in Pittsburgh before the shooting, and they raised additional funds to contribute to the funerals of the victims from the Tree of Life Or L'Simcha Congregation. Likewise, the members and leaders of the Jewish community have been strong proponents in pushing back against Islamophobia.

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President's Column

Strength and Courage in Difficult Times

Harry J. Oxman

My last Keshet article was completed on October 24, 2018, and submitted on that date for publication. Three days later the entire Jewish community experienced the tragedy of the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. It is not my intention in this article to visit the elements of our society that likely contributed to this horror but rather to comment upon the manner in which we have responded. Such a horrific occurrence requires an opportunity for all of us to mourn the loss and gather our community about us for comfort and support.

For me, this process began with the gathering held at Rodeph Sholom synagogue on Sunday, October 28. Our Jewish leaders perfectly expressed our feelings and enabled us to begin to mourn. Also, the message from the larger community of all faiths was expressed beautifully, as they offered uniform support and recognition that, regardless of our particular faith, we are all in this together. The strength and courage to address tragedy of this magnitude requires faith and commitment from all people of goodwill. By these multiple expressions of concern and support I was convinced that we are fortunate to have many committed and loyal friends.

I would like also to express my deep appreciation to our very special clergy for conducting the beautiful and heartfelt services on Friday, November 2, and on Friday, November 9. Rabbi Winokur, Rabbi Kamesar, and Hazzan Roemer set the perfect tone with their words and music, enabling all in attendance to feel a deep connection in a time when spiritual uplifting was needed. I also wish to thank all of those people from within and outside of our congregation who spoke and shared their thoughts and prayers. Finally, I thank all who attended these services, as your presence was deeply felt. The act of being present on such occasions is an absolute necessity to assist in the mourning and begin the healing.

Unfortunately, beyond the need to mourn and heal, the leadership of our community must also address the security of our congregation at all levels when we are in our home. In keeping with that responsibility, Rabbi Kamesar and I attended a seminar devoted to the security of our Jewish places of worship on Monday, October 29, at the Jewish Federation Building. The meeting was quite helpful and focused on our need to review all of our building security measures and to have appropriate outside independent assessments. Your Executive Committee and Board of Directors began that process, and we have reviewed all of our past and current internal building security procedures. In addition, we requested and received an evaluation from representatives of the local office of Homeland Security, which took place on December 11. The 2-hour evaluation period was attended by Executive Director Betty Van de Rijn, Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, Education Director Sahar Oz, and Past President Debra Stewart.

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Associate Rabbi's Column

Envisioning the Future of SHS Together

Nathan Kamesar

Many SHS members, in the context of the Rabbinic Transition Process, have recently asked me a pretty straightforward question: “What is your vision for SHS?” My hunch is that we all share a pretty similar vision for the future of our shul, but I would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts with you.

I envision that SHS will continue to grow as a bustling hub of lifelong Jewish learning, living, and community-building.

I envision that SHS will continue its tradition of providing excellent Jewish education, from pre-K through Adult Education—education that is comprised of sharp, rich materials offered by devoted, learned teachers, to a group of questioning, inquisitive students.

I envision that SHS will be a place that helps people explore their Jewish traditions, and that through these traditions, helps people continue to live full, rich lives filled with meaning, holiness, and devotion to something greater than the self.

I envision a continued dedication to making the community around us better and more just, fulfilling the divine imperative that we leave the world in better shape than we found it.

I envision a growing network of friends and loved ones among our members—people who will be there to help support fellow community members when they’re down on their luck or experiencing loss, and likewise, who will be there to celebrate when community members are experiencing life’s formative moments—the birth of a child, a coming of age B’nai Mitzvah ceremony, or a union of two people as they enter into the bonds of marriage, to name a few.

The tricky question to be answered, of course, is how do we get there?

Let me start by saying what I think doesn’t work. I think it is valiant yet insufficient to hope that if we design just the right program, give just the right sermon, invite just the right guest speaker, or sing just the right melodies, that people will flock through our doors. All of those things are important, of course, but I don’t believe in the “if you build it, they will come” model. I believe that focusing *exclusively* on the content of what we offer misses an opportunity to get people to connect with one another.

Don’t get me wrong; I strongly believe that content matters. I tend to pour my heart into my sermons and Adult Education offerings, and I think if I, or any rabbi, offered lackluster thoughts, unresearched courses, or ill-prepared programs, that attendance would eventually diminish. Judaism has the capacity to change one’s life, and part of a clergy member’s job, I believe, is to present teachings that reflect that capacity, in a manner that is compelling, accessible, and provocative.

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Hazzan's Column

Divine Strings and Roots of Redemption

Jessi Roemer

We are deep in winter, the season of dormant seeds. We've brought what plants we can indoors and released our outside gardens to the underground rest and regeneration of colder months.

This year, the holiday of Tu B'Sh'vat falls on January 21—very early spring in Israel, but hardly ideal tree-planting season in Philadelphia. Growing up on the East Coast, I've always associated this holiday with the coldest weather, but even that is no longer a given; in my lifetime, winters in the Northeastern United States have become warmer. In Israel, too, the growing seasons are less predictable. The changing global climate and its effect on seasons add to our yearly cycles a layer of uncertainty that our ancestors likely did not anticipate.

In winter we read Sh'mot (the Book of Exodus), which begins by listing the names of our ancestors, who, invited by Joseph, settled in Egypt and multiplied. The new narrative begins, "A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph" (Ex 1:8).

