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HAKESHER

הקשר

THE CONNECTION



RODEF SHALOM
CONGREGATION



RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION

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Bill Battistone

President of the Board of Trustees
battistone@rodefshalom.org

Dear Members and Friends -

Our work on unification since the Congregational vote in the Spring of 2025 has continued to be rooted in change and what comes next, not just for us as Congregants, but for our entire community. Change can be difficult and create levels of stress and uncertainty we have never felt before. I, along with the leadership group, are committed to continuing our work in stewarding in this next era of Reform Judaism for our community and for Pittsburgh.

But in many ways, I am reminded of the past during this season. When the weather begins to turn, and the days become darker, we are reminded of our beautiful tradition of lighting the candles during Hanukkah. I find a level of peace that I struggle to find anywhere else during the season, sitting in the candlelight and reflecting on the generations and generations of people who came before me, who participated in the same rituals. There is beauty in the candlelight, with each night getting slightly more illuminated by the menorah. This serves as a reminder to me that if we continue to stay true to our beliefs and traditions, each day has the opportunity to continue to shine a little bit brighter.

One of the things I treasure about the Jewish tradition is our ability to connect past to future. That is our task not just as Congregants during this time of unification, but as Jews in 2026 and beyond. I hope to continue to find the courage to embrace change, while also honoring our history.

On behalf of my partner Martina, and our daughter Zadie, our best wishes to you and your family during this time of year.

L'Shalom -

IN OUR CONGREGATION

MAZEL TOV ON BECOMING A B'MITZVAH

Eliza Rackoff, Charlie Regan, Scarlett Rock

MAZEL TOV

Patti and Sandy Berman on the birth of their great-grandson, **Deborah and Rabbi Larry Freedman** on the wedding of their son Lev Freedman to Haley Gershman, **Susan and Eric Kruman** on the birth of their granddaughter Imogene Joan Ledewitz and niece of **Nadine Kruman, Donna and Len Ferleger and Brian Kruman, Adrienne and Herbert Mallet** on the birth of their grandson Noah Asher Mallet, **Laura Veach** on the wedding of her son Ari Veach and Maggie Snyder

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hunter and Kai Bell, Anitra and Julius Birnbaum, Ruth and Alan Garfinkel, Jamie and Sam Gerber, Catherine Shea and Anthony Gross, Anat Kohn and Joshua Nellist, Cindi Kordell, Kochav Koren, Lina and Jiles Kurtysh, Emily Brok and Eli LaBelle, Elizabeth and Spencer Lieber, Amy and Joel Lindsey, Anna Schwartz and Daniel Moses, Leslie Ann Pandey, Pamela and Jerome Pier, Amanda and Aaron Pollon, Marla and Ben Pourrabbani, Evelyn and Steven Reis, Patricia and Alan Siger, Lisa Sklar and Austin Gelbard, Johanna and Arnie Sohinki

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING

James Broff, Barton Cowan, Marcia Aarons Deaktor, Janet Weisbrot Hirschberg, Linda Sue Kann, Gerald Marcovsky, Stanley Reis, Reid Ruttenberg, Elaine Wolfe



Caring Committee – Help Us Help Our Congregants

Co-chairs: Tony Richardson-Eckes | overthepond_50@hotmail.com
Karen Brean | kmbrean@gmail.com

Members: Sandy Davis, Nancy Goldstein, Judy Kampert, Andi Kaufman,
Mimsie Leyton, Helen Orringer, Evelyn Reiss, Lewis Sohinki

Do you know someone in our community who needs some extra support—recuperating from an illness, suffering the loss of a loved one, or just going through a difficult time? Although we work closely with our clergy, staff, and lay leaders, the Caring Committee needs your help in identifying folks to whom we should reach out. Since June, the Committee has supported upward of 200 individuals, communicating by cards, text messages, emails, and calls, celebrating life cycle events and reaching out to send sympathy, get well wishes, and “thinking of you” messages.

