

Issue No. 119

Kislev–Sh’vat 5785 | December 2024–February 2025

HAKESHER

הַקֶּשֶׁר

THE CONNECTION



**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

412.621.6566

Yael Eads.....	x 130
Ellie Feibus.....	x 127
Rabbi Larry Freedman.....	x 116
Cantor Toby Glaser.....	x 123
Rabbi Sharyn Henry.....	x 126
Steve Johnson.....	x 138
Kate Kim.....	x 137
Lee Levitt.....	x 119
Don Megahan.....	x 190
Dasya Petranova.....	x 143
Valli Plutto.....	x 112
Christine Ranasinghe.....	x 182
Mayda Roth.....	x 140
Paige Saranovic.....	x 133
Dave Seskey.....	x 128
Sam Siskind.....	x 179
Stephanie Wolfe.....	x 111

The Gift Corner.....	x 115
Lippman Library.....	x 180
Biblical Botanical Garden.....	x 143

Contents

- 3 Message from our Clergy**
Rabbi Sharyn Henry and Cantor Toby Glaser
- 4 Message from our President**
Bill Battistone, President of the Board of Trustees
- 5 Message from our Executive Director**
Lee Levitt, The Murray Klein Executive Director
- 6 Berkman Family Center**
Ellie Feibus, Sidney and Shirley C. Rapport Family Center Director
- 7 The Miracle of When Hanukkah and Winter Break Happen Together**
Yael Eads, Youth Director and B'Mitzvah Coordinator
- 8 Winter Reads**
Sam Siskind, Librarian
- 9 Putting the Holidays to Work**
Rabbi Larry Freedman, Joint Jewish Education Program Director
- 10 We're All Part of the Archives**
Martha L. Berg, Archivist
- 11 Community Outreach and Social Action**
Rebecca Gildengers and Karen Brean, COSA Committee Co-Chairs
- 12 Women of Rodef Shalom and Brotherhood**
Joan Forscher, Women of Rodef Shalom President
Bill Klingensmith, Brotherhood President
- 14 Member Engagement**
Carolyn Frischer and Tony Richardson-Eckes,
Member Engagement Committee Co-Chairs
- 15 Every Gift has a Story**
Mayda Roth, CFRE, Director of Development





Rabbi Sharyn Henry

henry@rodefshalom.org

412.621.6566 x126



Cantor Toby Glaser

glaser@rodefshalom.org

412.621.6566 x123

One of the mitzvot of Hanukkah is lighting Hanukkah lights where they can be seen by the public. This practice is based on the teaching that we must “*pirsumei nissa*—publicize the miracle” of Hanukkah. (Is the miracle the victory of the Hasmoneans over the Greeks? The eight days of light from a single cruse of oil? Yes! Both! The Talmud doesn’t say.) In the U.S., this generally means we set the Hanukkah menorah (hanukkiot) on a window sill facing the street. In Israel, hanukkiot are placed outside, in clear boxes that shield them from the wind and rain while allowing the light to be seen by all who walk by.

For many years at Rodef Shalom we moved the large Hanukkah menorah from its “off-season” home in Wechsler Gallery to the middle of the Commons for Hanukkah candle lighting. This decision was made years ago and neither of us know why, although it’s likely because there was more space in that area. It’s also possible that people thought it was safer that way, that we wouldn’t be calling attention to our otherness during the winter holidays. However,

given just how big and grand the building is, with its enormous green dome and beautiful grounds, it’s hard to imagine that a few tiny flames in a window would make any real difference.

A few years ago we moved the candle lighting ritual to the Wechsler Gallery and put the beautiful hanukkiah right in the middle where its light can be viewed through the doorway facing Fifth Avenue. We did this in response to rising antisemitism and the general feeling that in fact Hanukkah is all about Jewish pride and we will not hide in fear. It’s hard to say whether passers notice the flames, but we know they are there.

As we enter an uncertain future (although isn’t the future always, by definition, uncertain?) we resolve to be proud Jews—proud of who we are and what we stand for. We hope you will light Hanukkah candles in a public-facing space, and choose to believe that even tiny flames of justice and peace can make a difference.



Bill Battistone

President of the Board of Trustees
battistone@rodefshalom.org

Dear Members and Friends of Rodef Shalom Congregation,

I have found the month of October has taken on a new meaning for me recently than perhaps in past years. With so many different landmarks and anniversaries coinciding with one another (the High Holy Days, October 7th, October 27th, and Dr. Rabbi Walter Jacob's passing, just to name a few), I felt the month reflected a flurry of mixed emotions. There were memorials, celebrations, highs, and lows.

In many ways, October 2024 reflected the nature of Reform Judaism currently. We consistently find ourselves pulled between celebrations and somber occasions, rejoicing and mourning. We navigate a world that is changing more rapidly than many of us can truly comprehend, thinking always about what comes next and how best to continue to set our Congregation, and ourselves, up for success.

As the weather changes from fall to winter, it is natural to begin to think about Hanukkah. I think

of the festival of lights, and the time for us to try and find peace by the candlelight of our menorahs. It is a chance for us to shine a light in what feels like perpetual darkness during the winter months. I find it to be a beautiful image of what our lives are on a regular basis, and what we are asked to be for the world around us as Reform Jews.

Our task is to continue to be a light to the world, regardless of the trials and tribulations we continue to experience. I am not sure about you, but I continue to take comfort in knowing that this community will always be united around one another. We will be there to provide a shoulder to cry on or a hand to high-five. To me, that is the beauty of congregational life in the modern era, and something we should all be reflecting on as we approach the Hanukkah season.

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

L'shalom,

Wise Aging: Growing into Wisdom with Rabbi Jessica Locketz

Mondays: December 9, January 6, February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, April 7 and 28, May 12
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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lee Levitt
The Murray Klein Executive Director
levitt@rodefshalom.org
412.621.6566 x119

The war in Israel, the presidential election results, the questions around congregational unification, and the everyday joys and challenges we face as a community. It all reminds me of playing dreidel, with its four sides, each marked with a Hebrew letter, representing the unpredictability of where the dreidel will land—Nun (Nothing); Gimel (Everything); Hey (Half); and Shin (Put In Some). Just as the dreidel spins, we too navigate the twists and turns of our shared journey.

When the dreidel lands, it can bring joy, symbolizing moments of triumph and abundance. These are the times when our collective efforts bear fruit and we celebrate our achievements together. Yet, there are also times when the dreidel's outcome is less favorable, reminding us of the challenges and setbacks we encounter. These moments test our resilience and unity, urging us to support one another and find strength in our shared faith and traditions. Let us remain aware that no matter where the dreidel lands, there are others who may not feel the same way.

