

Sivan-Av 5783 | June-August 2023

Issue No. 115

# HAKESHER

הַקֶּשֶׁר

THE CONNECTION



**Join us all summer long in the  
Biblical Garden! Page 13**



Check us out on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/rscpggh](https://facebook.com/rscpggh)



**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.*

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Kate Kim.....	X 137
Amy Langham.....	X 117
Mimsie Leyton.....	X 127
Rabbi Jessica Locketz.....	X 109
Marlee Lyons.....	X 112
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**UNION for  
REFORM  
JUDAISM**

A PROUD MEMBER OF THE URJ



Our mission: 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.



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

Dear Fellow Congregants -

As spring showers inevitably give way to May flowers, I hope that you find your own sense of renewal at this time of year. Rodef Shalom continues to blossom due in large part to your continued support, resilience, and dedication to our mission and vision.

As we begin to look towards our Annual Meeting and our next fiscal year, we will be focusing on many exciting opportunities as a Congregation and a community. We are excited to welcome Cantor Toby Glaser to work alongside Rabbi Sharyn Henry in leading our Congregation. We anticipate some wonderful programming and community engagement opportunities. We recognize the importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for the next generation of Jewish leaders, and are seeking opportunities to involve all of you in more ways moving forward.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished during my first year as President of the Board of Trustees, but this is only the beginning of our journey together. I, along with my fellow Board Members, will continue to work tirelessly for the best interest of our Congregation. It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve you in this capacity, and I am looking forward to what the next year brings for us.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your continued support, encouragement, and commitment to our Congregation. Whether you are a multi-generational member or have recently joined us, your participation and engagement is what makes our community strong. As we move forward together, let us continue to embrace our values of inclusivity, social justice, and compassion to help build our Reform Jewish community in the Pittsburgh region.

L'Shalom,

**Bill Battistone**  
President, Board of Trustees

**2023 Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 14**  
**7:00 PM**

**In Person Attendance Encouraged**  
**Zoom Available**

**Registration required at**  
**[rodefshalom.org/meeting](https://rodefshalom.org/meeting)**





# Doing More and Less. Doing More with Less.

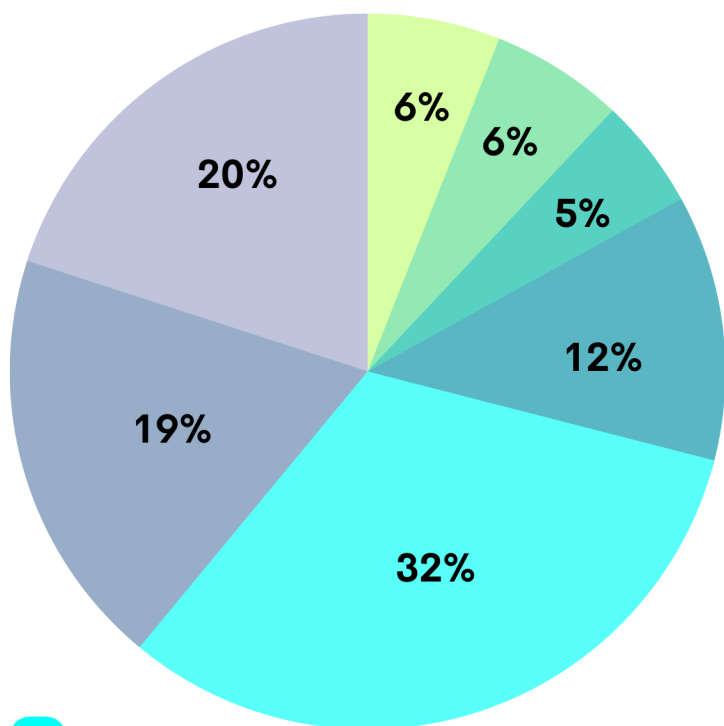
Barb Feige, The Murray Klein Executive Director

feige@rodefshalom.org · 412.621.6566 x119

As I write this, we are deep into “budget season”. That means that each department head and the administrative and finance staff are hip-deep and rising in planning for the next fiscal and program year which starts on July 1st.