Joseph the Dreamer has died, and the new Pharaoh does not know Joseph. Maybe Pharaoh doesn't know Joseph's ways, doesn't care what Joseph did for the old Pharaoh, or chooses not to recognize the status Joseph's family has enjoyed in Egypt. In any case, we know where this story is headed: slavery for the children of Israel; murderous decrees; five fierce women (Israelites and Egyptians) who resist orders to kill and instead guard life; Moshe's upbringing, awakening, and charge from God; his demand; Pharaoh's refusal; the Plagues.

The Ten Plagues proceed through the text with a ruthless, rhythmic quality. Scholar Ziony Zevit presents them as a dark mirror of the Creation story, in which each plague reverses an utterance of creation: poisoning water; overrunning the earth with creatures of sky, land, and sea; destroying vegetation; killing animals over which people were given dominion in Eden; reverting light back to darkness; and, finally, destroying God's own likeness: the firstborn of Egypt and all the Egyptian warriors at the Sea of Reeds. Zevit concludes, "At the end of the narrative in Exodus, Israel looks back over the stilled water of the sea at a land with no people, no animals and no vegetation, a land in which creation had been undone" ("Exodus in the Bible and the Egyptian Plagues," *Bible History Daily*, Biblical Archaeological Society, 3.11.2018).

Why would God undo Creation in Egypt? Many of us probably learned as kids that God kept hitting Pharaoh with plagues to try to convince him to give up and let the Israelites go.

But any kid can tell you that you can't pummel someone into being kind. And if we read the Torah text carefully, it becomes obvious that the Plagues were never meant to convince the Egyptians to change their behavior. Quite the opposite: Pharaoh is unable to soften his heart because God will not let him; as if under the Imperius Curse (looking at you, *Harry Potter* fans), Pharaoh is a puppet, whose heart God controls, repeatedly hardening it against Pharaoh's own interests: "Adonai said to Moshe, 'Go to Pharaoh. For I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his courtiers'" (Ex 10:1).

That Pharaoh and his courtiers are manipulated by God implies that while they are God's target, they are not God's target audience. So if the Plagues aren't there to teach Pharaoh a lesson, whom are they meant to influence?

Well, arguably, the enslaved Israelites: This whole endeavor would be pointless if they weren't willing to actually pick up and leave, and before agreeing to uproot their entire existence and flee Egypt for the wilderness, they may need a fair amount of bombastic convincing. Sometimes you can't imagine a different reality until yours crashes down around you.

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Playschool

A Fruitful Start to the Spring Semester

Sahar Oz

I hope all of our Playschool families had a wonderful winter break and a joyous start to 2019! Classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 2**. We are excited for a spectacular spring semester and delighted to welcome five new students to our school.

We have some fantastic projects and activities planned to celebrate Tu B'Sh'vat during the week of January 14, with the holiday taking place a few days later, on January 20 & 21. In celebration of Tu B'Sh'vat—known as the Jewish “new year of the trees”—we'll also enjoy a variety of fruit treats, enabling us to explore different textures, aromas, and flavors.

Please note that Playschool will be closed on **Monday, January 21**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

On **Saturday, January 26, at 5:30 PM**, come enjoy our annual **Havdalah PJ Party!** Join us as we celebrate the end of Shabbat and the start of a new week. Designed especially for children ages seven and younger and their parents (grandparents are also welcome!), kids and adults are invited to wear their pajamas as we enjoy Havdalah, songs and a story, a spice box craft and glow sticks, wine and grape juice, and delicious pizza and dessert—with great company and friends. Please bring a dairy/pareve potluck dessert for all to share, and please consider bringing new children's pajamas to be donated to families in need.

Your RSVP to soz@societyhillsynagogue.org for the Havdalah PJ Party is requested by Tuesday, January 22.

The students in our 3-year-old class will visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art for its *Museum Looks and Picture Books* series on **Tuesday, February 12**, with “Celebrations” as the theme. We will have a tour of the museum's Art of Asia galleries, read *Festival of Colors* by Surishtha Sehgal and Kabir Sehgal, and wrap up our visit by creating our own sand mandalas!

Please note that Playschool will be closed on **Friday, February 15**, and **Monday, February 18**, for Presidents' Weekend. We look forward to the next few months of winter wonders and exploration!





Ann Spak Thal School
Tu B'Sh'vat Joy, Havdalah
PJ Party, Jewish Cinema &
More
 Sahar Oz

We are excited to begin our spring semester with a variety of Tu B'Sh'vat lessons and activities, including preparation for our Tu B'Sh'vat skits in Sunday School on **Sunday, January 13**. But before the skits that day, we invite Sunday School parents to **learn and schmooze with Associate Rabbi Nathan Kamesar, 9:15 - 10:30 AM**.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to engage in Jewish study while connecting with fellow parents. Coffee and snacks will be served, please **RSVP by Friday, January 11, to Rabbi Kamesar at rabbikamesar@societyhillsynagogue.org**.

Immediately following Rabbi Kamesar's class will be our **Sunday School Tu B'Sh'vat skits at 10:30 AM**, along with a delicious sampling of fruit, including most of the seven species of the Land of Israel, as described in Deuteronomy 8:8.

Continuing another much-loved tradition at our school, our older students will participate in a Tu B'Sh'vat Seder later that morning in Hebrew School and Hebrew High.