The act of spinning the dreidel is a reminder that life is a blend of chance and choice. While we cannot control every outcome, **we can choose how we respond**. Let us embrace each spin with hope and determination, knowing that together, we can face any challenge and celebrate every joy. As we look ahead to 2025, let us embrace the opportunities from the dreidel into the new year. May we continue to support one another, celebrate our traditions, and embrace the joy of community. Together, we can create a vibrant and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and connected.

May this season bring light and warmth to all your hearts and homes, full of Gimel.



Upcoming Shabbat Services *with our friends from Temple Sinai*



**RODEF SHALOM
CONGREGATION**

Friday, December 27

at Rodef Shalom Congregation

5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Candle Lighting

5:30 p.m. Shabbat Service

6:30 p.m. Hanukkah Oneg

TEMPLE
SINAI

Saturday, December 28

at Temple Sinai

5505 Forbes Avenue

8:30 a.m. Torah Study

9:15 a.m. Informal Shabbat Morning Service

BERKMAN FAMILY CENTER PRESCHOOL



Ellie Feibus

Sidney and Shirley C. Rapport Family Center Director

feibus@rodefshalom.org

412.621.6566 x127

I asked ChatGPT to help me define community and I wasn't satisfied with the answer. Like many sources, ChatGPT told me that a community is a group of like-minded people, whose members have the same goals and values. While it may be true in some cases, it has been my experience that communities thrive when they are made up of individuals who are not like-minded and have different goals and values. Why? Because from diversity comes understanding and appreciation.

The first community a young child experiences is their family. It is a safe space that includes people who show unconditional love and appreciation. It is a community of comfort, routine, and shared goals and values. It is the community where a child learns who they are and where they came from.

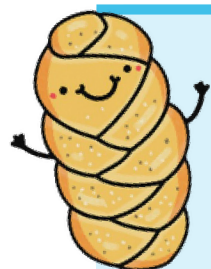
The next community a young child experiences is a learning community. This community is one of learning and understanding. In this community, young children learn that individuals have their own experiences and culture. They begin to understand their unique



identity while learning to appreciate diversity. It is the community where a child begins to explore who they will become and where they go.

The Berkman Family Center is a learning community, each member having a different lived experience, background, and culture. We come together not because we are the same, but because we appreciate how we are different. We learn from each other, we share our experiences, we engage in healthy debate, and most importantly, we celebrate.

I encourage you to look for the diversity in your community, and celebrate it!



Shabbat with You

**Saturdays: December 7,
January 4, and February 8
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
\$5 per family**

Register at rodefshalom.org/shabbatwithyou

Families with young children are invited to drop in for a light breakfast, play date, sing-along with Cantor Toby, and a Shabbat activity with Family Center Director Ellie Feibus.

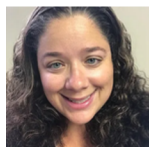
Hanukkah PJ Library

**Wednesday, December 11
5:30 p.m.**

Register at rodefshalom.org/pj

Wear your PJs and learn *a latke* about Hanukkah! Children ages 2-5 and their families are invited to join librarian Sam Siskind and Ellie Feibus in our Glick Children's Library for an evening of Hanukkah stories, crafts, and food. Don't forget to check out a book to read at home over the holiday before you go!





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

The Miracle of When Hanukkah and Winter Break Happen Together

Who remembers the year of Thanksgivukkah? 2013, the year when we celebrated Thanksgiving and Hanukkah together? So. Many. Turkey. Hanukkiah! Because Hanukkah occurs based on the Jewish calendar and not the secular calendar, it can happen at varying times throughout November, December, and yes, even January. Hanukkah is not only a celebration of the miracle of the oil and the rededication of the Second Temple, but it can also embody the importance of taking a break from everyday life. In today's fast-paced world, where the demands of work, school, soccer, lacrosse, karate, dance, theater, and so many more commitments often leave little room for reflection, Hanukkah can serve as a reminder to pause and appreciate the moments that bring joy.

During Hanukkah we gather to light the Hanukkiah, symbolizing hope and perseverance. This invites us to take a step back from our routines and embrace a sense of togetherness and community. The act of lighting the candles each night almost forces us to take a moment together, appreciate one another, and appreciate the simplicity of the flame of a candle. After lighting the Hanukkiah is a perfect time to engage in conversation,



Save the Dates

December 28, 2024
All Ages Hanukkah Dinner and Movie Night

January 12, 2025
K-5th Grade Social Action Sunday

January 12, 2025
6th-12th Grade Purim Carnival prep begins

February 9, 2025
K-5th Grade Tu B'Shevat Program

enjoy a delicious meal, or play a fun game of dreidel together as a family. These traditions help provide a natural counterbalance to the stresses of daily life and allow us moments of joy and laughter.

This year we will light the first candle of Hanukkah on Wednesday, December 25th and the last candle on Wednesday, January 1st. Talk about perfect timing. Schools are all on winter break, activities slow down or pause entirely, many parents are able to take vacation time, and for those that can't, oftentimes there are built-in vacation days due to Christmas and New Years. This year, take advantage of the timing of the holiday, and whether this will be your first or 51st, enjoy celebrating Hanukkah together with family and friends.



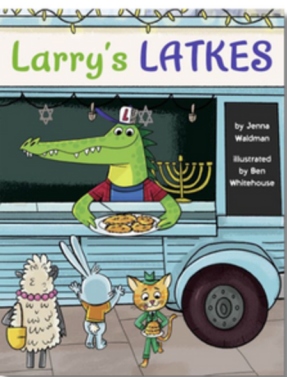
Sam Siskind

Librarian

siskind@rodefshalom.org

412.621.6566 x179

Check out these titles for the upcoming holidays of Hanukkah and Tu B'Shevat, available in Rodef Shalom's Lippman Library!



Larry's Latkes, by Jenna Waldman, illustrated by Ben Whitehouse

One of the most popular customs of Hanukkah is to eat delicious potato latkes. The smell of these treats frying in the pan is as synonymous with Hanukkah as the smell of turkey and stuffing is with Thanksgiving. But what if the standard latke recipe gets an alteration? Well, in this story for children ages 3-6, Larry the Gator puts his creativity to the test. He creates latkes that contain not only potatoes, but also peaches, beets, and apricots. Our library contains several cookbooks for adults that contain recipes off the beaten path, and as this book contains a recipe in the back, this can serve adventurous adults in addition to children who are willing to give something new a try.



