

Kislev-Adar I 5784 | December 2023-February 2024

Issue No. 116

HAKESHER

הַקֶּשֶׁר

THE CONNECTION

Celebrate Hanukkah with us!

Pages 12-13



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facebook.com/rscpggh



**RODEF SHALOM
CONGREGATION**



**RODEF SHALOM
CONGREGATION**

We are a Reform Jewish Congregation dedicated to melding the traditions of our faith with contemporary life. Our Congregation, chartered in 1856, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a City of Pittsburgh Historic Landmark. We are a diverse congregation engaged in social issues, culture, and learning—made up of multigenerational, multicultural, and interfaith families and individuals.

Our doors are open to everyone.

Staff Phone Extensions

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**UNION for
REFORM
JUDAISM**

A PROUD MEMBER OF THE URJ



The mission of Rodef Shalom Congregation is to build and sustain a vibrant Reform Jewish community. We guide and support our members in living full Jewish lives throughout the life cycle, based on Torah (study), avodah (worship), and gemilut hasadim (acts of loving kindness). We strive to be a national and international leader in Jewish thought and practice.

We are writing this on October 27, 2023, exactly five years after the synagogue shooting which took the lives of 11 beloved Pittsburgh Jews. This massacre has been called the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. Even five years later it is still unfathomable. We are in the midst of the war between Israel and Gaza precipitated by what has been called "the worst single-day slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust." This too is unfathomable.

Many of us don't know where to turn, or may find hostility where once there was solidarity and kinship. The fifth verse of Psalm 118 teaches, "In my grief I called out to Adonai, and I was answered in great relief." This is a poetic interpretation; more literally, we are calling out "from a narrow place" and God answers us "in great expanse." When we feel alienated or disappointed in our wider community, we can turn to the expansiveness of Jewish connection to find comfort and community.

At vigils and commemorations we see and feel the support and understanding of others, text study anchors us to age-old truths and insights, community service is both the right thing to do and makes us feel better. Shabbat is an oasis of hope and wholeness amidst whatever brokenness happened during the week. Finally, perhaps the most salient lesson from 10/27 is that we are strongest together.

Throughout this publication you will find myriad ways to experience the vibrancy of Jewish culture and tradition. Our prayer services offer a space to connect with your soul and perhaps offer hope and solace in this difficult time. Torah study and classes with our rabbis and cantor connect us to the wisdom of Jewish thought and illuminate texts with lessons that are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago. If you are seeking a place of expansiveness, then we are here for you. We welcome you to this sacred space and invite you to join us in exploring Judaism and honoring our tradition which has endured and thrived through so many generations, including in times of persecution and uncertainty. We encourage you to find your best doorway into Jewish life and community.



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Cantor Toby Glaser
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Lunch Time Liturgy with Cantor Toby Glaser

Thursdays • January 11 – February 8, 2024
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Free for Members • \$54 for non-members

Register at rodefshalom.org/lunch

Bring your own lunch and join Cantor Glaser to look at the prayers of Kabbalat Shabbat—the opening psalms and prayers of the Shabbat evening service. This class will be recorded for those unable to attend.

Wise Aging: Growing into Wisdom with Rabbis Sharyn Henry and Jessica Locketz

Mondays • January 8 – February 12, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Free for Members • \$72 for non-members

Register at rodefshalom.org/wiseaging

There is no set of instructions for growing older—for our shifts in our social and support networks, the feeling of invisibility, dealing with aging parents, the mixed signals of entering retirement, or the surprising turn in our relationships with ourselves and others. On the other hand, we can count ourselves as part of an extraordinary generation of pioneers in understanding and making the most of this "third chapter" of life. Many of us will be blessed with unprecedented healthy years ahead, full of potential for learning and growth.

This experience is designed for Jewish adults 55 and older; anyone open to conversations about what it means not just to get older but to age wisely.

Reach out to Rabbi Jessica Locketz at locketz@rodefshalom.org to find out more.



Bill Battistone
President of the Board of Trustees
battistone@rodefshalom.org

Dear members and friends,

Like many of you over the past several weeks, I have struggled mightily with the events in Israel, and the subsequent reaction of many in America and the global society. It has created a situation for me where I have tended to feel paralyzed; paralyzed because of the heartbreak I feel for the people of Israel, and paralyzed because of lacking the ability to feel like I can adequately articulate the events in the appropriate context.