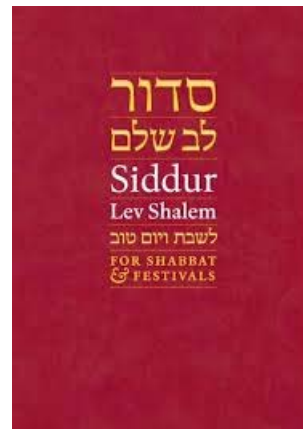
Please note that school will be closed on **Sunday, January 20**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. We look forward to seeing our students and parents at our Social Action program that Sunday at Vare-Washington Elementary School, and you can read more about that activity on page 15.

On **Saturday, January 26, at 5:30 PM**, come enjoy our annual **Havdalah PJ Party**, designed especially for children ages seven and younger and their parents. (Grandparents are also welcome!) Everyone is invited to wear their pajamas—while we enjoy Havdalah, songs and a story, a spice box craft and glow sticks, wine and grape juice, and delicious pizza and dessert in the company of friends.

Please bring a dairy/pareve potluck dessert for all to share, and please consider bringing new children's pajamas to be donated to families in need. **Your RSVP to soz@societyhillsynagogue.org for the Havdalah PJ Party is requested by Tuesday, January 22**.

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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.

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," during which time 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, during which time 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.

Rabbi's Column

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There has also been a renewed emphasis in the Jewish community on welcoming the stranger, epitomized at SHS, in partnership with BZBI, by our recent adoption of a Congolese family. And let us not forget that this core value was one of the reasons that the Pittsburgh terrorist gave for attacking Jews.

One of the lessons I have learned from the horrible shooting in of Pittsburgh, paradoxically, is that we cannot play it safe. We cannot quietly mind our own business in the hope that we will not provoke even more of the haters to turn their attention on us. No, instead we must work together to rise up and defend those who are persecuted simply because they are different.

As long as there are Jews, there will be anti-Semitism. As long as there are Jews, our people must be in the forefront of the struggle for justice, peace, and equality under the law. We are bigger than the present hour.

President's Column

Continued from page 3

We anticipate receiving from the Homeland Security representative an evaluation report by the end of the year. In the meantime, we were assured that our security practices are appropriate and meet our needs. In addition, we have communicated the security message by email to the entirety of the congregation and have alerted everyone that certain changes and/or additions in security for our building may be coming in the near future. In making this determination, it will be necessary for the Board of Directors to weigh multiple issues, such as the cost for increased security and its impact upon the welcoming philosophy and spirit of our synagogue community.

All of our congregants should be aware that in addition to the concern about security, your Board of Directors has been deeply involved in the Rabbi Transition Process. By the time that this article is read, we will have completed 5 focus groups on the subject, which were attended by approximately 100 members of our congregation. In addition, we will have received congregational responses to the questionnaire sent to you from the staff at Jewish Learning Venture. We anticipate receiving the report from Jewish Learning Venture in the middle of January, followed by an in-person presentation from them at the Board meeting scheduled for January 28. At the conclusion of that presentation and after internal discussion, the Board of Directors will make a determination as to the means that will enable us to complete the process of finding the successor to our beloved Rabbi Winokur. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have participated in this important process.

Finally, I would like to share with all of my community members a personal observation about the manner in which we have passed through these last several difficult months. Our spirit and commitment as a concerned and caring community is wonderfully apparent. I am confident that the foundation for those characteristics is deep and strong and that we will proceed through trying and difficult times successfully, emerging as strong as we have always been, if not stronger. Transition is not easy, but we have the strength and courage to flourish when we work together.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Phyllis Denbo
 Daniel Feinberg
 Harry Feinberg
 Walter Ferst
 Nathaniel Gearhart-Robboy
 Michael Hafter
 Peter Piven
 Nathan Farbman
 James Rosenstein
 Peter Eizen
 Joshua Wolson
 Jeanne Bell
 Nella Bloom
 Karen Kaufman
 Gabriel Downes
 Jennifer Schwartz
 Ezra Goldfinger
 Hava Goldfinger
 Sheri Gifford
 Judith Green
 Leslie Hafter
 Derek Morrow
 Jared Eizen
 Samuel Lear
 Samuel Feinberg
 Yaeli Zhang
 Elias Zaring
 Jesse Abrams-Morley
 Merle Salkin
 Debra Weissbach
 Nancy Morgenstern
 Scot Ziskind
 Jean Blumberg
 Reina Brody
 Mark Dichter
 Bernie Gottlieb
 Talia Mono
 Richard Morgenstern
 Jessica Azad
 Jean Galbraith
 Steve Morley
 Ezzie Susco- Stearns
 Holman Massey
 Diane Harrison
 Jonathan Grode
 David Rosen
 Camille Weil
 Michele Margolis

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pam Levine
 Judy Rohtbart
 Colleen Wyse
 Evan Chrismer
 Nancy Goldenberg
 Tobias Hart
 Ric Hayman
 Cora Morrow
 Carl Dranoff
 Louis Marion
 Susan Snedden
 Yul Summers
 Morgan Miller
 Ira Rubinfeld
 Marc Goldenberg
 Gary Love
 Claire Dubin
 Linda Joy Goldner
 Debbie Jaffe
 Aaron Davidson
 Randi Glatzer
 Ronan Femia
 Sofia Newberg
 Paul Rosen
 Leo Kaslowitz
 Aminda Kirshenbaum
 Len Weinberg
 Gail Massey
 Giacomo Weil
 Adam Ziegfeld
 Elayne Bloom
 Maxine Morgan
 Laurie Krivo
 Liron Prystowsky
 Benjamin Rosenberg
 Joshua Sztul
 Wilma Bass
 Jennifer Raphael
 Susan Hakkarainan
 Elizabeth Fletman
 Everly Rovinsky
 Michael Yudell