So why did I say “planning” and not “budgeting”? Because a budget is just that, a PLAN. The plan reflects what we must accomplish in the next year (religious services and education programs) and what we want to accomplish (music and arts programs). I actually enjoy doing budgets/planning. I like the minutiae, the detail, the conversations on how a budget reflects who we are as a Congregation. An organization’s mission, values, and vision defines its budget. Most people think budgets are just numbers. I see the narrative below:

## Income



32% Dues

19% Grants

20% Contributions

6% ERTC/COVID Relief Program (one time payment)

6% Grants and Contributions for Capital Improvements (includes security hardening)

5% Rental Revenue

12% Program Fees/Tuition

*If we budget X dollars for congregational dinners, we can have two of those, but if we combine the dinners with a scholar-in-residence shared with the community, then we can do three!*

*The preschool wants to add another two-year-old class. Will the additional tuition payments cover the costs of hiring another teacher and all support services and supplies?*

*Pursuer of Peace usually brings in X amount of money. How can we increase what it raises while maintaining costs? Can we skip an appetizer at the dinner? Maybe not!*

Rodef Shalom Congregation has been blessed with the generosity of past generations who established endowments to ensure the future of the congregation. For the past decade or more, we have used the endowments to reduce budget deficits. We cannot continue to do that much longer. Hard decisions must be made. How do we continue our mission with **less**? Or where do we find **more**?

Member dues provide only about 35-40% of the Congregation’s operating budget. See pie charts. That figure holds true for almost every synagogue—especially the brick and mortar ones; those that own buildings. Other income comes from rentals, grants, and fundraising efforts. We need to find ways to increase income from ALL sources and identify new ones.

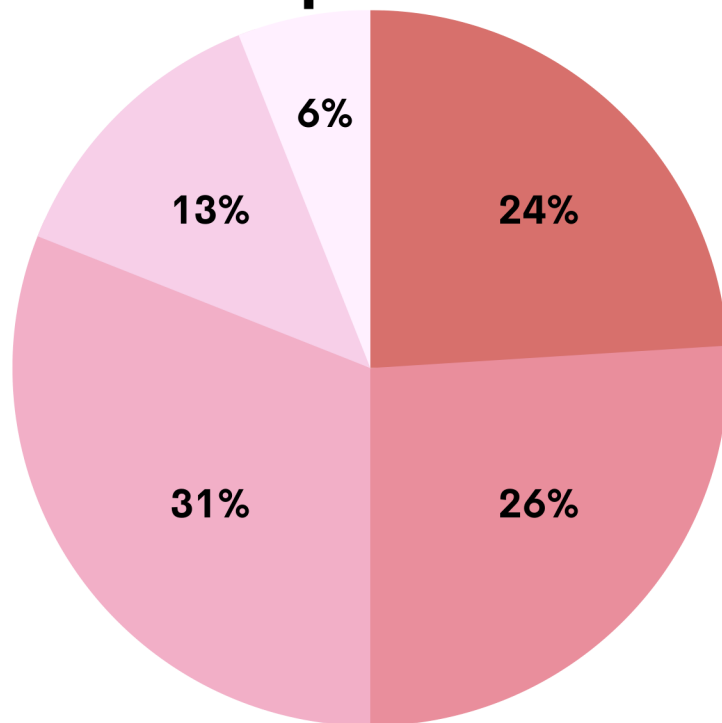
The largest expenses, to quote our Director of Finance Amy Langham, are “people and place”—meaning personnel costs and facility maintenance and repair costs.

Our building is magnificent. It is nearly 120 years old with the last major renovations taking place about 30 years ago. Building systems have a limited lifespan. Seventy-year-old heating systems start to fail. Fifty-year-old roofs start to leak. We have hundreds of programs and events a year—our own and outside rentals. Our building is well-used, but all that use requires constant upkeep. We have made changes to building infrastructure to update to more efficient lighting and heating systems, with resulting savings in utilities costs. Yet, there is always more to do.