Israel holds a special place in the hearts of so many of us at Rodef Shalom. It is a nation intertwined deeply with our Jewish heritage, and a symbol of resilience and the enduring drive for peace and justice. In the last several years, while the challenges the region has faced have been very real and extensive, Israel remains a beacon of hope for all Jews.

The current situation in Israel, like many in 2023, is complex and multifaceted. While the headlines tend to be flooded with sensationalized stories or one-sided biased accounts, we must continue to remember the impact they have on our brothers and sisters in Israel, and we stand in solidarity with them during this time.

At Rodef Shalom, we must recommit ourselves to promoting dialogue, understanding, patience, empathy, and peace. We must make a conscious effort to remind ourselves that being members of Rodef Shalom does not mean that we simply attend services or spend time in the building. Being members of Rodef Shalom is a contract between us and the entire world to constantly seek peace and pursue it. We must rededicate ourselves to the namesake of this Congregation, for this is no greater purpose than to consistently seek peace and become a blessing to those around us.

Although I have felt paralyzed at times, I have found spiritual comfort in this community, knowing that no matter what happens, our commitment to peace will always see us through. As we continue to come together, let us remember the sacred bond that connects us to Israel and its people, and may our words and actions continue to inspire those around us.

Thank you for being a part of this community, and for agreeing to be pursuers of peace together.

L'Shalom,

Rabbinic Search Update

Hal Coffey and Susan Friedberg Kalson
Committee Chairs

We are pleased to report that the work of the Rabbinic Search Committee is well underway. To prepare our application for the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the rabbinic organization that guides the placement of Reform Rabbis in Union for Reform Judaism congregations, Committee members fanned out to dozens of congregants to determine what attributes are most important in a new Rabbi for Rodef Shalom. Thanks to all who responded, we were able to use that information in drafting the application to post our position with the CCAR.

Rabbis began applying shortly afterward, and the committee met in mid-October to review the applications received to date. By the time you read this, we will have conducted several virtual interviews with top candidates and will likely be moving toward inviting one or more to Pittsburgh for in-person interviews in late autumn or early winter, consistent with the timeline we established for this process. We look forward to engaging the Congregation at that time and will keep everyone informed of opportunities to meet any candidate who visits Rodef Shalom and to share your feedback with our committee.



Strength in Partnership

Barb Feige, The Murray Klein Executive Director

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Jews are a community. Jews need a community. We have seen this now, maybe more than ever. We pray together, we rally together, we laugh and cry and grieve and worry together. And, of course, we eat together.

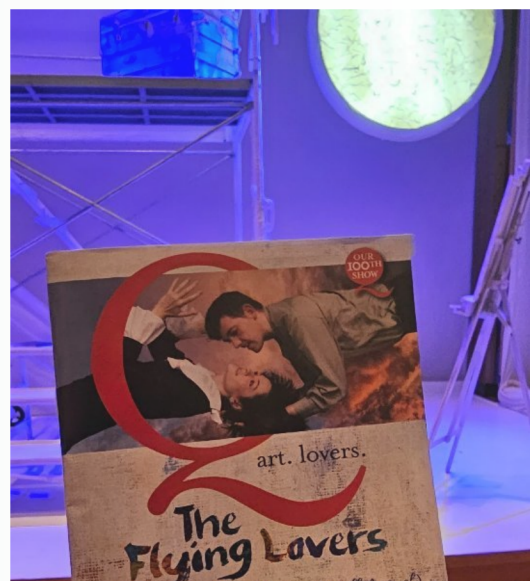
I'd like to highlight some of our community partnerships that have sustained and strengthened us.

Violins of Hope is an amazing exhibit and the numerous affiliated programs and events. Rodef Shalom was a sponsoring partner. We hosted the training sessions for the exhibit docents. We displayed the mosaics of the *From Darkness to Light* exhibit, which were created in response to the 10/27/2018 attack. We are home to the Tuesday Musical Club whose October concert featured a violin, viola, and cello from the Violins of Hope collection. And our very own Mayda Roth, Director of Development, played one of the violas in concert with the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra, citing it as one of the most emotional performances of her life.