Trees Make Perfect Gifts, by Paul Czajak, illustrated by Cathy Gendron

What is the first animal you think of when considering a family pet? Perhaps a dog or a cat would immediately come to mind. But Abigail is different...she wants a pet tree! Her family is shocked, but Abigail is serious. In this story for children ages 3-7, Abigail indeed treats her tree like a member of the family. Befitting of Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish holiday commemorating the birthday for the trees, she shows her pet tree great love and respect, declaring trees "the greatest pets in the world."



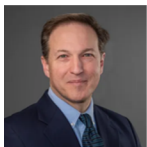
The Lights of Hanukkah: A Book of Menorahs, by Barbara Rush

For adults, this book displays a gallery of over 60 various menorahs from across continents over a period of some 1,600 years. These menorahs cover a large range of styles, shapes, and colors, including a clay mold-formed and pulled example from 4th or 5th Century Israel, a bronze menorah from 18th Century Italy, and a particularly creative American one from 1974, featuring the Statue of Liberty as the branches and her torch as the candle holders. The pictures can serve as an interest and fascination for people of all ages, including young children.



Gardening from the Bible to North America: Essays in Honor of Irene Jacob, by Dr. Walter Jacob and others

As a tribute to the late, esteemed Dr. Rabbi Walter Jacob, this book will be on display in the Lippman Library. Walter and his wife Irene were passionate about gardening and they founded the Rodef Shalom Biblical Botanical Garden in 1987. Comprising seven essays, three of which were written by Walter Jacob himself, this book explores the essence of gardens from various angles, including biblical history as well as the methods in which none other than Thomas Jefferson kept a garden. A good read for adults, appropriate for Tu B'Shevat, other local community members contributed an essay as well including Rabbi Danny Schiff. Pictures of the earlier days of the Biblical Garden are included in the back of this compilation.



Rabbi Larry Freedman,
Director, Joint Jewish Education Program
RabbiLF@jjep.org
412.621.6566 x116

“What do we hire a holiday to do for us?”

-Rabbi Irwin Kula

It's a simple question that upends everything you thought you knew about holidays. Here's a classic scenario. A holiday arrives, we pull out some decorations, maybe, cook some holiday foods, possibly, and then maybe learn a little bit about the meaning. Or maybe not. It's a holiday. A break from the routine, a different look in the home, something tasty. Maybe something on TV that references it. That should do it. That's enough, right?

I have been saying, wherever I can, that default is dead. The idea that we live out Jewish behaviors because that is just what is expected of Jews is an idea that is dead and probably has been dead for decades. The last of the great Eastern European Jewish migration was in 1924. Those Jews brought in a sense of default. A Jew lived the way a Jew lives. Their children didn't really have a choice. Their grandchildren definitely pushed back but still maintained all sorts of Jewish conventions to some extent. Their great-grandchildren, the young parents of today, have in broad strokes no connection to that old country sense of default and plenty of options as to how a Jew lives. And that's with an example of someone arriving in 1924. Many of you reading this will not have great-grandparents from the old country but great-great grandparents or even a great-great-great-added on before you can reach the ancestors that came over. And the many of you who have joined the Jewish people as adults, you come to this same problem in your own unique way.

If you feel in your soul an understanding of why you do the Jewish that you do, count yourself

among the lucky. Many Jews today struggle with understanding. And I can promise you that all the children I work with struggle.

So I return to Rabbi Kula. “What do we hire a holiday to do for us?” We, those of us alive today with an interest in the next generation, need to see holidays not as a passive experience but something we “hire” to do something for our family. If you spend any time, money, or energy getting ready to celebrate a holiday then you have paid for it. And if you have paid the holiday, don't you want it to earn its pay? Default is dead so we have to direct the holiday. We have to be intentional and talk with our children about the values we take from it. We have to be intentional in making our homes look different and smell different for every holiday so that the holiday can do its job. Holidays are always fun. They should also be meaningful. They should also be inspiring. That's what we hire them for. And no more is there a matriarch or patriarch from the old country we can rely on to do this work. You, reading this, you are the matriarch, the patriarch, the wizened leader of your family. Help the holiday do its job. And after the holiday is over (this year) you will be very satisfied of a job well done.



Latkepalooza

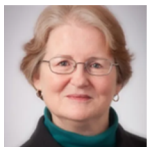
Sunday, December 15

10:00 AM - Noon

Congregation Beth Shalom

Games, crafts, prizes, donuts and latkes! Everyone is welcome to join us for J-JEP Religious School's annual community Hanukkah celebration at Congregation Beth Shalom. \$5 per person or \$20 per family cash only at the door.





Martha L. Berg
Archivist
berg@rodefshalom.org
412.621.6566 x131

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE ARCHIVES. . .

. . . and the Archives is full of stories. Every document or photograph tells part of a story about the history of Rodef Shalom. To give a few examples:

- The 1922 pamphlet with the ponderous title “Third Report of the Committee on the Unassigned Pew System” was part of the congregation’s pioneering effort to democratize seating at services and loosen the grip of the affluent founding families.
- The 1970 news clipping about one of Pittsburgh’s first consumer recycling projects, set up in our parking lot, tells a story about what we didn’t yet call “climate change.”
- The large framed montage on the way to the administrative offices is evidence of President Taft’s 1909 visit to Rodef Shalom, the first time that a sitting U.S. president spoke from the bimah of a Jewish congregation on the Jewish Sabbath.



You are reading this because you are part of the Rodef Shalom community and therefore also part of the Archives. I have been fortunate to be part of this community for the past 23 years, and even more fortunate that the core of my job description has been to discover the threads that have tied the community together over the course of its long history. The mission statement of Rodef Shalom’s Archives is “to collect, preserve, and make available the records of Rodef Shalom Congregation.” This mission is like a license to tell stories and to help others find their own stories of Rodef Shalom. With the hard work of many volunteers over the years, we have processed more than 350 linear feet of various kinds of materials. To spread the word about Rodef Shalom’s remarkable history, I have answered hundreds of reference questions, designed archival exhibits, hosted many researchers, organized programs, given talks for other organizations, researched new topics for zoom talks, and mined the Archives in more than a hundred articles that have appeared in the newsletter.

A lot of these stories are about changes, since change is ever-present in our communities and institutions. I will be retiring at the end of December, and the archives stories of the future will be recorded by other voices. Many thanks to Anne Molloy, my Archives volunteers, and the many Board members, staff, and congregants who have supported the Archives through the years.