Our people are amazing. Our staff is incredible. We have made staff reductions—eliminating two and half positions—in order to reduce costs. This means others have to do more in order for us to maintain the level of programs and services that the Congregation desires. Bandwidth is at a premium, capacity is full, and our staff still finds ways to do more...with less.

As always, I invite your input and ideas and encourage you to volunteer and donate your time, talent, or treasure. We always have opportunities for you to participate in our Congregation. Together our community can accomplish so much more—so that we don’t have to do less.

## Expenses



24% Worship/Music/Classes

26% Admin/Development/Membership

31% Building Repairs and Improvement

13% Kids (Preschool, J-JEP, Youth Programs)

6% Secular Programming/Social Action

**PLAY  
LEARN  
LOVE**



**Rodef Shalom  
FAMILY CENTER  
AND PRESCHOOL**

**NOW ENROLLING  
SUMMER CAMP AND 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR  
FIND OUT MORE AT  
[RODEFSHALOM.ORG/FAMILYCENTER](https://rodefshalom.org/familycenter)**



## Our OG Influencer: Mimsie Leyton

Rabbi Sharyn Henry

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Some of you undoubtedly know about a new profession in which people make a living being an “influencer.” In social media, influencers create a reputation based on their knowledge and expertise on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media channels in an attempt to generate large followings of enthusiastic, engaged people who pay close attention to their views. Product and service brands love social media influencers because they encourage their followers to buy products they promote. My understanding is that many trends emerge this way.

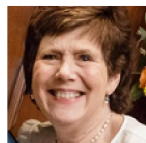
Mimsie Leyton is an influencer. She is actually an OG—a highly respected and regarded “original.” And for 26 years, as the Family Center Director, she has been OUR influencer. With wisdom and good humor she has made the lives of hundreds of children and their families better. The children blessed enough to have attended the Family Center learned that adults care about their interests and their personalities, that their opinions matter (and we have learned that toddlers and preschoolers have opinions!), and that they are precious and unique and absolutely loved. Mimsie earned the confidence of parents and the affection of children by being, above all else, kind and caring. She is among the smartest and most optimistic people any of us know. Mimsie remembers every detail about everyone: birthdays, milestones, accomplishments, family members, and challenges. She will tell you what you said ten years ago, or what your child said, and when you finish talking to Mimsie, you will feel heard.

As a colleague Mimsie is instinctively supportive, encouraging, and understanding. She is a dear and precious soul.

And now, in her retirement, Mimsie will be able to fully enjoy her family—daughter Betsy and son-in-law Ben, and their children Sophia, Elliot, Micah, and Natalie, and son Andy and daughter-in-law Allison, and their children Amelia and Jacob. We wish her health, adventure, and much joy even as we will miss her every day.

## Thank You Rabbi Locketz!

As this program year comes to an end, we express our sincere gratitude to Rabbi Jessica Locketz for her generous contributions of time and talent to Rodef Shalom Congregation. Rabbi Locketz brings clarity, creativity, warmth, and a deep commitment to Jewish values and teachings to her every endeavor--on the bima, in the classroom, and on our committees. She has been a tremendous resource to COSA, and an extraordinary partner to Rabbi Henry. We look forward to her continued presence in both new and familiar capacities and to learning with and alongside her.



## L'hitraot

**Mimsie Leyton, Sidney & Shirley C. Rapport Family Center Director**

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It's almost surreal that this is my last column for *HaKeshet*, or *The Temple Bulletin* as it was known when I wrote my first column! I think most everyone knows by now that I am retiring from my position as Family Center Director, effective June 30. After 26 years at Rodef Shalom and 25 years elsewhere in the early childhood education community (please don't do the math!), the time has come for me to start the next chapter of my life.

My years working at Rodef Shalom have been extraordinary. The chance to start a preschool that enabled me to create a program that is play-based, focused on the whole child within the context of their family, and informed by Jewish values was beyond a dream come true. And the opportunity to collaborate with gifted colleagues has been the icing on the cake. How lucky I have been, and how thankful I am to have been able to learn and grow professionally and personally.