Quantum Theatre chose Levy Hall for their 100th production—*The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk: The Chagall Musical*. They transformed Levy Hall into a canvas for music, light, color, and a love story for the ages. The second preview performance was free for Rodef Shalom members as a thank you for our partnership.

Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Homewood provides outreach and resources for many in the community. Rodef Shalom has contributed to their efforts with support from our Philanthropic Fund. Rev. Torrey Johnson was one of the first in Pittsburgh to reach out with sympathy and support following the October 7th attack in Israel.

Jewish Family and Community Services Refugee Resettlement Program partnered with volunteers from our congregation to organize, shop and set up a home for a new refugee family in October as part of their Welcome Home Setup Project. Our members literally went to an empty apartment and filled it with bedding, clothing, food items and other supplies to welcome a family from South America to their new home in Pittsburgh. As the project co-chair Salem Leaman wrote in an email, "... we achieved a small milestone in Rodef Shalom's long tradition of Tikkun Olam and Derech Eretz in the form of outreach to the greater community around us."



Rodef Shalom is a community and it belongs to and participates with other communities. It makes all us stronger, happier, and more blessed.



Bringing Joy and Light through Play

Ellie Feibus, Sidney and Shirley C. Rapport Family Center Director

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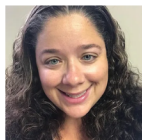
Each and every human being in this world has within them a light. In different situations our lights shine in different ways. Some days our light is very bright and others it may shine a little less. We maintain the light inside ourselves by allowing room for wonder which leads to play.

Young children who have only been a part of our world for a few years are just learning about how to interact with the world: knowing how it works, what skills they need to live among others, and what feels safe. Sometimes their light is bright which causes them to giggle and shine and sometimes it can be hidden when they need to cry or hide. Learning how their light works is where play comes in.

Through play, children learn about how their light effects themselves and others. They begin to understand how the environment and the people around them affect who they are and how much of themselves they are willing to share. When children play, they discover boundaries and build trust with peers and adults. They learn to understand their feelings and emotions. They learn who they are. It is when they discover this, that they open themselves to questioning, wondering, and imagining, the basis of all play.

A focus of the Berkman Family Center and our educators to provide children with an environment that promotes wonder and recognizes that each child has within them a unique light that will intrinsically guide them in understanding who they are and what their impact will be. Our educators are dedicated to assisting our children in the process of finding themselves through intentional play that encourages exploration of self, environment, and community. It is through this process that young children become the light of our future, for all grownups were once children, yet few of them remember. Through play we can remember the joy and light we all bring to the world.





My First Full Summer at Jewish Overnight Camp *(and yes, I was an elder millennial when this happened)*

Yael Eads, Youth Director and B'Mitzvah Coordinator
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If old...er me would have told younger me that she would LOVE Jewish Overnight Camp, younger me would have laughed in her face! Younger me went to overnight camp... once, for one week, with a bad attitude, got kicked by a horse, and then never returned. At least not until she hit that elder millennial status.

I have had the privilege to spend the last few summers working with the Jewish Life team at URJ Camp Harlam, and just this past summer spent my entire summer there. To say I am lucky is an understatement. I get to work with an inspiring group of camp leaders, numerous rabbis, cantors, and educators from around the country, an international staff that brings amazing energy and excitement to our camp community, and of course hundreds and hundreds of campers! And that isn't even the best part! On a personal level, the most rewarding and most valuable part of the experience for me is how much I have learned; about Jewish education, about camp, and about myself. I joked around a lot at camp every time I learned something new, that this was "chapter____ in my book about my summer at camp." If I had to actually write that book I would never finish it.

So if I, as an elder millennial, was able to learn and grow so much through my summer at camp, can you imagine how much growth and learning happens for our campers? I can. As both the parent of two campers and a staff member who worked with every single camper who came through the gates last summer, I was able to watch this happen in real time. I observed campers open their minds to new experiences and learn new things. I watched them make new friends and create connections unlike the ones we make at home. Camp is fun, we know this, but camp offers up experiences and learning that home and school cannot. I could start that book, and I could ask you to read all 1,000 pages of it, but no book would ever be able to truly explain the experience. The only way to do that is to see it for yourself through the eyes and experiences of your children.