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Daniel & Barbara Rottenberg
 Marc & Staci Schwartz
 Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
 Barry & Joann Slosberg
 David & Julie Bahuriak

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

David & Linda Paskin
 Rina & Bill Mitchell
 Paula & Larry Ninerell
 Hillary Ladov & Marc Gutstein
 Adam & Meredith Oglensky
 Andrew Hohns & Leah Popowich
 Arthur & Janet Cherry



MARC L. SCHWARTZ, MD, FACP, FACC, FAHA
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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 *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@societyhillssynagogue.org for more information.



SAVE THE DATES

Annual Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 17, 2019

11 AM to 1 PM



Purim Celebration

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

6:30 PM* Cantata

7 PM* Scotch Tasting

7:45 PM* Megillah Reading

*All times are approximate

Community News

Mazel Tov to:

Lisa and Dan Levin on the birth of their son, Benjamin Ezra Levin.

Noah Herman and Ashley Kerns on the birth of their daughter, Anabelle Rose Herman.

Terry Graboyes on the birth of her granddaughter, Anabelle Rose Herman.

Jordan Segall and Natalie Lesser on the birth of their daughter, Gemma Pearl Segall.

Condolences to:

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

David (Sayde) Ladov on the death of David's mother, Ethel Ladov Gilstein.

Lauren Ladov and Hillary (Marc) Gutstein on the death of their grandmother, Ethel Ladov Gilstein.

Caroline (Rabbi Nathan) Kamesar on the death of her grandmother, Lila Levin.

Mindy (Thaddeus) Fortin on the death of her mother, Lila Levin.

Welcome New Members

Jonathan Appel and Jessica Azad

Simon

Randi Kamine

Matthew and Dana Ufberg

Samuel

Jared and Mazell Winikor

Ainara

Dan and Hani Dressler

Audrie



General Fund

In Appreciation of

SHS and Solidarity Service

Randi Kamine
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Stephanie King
Herbert Cohn
Dan & Barbara Rottenberg
Rich Goldberg
Nancy Wygant

Hanukkah Happening

The Swerdlow Family

In Honor of

David & Pam Levin, on the birth of Granddaughter

Greg Schwartz & Jody Tanabe

Jessica Salvatore, on her conversion

David & Pam Levine

Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

David & Pam Levine

Noah Herman & Ashley Kerns, on the birth of daughter, Anabelle Rose

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre-Rochester
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Ron & Libby Kaiser
David & Pam Levine

Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reshit Recipient

Michael Rochester & Carole LeFaivre-Rochester
Stanley & Judith Woloff
David & Pam Levine

David & Sayde Ladov

David Rasner

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser, on the birth of their daughter, Gemma Pearl Segall

Bob Blacksberg & Terry Novick

In Memory of

Ethel Ladov Gilstein, Mother of David Ladov

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Beatrice Acker

Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

John Liedman, Husband of Julie Liedman

Bob & Soozee Caplan

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky

Ron & Libby Kaiser
Gerry Schneeberg

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Edward Blender, Brother of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz

Ethel Schwartz Blender, Mother of Burton Blender

Burton Blender & Libby Harwitz

Sylvia Ewens, Mother of Wilma Bass

Wilma & Robert Bass

Estelle Rosenberg, Aunt of Robert Bass

Wilma & Robert Bass

Natalie Cohn, Wife of Herbert Cohn

Herbert Cohn

Adam Levy

Dorene Rosenthal

Morton Levine, Father of David Levine

David & Pam Levine

Norman Feinberg, Father of Dan Feinberg

The Feinberg Family

Sigmond & Anna Weinberg, In-Laws of Rosemarie Weinberg

Rosemarie Weinberg

Robert Segal, Husband of Evelyn Segal

Evelyn Segal

Helene Rieder, Mother of Joan Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Ilse Roller, Mother of Jerry Roller

Jerry & Joan Roller

Anna Paller, Grandmother of Robert Paller

Robert Paller

Dora Lizenbaum, Grandmother of Curtis Lizenbaum

Curtis Lizenbaum

Herbert & Sylvia Fletman, Parents of Abbe Fletman

Abbe Fletman

Gloria Berman, Mother of Marjorie Berman

Marjorie Berman

Annual Giving Fund

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SHS Community

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Mark and Joan Weiss

In Honor of

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Steven & Fran Lesser

Marriage of Rabbi Nathan & Caroline Kamesar
Barbara Spector

In Memory of
Ethel Ladov Gilstein, Mother of David Ladov
Barbara Spector

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky
Barbara Spector

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In Honor of
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Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reshit Recipient
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Rabbi Nathan & Caroline Kamesar's Wedding
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

50th Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar's Ordination
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

In Memory of
Ethel Ladov Gilstein, Mother of David Ladov
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Lila Levin, Grandmother of Caroline Kamesar
Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz

Social Action Fund

In Appreciation of
Immigrant Family from the Congo
Michael & Carol Albert

In Honor of
Immigrant Family from the Congo
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient
Iris Levine

Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reshit Recipient
Iris Levine

In Memory of
Harold Kolansky, Father of Betta Kolansky
Iris Levine

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Herbert Weissbach, Father of Debbie Weissbach
Debbie Weissbach