1997-1998 Preschool Class



Purim 2023

None of this would have been possible without the help of the entire Rodef Shalom community. I am most appreciative of the Temple leadership, congregants, staff and clergy, and my advisory committee members and chairs who gave so generously of their time and talents. Without question, I am beyond grateful to the dedicated teachers who became my work family, parents who entrusted us with the care and education of their most prized possessions, and the hundreds of children whose laughter and excitement for learning filled our classrooms. Together, over the years, we have built a most caring and supportive community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being part of this. In the end, it's the relationships that I will cherish most.

While I won't be in the building every day, I will certainly maintain my affiliation with Rodef Shalom. I am a lifelong member of the Congregation, and it will remain my spiritual home. Though I hope to visit out of town children and grandchildren more often, I'm here in Pittsburgh to stay. My apartment is just a few blocks down Morewood Avenue. In fact, I can see the Temple dome from my living room window. Promise me you will stay in touch. I'm in the directory!

A family-friendly retirement celebration planned for Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. in my honor. Please mark your calendars and join me for good food, fun, and lots of hugs and tears.

See you soon!



## Creating Connection through J-JEP

Rabbi Larry Freedman, Director of the Joint Jewish Education Program

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Why are we the students here? What are we doing it for? And why, exactly, do you send your children to J-JEP or any Jewish education?

These are not easy questions but they are the questions that motivate me and drive our J-JEP mission. Once upon a time, parents could just shrug about it. You signed up because that's just what you did. But over my 30 year career, that attitude is, thankfully, almost entirely gone.

Some time ago, I had a parent literally, as in, with these specific words, say to their child in front of me, "I hated it, your grandfather hated it and you'll hate it, but it's important to go." Gee, golly, didn't that make me feel good about my chosen profession! So good riddance to this sort of doleful sense of obligation that sends parents begrudgingly registering their children. However, with the loss of this sense of obligation, the raw numbers of Jewish children in religious schools are down everywhere.

The good news is that we, the teachers, need to work hard to create a program and a style that helps children feel connected and proud and, on balance, pleased to spend their Sunday mornings with us. The numbers may be down but the students have, for the most part, parents with better attitudes and more positive goals for their children.

Now J-JEP enters the free market no longer able to count on being a commodity that parents must buy. We have to compete by adding better personal connection to the fullness of Judaism, better sense of spirituality, better paths for the students to engage their souls, better instruction, better grasp of basic facts and customs, and more meaningful moments.

We are getting there. Our oldest grades took on leadership with a variety of project based learning units. The *chugim* program brings novelty and a different point of view to the students' heritage. This spring and summer J-JEP's curriculum will be getting a complete review.

So, after all the that, can we answer the questions, "Why are we here? What are we doing it for?" J-JEP exists to bring deep and meaningful personal, soul touching knowledge and understanding of our heritage. We do that to have our students be smart and proud members of the Jewish people who can use their connection to our heritage to make the world a better place and make themselves better people.

Help us spread the word. Tell your friends to give us a try and see how we do. Check out what's in store for next year and register at JJEP.org!





## A New Year Can Begin Only Because The Old Year Ends

**Yael Eads, Youth Director and B'Mitzvah Coordinator**  
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It happens every year and every year we say the same thing. "I can't believe the year is already over!" I have a love/hate relationship with the end of each programmatic year. On one hand, summer is upon us which means things like summer camp, summer vacations, and tons of summer fun! On the other hand, I won't have the chance to see many of our families again until the fall, when everyone comes home from summer camp and summer vacations. On the other, 'other' hand I get to look forward to another year together and look back on the amazing year that we had...and this year really was an amazing one!

Our teens started off this year with an epic trip to Cedar Point along with lots of friends from other Pittsburgh synagogues. They took on the coaster capital of the world and enjoyed every moment of it! While they enjoyed the theme park, our younger members took a tour of Millie's Ice Cream factory. They tasted lots of Millie's yummy flavors along the way, and even got some ice cream to take home and share.