Save the Dates

Wednesday, December 13

Youth Hanukkah Celebration
and Social Action Event

Wednesday, December 27

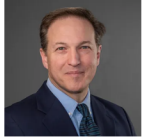
Prepare a meal for those in need
at Our Giving Kitchen

Sunday, January 21

Kindergarten-5th Grade:
A Tasty Tu B'Shevat

Sunday, January 28

6th-12th grade:
Purim Carnival Preparations begin



Creating Spiritual Resiliency

Rabbi Larry Freedman, Director of the Joint Jewish Education Program

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The weeks following the attack on Israel have been difficult. For our children, we worry about what they will see, how they will feel. We want to protect them from evil, but we can't protect our children from the ways of the world. And maybe we shouldn't. We parents and teachers should be the ones who help them understand the world we live in. They will find guidance somewhere. Better it come from us than the playground or smartphones.

What do we tell them? This is the time for resiliency and in particular, spiritual resiliency. Spiritual resiliency is the faith in and connection to something larger than ourselves. It is a belief and mindset that helps us feel not alone when the going gets tough. Spiritual resiliency is found in tight bonds to school or friends or teammates or family or Jewish community or God or any group that shares things in common. Spiritual resiliency is that place you go when you need to take a deep breath, understand your purpose, be with people who support you so you can be ready to face a new day.

As I get older, I find myself at the stage where I look at my children and wonder how I did. Truly I raised nice, polite, upstanding young men. But did I help them foster spiritual resiliency? Did I help them gain tight connections to something larger than themselves? My household engaged in all manner of Jewish behaviors. Mandatory Shabbat dinner (which they replicate). Sukkah in the backyard. Decorations for Hanukah and excited cleaning for Pesach. Shabbat services often enough where they feel confident. All the usual. However, in a desire to let them make their own way I'm not sure if I shared my values directly. I don't think I taught them directly about this or that Jewish value or custom. We just did them. And while no child likes a pedantic father, I may have missed the chance for them to push back, argue, consider in ways that draw one near to the wisdom and support Judaism can offer.

But we did say *motzie* before (almost) every dinner. And we did have Jewish art in the house and conversations about Jewish topics in the news and Jewish music playing from time to time. They know they are part of a larger people. I hope it helps them to be resilient at this time.

I can only say that spiritual resiliency is not a passive experience. I would challenge parents to think deeply about how you are connected to Judaism, how it gives you support and share that feeling explicitly with your children. For this moment, let them know how you are getting through. What gives you strength? How is your Judaism helping you? Model for your children in an active way how to get through the tough times. I think they'll be grateful.

JJEP religious school students wrote letters to Roni Bartov's friends in the Israeli army. Roni is our shinshin from Israel, here in Pittsburgh for a year of service to help strengthen our community's connection with modern Israel and the concept of shared peoplehood.



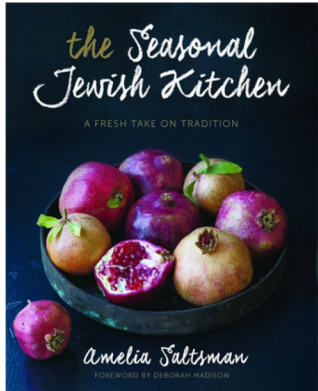


Winter Reads

Sam Siskind, Librarian

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We have arrived at the end of 2023 and that means it is time to dust off the hanukkiah, get the skillet sizzling for potato latkes and win a dreidel game or two. It is a time to grab a book and learn some more about Hanukkah that goes beyond the candles, delicious treats and games. Here are four suggestions of books available at the Lippman Library for Hanukkah, as well as the following holiday, Tu b'Shevat, the birthday of the trees.