Prior to the High Holy Days, we partnered with the Caring Committee of Temple Sinai to assemble and deliver Rosh Hashanah bags to all congregants to help folks prepare for the High Holy Days and to celebrate our exciting first year together as one community.

Recently, many on the Committee volunteered for the Shiva Ambassador training.

So please contact us when we can help. And, of course, the Committee is open to any and all who would like to join us to help support our community.



Rabbi David N. Young

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In the Second Century BCE, the Israelites had a rough few years. The Seleucid Empire forced Hellenistic practices on the Jews, and a priestly family, the Hasmoneans, led a revolt against them and won. Though they won the war, the battles were arduous, and many lives were lost. The Temple, the holiest place for the Jewish people, had been ransacked, and the altar was desecrated by the Hellenists who sacrificed pigs there, knowing it was an affront to the Israelites.

Even after the success of battle, the toll it takes lingers. I can imagine a group of battle-weary soldiers scouting the damage. Through a haze, they come to their holiest, most sacred of locations, to find it destroyed. They cry, put their arms around one another, and shake their heads in disbelief. They take time to mourn, to wonder why, and to pray.

Then they would get to work rebuilding.

The ceremony they had for rededicating the Temple and the festivities following are known today as Chanukah, which means “dedication.” They focused not on the problems of the past, but how they could rebuild and give our people a positive future. They lit lights in dedication, a symbol of God’s everlasting presence in their lives, and they knew that if the lights kept burning, God’s presence would always be with them.

And the lights have been burning. For many years, through the difficult times and through the prosperous times, we have kept the lights burning. We light our Chanukiot to remind us of the miracle of the Hasmonean priests defeating the Greco-Syrian army, because God’s presence was with them. We put them in our window as a sign that we will not let the light go out, no matter what happens. We keep building and growing as a community, because no

setback will be such a deterrent that progress stops.

So may our *Chanukiot* this Chanukah be beacons of light and hope for a better future. May we end 2025 with light, so that 2026 can begin with hope, joy, and peace. May we keep building upon the wonderful successes of our past: personally, as a community, and as a nation. May our lights never go out.



Cantor David E. Reinwald

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Throughout my life, I have lived more years away from my hometown and my family than the amount of time I lived in my hometown of Chicago. I have often found myself away from my family members on both Jewish and secular holidays. Because of this, I have often celebrated these holidays with others—chosen family, so-to-speak, and in doing so, I have experienced many of their cherished family traditions. Each and every family has traditions of this sort, some enduring for countless years. They are very much rituals of their own.

Likewise, at each and every synagogue (and not just our two unifying congregations) there are rituals that find their place and feel sacrosanct to the members. These rituals are called *minhag hamakom*, literally “the custom of the place,” and as clergy, we often initially seek to learn what these are and try to honor them to the best of our ability. For without such rituals, some people would feel like something key was missing. The familiar can often be sacred, even when we do not realize the strong connection we have established with it.

Throughout the past several months, I again have focused on some of the *minhagim* that have always been evident at Temple Sinai, as well as becoming equally aware of some of these customs that were immediately apparent at Rodef Shalom. One is the difference in the way we chant part of the V'ahavta prayer, ending each verse with slightly different notes. These are things that are not easily changeable for they have become strong habit—but in reality, they do not need to be changed. In mid-July, I made mention of these differences at a service and noted that they actually created a harmony when sung at the same time. I encouraged everyone to chant the way they felt most comfortable, for that was the perfect way for each person to approach the prayer. Simply put, there is beauty in the intertwining element of harmony.

More recently, I decided I was going to experiment in doing something of my own. As an attempt to weave the traditions of both congregations, I started switching between the ending melody of each verse trading back-and-forth each time I came to the end. In a way, I created a brain teaser for myself that was, in turn, also creating a hybrid of both congregation's traditions. Truth be told, I have more often actually chanted the V'ahavta (and chant any Torah portion, for that matter) using the lower melody that is custom to Rodef Shalom, but over the past three and a half years, I have become also very tied to the higher melody as sung at Temple Sinai. They are both equally familiar to me, and I find it a fun way to honor both traditions.