We love to have fun, but we also love to help others. Over winter break we volunteered with Our Giving Kitchen and prepared over 100 meals for those in need in the Jewish community. In the Spring we hosted a bake sale at the annual Empty Bowls event and raised over \$600 to help support the missions of Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Celebrating holidays together is something we get to do throughout the year, and this year we celebrated ALL. THE. HOLIDAYS! Whether we were shaking the lulav in the Sukkah, lighting the Hanukkah menorah in Weschler Gallery, or eating everything chocolate you can imagine for our Passover Chocolate Seder, we made sure each holiday on the Jewish calendar had its moment.

And of course, what would a youth department year look like without an out-of-this-world Purim Carnival! We were so excited to once again partner with our friends at Congregation Beth Shalom to host this year's Purim Carnival and have the opportunity to spend an entire weekend with friends from all over the city.

Thank you to everyone who made this year such a success! We can't wait to show you what we have in store for 5784!



## Thank you to our Purim Carnival Sponsors!

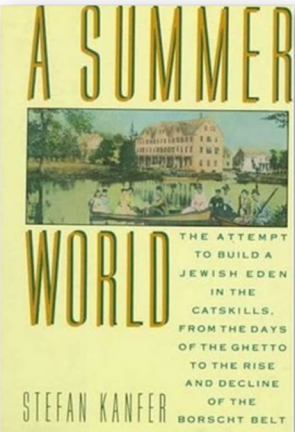
**The Honorable Alfred P. Hamentashen III, Esquire**  
**Rabbis Sharyn Henry and Jessica Locketz**  
**Rabbi Stephanie Wolfe**



# Summer Reads

Sam Siskind, Librarian

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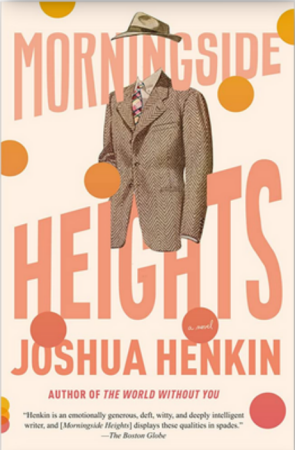


It is amazing to believe we are halfway through 2023 and have reached the summer, but here we are again at warm weather, pool and vacation season. Here at the Lippman Library, we have books to satisfy various interests, whether they be an interest in reading up on summer Jewish holidays, or just a good fiction book for summer reading. The following are four books available in the Lippman Library, three for adults and one for children.

## A Summer World

by Stefan Kanfer

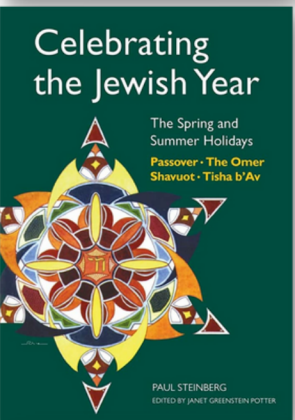
For adults, this fascinating book presents an historical overview of the most prominent American Jewish summer vacation spot from years past: the Catskill Mountain retreat in Upstate New York. The book describes the genesis of the resort, how it grew into what it became, and ultimately its demise by the 1970s. Though an older book, it holds up well and remains an enjoyable read about the effervescent atmosphere that made up this Jewish summer retreat.



## Morningside Heights

by Joshua Henkin

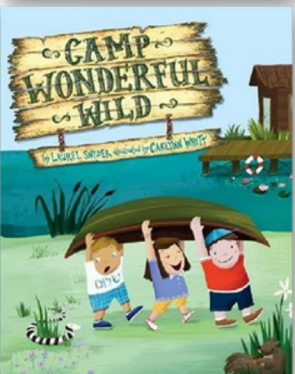
This newer release, published in 2021, takes place in 1976 and the early 2000s. A love story filled with obstacles, the book concerns an Ohio-born Jewish woman who falls in love with and marries her college professor, who later develops Alzheimer's. While the book is based on a serious subject, it is about compassion and what it means to hold a family together through both good and bad. The author was a finalist for the 2012 National Jewish Book Award.