The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen

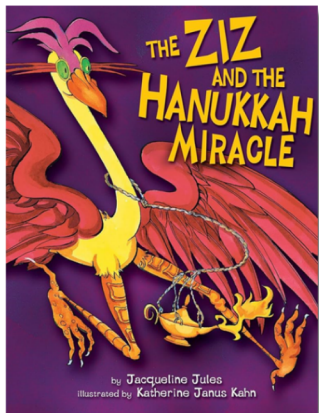
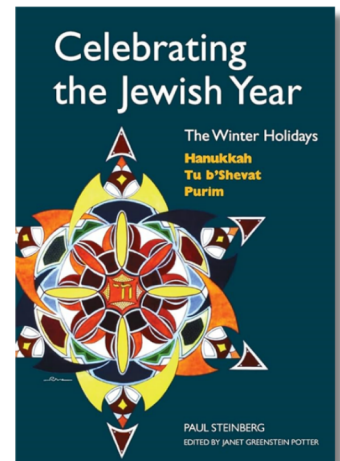
by Amelia Saltsman

This cookbook offers recipes in a Jewish calendar and season-based format. Included are several recipes each for Hanukkah and Tu b'Shevat. Among the Hanukkah recipes are popular, standard dishes such as potato latkes and brisket, as well as more creative ones such as sweet potato and butternut squash mini-latkes, and Iraqi funnel cakes. The Tu b'Shevat section includes adventurous entries as well, including carob molasses ice cream and peppered red wine fruit compote. Check out this book and give some of these a try!

Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays

by Paul Steinberg

This book discusses the origins of and provides various readings connected with the winter holidays of Hanukkah, Tu b'Shevat and Purim. The Hanukkah section includes a reading on Ma'oz Tzur and Redemption, as well as the everlasting aspect of Hanukkah from the view of Nachmanides. The Tu b'Shevat section includes writings on awakening to nature, and the Joy on Tu b'Shevat from the view on the Baal Shem Tov. Though Purim is further away, this book has a large section on that holiday as well, and is worth an early look-ahead.



The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle

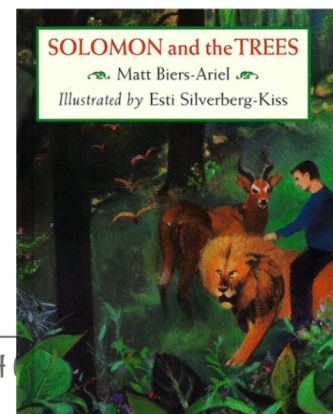
by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn

For older preschool/younger grade-school aged children, this delightful story tells of a mythical large bird, the Ziz, who wants light for himself to be able to see at night. G-d provides the Ziz with a lamp, and the Ziz comes across the menorah at the Holy Temple. He uses his lamp to help keep the Menorah lit, and thus provide his light for others. Though this book is intended for children, it will put a smile on the faces of adults and parents as well.

Solomon and the Trees

by Matt Biers-Ariel, illustrated by Esti Silverberg-Kiss

For younger school-aged children, this story for Tu b'Shevat is a retelling of the life of Solomon and discusses his love of trees and nature as well as his desire to help grow and preserve the ecosystem. Though not a literal Torah story, the main theme of the story is the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.