Similarly, when I celebrate holidays with others, I have moments that blend both the *minhag hamakom* of those I am with right alongside the memories I bring with me. And, in those moments, something new and sacred is created blending past and present in a wholly authentic way.

Shabbat Hanukkah

Friday, December 19

Forbes & Murdoch (Temple Sinai)

Tot Shabbat Service

5:00 p.m. Snacks & Fun

5:15 p.m. Service

Join us for a joyful evening designed for families with children five and under—older siblings and friends are always welcome, too!

Register (below) to join us for our congregational, family-friendly dinner.

Shabbat Hanukkah Dinner and Candle Lighting

5:30 p.m.

Bring your *Hanukkiot* (Hanukkah menorahs), and we'll light them at the beginning of dinner.

Brotherhood will make us a dinner of fresh latkes with applesauce and sour cream, pot roast, salad, chicken nuggets for kids, fruit, buttered noodles, and a vegetarian option on request.

Adults (13+) \$18

Children (0-12) Free

Register at

rodefshalom.org/hanukkah

Shabbat Evening Service

7:00 p.m.

Featuring our
Unified Congregational Choir



Ellie Kleinman-Feibus
Sidney and Shirley C. Rapport Family Center Director
feibus@rodefshalom.org
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“Ellie, can we go for coffee?” This is a question I get asked all of the time by the Berkman Family Center students. It’s not asked in make-believe—they aren’t cooking up some mud coffee on the play yard or asking for a tea party. They are literally asking to go with me to get coffee so that they can share what’s on their mind.

So that is exactly what we do. We grab my giant coffee mug, empty out the cold and forgotten previous cup, and begin our walk to the coffee maker. It’s not a simple walk. There are so many decisions to make. Should we take the elevator, the ramp, or the steps? Or better yet, should we walk through Levy Hall, say “hello” to the Torahs, go up the side stairs, pass Shlomo the Dinosaur, check out the art exhibit in the Commons, and then finally arrive at coffee. The possibilities are endless and the decisions are left solely to the child.

Scarlett, a newly turned three-year-old who has been in school with us since her toddler year, is quite fond of a coffee walk and often schedules them days in advance. A keen observer and deep thinker, Scarlett is wise beyond her years, and our coffee trips allow her space to share. She talks and I listen.

Ellie, I am in a big kid class.

Yes, you are.

You put the babies in the big kid room.

Scarlett, you are correct. We closed the wall to make two rooms and now the toddlers are in one half of the large classroom and the older 3’s and 4’s are in the other half.

Why?

We needed to make space for more children.

Scarlett and I continue our walk. Now with a fresh cup of coffee for me and some ice water for her, she decides that we need to take the old elevator near the Main Sanctuary, up to Falk Library, a quick stop to say hello to Rabbis and friends, and finally a visit to Kate and Yael’s flamingos. Just enough time to process our conversation and prepare to return to work.

I feel like that is a little bit crazy.

What is crazy, Scarlett?

Switching the classes.

Why?

I don’t know it just is.

We leave our conversation here. Scarlett returns to her class and I return to my office. She begins her next set of observations for Friday’s pre-scheduled coffee walk and I start thinking of the next ‘crazy’ idea that she will inevitably have feedback for.

Being able to listen to a child and hear their thoughts and feelings is one of the greatest gifts given to early childhood educators. We have the privilege of being the receivers of their wisdom, and with their straightforward and unfiltered feedback, we have the honor of being the facilitators of their visions.

Shabbat with You

Saturday, December 6
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

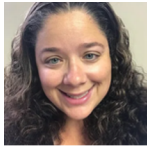
Fifth & Morewood (Rodef Shalom)
\$5 per family

Register at rodefshalom.org/shabbatwithyou

Join us for a family-friendly Shabbat morning service followed by lox, bagels, and play time!