For my last Archives program, I've invited Eric Lidji, Director of the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Heinz History Center, to give a talk he has titled "A Stroll Through the Past: Stories from the Rodef Shalom Archives." Please come to Levy Hall on December 16 at 7:30 to hear Eric's talk and to give me a chance to thank you in person for your support for the Rodef Shalom Archives.

A Stroll Through the Past: Stories from the Rodef Shalom Archives

with Eric Lidji

Monday, December 16 · 7:30 p.m. in Levy Hall
RSVP at rodefshalom.org/archives

Eric Lidji is the director of the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Senator John Heinz History Center. He is the author of *John Riegert* and *The Seventeenth Generation: The Lifework of Rabbi Walter Jacob*, co-editor of *Her Deeds Sing Her Praises: Profiles of Pittsburgh Jewish Women*, and co-editor of *Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy*. He writes extensively about the Jewish history of Western Pennsylvania and hosts the local Jewish history podcast *The Cornerstone*.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION

Rebecca Gildengers and Karen Brean
COSA Committee Co-Chairs
cosa@rodefshalom.org

This fall, the Community Outreach and Social Action (COSA) committee welcomed new members as we support taking active roles in the community with work towards repairing the world.

Projects included helping welcome immigrants and refugees to Pittsburgh by setting up homes, collecting socks for the cold weather for the needy, delivering produce to food pantries, joining Rodef Shalom and Temple Sinai at the Tashlich Two Ways to clean up Frick Park, writing get out the vote postcards with the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Religious Action Center and Temple Sinai liaisons, and



meeting with members of Temple Sinai's Tikkun Olam Center to learn about their projects.

Many thanks to our small but energized group for making these projects possible. If you are interested in volunteering for these and other upcoming projects to care for community and environment, please contact us at COSA@rodefshalom.org.

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM

Joan Forscher

President, Women of Rodef Shalom

wrs@rodefshalom.org

As always, the Women of Rodef Shalom played a part in all the holiday observances, from providing the pulpit flowers and boutonnieres for ushers and board members on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, to sponsoring the break fast. Again we decorated the beautiful bima Sukkah, thanks to coordinators Barbara Broff Goldman and Nina Markovic, who are handing off their roles after 17 faithful years!

Following the holidays, we held two events. We cohosted the Herzog Breakfast with Brotherhood, and held a WRS volunteer and new member recognition brunch.

BROTHERHOOD

Bill Klingensmith

President, Rodef Shalom Brotherhood

brotherhood@rodefshalom.org

Brotherhood's mission is to engage the men of Rodef Shalom in fellowship, community service, and support for our congregation. We host events including the Herzog Breakfast speaker series and the East Winds Band concert, help out at holiday celebrations such as Purim, and assist other local charities such as the JFCS's Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry. We also donate funds to Rodef Shalom for capital projects, staff recognition, and other operating needs.

In addition to the two Herzog Breakfasts held this year, we are planning a third for the spring. Co-sponsored by the Women of Rodef Shalom, these events are open to all members of Rodef Shalom and Temple Sinai. Please join us.

In support of greater collaboration with Temple Sinai, we are actively working with our counterparts there to plan joint events and programs. Look for future announcements here.

In early December we will hold our first soup preparation day in Rodef Shalom's kitchen, which is a different approach to our Soup From the Heart program. Rather than ask people to make soup at home, we will cook and freeze large batches of soup. Similarly, our program of delivering pulpit flowers after Shabbat services is also being revamped. Watch for opportunities to volunteer for these Caring Community programs.

As we continue to support the congregation in these and other ways, many of our members are actively serving on various unification committees.



Brotherhood members Al Rosenfeld, Tim Litman, and Don Shaw at the October 20, 2024 East Winds Band Concert

I hope that you will join us and participate in upcoming events. I welcome your suggestions and comments.



JOSHUA KOLE NICHOLSON | JANUARY 18

Josh is the son of Shanna Kovalchick and Brandon Nicholson. He is a seventh grader at Shady Side Academy, where he is an active member of the robotics team. Outside of school, he enjoys sailing, skiing, and biking. He is also interested in city planning and architecture. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Josh plans to use his 3D modeling skills to help a non-profit organization visualize its facilities.



JACOB IRVING FARBER | JANUARY 25

Jake Farber is a 7th grader at Dorseyville Middle School. He loves playing soccer, basketball and skiing and spending time with his brothers, sister and friends. He enjoys spending his summers at Camp Chipinaw.



MAREN WYNNE GOLDBERG | FEBRUARY 1

Maren is a seventh grader at Falk Laboratory School. She is the youngest child of Beth and Eric Goldberg of Squirrel Hill. Her interests include basketball, baseball, hanging out with friends and family, reading and dance. Maren volunteers at the Friendship Circle in Squirrel Hill as she loves to put smiles on peoples faces. She also has a desire to facilitate individuals feeling welcome and included in the community. Maren likes to share her experiences and love of Judaism with the children she interacts with during her volunteering time, and hopes to pursue a career in a helping profession.



ALEXANDRA LILY KUTZ-FLAMENBAUM | FEBRUARY 8

Alex is the daughter of Rachel and Josh Kutz-Flamenbaum. Her simcha is celebrated by her older sister, Rosemary, grandparents Bob and Catherine Flamenbaum and Pat and Archie Kutz, and her entire extended family. Alex is in 7th grade at Shady Side Academy. She's proud to be an active member of that community, deeply enjoying both academics and athletics. Alex's Bat Mitzvah project draws on both her love of building and creating as well as her deep sense of empathy for children suffering from housing insecurity. Alex is asking friends and family to donate items that she will use to create activity kits for kids. She's donating these kits to children at local shelters.



ABIGAIL MARINA LEFF | FEBRUARY 22

Abigail is a freshman at Gateway High School in Monroeville. Abbey a social butterfly and loves spending time with her friends and family. She is a skilled skier, SCUBA diver, and the vocal leader of her softball team, anchoring the outfield at Centerfield. Abigail has chosen to assist the underprivileged and disabled members of her community as her service project and plans to go to college to focus on becoming a pediatric physician.