Archiving 159 Years of Marriages

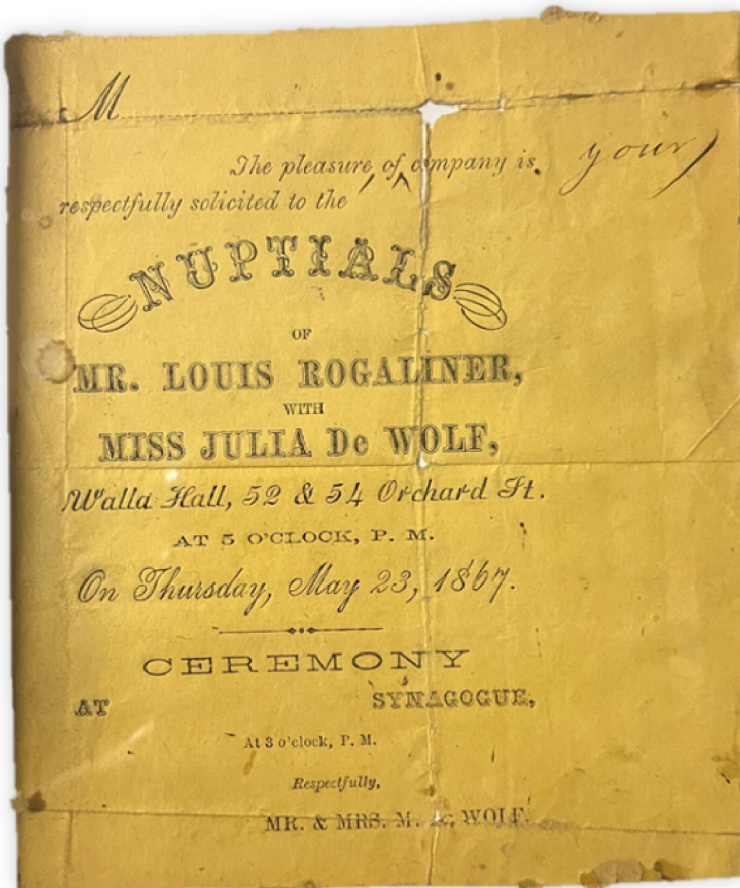
Martha L. Berg, Archivist

berg@rodefshalom.org · 412.621.6566 x131

Our guest columnist is Amy Leaman, lifelong Rodef Shalom member, current Board member, and Archives volunteer.

"Hi! Family lore says that my great-grandparents were married by a rabbi at Rodef Shalom. Do you have any information?"

Until recently, there was no database to consult to answer a question like that. Finding information would require a researcher to know a time frame, and perhaps even a rabbi's name, in addition to the names of the bride and groom. Rodef Shalom's available marriage records are scattered throughout the archives, with details to be found in hand-written journals, folders of loose county license stubs, and various correspondence.



Second oldest documented Rodef Shalom wedding.

In 2021, I began working on a project to compile all of the available information into a single, searchable spreadsheet. The current spreadsheet catalogs over 2100 individual marriages.

Rodef Shalom's rabbis kept marriage records differently. Rabbi Levy kept a register that recorded not only each bride's and groom's name, but their ages, residences, places of birth, parents' names, and the groom's occupation. Dr. Freehof had a journal in which he numbered each ceremony, along with the bride's and groom's name and residences. In the 1940's, each groom's military rank was often noted. Dr. Freehof also indicated – in Hebrew – whether a bride or groom was divorced or had converted to Judaism. He linked entries to each other. For example, entry #986 had a note to see entry #389, showing that he had officiated at the wedding of a child of a couple he had previously married. Dr. Jacob saved correspondence and yearly lists of marriages he performed. Many of our rabbis kept the stubs of the licenses issued by various Pennsylvania counties. Conversely, records maintained by some of the historical associate rabbis are not present.

The earliest marriage record in the archives chronicles the November 16, 1864 union of Jacob Eiseman, Esq. from New York City and Hannah Marks from Allegheny City. Our archival folder contains a photocopy, likely made in the 1960s, of the original marriage license along with a typewritten transcript. W. Armhold, Minister of Rodef Sholem Congregation, performed the ceremony with Judge Josiah Cohen and Moses Oppenheimer as witnesses. The most recent marriage record in the archives was performed by Rabbi Danny Young in 2008. Along the way, I found many familiar names from our Congregation's history.

If you'd like to know what records the archives might have regarding a family wedding, contact me or Martha. We might be able to find a license or journal entry for you.



Toward Peace and Light

Mayda Roth, CFRE, Director of Development

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Felicia Herman, columnist at *eJewishPhilanthropy* urged readers after the Simchat Torah massacre "...if you are on the side of good and you condemn evil, now is the time to show it." It is with great pride that the Board of Trustees announces the Congregation's 2024 Pursuer of Peace honorees: Laura Ellsworth, Jones Day, Partner-in-Charge of Global Community Services Initiatives, and Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh. In response to the attack at Tree of Life, Ms. Ellsworth and Mr. Nordenberg created the Eradicate Hate Global Summit, the world's most comprehensive anti-hate conference.

The foundational white paper of the Summit included Nelson Mandela's quote: "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Our honorees will be celebrated on Sunday June 23, 2024. To serve on the Tribute Committee, please contact me at roth@rodefshlaom.org. Join us in honoring Ms. Ellsworth and Mr. Nordenberg, champions in denouncing hate and developing new solutions to prevent hate-motivated violence.



PURSUER of PEACE

Save the Date

Sunday · June 23, 2024

“
There are only two ways to live
your life. One is as though nothing
is a miracle. The other is as
though everything is a miracle.

-Albert Einstein

The words of Albert Einstein are pause for thought. As we celebrate miracle of Chanukah in 5784, let us remember that every single day is a miracle.