YOUTH GROUP



Yael Eads
Youth Director and B'Mitzvah Coordinator
eads@rodefshalom.org
412.621.6566 x130

The Magic of URJ Camp Harlam—and the Gift That Lasts Beyond Hanukkah



There is something uniquely powerful about the spirit of URJ Camp Harlam. Tucked in the Poconos, it's more than cabins, campfires, and lake days—it's a Jewish community where children grow into confident, compassionate, joyful versions of themselves. At Harlam, campers experience *Joyful Judaism* in a way that feels natural and alive. They sing under the stars, celebrate Shabbat surrounded by friends, and discover that Jewish identity is not just learned—it's lived.

The magic of Camp Harlam lives in the friendships that form when friends become family, in staff who model kindness and leadership, and in the wide range of programming that allows every child to shine. Whether a camper loves sports, music, art, nature, or trying something brand new, they find a place to belong. And with a deep commitment to inclusion and accessibility, camp ensures that cost, background, or experience is never a barrier.

Giving the gift of camp for Hanukkah is more than a present—it's an investment in growth, joy, and Jewish life. Toys and gadgets are exciting for a moment, but a summer at Harlam builds confidence, independence, and lifelong memories. It teaches resilience through small challenges and creates space for kids to discover their best selves in a safe, nurturing environment.

As the Hanukkah candles bring light into our homes, the gift of camp brings light into a child's future. It's a gift that doesn't end when the holiday does—it echoes in friendships, values, and stories that last a lifetime.



Save the Dates

Sunday, December 7
Candle Crafting for Hanukkah

Sunday, January 18
Social Action Sunday

Sunday, February 22
Hamantashen Baking





Sam Siskind

Librarian

siskind@rodefshalom.org

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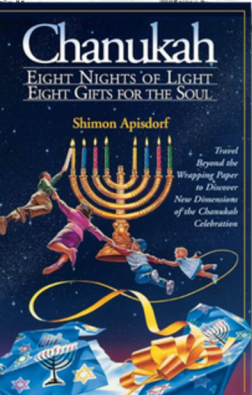
The leaves are changing and falling from the trees, a chilly breeze has entered the air, and the end of street cleaning season in the City of Pittsburgh is fast approaching. In other words, we are nearing another winter season and with it, the holidays of Hanukkah (or as a book selection below spells it, “Chanukah”) and Tu B’Shevat. Below are four titles connected with these holidays available at the Lippman Library.



Little Red Ruthie

by Gloria Koster, Illustrated by Sue Eastland

For children ages 4-8, this is a clever adaptation of the classic Little Red Riding Hood fairytale, incorporated into the story of Hanukkah. The two may not seem to go together, but in this story the two are intertwined into a unified, consistent narrative. What is most effective is how the main points of the holiday are utilized, including the story of the Maccabees, lighting the Hanukkah, and of course, eating the delicious treat of potato latkes. This book should be delightful for children and adults as well.



Chanukah: Eight Nights of Light, Eight Gifts for the Soul

by Shimon Apisdorf

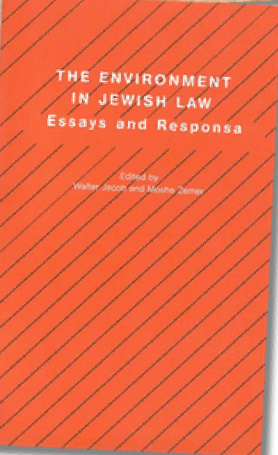
For adults, this (appropriately) eight-chapter book revisits the story of the holiday, and applies the aspects into the modern Jewish world. For example, the book has a chapter titled, “Miracle Large and Small,” referring to the victory of the Maccabees and the apocryphal story of the oil lasting for eight days. The book connects this with stories from people who have felt the workings of something beyond regular everyday happenings and had things work out against all odds.