## Celebrating the Jewish Year: the Spring and Summer Holidays

by Paul Steinberg

This book discusses the origins of and provides various readings connected with the spring and summer holidays of Passover, Shavuot, and Tisha b'Av. While Passover is behind us and Shavuot comes up very early in the summer season, it is always permissible to revisit these two holidays. However the main section of the book that pertains to the summer season is Tisha b'Av, which this year comes in late July. One of the most serious and solemn days in the Jewish calendar, this section appropriately includes poignant readings and commentary for reflection.



## Camp Wonderful Wild

by Laurel Snyder | Illustrated by Carlynn Whitt

This cute book for young children discusses the thrills of a Jewish summer camp, from outdoor sing-a-longs to bonfires and s'mores. With only a few words per page, it is the hilarious and clever pictures that tell most of the story.



## Who's in the Archives? Maybe you!

**Martha L. Berg, Archivist**

[berg@rodefshalom.org](mailto:berg@rodefshalom.org) · 412.621.6566 x131

If you are affiliated with Rodef Shalom, chances are that you or someone in your family is represented in our congregational archives. There can be gaps in the records, because what we have now depends on what was saved in the past, but what we have—at least 270 boxes and counting—can highlight individual stories as well as give us an overall sense of the congregation's history. These archival records are used for a wide variety of purposes, both in-house and in the wider community.

Bob Rosenthal (for the Building Committee) or Dave Seskey (Building Superintendent) may ask to see original architectural drawings of different parts of our building as they work to maintain our beautiful historic structure. Other staff members and congregants may be looking for old photos to use in a display or article commemorating an important anniversary or other event. A careful reading of sermons by our past rabbis can reveal what was going on in Pittsburgh and the world and how Rodef Shalom responded to those events.

The largest category of requests, by far, is for information about family history. These questions come from current congregants and by email from all over the country. I will always try to find answers for these researchers if I can, and I usually also have some suggestions for other resources they can consult. The immense popularity of genealogy as a hobby is an indicator that people want to learn about history, and the history of their own families makes for an irresistibly personal hook into the past.

And there are also usually a few academic researchers and independent scholars who come in to the Archives with a very specific focus. An education professor at the University of Rochester is writing a book about education in the United States, beginning with her own experience as a student in our Preschool, which was then called the Temple Nursery School. An architecture professor at Pitt is studying, in minute detail, the story of the construction of our sanctuary in 1906-1907, right down to the types of nails that were used (and yes, he found that information in our archives). After a couple of years of email correspondence, a researcher from Maryland recently visited in person to take pictures of and exchange information about the five portraits in our art collection that were painted by his grandfather.

Do you have an archives question?  
Ask me: [berg@rodefshalom.org](mailto:berg@rodefshalom.org).



*David Heller with portrait of Judge Josiah Cohen painted by David's grandfather, E. Myer Silverberg (aka Ellis M. Silvette)*



## Jonah Asher Ferleger

June 3

Jonah is the son of Donna Kruman and Len Ferleger. Ben Ferleger is his older brother. Jonah's grandparents are the late Estelle and Jack Kruman and Ruth and Arthur Ferleger. Jonah is in 7th grade at Community Day School. He enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with his friends and his dog, Luna.