Understand that since we write our articles long before you receive this issue, war is currently raging in Israel. Who knows what the situation will be in December? I wish you the best for the upcoming holiday season, but I hope, too, for a miracle. A miracle that our world leaders remain focused on eradicating hate and racing toward peace, as we welcome the light of our Chanukah candles.

Thank you, always, for supporting Rodef Shalom Congregation.



Laura Ellsworth Mark Nordenberg

Creators of the *Eradicate Hate Global Summit*

Rodef Shalom Congregation's 2024 Pursuer of Peace Honorees



Cooper Ryan Sigal February 24

Cooper is a seventh grader at Winchester Thurston. He loves playing sports with his three brothers. His favorite thing to do is to play ice hockey. This is his passion and why he has chosen to help teach younger kids how to play the game he loves as his B'Mitzvah project. Cooper plans to continue his hockey development and growth in other sports.

Mazel Tov!

Anne Clair Goodman on the birth of her son Solomon.

Marcia Levaur in her new home.

Sally and Tim Litman on their 64th anniversary.

Abbott Piontkowski on being called to the Torah as a B'Mitzvah on February 10.

Cooper Ryan Sigal on being called to the Torah as a B'Mitzvah on February 24.

Welcome to our New Members

Esther Schewel and Matt Abatecola

Rachel Fogel and Kevin Dowling

Stanley Kanner

Sarah Linder Marx and Christopher Marx

Marlee and James Myers

Terri and Oscar Reicher

Olga and Alexander Sobkin

Laura and Lewis Sohinki and their sons Charlie and Ben

May their memory be a blessing

Kent Bloomer

Sandra "Sandie" Brand

Arthur "Art" Cook

Barbara Ehrlich

Dr. Norman Magid

Robert Mandell

Jack Marcus

Charles Reichblum

Richard "Dick" Rubinoff

Hanukkah Online

December 7-14 • 5:30 PM

Join us on Zoom this Hanukkah as we light candles together, sharing the light from inside our homes.

REGISTER AT [RODEFHALOM.ORG/ZOOMHANUKKAH](https://rodefshalom.org/zoomhanukkah)

HANUKKAH

DEC
01

Hanukkah Shabbat with You
4:30 PM

Families with young children are invited to join us for a pre-Shabbat playdate, services, and dinner. \$5 per family.

DEC
08

Shabbat Hanukkah
5:30 PM

Bring your Hanukkah menorah to light prior to our service, and stay afterward for our oneg to enjoy the light over latkes and sufganiyot!

DEC
10

Latkepalooza at Beth Shalom
10:00 AM

Games, crafts, prizes, donuts, and latkes! Everyone is welcome to JJEP's annual community Hanukkah celebration. \$5 per person or \$20 per family at the door.

DEC
13

Youth Hanukkah Celebration
& Social Action Event
6:00 PM

Our youth group is invited to light our congregational Hanukkah and then stay for a pizza dinner, crafts, games, and a social action activity.

DEC
14

LIGHT! A Multifaith Celebration
Through Song
7:00 PM

Hear our own Rodef Shira Choir and others from faith communities around the city for this special concert at the JCC in Squirrel Hill.

Find out more and register for programs at rodefshalom.org



Making a Difference in our Community

Join us for our upcoming initiatives!

In October, the Community Outreach and Social Action (COSA) Committee of Rodef Shalom Congregation had a successful start for its Welcome Home Team Refugee Resettlement Program in cooperation with the Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh. Several members worked together to shop for, and set up, a new home for a refugee family about to arrive in Pittsburgh from their native home. This is truly an act of Tikkun Olam. In order to continue working on this important project, we need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Salem Leaman at fdnyqm@aol.com or 412.781.4642.



Our volunteers getting ready to set up a home for a refugee family.

Finally, please join us. Whether your heart is in setting up a home for an immigrant family, helping with drives to meet critical community needs, or finding a place to take action on the overwhelming issue of climate change, help us in our commitment to Tikkun Olam. Contact us at cosa@rodefshalom.org to get involved.

Thank you,
Your COSA Co-Chairs
Karen Brean and Rebecca Gildengers

In addition to the Refugee Resettlement Project, the COSA Committee has planned a variety of programs over the next several months. The Committee is bringing back three drives that were well received last year - a holiday gift drive with Holy Cross Church in Homewood, a sock drive, and a diaper drive to benefit the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank.