The Forever Garden

by Laurel Snyder & Samantha Cotterill

For children ages 4-8, this tells the story of a girl who helps her neighbor, who is a garden lover, with doing her gardenwork. In the process, she learns skills and techniques and develops a gardening passion of her own. In a heartwarming ending, the beloved neighbor moves, and girl passes her knowledge to her new neighbors. Though not specifically a Tu B’Shevat story, this strongly alludes to aspects of the holiday including caring for nature, and is a sweet story for children which adults will appreciate as well.



The Environment in Jewish Law, Essays and Responsa **edited by Walter Jacob and Moshe Zemer**

This journal, which the late, esteemed Rabbi Walter Jacob helped to edit and compile, consists of five essays by various writers connecting Jewish ideas and views on nature and the environment. Rabbi Jacob whom along with his wife, Irene, was passionate about gardening, himself wrote the first selection, titled “Eco-Judaism – Does it Exist?” Jacob discusses what Scripture states in terms of the relationship between humans and nature, while providing many verses as evidence.

Scan to search our library's catalog online!





Rabbi Larry Freedman,
Director, Unified Religious School
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There is a classic argument between Rabbis Hillel and Shammai about whether we should start Hanukkah with eight candles and have one less each night or start with one candle and add each night. No doubt you know the answer that won. Hillel argued that we should add to holiness each day, not detract from it, so we should add more light each time we light the Hanukkah candles.

“Adding holiness” is a curious phrase. There is a mystical (Kabbalah) classic idea that holiness is “above” with God, and when we say a blessing, we bring some of that holiness “down” to our realm, our world. Saying a *bracha* then becomes more than just a moment of gratitude or an uplifting communal behavior, but an actual channeling of actual holiness from the actual heavens above (or wherever holiness resides). Can we take a moment to imagine and sit with the idea that we—you and me—have the power to bring holiness into our lives and the lives of those around us? I like the idea that my actions can change the atmosphere, add gravitas, or as the influencers say, “create a vibe.” This is a very sophisticated idea, but not beyond our students. We do, in fact, want to start the conversation asking, “What is it you do when you say a prayer, or celebrate a holiday, or live up to an ethical responsibility?” The action is important but the action isn’t the only goal. The



feelings we get, the atmosphere we create—that is us bringing down holiness. Heady stuff to be sure, but also powerful if we can accept this idea that what we do can be oh so much more than merely good ideas or traditions for their own sake.

Meanwhile, back in the tangible world, exciting things are happening in the school. We welcomed 36 new students at our Consecration. In the fall, students got creative with Sukkot designs, while other grades dug into understanding Torah and so much more. And it has been great having all of our clergy so present leading services, teaching classes, and supporting the education of our children.



Roar! It's Dino-kkah!

Wednesday, December 10

5:30 PM at Fifth & Morewood (Rodef Shalom)

Families with young children are invited to join Sam Siskind, Ellie Kleinman-Feibus, and Danie Oberman for a dinosaur-themed Hanukkah celebration with story time, dinner, and a craft! RSVP at rodefshalom.org/dino



Latkepalooza

Sunday, December 14

10:00 AM - Noon

Congregation Beth Shalom

Games, crafts, prizes, donuts and latkes! Everyone is welcome to join us for our Unified Religious School's community Hanukkah celebration!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION

Rebecca Gildengers, COSA Committee Chair

Karen Brean, COSA Committee Co-Chair

cosa@rodefshalom.org

This spring to fall, Community Outreach and Social Action activities included a diaper drive and ongoing partnering with Temple Sinai to cook and serve monthly dinners for the East End Cooperative Ministry. We always welcome more cooks! Our SOCKtober drive supporting EECM and shelters has concluded, but hat collections through the Women of Rodef Shalom continue.

Jewish Family and Community Services support continues through helping purchase household items as part of their refugee and immigrant services, and organizing their donation space. Over the High Holy Days, we supported the Religious Action Center's Welcoming Policy, advocating for school boards to welcome all students.