## Chloe Long

May 13

## Levi Jacobs

July 29

## Lucy Firman

August 26

### Welcome to our New Members

Sarah and Jeremy Blache-Schwartz  
 Leah Brennan and Sara Renberg  
 Amanda, Atman, Aviva, and Indra Dave  
 Wendy and Carl Green  
 Amy Dicker and Corey Grone  
 Edgar Landerman  
 Rachel Leaman  
 Ilana and Scott Hull  
 Jessica Margolis and daughter Shoshana Edie Raphael  
 Marcia Klein Patel and Jay Patel  
 Ruth and Daniel Silverman

### Mazel Tov!

**Mimsie Leyton** on her retirement after 26 years as the Berkman Family Center Director  
**Jan Shaw** on becoming President of the Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District  
**Dave Seskey** on the birth of his first grandchild  
**Jeffrey Pollock** on receiving the ZOA's Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Haley Sherlock**, granddaughter of Goldie and Joel Katz, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

### May their memory be for a blessing

David Greenberg, Richard Kann, Mina Kavalier, Dr. Milton Michaels,  
 Rheda Rosenberg, Dottie Silberman, Elliott Weinberg

## Celebrate Mimsie!

Join us for a catered picnic celebration of our retiring Family Center Director,  
 Mimsie Leyton!

Sunday · June 11, 2023  
 11:30 am to 1:30 pm  
 Deaktor Terrace and Lawn  
 Rain site: Freehof Hall

RSVP by June 5 at [rodefshalom.org/mimsie](http://rodefshalom.org/mimsie)  
 \$36 · Adults  
 \$10 · Children 6-12  
 Free · Children 5 and younger



*Summer*  
**2023**



## **RODEF SHALOM BIBLICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN**

- June 4** | **Opening Day with Tikkun Chant Circle at 5:00 PM**
- June 11** | **Garden Party with The Boilermaker Jazz Band at 6:00 PM**
- June 20** | **Women in Talmud with Olivia Devorah Tucker at 7:00 PM**
- June 28** | **Children's Story Time in the Garden at 12:45 PM**
- June 29** | **Torah Flora with Dr. Jon Greenberg at 2:00 PM**
- July 19** | **Children's Story Time in the Garden at 12:45 PM**
- August 6** | **Garden Party with The Boilermaker Jazz Band at 6:00 PM**

### **Open Door Docent-Led Tours:**

**June 7, July 5, August 2 and September 6 at 12:00 PM**

**Open June 4 - September 14, 2023**

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays • 10am-2pm

Tuesdays • 10am-6pm

Closed Fridays and Saturdays

**To schedule a group tour, call 412-621-6566 x143**

**Find out more at [rodefshalom.org/garden](https://rodefshalom.org/garden)**

# Helping Our Newest Neighbors to Succeed

Join COSA's "Welcome Home Set Up Team"

Here in  
Pittsburgh,  
we roll out the  
welcome mat.

WELCOME

Many of us have cherished stories of how our families established roots in this country. We know how important it is to have a home to call your own when you arrive in a new place. Today, you can help refugee families to feel safe and secure as they begin their new lives here.

Rodef Shalom's Community Outreach & Social Action (COSA) committee is joining with JFCS Refugee and Immigrant Services to provide much appreciated assistance to our newest neighbors. **You can help by joining the Welcome Home Set Up Team.** COSA's Team will acquire basic household items and help establish a welcoming home for a refugee family in the Pittsburgh area.

Watch your email for details on how you can be a part of this important and fulfilling project or contact:

Bob Rosenthal at 412-874-8800 | [bobnancyrosenthal1@verizon.net](mailto:bobnancyrosenthal1@verizon.net)

or Salem Leaman at 412-781-4642 | [Fdneyqm@aol.com](mailto:Fdneyqm@aol.com)

## BROTHERHOOD

Tim Litman, Brotherhood President

[brotherhood@rodefshalom.org](mailto:brotherhood@rodefshalom.org)



Greetings to all from the Brotherhood of Rodef Shalom Congregation! The purpose of Brotherhood is to cooperate with the Congregation in stimulating Jewish religious activities and build friendships with its members. Our financial focus is to benefit the Congregation with valuable projects. Most recently, we have contributed to the restoration of the stained glass windows in the Main Sanctuary, replacement of the boilers, the sewer project under the main sanctuary, and many others.