In setting its agenda for the coming year, the COSA Committee has identified climate change as a priority and is investigating working with the organization, "Dayenu, A Jewish Call to Climate Action." Dayenu's mission is "to secure a just, livable and sustainable world for all people for generations to come by building a multi-generational Jewish Movement that confronts the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action."



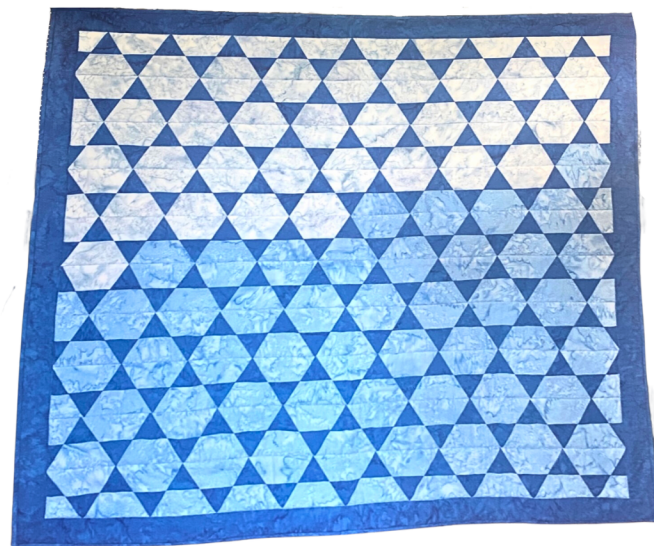
DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM

Two of our very talented members, Sabina Rosenfeld and Nancy Rosenthal, have quilted a Simcha/Memorial wall hanging to be displayed near Cohen Chapel. The tribute quilt will showcase the special moments and memories of our members. Commemorate, honor, or memorialize a family member or friend by adding a dedication on one of the 77 Stars of David on our handmade quilt for \$54.00.

Proceeds will be used to purchase essential kitchen items, including high-quality cookware, bakeware, cutlery, accessories, small appliances, chafing dishes, serviceware, and cabinet locks. With our kitchen increasingly in demand, these upgrades will benefit our congregants and scores of organizations that use our facility.

To dedicate a star online, please visit bit.ly/wrsquilt.



Thank you for creating your special star!

BROTHERHOOD

Tim Litman, Brotherhood President

litpak@aol.com

Since its inception in 1917, the Brotherhood of Rodef Shalom has been dedicated to providing religious and financial support to the Congregation. Our members' contributions to our community span a wide range of activities, from cooking and serving at the Purim Carnival to ushering at services. We help our wider community by collecting day-old baked goods and produce for the East End Cooperative ministry. Further, we are thrilled to sponsor events such as the East Winds Symphonic Band Cabaret Concert, which raised nearly \$1,500 for the JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry.



Our Yahrzeit program, which provides personalized reminders to congregants as a yahrzeit approaches, as well as yahrzeit candles, is yet another way we extend our service to the community.

We warmly welcome new members who share our values and commitment to the community. Membership costs \$36.00 per year, and our monthly meetings are held on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month through June 2024. To join, please make a check payable to Rodef Shalom Congregation, with Brotherhood noted in the memo, and mail it to our attention at Rodef Shalom Congregation.



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August 1 through October 31, 2023

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**Z"l, of blessed memory*

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CutTime Simfonica

An octet of musicians bring orchestral sounds where a full orchestra can't fit!

Monday • December 4, 2023
Levy Hall • 7:00 P.M.

Roy Sonne: Violin Favorites

Sonne returns with musical selections reflecting his life as a violinist

Monday • March 25, 2024
Levy Hall • 7:00 P.M.

Rodef Shalom through the Eyes of Children

*Artwork by children in the
Berkman Family Center
April 1 — May 17, 2024*

Opening Reception • Commons Area
Friday • April 5, 2024 • 4:30 P.M.

Chiu/Ostrakovna Duo

*Yeeha Chiu, piano, and
Eva Ostrakovna, soprano,
perform beloved classical works*

Monday • May 6, 2024
Levy Hall • 7:00 P.M.