MAZEL TOV ON BECOMING A B'MITZVAH

Ezra Adelman, Malena Friedman, Ari Hammerstein, Sophie Kahn, Dylan Kushner

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BIRTHS

Claire Josephine Connolly daughter of Elizabeth and Dan Connolly, **Jude François Dunn** grandson of Sarah and Richard Wertheimer, **Harper Mae Berman Festa** granddaughter of Helene and Dr. Michael Berman, **Lillian Bess Garrison** daughter of Misha and James Garrsion, **Helen Heday** granddaughter of Anne Molloy and Henry Posner III, **Oren Brok LaBelle** grandson of Susan and Richard Brok, **Olivia Neela Matts and Quinn Rose Matts** daughters of Elizabeth *Ibby* Conway and Ian Matts, **Gabriel Nicklaus Proviano** grandson of Mary Lou and Richard Silk, **Maya Beau Renberg** daughter of Sara Renberg and Leah Brennen, **Goldie Raye Rudel** granddaughter of Shelley Sufrin, **Benjamin Ezra Scheffler** grandson of Judy and Steve Sheffler, **James Michael Spielberg** great-grandson of Lois Michaels, **Laila Staitman** granddaughter of Bobbie Elmer and Rabbi Mark Staitman, **Jesse Valdez** son of Rosie and Alexander Valdez

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Catherine Blauvelt and David Busis and Arthur, Lilah and Madeleine, **Stefani Pashman and Jeremy Feinstein** and Nathan, Abigail and Gabriel, **Lauren and David Goldberg** and Emily and Jacob, **Shannon and Aaron Gottesman** and Maxwell and Everett, **Wendy and Carl Kiva Green**, **Tara Zeigler and Stephen Gross** and Camille, **Elizabeth and Stephen Huber** and Isabella, Amanda and Emma, **Adrienne and Frank Izaguirre**, **Lauren Salzinger and Glen Sanders** and Riley and Jacob, **Earl Schaffer, Ilene and John Steiner**, **Meagan Steiner**, **Emily and Richard Ricky Wolfe** and Maxwell, **Thea and Christian Chris Zinck**

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Carolyn Frischer and Tony Richardson-Eckes
Member Engagement Committee Co-Chairs
membership@rodefshalom.org

Opening with a dictionary definition might seem traditional, but it still serves as a compelling way to start. So, let's begin by revisiting the definitions of the verb *gather*:

1. come together; assemble or accumulate.
2. bring together and take in from scattered places or sources.

We recognize how essential coming together is in Jewish life. We feel it at every Shabbat service, during Sunday morning JJEP drop-offs, or Wednesday afternoons around Mahjong tables. A quick look through this issue of *Hakesher* reveals countless ways we gather—from our youngest members to our wisest ones. But let's think more about the second definition: gathering from scattered sources. This, too, is crucial to our work at RSC, especially in our committee efforts.



As members, we're all in different places in life: some are newlyweds, others celebrate milestone anniversaries; some are starting new careers, while others look toward retirement. It's this diversity that makes our community so dynamic—and why we need you to consider joining a committee.

We have a variety of committees that thrive on the perspectives of our members. One great place to start is the Member Engagement Committee, where our main goal is to ensure that each member feels the value of being part of our congregation. We want to hear your ideas! Reach out to us at membership@rodefshalom.org, share your thoughts, or join us at an upcoming meeting.



Mayda Roth, CFRE
Director of Development
roth@rodefshalom.org
412.621.6566 x140

Fundraising focuses on the numbers and what they mean to success. More importantly, *every* gift to our Congregation has a story. Think of the reason why *you* make your contribution to Rodef Shalom Congregation. Your gifts, regardless of the amount, make an impact on our ability to provide weekly services; support religious education; lectures; operate an early-learning center; host concerts, exhibits, tours of our historic building and our unique Biblical Botanical Garden; welcome multiple tenants including Tree of Life and Dor Hadash; and, yes, employ a dedicated clergy and staff. It is your story and your generosity that fuels Rodef Shalom.

Here are some numbers: a recent search showed that there are more than 11,000 Jewish organizations nationally that provide a wide variety services to the Jewish community and communities at-large. Hanna Shaul Bar Nissim, post-doctoral candidate at Brandeis University, reported that the typical Jewish household donates more than their Protestant



Tzedakah box with fused glass from the collection by artist Gary Rosenthal

or Catholic counterparts. This penchant for outsized generosity is perhaps due to the fact that the Jewish community is among the nation's most educated and wealthy demographic group. Plus, Jews have an average of thirteen years of schooling, the highest number of years of schooling for a major religious community in the country.

Thank you for your time, your talent, your treasure, and *your* story.

Happy Hanukkah, happy New Year and here's to a peaceful 2025 filled with blessings.



DePaul School for Hearing and Speech is excited to announce that our SAILL (Speech And Integrated Language for Literacy) Preschool Program has found a wonderful new home at Rodef Shalom Congregation. DePaul School's mission is to teach children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen, speak, and succeed alongside their peers in mainstream education. We serve children from infancy through eighth grade, offering individualized programs in speech, language, and academic development. Simply, we give children a voice.

The SAILL Preschool Program provides intensive, specialized support for **young learners with typical hearing with speech challenges**, focusing on early literacy, language, and academic readiness. Our team includes three dedicated teachers, two speech-language pathologists, and a teacher's aide, creating a nurturing, interactive environment tailored to each child's unique potential, helping them to find their voice and thrive.

Rodef Shalom's welcoming campus enriches our students' daily experiences with beautiful art, recreation, library, and outdoor spaces that support our interactive, story-based learning approach.

We're grateful for Rodef Shalom's warm hospitality and look forward to a bright future here, helping young children build the skills and confidence they need to thrive. For more information on how to give a child a voice, please visit www.DePaulHearingAndSpeech.org

RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION FUND

Donations

Anonymous, Micah Ackerman, Sandra Bennett, Monday Night Meeting, Rachel Schaffer, Patricia and Alan Siger

Honoring

Jane Kaufman by Linda and Larry Gross

In Memory

Kenny Jacob by Erica Fox Zabusky, **Dorothy Dresbold Greenberg** by Gwen Miller, **Carol Kaufman** by Linda and Larry Gross, **Elaine Lesgold** by Eileen Lane, **Jeannette Medgaus** by Ann Shaw, Jan and Don Shaw, **Marcia Netzer** by Jean Bongiovanni, **Esther and Jacob Spitz, Sam Spitz** by Dee Bellarby

ACKERMAN FAMILY FUND

Honoring

Barbara and Alan Ackerman by Sally Rock

ARCHIVES

Honoring

Martha Berg by Susan Melnick

BIBLICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Donations

Ariel Amsellem, Ryan Gott, Highland Park Garden Club, Hill Top United Methodist Church