We continue to be involved in many worthwhile community projects. If you or your family are not receiving our Yahrzeit reminders in the mail, I urge you to add your loved ones' names in our online member portal, *My Rodef Shalom*, or contact Rabbinic Office Manager Paige Hoffman at [hoffman@rodefshalom.org](mailto:hoffman@rodefshalom.org). The Yahrzeit contributions we receive from members of our Congregation are a major part of our revenue source. Our other source of income is our dues that are only \$36.00 per year. If you are not yet a member of the Brotherhood, we encourage you to join us. Checks can be made out to Rodef Shalom Brotherhood and mailed to our attention at Rodef Shalom Congregation.

Wishing you a good and healthful summer!

**Terry J. Starrett, President of Women of Rodef Shalom**

sisterhood@rodefshalom.org

The Women of Rodef Shalom have been busy the past few months. The holidays of Purim and Passover allowed us to remember those who frequently celebrate alone. Gift bags were delivered with goodies to them by our members. **Soup from the Heart** packages were delivered once a month to members for Shabbat. Flowers are delivered every week to brighten the day of members on their special occasions.

We continue to sponsor Bridge, Canasta, Mahjong, Sewing Club and the best Jewish Gift Shop.

This year the Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic Division held its Convention in Pittsburgh. Our own Jan Shaw was installed as President and will hold this honored position for three years. The WRS sponsored a dinner which was superb.

Women of Rodef Shalom welcomes you to join us in our efforts to support the youngest to the oldest members in our Jewish community.



## DEVELOPMENT



### A Community of Givers

**Mayda Roth, CFRE, Director of Development**

roth@rodefshalom.org · 412.621.6566 x140

Having purpose and doing good feels good. While it's not expected, it sure feels good to be recognized and thanked. Hundreds of our congregants do much to be thanked for what they do for our Congregation.

Marilyn Asimow created **Soup from the Heart** to connect people who like to cook with those who would appreciate homemade soup. Under the auspices of Women of Rodef Shalom (WRS), her idea is now a firmly established program. The cooks and deliverers connect delicious soup, challah, dessert and a smile to people who eagerly anticipate the delivery. Who benefits? Everyone. The value of doing good is priceless.

Thank you to our cooks and deliverers: Julie Arnheim, Kathy Arnheim, Marilyn Asimow, Marilyn Caplan, Joan Forscher, Jeff Herzog, Lynne Jacobson, Judy Kampert, Kristen Karsh, Goldie Katz, Carol Leaman, Margie Matchen, Al Rosenfeld, Sabina Rosenfeld, Nancy Rosenthal, Bob Rosenthal, Sally Seed, Terry Starrett, and Bill Stein.

Another WRS project, **pulpit flowers** do more than decorate our bimah. After Saturday services, volunteers disassemble the arrangements and repackage them to deliver to congregants. The flowers are repurposed, sending messages of kindness, congratulations or comfort to the recipients.

Thank you to our flower volunteers: Marilyn Asimow, Karen Brean, Dean Damick, Marion Damick, Rebecca Gildengers, Carol Leaman, Sharon Lesgold, Marcia Leaur, Janet Ocel, Helen Orringer, Susan Richman, Nancy Rosenthal, Elaine Rybski, Jan Shaw, Terry Starrett, Shelly Sufrin, and Colleen Wolfson.

Every gift of time, talent, and treasure makes a difference. Thank you to our community of givers. You are treasures to our Congregation.

If your name was inadvertently omitted, please contact me. Happy Summer!

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February 1 through April 30, 2023

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### In Memory

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### March Honoring

**Nate Whitlatch** by Kathy Metosky and Randy Whitlatch

### In Memory

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*\*Z"l, of blessed memory*

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*Rodef Shalom Congregation is supported by grants from the Jack Buncher Foundation, Fine Foundation, Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund administered by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy™ program, Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Charles M. Morris Charitable Trust, Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) managed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Keystone Preservation Grant, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, The Pittsburgh Foundation, an anonymous foundation, an anonymous donor, and donors like YOU.*



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*Let us host your next  
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Contact Marlee Lyons: [lyons@rodefshalom.org](mailto:lyons@rodefshalom.org)