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of
Harry & Eleanor Oxman, for sponsoring the October TGISHabbat
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Abbe Fletman

Hazzan Jessi Roemer
Jared Susco

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Avi Winokur, Torah Study
Valerie Joseph

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Abbe Fletman
Steve Morley & Liz Abrams-Morley

Rabbi Avi Winokur, for his support & compassion
Betta Kolansky

In Honor of
Stanley & Judith Woloff, on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson
Rina & Bill Mitchell

Rabbi Avi Winokur
Stanley & Judith Woloff
Harvey & Bonnie Weiner

Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser, on the birth of their daughter, Gemma Pearl
Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient
Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reshit Recipient
Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

In Memory of
Ethel Ladov Gilstein, Mother of David Ladov
Jordan Segall & Natalie Lesser

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Joseph & Shirley Graboyes, Parents of Terry Graboyes
Terry Graboyes

Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg
Rosemarie Weinberg

Seth Palmer, Son of Karen Palmer
Karen Palmer

Mildred Druckman, Mother of Karen Palmer
Karen Palmer

Hazzan's Column

Continued from page 5

So the enslaved Israelites could be the target audience for the show of Plagues. But the Torah explicitly names another audience: The verse quoted above goes on to say that God has hardened the hearts of Pharaoh and courtiers specifically “in order that I may display these My signs among them, and that you may recount in the hearing of your children and your children’s children how I made a mockery of the Egyptians—so that *you* will know that I am Adonai” (Ex 10: 1-2, my emphasis).

The second “you” here is us, the descendants of those enslaved Israelites. The authors of the Torah are reaching across the millennia to speak directly to us. But what, exactly, are they trying to say? That God is God? What could that possibly mean to us, here, now?

We exist in a time in which so much of what we have created is being undone: protections for nature, civil society, human rights, democratic institutions. Worse, our disregard for the earth is causing Creation itself to change: floods, rapid extinctions of species, death of crops, ruptures of ecosystems, fires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, massive human displacement and starvation. Exacerbated by global warming, which is brought on by us, these modern plagues are making the earth a less hospitable place for us to inhabit.

I asserted earlier that our ancestors could not have anticipated the ecological uncertainty, the undoing of creation as we know it, that we face in this era. But now I’m not so sure. As Creation is undone by the Plagues, the ancestors are indeed speaking right from such a moment and offering the wisdom of their story.

“A new king arose who did not know Joseph.” Undoing creation begins by abandoning dreams.

At some point we stopped knowing how to dream; we started assuming that human development and creation must always end in ecological mess, that our civil structures necessarily lead to corruption. We chose not to believe in our ability to be better. That was when we forgot that God is God and that we are created in God’s image.

I’m not convinced it has to go that way. One benefit of the darker, colder months is that there’s more time to sleep, to replenish, to dream. As we tuck in for the remainder of the winter, let’s use this season of sleeping seeds and quiet rejuvenation to dream up a new garden for our beliefs, our civil structures, our planet—and all the little mirrors of Creation we make along the way.

In praise of Creation: *Baruch she-amar v’haya ha’olam*—Blessed is the One who speaks the world into being. Blessed is the Name.

SHS Annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night

Debra Stewart

Five generous members have volunteered to host meals in their homes for this year’s bi-annual Inter-NOSH-ional Night on **Saturday, February 9, at 7 PM**. Menus of host-chosen cuisine categories are being created, so keep your eyes peeled for emails offering a sign-up link to claim your spot at one of our hosts’ tables.

Remember, not all host homes are Kosher, but hosts will use chicken or meat from a Kosher manufacturer, will not mix meat with dairy, and will not serve shellfish.

For further information, please contact Debra Stewart at beachethic@gmail.com or 609.713.0828).



Arts & Culture Group Having Fun with Our Friends

Ellen Fennick

Recaps of November Events

On November 18, the Arts & Culture Group began celebrating the holiday season early by organizing an outing to view the Jewish Film Festival's delightfully funny and poignant movie, "Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas," at the Gershman Y. A delicious Christmas-themed Chinese buffet dinner followed the film.

On November 29, fifteen SHS members enjoyed a wonderful Italian dinner at La Fontana Della Citta and laughed uproariously as we watched, 1812's production of "This is the Week That Is," a political satire performed at Plays & Players Theatre.

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. Please RSVP to Leanne at office@societyhillsynagogue.org. Parking is available on the street or in the museum's garage.

Pesah

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. This fun and meaningful service will be led by Rabbi Nathan Kamesar.

Social Action

A Day of Service Guaranteed to Improve Your Shelf Esteem

Phyllis Denbo

A devoted group of volunteers, led by Flora Wolf, continues to staff, organize, and enhance the library at Vare-Washington Elementary School. The volunteers are mostly members of Society Hill Synagogue, but two volunteers are from Old Swedes' Church, two are from BZBI, and several volunteers are from other local synagogues. The library program is a wonderful example of an inter-congregational and interfaith effort that was initiated by SHS. The Vare-Washington principal, Gretchen Stewart, and a small group of students recently stopped by the library to present Flora with a beautiful handmade poster, an expression of gratitude for our contributions to the school. The timing of the presentation was planned to coincide with Hanukkah. The poster is now on display in the SHS foyer.

To accommodate the growing collection of books in the library, Jay Denbo recently hung brand new shelves there. **Once again, we are asking for SHS members to volunteer at the Vare-Washington library on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, on Monday, January 21, 2019,** to help shelve the many new books that were purchased by the school or donated by friends, and to further organize the space. We will be at the school from 10 AM until 12:30 PM. Please join us.