In Memory

Dr. Walter Jacob by Lisa Colautti and Kenneth Bailey, Lester Berkowitz, Patricia Braverman, Karen and Richard Brean, Marilyn Caplan, Susan and Alan Citron, Dr. Judith Erlen, Phyllis, Phil and Steven Feinert, Marian Finegold, Nancy and Seth Kreimer, Barbara Broff Goldman, Joy Gray, Kathryn and Rev. Donald Green, Lynn and Patrick Gurrentz, Stephen Holstein, Barbara Krause and Larry King, Noah Lesgold, Debra Levy-McKenney, Sally and Tim Litman, Phyllis, Edward, Kenneth and Sarah Mandell, Dale and Linda Levy McGary, Jane and Dr. Richard Meltzer, Jean Metzger, Gwen Miller, Phyllis and Jack Ochs, Marian and Frederick Orringer, Jr., Carol Ostrow and Michael Graff and family, Amy Schlesinger, Sally and Lanny Seed, Phyllis and Jerry Steinfield, Marcia Stewart, Susan and Benjamin Wechsler, Carol Weisman

Irene and Dr. Walter Jacob by Barbara and Jonathan Lief

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Beverly and Howard Mermelstein, Anita and Sidney Dubner, Pearl and William Kramer, Vicky Warren and Henry Shaw by the Dubner, Mermelstein and Shaw Families, **Arthur Ferleger, Ruth Ferleger, Judy Sigal and David Wolsky** by Donna Kruman and Len Ferleger, **Earl Latterman, Rose and Samuel**

Sugerman, Pamela Friedman, Vitie and Bernard Friedman, Ida and Samuel Latterman, Rachel and Bernard Latterman, and Dr. Harvey Sugerman by Marilyn Latterman, **Paula and Marvin Levitt, Irene and Robert Seiden** by Karen and Lee Levitt, **Shirley Jean Barish and Stanley Sampson Barish** by Nancy and Thomas Moeller

CAPITAL BUILDING

Main Sanctuary by Alice Backer, Marlee Myers, and Helen Orringer

In Memory

Dr. Walter Jacob by Rabbi Dr. Ruth Langer

RICHARD A. FINEGOLD
FAMILY PRE-SCHOOL FUND

In Memory

Dorothy Dresbold Greenberg by Marian Finegold

FOUNDATIONS

Louis and Sandra Berkman Foundation, Federation Educational Enrichment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

IN KIND

Marilyn and Len Asimow, Marilyn Caplan, Dana Cohen, Food for Thought, Joan Forscher, Barbara Broff Goldman, Phyllis Klein, Michael Levy, Nina Marcovic, Laura Silver Veach, Nancy Rosenthal, Cecilia Rothschild

RABBINIC DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

Honoring

Helen Huday by Anne Molloy and Henry Posner III, **Goldie Rudel** by Rebecca Rudel

In Appreciation

Valerie Snow

RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION
JEWISH MUSEUM

Honoring

Barbara and Alan Ackerman, Bob Wasserman by Mayda and Barry Roth

ALEX SEED MEMORIAL MENTAL HEALTH FUND

In Memory

Arnold Hantman, Rabbi Burt Schuman by Sally and Lanny Seed, **Alex Edward Seed** by Ilene and Joel Iskoe, Janie and Dr. Barry Kart, Mayda and Barry Roth, Bobbi Elmer and Rabbi Mark Staitman

RODEF SHALOM LEGACY SOCIETY DONORS

Recognizing donors who have included the Congregation in their estate plan

Anonymous (3)
 Barbara and Marcus Aaron II*
 Betty Abrams*
 Barbara and Alan Ackerman
 Marcia* and Richard Adelsheim
 Lawrence Adler
 Dorothy Avins*
 Bette and Hal* Bigler
 Charlotte and Max Bluestone*
 Karen and Richard Brean
 Rosella and Gilbert Broff*
 Sylvia and Sidney Busis*
 Marion Cohen*
 Teri and Barton Cowan
 Marcia and Charles* Deaktor
 Gene and Robert* Dickman
 Leisl and Fritz Ehrlich*
 Adam and Matthew Falcone
 Ruth and Emil Feldman*
 Sheila and Milton* Fine
 Marian and Richard* Finegold
 Sylvia Fischer
 Frederick Frank
 Fanny Gelernter*
 Bette Jean Goldblum*
 Jack Goldsmith*
 Juliette Grauer*
 Anna Greenberg*
 Marjorie Greenberger
 Sharyn Henry and Dennis Grinberg
 Lester Hamburg*
 Alex and Harris Heit
 David Hammerstein
 Jane Haskell*
 Jacki and Jeffrey Herzog
 Martha and Edwin Horne*
 Irene* and Walter Jacob
 Lynne and Blair Jacobson
 Susan Friedberg Kalson and David Kalson
 Natalie A. and Lawrence* Kaplan
 Goldie and Joel Katz
 Evan Klein
 William Klingensmith
 Corrine and Seymoure Krause*
 Susan and Eric Kruman
 Amy Langham
 Audrey and Robert* Lazar
 Marilyn and Earl* Latterman
 Francine and Alan Lefkowitz*
 Sharon and Alan Lesgold
 Marcia Levaur
 Edgar Levenson*
 Frances and David Levin*
 Samuel Levine*
 Janet Markel and Barry Lhormer*
 Sally and Tim Litman
 Susan Loether*
 Catherine and Mark H.* Loevner
 Stephanie and Bernard Mallinger*
 Myrna* and Mark Mason
 Lois and Milton* Michaels
 Norma and Edgar Michaels*
 Pauline and Bernard Michaels*

Gwen and Felix Bebe* Miller
 Ruth Westerman* and J. Robert Myers
 Carol Goldblum Nathenson
 Helen Orringer
 Lynn and Gerald Ostrow*
 Marla Perlman*
 Marolee and Burton Pollock
 Jeffrey Pollock
 Shirley and Sidney Rapport*
 Richard E. Rauh
 Mildred Rogow*
 Bette and Howard* Rom
 Sabina and Peter Rosenfeld
 Marcia Rosenthal
 Nancy and Robert Rosenthal
 Mayda Roth
 Michele Gray-Schaffer and Eric Schaffer
 Steven Schimmel
 Sally and Lanny Seed
 Dottie and Alan Silberman*
 Marjorie Silverman
 Nancy and Richard Simon*
 Janet and Edward Snyder*
 Janet and John Spear*
 Karla and Raymond Stept*
 William Stein*
 Laura and Harlan Stone
 Meredith and David Strassburger
 Mona and E.J. Strassburger
 Adeline and Harry Tabor*
 Barbara and Emil* Trellis
 Shirley Tucker*
 Barbara and Don Werner
 Wendy Wertheimer
 Carol Williams
 Ruth Wintner*
 Froimlee "Scotty" Wirtzman*
 Susan and Robert Wolf*
 Leatrice and John* Wolf, Sr.
 Ruth C. Yahr
 Florence and Harvey Zeve*

1856 CIRCLE

Members of our 1856 Circle support our Congregation beyond basic membership dues. Thank you to our 1856 Circle members who make it possible to welcome everyone to Rodef Shalom Congregation.