Several COSA members have developed an interfaith volunteering opportunity with St. James Catholic Church in Wilkinsburg, which does significant work helping underserved families. They can use help with one such effort to provide food boxes to over 300 families. We need volunteers to help divide large quantities of food into packages for each family, which can fill a family pantry for a month. This great opportunity to cooperate with St. James in a community mitzvah that will foster goodwill through interfaith activity. To learn more, please contact Bob Rosenthal at 412-874-8800 or email bobnancyrosenthal1@verizon.net with the subject line of "St. James Church."

Look for upcoming activities in the congregation's weekly emails or contact COSA at cosa@rodefshalom.org.

"...love [the stranger] as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"

Leviticus 19:34

BROTHERHOOD

Bill Klingensmith

President, Rodef Shalom Brotherhood

brotherhood@rodefshalom.org

Our Brotherhood continues to prioritize in-person events in collaboration with Temple Sinai Brotherhood. We merged our email distribution lists over the fall, so you should now receive all Brotherhood announcements and updates.

On Sunday, October 26, Brotherhood once again hosted the East Winds Symphonic Band concert at Fifth & Morewood, sponsored by the Spear Family. The event drew over 300 attendees and successfully raised funds for the JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned to Brotherhood and congregational emails for more details and registration information on the following events:

Monthly Informal Offsite Luncheons:

No agenda—just great company and great conversation! Whether you want to share ideas, catch up with friends, or meet new people, this is the perfect opportunity.

Herzog Luncheons: Our first of three planned luncheons will take place on Sunday, December 7 at Fifth & Morewood, starting at 12:30 PM. This event is co-sponsored by Women of Rodef Shalom. Our speaker will be Dr. Brad Myers, a congregant and Professor at CMU's Human-Computer Interaction Institute of Computer Science, who will present excerpts from his latest book, *Pick, Click and Flick!* – the story of the many ways we interact with computers.

The following Herzog Luncheon will take place Sunday, January 18 with speaker Dick Roberts, author of *Growing Up Yinzer, Memories from Beloved Pittsburghers*.

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM

Jan Shaw and Andi Kaufman

Co-Presidents, Women of Rodef Shalom

wrs@rodefshalom.org

Women of Rodef Shalom (WRS) has had some wonderful events this fall:

The Rosh Hashanah Gift Bags that we worked on with Women of Temple Sinai (WoTS) and the Community Outreach and Social Action Committee (COSA), were a huge success. We also joined with WoTS on their Rosh Hashanah Holiday Cards program. We enjoyed working together with so many volunteers and extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with both projects.

Our Soup from the Heart program continues to provide outreach to our congregants, and we are so grateful to our volunteers and members

who support this program throughout the year.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone involved in decorating our Sukkah. It was beautifully adorned, and we had an enjoyable Sukkah Hop with WoTS.

All of our programs over the past few months have been held jointly with WoTS. We are so happy with how effectively we have been able to collaborate, and are enjoying being able to connect with each other as our congregations unify.

Looking forward, WRS and WoTS are working on a unified vision statement, leadership model, and bylaws.

DEVELOPMENT



Mayda Roth, CFRE
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FAMILY HOUSE

Our unified Board of Trustees named **Family House** and its founding members including Joel Ettinger, Howard Hoddy Hanna III and Mary Lou McLaughlin as our 2026 honorees for our tenth **Pursuer of Peace** award. Responding to the need for housing when patients and their families travelled to Pittsburgh for medical care, they created **Family House**. It is an innovative, much-emulated model of a family and patient support system.

Family House was dedicated in September 1983 and welcomed its first guests that November. It provides a safe, comforting and affordable *home away from home* for people seeking expert medical care in our region's healthcare system. Their professional staff, corps of volunteers, lodging facility and the services it provides are a critical component of the healthcare journey.

The **Pursuer of Peace** award honors people whose passion and actions build a body of good works. Candidates are nominated from multiple disciplines including social outreach, activism, business, education, entertainment, leadership, programming and religion. Messrs. Ettinger and Hanna and Ms. McLaughlin represent the essence of the award for making their vision of Family House a reality.