TGISHabbat Services at SHS

Please join us on **Friday, January 18, 2019, at 6:15 PM**, in the SHS Sanctuary, for a musical TGISHabbat service featuring Allegro Artist and internationally renowned flutist Beomjae Kim. The *New York Times* calls Mr. Kim's playing, "memorable eloquence."

As a member of Ensemble Connect—a program of Carnegie Hall, the Juilliard School, and Weill Music Institute—Beomjae has performed throughout New York City in public schools and concert halls including Zankel, Weill, and Stern at Carnegie Hall. He has appeared at Lincoln Center, National Sawdust, the Guggenheim Museum and was featured in Italy's Alba Music Festival, the Naumburg Orchestral concerts, and Montenegro's Dani Muzike Festival.

Beomjae was a winner of the Astral artists 2017 national auditions and holds a Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and a Master's and Artist Diploma from the Manhattan School of Music.



Join us again on **Friday, February 22, at 6:15 PM**, in the SHS Sanctuary, for a special TGISHabbat service featuring the University of Pennsylvania's premier student-run Jewish acappella group, The Shabbatoness! Founded in 2001, and known for their energetic arrangements and entertaining performances, The Shabbatoness specialize in singing popular American, Israeli, and Jewish music. All of their arrangements are composed, directed, and performed by students. Shabbatoness members and alumni include undergraduate and graduate students, studying a wide variety of subjects like engineering, psychology, English, and

economics. They come from diverse Jewish backgrounds and are unified by a love for Jewish music and a commitment to being the voice of one of the largest and most vibrant Hillels in the nation. Over the past sixteen years, they have performed for a variety of audiences at Penn and throughout the world at synagogues, schools, and other venues across the Northeast. They have toured in California, London, South Florida, Houston, and New Orleans, including special performances at the White House Hanukkah Party, at sports games for the Phillies and Sixers, and at Disneyland.

The Shabbatoness have a special connection to SHS, as their current and former members include Hebrew School teachers Adina Goldstein (former SHS teacher) Orly Mintz, Jeremy Shechter, and Ari Clements!

Adult Education

Hot Classes on Cold Days

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 (**Constructing Identity: What Does it Mean to be Jewish in the 21st Century?**), here are a few classes you may not have heard about:

Introduction to Reading Hebrew & Intermediate Hebrew

If you want to learn to read Hebrew, you can still join SHS's Introduction to Hebrew class, taught by the patient and non-intimidating Marc Schwartz (me), which meets at SHS on Monday nights (the next class is on January 7), 6 PM–7:30 PM. 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 five 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. Please contact me at marcschwartzus@yahoo.com if you would like to join us.

If you have graduated from introductory Hebrew and are ready for the next level, you can join in Bruce Hirsch's Intermediate Hebrew class, which focuses on more advanced vocabulary and conversation. Classes will meet on Wednesdays, 7–8:30 PM. For further information, please contact Bruce at bruce@hirsches.comcastbiz.net.

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: 1/20, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, & 5/19. Bagels and coffee will be served!

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."

Continued on page 20

Isadore Goldenberg, Father of Marc Goldenberg
Marc & Nancy Goldenberg

Col. Milton L. & Pauline S. Rosen,
Parents of Pelley Brown
Pelley Brown

Morris & Beatrice Chernock,
Parents of Joel Chernock
Joel Chernock

William & Myrtle Manheimer, Parents of Joyce Norden
Joyce Norden

Rose Schertz, Grandmother of Pelley Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Samuel D. Sablove, Father of Pelley Brown
Stephen & Pelley Brown

Rabbi Kamesar's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar
Barbara Spector

Rabbi Nathan Kamesar,
for his support & compassion
Betta Kolansky

Rabbi Nathan & Caroline Kamesar on their marriage
Paula Ninerell
Rosemarie Weinberg
Mark Steinberger & Ann Lebowitz Steinberger

In Memory of
Lila Levin, Grandmother of Caroline Kamesar
Iris Levine

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Alfred Summer, Father of Richard Summers
Richard Summers & Merrily Williams

Elizabeth Motley Williams, Mother of Merrily Williams
Richard Summers & Merrily Williams

Joel Levine, Husband of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

Kiddush Fund

In Appreciation of
Show Up for Shabbat
Steven & Wendy Greenspan
Joel Marmar & Alexis Berg Marmar

Steve Eizen
Betty van de Rijn

SHS 5779 High Holy Days
Jenna Cooper & Jesse Sutow

In Honor of

Len Weinberg, 2018 Hatan Torah Recipient
Carmen Hayman, 2018 Kallat B'reshit Recipient
Rabbi Nathan Kamesar & Caroline Kamesar
50th Anniversary of Len Weinberg & Fran Gallun
Terry Graboyes, birth of granddaughter,
Anabelle Rose Herman
Noah Herman & Ashley Kerns, birth of daughter,
Anabelle Rose Herman
Natalie Lesser & Jordan Segall, birth of Gemma Pearl
Betty van de Rijn

In Memory of

Ethel Ladov Gilstein, Mother of David Ladov
Lila Levin, Beloved Grandmother of Caroline Kamesar
Betty van de Rijn

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

Henrietta Levine, Mother-in-Law of Iris Levine
Iris Levine

Samuel Michaels, Father of Geoffrey Michaels
Geoffrey Michaels

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of
Victims of the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue
Anonymous