Anonymous, Barbara and Alan Ackerman, Teri and Barton Cowan, Frederick N. Frank, Esq., Michael Golde, David Kalson and Susan Friedberg Kalson, Goldie and Joel Katz, Eileen Lane, Sharon and Alan Lesgold, Mark Mason, Jane and Richard Meltzer, Lois Michaels, Sam Michaels, Barbara Miller, Beatrice Morrison, Donna and Robert Paul, Anne Molloy and Henry Posner III, Nancy and William Rackoff, Bette Rom, Marjorie Silverman, Susan and Peter Smerd, Mona and E.J. Strassburger, Barbara and Robert Thaw, Barbara Trellis

BROTHERHOOD YAHREIT FUND

May their Memory be for a Blessing August 2024

Richard S. Crone by Lois S. Crone, **Dr. Mayer A. Green** by Patty and Sandy Berman and Family,

Nathan H. Kart by Janie and Dr. Barry H. Kart; **Earl Latterman** by Marilyn Latterman, **Harriet Newman** by Cantor Julie Newman and Bill Klingensmith, **Ann Pumpian** by Phyllis Klein, **Murray Reidbord** by Amy Spear, **Pauline Silk** by Mary Lou and Richard Silk

September 2024

Emanuel Ackerman by Barbara and Alan Ackerman, **Nancy Berkowitz** by Lester Berkowitz, **Belle Comins** by Amy Lowenstein, **Vitie Friedman** by Marilyn Latterman, **Tillie Grossman** by Edward, Phyllis, Sarah and Kenneth Mandell, **Marion L. Kart** by Janie and Barry Kart, **James Klingensmith**, **Miriam Canter and Jacob Newman** by Cantor Julie Newman and Bill Klingensmith, **Frank Marcosky** by Phyllis M. Klein, **Barnett Marcus** by Barbara and Robert Thaw, **Fanny Meth and A.M. Palm** by Jeanne Meth, **Mary J. Proviano** by Mary Lou and Richard Silk, **Paul B. Rogal** by Jay Rogal, **Frank Rosenfeld and Rachelle Rosenfeld** by Sabina and Peter Rosenfeld, **Mildred Rubenstein and Mildred Plack** by Carol and Michael Yahr, **Alex Seed** by Sally and Lanny Seed, **Dorothy Sfarti and Tobi Ann Spindel** by Cynthia and Michael Weisfield, **Lois Somers** by Sidney H. Somers and Keith Somers, **Louise C. Waxler** by Amy Lowenstein, **Norman Weiner** by Stanley J. Weiner, **Bill Weisberger** by Patricia Weisberger

October 2024

Edward Goldberg by Samuel and Joan Kamin, **Lynn Gorman** by Jeffrey Herzog, **Meyer Grossman** by Ed, Phyllis, Sarah and Kenneth Mandell, **Myron Henry** by Rabbi Sharyn Henry, **Dorothy Englert Kamin** by Daniel Kamin, **Malcolm K. Levy** by Angela Levy, **Edward J. Lewis** by Anne V. Lewis, **Anne Litman** by Tim Litman, **Harry Lowenstein** by Amy C. Lowenstein, **Alex Edward Seed** by Amy Schlesinger, **Arnold B. Silverman** by Susan Silverman

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM HIGH HOLY DAY FLOWERS

In Memory

Marlene Faust by Susan and Sheldon Zytnick

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM SUKKAH DECORATIONS

Honoring

Am Yisrael Chai by Beth and Jeff Gusenoff, **Austin** by Sally and Tim Litman, **Sophie Kahn** by Jennifer Marin and Jeremy Kahn, **Barbara Broff Goldman and Nina Markovic** by Rabbi Sharyn Henry and Helen Orringer

Donations

Phyllis Bender, Nancy and Melvyn Goldstein, Joan Forscher and Gerry Ramage, Sue Shapera, Jan and Don Shaw, Yelizaveta Kisler and Aleksander Shulkin

In Memory

Shirley Jean Barish and Stanley Sampson Barish by Nancy and Thomas Moeller, **Nancy Berkowitz** by Lester Berkowitz, **Dan and Arthur Damick**, **Sarah Schein** by Dean Damick, **Marlene Faust** by Susan Zytnick, **Laurence and Sophia Harris Feinert**,

Alan M. Schindler and David F. Miller by Phyllis, Phil and Steven Feinert, **Girls Friendly** by Sabina and Peter Rosenfeld, **Mark H. Loevner** by Catherine Loevner, **William Lowenstein** by Amy Lowenstein, **Helen and Frank Marcosky** by Phyllis Klein, **Daphne Richardson** by Tony Richardson-Eckes, **Ramona Roth** by Carolyn, Heather, and Bud Roth, **Jerry T. Silverman** by Marjorie Silverman, **Sara Singer** by Janie and Barry Kart, **Mervin Stewart MD** by Marcia Stewart, **Abraham Sudilovsky** by Zulema Zattoni Sudilovsky, **Shirley Tucker** by Janet Ocel, **Elaine C. Weissberg** by Sally and Martin Goldhaber

WOMEN OF RODEF SHALOM FLOWER ENDOWMENT FUND

August 2024

Gilbert Broff by Rosella Broff*, **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**, **Gertrude and Dr. Simon Berenfield**, and **Bertha and Neff Kruman** by the Kruman family, **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*

September 2024

Sadye and Samuel Adler by Natalie and Judge Lawrence* Kaplan and Dr. Lawrence Adler, **William V. Conn** by Beatrice L. Conn, **Mayer A. Green** by Patricia and Sanford Berman, **William M. Horne** by Martha and Edwin Horne*, **Stephanie Mallinger** by Dr. Bernard Mallinger*, **Harry M. Perrin** by Beatrice L. Conn, **Dr. Virginia L. Oliver** by Margot 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 2024

Edith Donnerberg from Dr. Vera and Dr. Albert Donnerberg, **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 our best efforts, errors may occur.
Contact Mayda Roth should you have any changes
at 412.621.6566 x140.

RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION IS SUPPORTED BY GRANTS FROM

the Jack Buncher Foundation, the Federation Educational Enrichment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Great Pittsburgh, the Fine Foundation, the Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund administered by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Frances F. and David R. Levin Endowment Fund, the Charles M. Morris Charitable Trust, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program under the auspices of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the State Historical and Preservation Organization's Keystone Preservation Grant, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, PNC Bank, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Paul D. Schurgot Foundation, The Robert and Mary Weisbrod Foundation, an anonymous donor, an anonymous foundation, and donors like YOU.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING

Arnold Hantman, Daniel Harrison, Dr. Walter Jacob, Walter Malm, Ellen Chisdes Neuberg, Leone Paradise, Rabbi Burt Schuman, David Wallach, Elaine Weissberg, Mary Lou Westphal

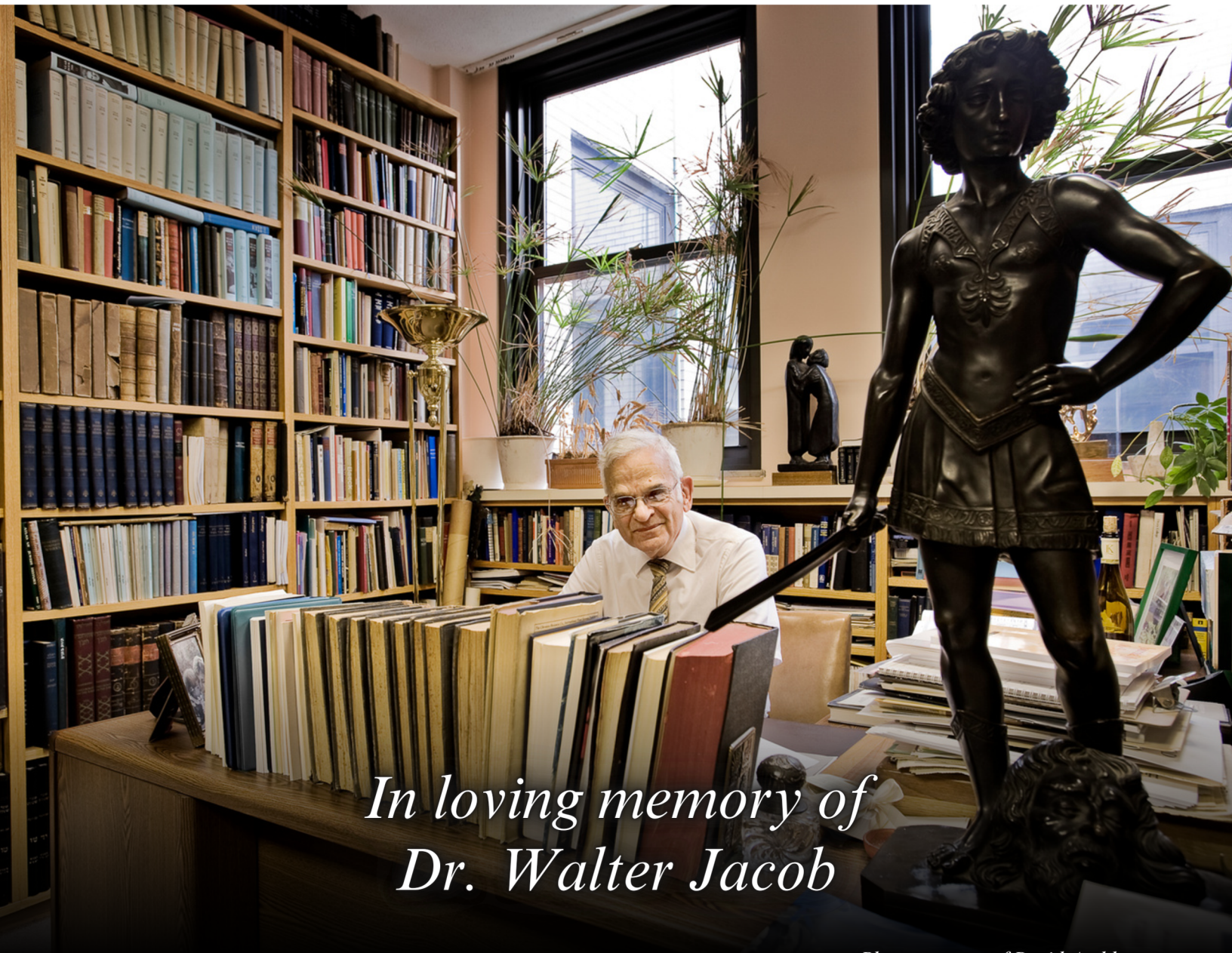


Photo courtesy of David Aschkenas

Rabbi Sharyn H. Henry

Cantor Toby Glaser

Lee Levitt

The Murray Klein Executive Director

Board of Trustees Executive Committee

Bill Battistone, President

Eric Kruman, Senior Vice President

Hal Coffey, Vice President

Laura Swiss, Vice President

Frederick N. Frank, Treasurer

Dr. Steven Abo, Assistant Treasurer

Amy Katz Leaman, Secretary

Marcie Weinstein, Assistant Secretary

Jeffrey Herzog, FTA

Executive Director Emeritus

Dr. Walter Jacob, z"l

Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Aaron Bisno

Frances F. & David R. Levin Rabbinic Scholar

HAKESHER *The Quarterly Bulletin of Rodef Shalom Congregation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Happy Hanukkah!

Hanukkah PJ Library

Wednesday, December 11 • 5:30 PM

Latkepalooza at Congregation Beth Shalom

Sunday, December 15 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Berkman Family Center Latke Luncheon

Friday, December 20 • 11:30 AM

First Night of Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Wednesday, December 25 • 5:30 PM on Zoom

Shabbat Hanukkah

Friday, December 27

Candle Lighting at 5:00 PM

Shabbat Service at 5:30 PM

Youth Havdalah and Hanukkah Celebration

Saturday, December 28 • 5:00 PM

Eighth Night of Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Wednesday, January 1 • 5:30 PM on Zoom

FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS AT RODEFSHALOM.ORG

There always were two ways to live in a world
that is often dark and full of tears.
We can curse the darkness or we can light a light,
and as the Chassidim say,
a little light drives out much darkness.

May we all help light up the world.

—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z"l