As we look forward to celebrating Chanukah 5786, we are especially grateful for the return of the hostages from Gaza. The real miracle is that twenty people remained alive after 738 days in captivity. We continue to mourn those whose lives were abruptly ended on October 7, 2023 and those who did not survive captivity. May their memory always be a blessing.

I wish you miracles, small and large. Wouldn't you agree that every single day is really a miracle? Happy Chanukah and happy New Year.

Thank you, always, for your support of Rodef Shalom Congregation.

RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION FUND

Donations

Salessa Berk, Good Hope Lutheran Church, Goldie and Joel Katz, Valerie Monaco and Deb Polk

Honoring

Roz Becker and Karen Brean by Alice Backer, **Richard Brok and Nancy Rosenthal and Family** by Carolyn and Lane Liston, Jr., **Meredith Strassburger** by Margot and Michael Brozost

In Memory

Dr. Liz Armstrong by Marian Finegold, **Joanie Block** by Goldie and Joel Katz, **Avie Guttman** by Jerry Guttman, **Dr. Walter Jacob** by Caroline and Lane Liston, Jr., **Ed Mandell** by Mayda Roth, **Reid Ruttenberg** by Linda Berk, Dana Egert, Steffi Gold, **Isaac Serrins, Rosalyn A. Serrins, Sherman Weiss and Dorothy Weiss** by Betty and Ira Weiss and Family

BIBLICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Donations

Giant Oaks Garden Club, Good Hope Lutheran Church

In Memory

Dr. Jonathon Erlen by Judith Erlen, **Rabbi Michael Farhi** by Virginia Riegner

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

In Memory

Beverly and Howard Mermelstein, Elinore Mermelstein, Henry Shaw and Victoria Warren by Jan and Don Shaw

DEAKTOR TERRACE

In Memory

Marcia Miller by Manny Miller, **Rabbi Burt Schuman** by Marilyn Bloom

RICHARD A. FINEGOLD FAMILY PRE-SCHOOL FUND

In Memory

Dr. Liz Armstrong and William Feldman by Marian Finegold

RABBI SHARYN H. HENRY ENDOWMENT FUND

Honoring

Rabbi Sharyn H. Henry by Lydi and Dr. William Poller

IN KIND GIFTS

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Donations

The Berkman Family Charitable Fund, Holly Dobkin, Melissa Fabian

Honoring

Eliza Rackoff, Sally and Lanny Seed by Mayda and Barry Roth

In Memory

Richard Adelsheim by Bette Rom, **Dr. Richard Krugel** by Mayda and Barry Roth

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Honoring

Sally and Lanny Seed by Mimsie Leyton, **Patrice and Robert Americus, Eliza Rackoff and Charlie Regan** by Sally and Lanny Seed

In Memory

Nancy Averbach and Beatrice Bibi Schlesinger by Sally and Seed

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Pittsburgh Celebrates Yiddish

Roz Becker, Berkman Family Charitable Foundation, Brotherhood of Rodef Shalom, Hyman Family Foundation, Temple Sinai Brotherhood, Women of Rodef Shalom, Yiddish Book Center

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Honoring

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In Memory

Alex Seed by Ilene Trachtenberg Iskoe

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May their Memory be a Blessing August through October 2025

Emanuel Ackerman by Barbara and Alan Ackerman, **Belle Comins and Louise Comins Waxler** by Amy Lowenstein, **Richard Crone** by Lois Crone, **Danny, Arthur and Sarah Damick** by Marion Damick, **Maxine L. Fisher** by Dr. Stephen Fisher, **Zola Gold** by Nancy and Steven Cohen, **Rachel Goldfarb** by Barbara Miller, **Harold Gondelman** by Gerry Gondelman, **Stuart Goodman** by Lee Goodman, **Mayer A. Green** by Patricia and Sanford Berman, **Edward Goldberg** by Joan and Samuel Kamin, **Marion L. Kart and Nathan H. Kart** by Jane and Dr. Barry Kart, **Earl Latterman** by Marilyn Latterman, **Anne Litman** by Sally and Tim Litman, **Frank Marcosky and Ann Angee Marcosky Pumpian** by Phyllis Klein, **Fanny Meth, A.M. Palm** by Jeanne Meth, **Miriam Canter, James Klingensmith, Harriet Newman, Jacob Newman, Rosa Newman** by Cantor Julie Newman and William Klingensmith,