Yahrzeit Remembrance

Ruth & Henry Blask, Parents of Judith Woloff
Stanley & Judith Woloff

Martin Weinberg, Husband of Rosemarie Weinberg
Rosemarie Weinberg

Leon Magen
Myer & Miriam Magen

Sara Magen
Myer & Miriam Magen

Dr. Effy Oz Hebrew School Fund

In Honor of
Sahar Oz
Dan & Barbara Rottenberg

God's Unfinished Business

Yahrzeit Remembrance
Betty Kaplan, Grandmother of Pam Levine
David & Pam Levine

Continued from page 9

William Feldstein, Father of Lois Rosenberg
Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

Sam & Helen Rosenberg, Parents of Jerome Rosenberg
Jerome & Lois Rosenberg

Capital Campaign Pledge

In Honor of

Marc, Staci, & Jamie Schwartz
Lois Vederman

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Tom Borawski & Libby Cone
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Peter Gearhardt & Alex Robboy
Steven & Wendy Greenspan
Betta Kolansky
Rafi Licht & Gabrielle Applebaum
Piers Marchant & Audrey Jaros
Joel Marmar & Alexis Berg Marmar
Richard & Nancy Morgenstern
Harry & Eleanor Oxman

Hebrew School

Continued from page 7

On **Saturday, February 2, at 5:30 PM**, we will present "Havdalah and a Movie" for students in Kitot Hey and Vav (Grades 5 and 6). "Havdalah and a Movie" will include a delicious pizza dinner with dessert and a screening of *On The Map*, an exhilarating Israeli-American documentary that has won over a dozen awards at film festivals around the world since 2016.

On its path to a historic European championship In 1977, the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team prevailed over the mighty CSKA Moscow (known in the West as "the Red Army"), a team that had refused to play in Israel or grant visas for Maccabi to play in the USSR. Moments after this highly charged win that shocked the world, Maccabi's star and Israeli-American basketball hero Tal Brody – who grew up playing basketball at the Trenton JCC – captured the heart of the nation when he uttered one of the most famous declarations in Israeli history: "We are on the map! And we are staying on the map – not only in sports, but in everything!"

The amazing story of this triumph against all odds is told through the eyes of six American basketball players who joined Maccabi Tel Aviv and features Basketball Hall of Famer and NBA legend Bill Walton, who declared Maccabi Tel Aviv's victory "one of the greatest sporting accomplishments, ever." **Please email soz@societyhillssynagogue.org by Wednesday, January 30, to RSVP for your child to attend "Havdalah and a Movie."**

Our next class-led Shabbat service will feature Kitah Hey on Saturday, February 9, at 10:30 AM. We invite the entire congregation to come join us for a Shabbat morning service filled with song and spirituality. The service will be followed by a delicious lunch, so please **RSVP to Betty at bettyv@societyhillssynagogue.org by Thursday, February 7.**

Please note that school will be closed on **Sunday, February 17**, for Presidents' Weekend. We look forward to a great start to the new semester!

Adult Education

Continued from page 17

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 7–9 PM on the following Tuesdays: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, & 1/29

5779/2018–2019 B'nai Mitzvah

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



Associate Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 4

But synagogue life is not only about the content offered from the Bimah. The success of, say, a vibrant Shabbat-service-going experience, I believe, is as dependent on the community-building efforts as it is on the substance of those services. By that I mean, the likelihood of someone attending Shabbat morning services, for example, depends a great deal on whether or not lunch, wine, and scotch are served afterwards; on whether the time demands of services are reasonable; on whether or not people know certain familiar faces with whom to schmooze will be there; on whether there will be friends for their kids to play with and/or complementary programming for their kids to attend; and on whether they received a text or a phone call (not just a mass email) inviting them to attend. Encouraging people to come to services doesn't depend only on the quality of the prayer service, the rabbi's sermon, or the cantor's melodies.

Again, if I didn't believe in the transformational power of our Jewish traditions and teachings, I wouldn't be a rabbi. I believe that the content of those teachings and services, when integrated thoughtfully, can make a huge difference in people's lives.

But that's why I'm so focused on the trappings that *surround* the content: whether we're making our services, programs, and events easy to fit into your busy schedule; whether we're feeding you; and whether you're connecting with friends in the community and inviting each other to attend so you can hang out with people you know, or want to get to know, through SHS. I believe that if we get that stuff right, then it allows the content—powerful Jewish content, that our ancestors have been wrestling with for millennia, touching on life's most fundamental questions—to impact people's lives directly, in meaningful, holy ways.

It's my dream that each week, attending Shabbat at SHS will be something that people want to do—not because they feel religiously obligated or because they feel like they're supposed to get something out of Jewish worship (though, of course, from my perspective, the latter would be great)—but because SHS is simply where their hearts want to be. I want SHS to be the place where people look forward to coming each week in order to experience nourishment in the forms of Jewish learning and song, communal support, and friendship.

So, to me, it's not, "if you build it, they will come." It's, "if we all build it together each week, then we'll already be there ... for each other."



Hebrew School students with the hanukkah they and their classmates lit using olive oil that they made with an olive press.

Save the Date
JANUARY 13, 11 AM

**Learn How to Make Challah with
 Carmen Hayman
 and Caroline Kamesar**



Details to follow!



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Young Families Group

Join Us for the Next *Friday Nights With Young Families* Event on January 4!