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WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM PULPIT DECORATIONS

Listings are in loving memory unless noted otherwise
August

Gertrude and Dr. Simon Berenfield and Bertha and Neff Kruman by the Kruman family, **Gilbert Broff** by Rosella Broff*, **Zeke Dunn** by Dena and Aaron Dunn, **Lillian S. Freehof** by Women of Rodef Shalom, **Solomon B. Freehof** by Lillian Freehof* and Women of Rodef Shalom, **Edith Lieberman Glick** by Eleanor G. Caplan, **Audrey N. Golden** by Women of Rodef Shalom, **Estelle and Jack Kruman** by their children and grandchildren, **Jerry Lebovitz** by Judith Kelsey Lebovitz and Family, **Florence Bernstein McChesney** by Beatrice Bernstein Cody, **Jerry T. Silverman** by Marjorie, Jane, Stephen and Barbara Silverman, **Ethel Kaplan Stept** by Dr. Raymond Stept*, **Abraham Sudilovsky, M.D.** by Zulema Zattoni, M.D.

September

Sadye and Samuel Adler by Natalie and Judge Lawrence* Kaplan and Dr. Lawrence Adler, **William V. Conn and Harry M. Perrin** by Beatrice L. Conn, **Marc Ehrenreich** by Linda and Sanford Ehrenreich and Andrea and Michael Regan, **Mayer A. Green** by Patricia and Sanford Berman, **William M. Horne** by Martha and Edwin Horne*, **Stephanie Mallinger** by Dr. Bernard Mallinger*, **Dr. Virginia L. Oliver** by Margot Cavalier and Jane Cavalier, **Mildred Rubenstein** by family and friends, **Howard Rom** by Bette B. Rom, **Warren J. Shapera** by Sue Shapera, Hal Shapera, and Anne Clair Goodman, **Abraham Wedner** by Lucille Wedner and family, **Robert C. Westerman** by Ruth Westerman*, Jeff and Mark Westerman and Diane Reichblum*

October Honoring

Eliza Rackoff by Melissa and Peter Rackoff, **Sally and Lanny Seed** by Izzy Chernoff and Marc Tobias

Edith Donnenberg by Dr. Vera and Dr. Albert Donnenberg, **Julian Ruslander** by Lee Ann Freeman, **Gail, Arnold, and David Ryave** by Sharon Ryave Brody, Ben and Josh Brody, **Harriet Schneiderman** by Laura and Henry Schneiderman, **Sylvia Schutzman** by Herbert Schutzman, **Alex Edward Seed** by Sally and Lanny Seed, **Rebecca Weisberg Siegel** by Naomi Weisberg Siegel, **Leonard Singer** by his family, **Lester R. Smith** by Hilary L. Smith, **Olga B. Stark** by William Stark* and family, **Dr. Abraham Sudilovsky** by Zulema Zattoni Sudilovsky, **Irving (Buddy) A. Wechsler, Dora Stiglitz Wechsler and Abraham Wechsler** by Jacquelin G. Wechsler* and family

**Z"l, of blessed memory*

Despite best efforts, errors may occur. Contact Mayda Roth at 412.621.6566 x140 should you have any changes.



Mark your calendar for Sunday evening
JUNE 28, 2026

HONOREES

Joel Ettinger
Howard Hoddy Hanna III
Mary Lou McLaughlin

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SYNAGOGUES OF MIDDLE EUROPE

Photographs by David Aschkenas

January 8 to March 27, 2026

Reception: Monday, January 12 · 6:00 p.m.

Rodef Shalom Congregation Jewish Museum