Joanna Hart

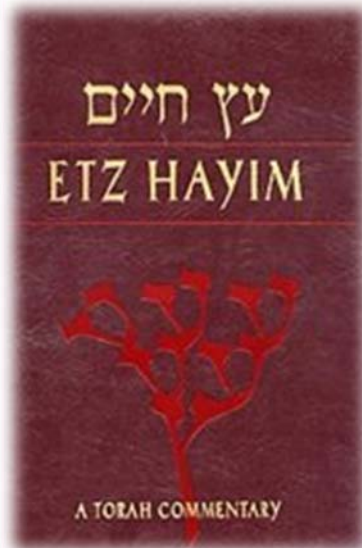
We are a strong, friendly, and diverse group of families who want to support you and your family as you develop your own traditions and sense of community. Our programs are geared to kids from birth to Pre-K, but children of all ages are welcomed with open arms. In addition to our monthly *Friday Nights 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, January 4**. 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: 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!



Religion Committee

Would You Like to Dedicate a Humash?

Marc Schwartz & Terry Novick

As you may have noticed, many volumes of our Etz Hayim Humashim 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 services, please do not return it to the bookcase; rather, ask one of the ushers to set it aside 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 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 \$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@societyhillssynagogue.org or 215.922.6590, ext. #123.



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019, AT 6 PM
RSVP'S REQUIRED



Betty's Sweet Noodle Kugel with Dried Cherries

Ingredients

1 pound of wide egg noodles
 3/4 cup dried sour cherries (4 ounces, chopped)
 2 cups of heavy cream
 2 cups of whole milk cottage cheese
 4 large eggs beaten, plus 2 large egg yolks
 3/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons of sugar
 1 vanilla bean, seeds scraped
 3 cups of corn flakes, coarsely crushed

1/2 cup of pecan halves, finely chopped
 3 tablespoons of unsalted butter, melted
 Salt

Step 1—Preheat the oven to 350. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the egg noodles until al dente. Drain the noodles, reserving 1 cup of the cooking water. Add the chopped sour cherries to the reserved cooking water and let stand for 5 minutes.

Step 2—In a large bowl, whisk the heavy cream with the cottage cheese, beaten eggs, egg yolks, 3/4 cup of the sugar and the vanilla seeds. Drain the dried cherries and add them to the bowl. Stir in the noodles. Pour the noodle mixture into a 9-by-13 inch ceramic baking dish.

Step 3—In another bowl, toss the crushed corn flakes with the chopped pecans, melted butter, a pinch of salt and the remaining 3 tablespoons of sugar. Scatter the corn-flake mixture over the noodles and bake in the center of the oven for about 45 minutes, until the noodle kugel is set and the topping is golden. Transfer the kugel to a rack let cool slightly before serving.

Note: The noodle kugel can be refrigerated for up to 3 days. Bring to room temperature and re-warm before serving.



Who's going to win the most chocolate gelt? Dreidel game masters extraordinaire at the Hanukkah Happening!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	Va-era 5
		New Year's Day Building Closed	Playschool Resumes 7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
6	7	8	9	10	11	Bo 12
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze 1:15 PM Faculty Meeting	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM PS Committee Mtg. 7 PM Lalli Production 7 PM Adult Ed – Rabbi Winokur – Voyage to the Past	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch 7:30 PM Education Committee Mtg.		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service Jay R. Baer Scholar-in- Residence Shabbaton Shabbat Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services Jay R. Baer Scholar-in- Residence Shabbaton Kiddush Lunch
13	14	15	16	17	18	B'shallah 19
SS/HS Tu B Sh'vat 9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Challah Making	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Adult Ed – Rabbi Winokur – Voyage to the Past 7 PM Triple Chai Meeting	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		6:15 PM TGIS habbat Service Featuring Boemjae Kim Shabbat Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	Yitro 26
Building Closed	MLK Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Adult Ed – Rabbi Winokur – Voyage to the Past	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 5:30 PM Havdalah PJ Party
27	28	29	30	31		
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11 AM 5 th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Parent Meeting	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 7 PM Adult Ed – Rabbi Winokur – Voyage to the Past	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Mishpatim 2
					6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 5:30 PM HS Havdalah & Movie Night
3	4	5	6	7	8	T'rumah 9
9 AM SS 11 AM HS 11 AM Rabbi Kamesar with HS Parents	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz 7 PM ECM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		5:30 PM Young Families Shabbat 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10:15 AM Shabbat Study 10:30 AM Hey Class Service Inter-NOSH-ional Night - Offsite
10	11	12	13	14	15	T'tzavveh 16
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11 AM-1 PM B'nai Mitzvah Parents	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS 6:30 PM PS Committee Mtg.	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch 7:30 PM Ed Committee Mtg.		PS & Office Closed 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services
17	18	19	20	21	22	Ki Tissa 23
Building Closed	President's Day Building Closed	7:15 AM Minyan 1 PM Annual Calendar Meeting 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch		6:15 PM TGIShabbat Service Shabbat Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 10 AM Services 10:15 AM Shabbat Study Lunch & Learn with Michele Margolis
24	25	26	27	28		
9 AM SS 9:15 AM Nuts & Bolts 11 AM HS 11 AM Bagels in Babylonia 11:15 AM Nosh & Schmooze	6 PM Beginners Hebrew with Marc Schwartz 7 PM BDM	7:15 AM Minyan 4:15 PM HS	7 PM Hebrew with Bruce Hirsch			

Kesher

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