



# reCONNECTING

BI-WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO HAKESHER BULLETIN OF RODEF SHALOM CONGREGATION

## Congregational Picnic Friday, May 18

T.G.I.S. Service 6 p.m.  
Picnic 7:30 p.m.

Welcome new members and join your fellow congregants for the annual congregational picnic. Fun food, family activities and Mike the Balloon guy will be back for the kids! This event is free and immediately follows T.G.I.S service.



Please R.S.V.P. to JoAnn Ruffing at [ruffing@rodefshalom.org](mailto:ruffing@rodefshalom.org) or 412-621-6566



*If you are a new member, please attend the service for a blessing on the bima!*

## Teen Shabbat & Confirmation

Friday, May 25

Erev Shabbat Service 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for a special Shabbat service and dinner honoring our Temple teens, including our Confirmation students, and 12 grade graduates. Confirmation students being honored are: Avi Grinberg, Drew McQuiston-Starrett, and Jacob Henry. Graduating 12th graders are: Miranda Cooper, Sarah Henry, Sophia Rosenfeld, Jennifer Schwartz, and Andrew Shaw.



Please R.S.V.P. to JoAnn Ruffing at [ruffing@rodefshalom.org](mailto:ruffing@rodefshalom.org) or 412-621-6566 Dinner: \$15



CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE! ►►



# RABBINIC MESSAGE...

- Rabbi Amy Hertz

On Friday, May 25, we will honor our teens at a special Shabbat service and dinner! Our congregation will recognize these Confirmation students, Religious School graduates, Temple Youth Groupers, as well as those teens active in other communal programs. How fortunate we are to have so many young people who contribute to and serve our community, by participating in High Holy Day services and youth programs, serving as madrichim (teaching assistants) in the Jacob Religious School, participating in youth group activities and retreats, painting faces, making sno-cones and popcorn all of which help to raise money for Empty Bowls, playing on the Inter-Synagogue Basketball League at the JCC, studying at J-SITE and, here at Temple, running an amazing Purim carnival. Still other Temple teens spend countless hours involved in community-wide Jewish activities including the Diller Teen Fellows Leadership program, helping others through the Friendship Circle, participating in BBYO, the musical at the JCC, etc.

We will celebrate all of the ways Rodef Shalom teens continue to study Judaism and live out their Jewish identities and values. So it is that on Friday evening, May 25, we will highlight these young adults who make such a tremendous impact on our congregation and on Pittsburgh's larger Jewish and secular communities.

We will, of course, especially acknowledge our 10th grade Confirmation students and our 12th grade Religious School graduates. These students, in particular, have made a commitment to continue their Jewish learning and are leaders in our congregational teen programs. As well, teen awards will be presented to members of our 12th grade who have demonstrated significant accomplishment in the areas of social action, leadership, and ongoing Jewish learning.

Please make plans to join us for this special May 25th Shabbat evening celebration!



May 7-13

SHABBAT EMOR

Torah Portion: Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

## Pirke Avot Class

Wednesday, May 9 · 8-9 a.m. · ALC 2



Pirke Avot, the Ethics of our Fathers contains many of Judaism's most cherished aphorisms in the context of our sages' wisdom about how to live a good and ethical life. It is traditional to study Pirke Avot between Passover and Shavout.

Co-led by Dr. Greg Siegle from Rodef Shalom and Dr. David Brent of Congregation Poale Zedeck, Young Israel of Greater Pittsburgh, a modern Orthodox synagogue, this series is sure to spark a diverse and lively set of discussions fit to wake you up for your work!

## Brotherhood Discussion Series

Thursday, May 10 · 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. · Levy Hall

Comments on the Current Palestinian/Israeli Dilemma presented by: Ram Kossowsky. Join us for discussion and lunch. Lunch is \$5/person. No RSVP required. Sponsored by Brotherhood.

## What do the Rabbis Say?

### A Look at the Talmud

Friday, May 11 · 12-1 p.m. · Krause Conference Room

Join Rabbi Hertz as we explore Talmudic texts relating to the topics of health, healing, and lifecycle celebrations. We will begin with a basic review of Talmudic literature. Each pair of classes will look at a specific theme. The pairs of classes will be related to each other in style, but not dependent on one another for content. Please join any time!

## Race for the Cure

Sunday, May 13

Brotherhood needs volunteers to help at finish line water tables at this annual event which raises funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation to fund breast cancer research.

To volunteer, contact Alan Cabin at [amcabin@me.com](mailto:amcabin@me.com)

## SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

### May Monthly Food Drive: Canned Fruit Squirrel Hill Community Food Bank

Food justice is a significant part of Rodef Shalom's Social Action efforts! Feed the needy in our community by bringing donations to the Temple.



**May 14-20**

**SHABBAT B'HAR-B'CHUKOTAI**

Torah Portion: Leviticus 25:1-27:34  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

**May 21-27**

**SHABBAT B'MIDBAR**

Torah Portion: Numbers 1:1-4:20  
Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

### **Pirke Avot Class**

*Wednesday, May 16 · 8-9 a.m. · ALC 2*

Pirke Avot, the Ethics of our Fathers contains many of Judaism's most cherished aphorisms in the context of our sages' wisdom about how to live a good and ethical life.

Co-led by Dr. Greg Siegle from Rodef Shalom and Dr. David Brent of Congregation Poale Zedeck, Young Israel of Greater Pittsburgh, a modern Orthodox synagogue, this series is sure to spark a diverse and lively set of discussions fit to wake you up for your work!

### **House of Worship Concert**

#### **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**

*Wednesday, May 16 · 7:30-9 p.m. · Sanctuary*

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform a free concert at Rodef Shalom as part of its "Music for the Spirit" program. Tickets are no longer available, but you can still participate as a volunteer. Contact Anna to learn how you can get involved. Anna Baird: baird@rodefshalom.org or 412-621-6566 x183

### **Sisterhood Annual Dinner Meeting**

*Thursday, May 17 · 6 p.m. · Freehof Dining Room*

Celebrate outgoing president Beth Frost, welcome incoming president Elaine Rybski, and honor the Volunteer of the Year! You don't need to be a Sisterhood member to celebrate with us. Enjoy the wine bar & Chinese auction. RSVP by May 12: rsllr@aol.com or 412-361-6646  
Sisterhood members & guests: \$30/person  
Non-Sisterhood: \$36/person

### **Congregational Picnic**

*Friday, May 18 · 7:30 p.m. · Deaktor Terrace*

\*\*See Front Cover for Details\*\*

### **Mishpacha Music**

*Saturday, May 19 · 9:30-10:15 a.m. · Multi-Purpose Room*

This brief, musical children's experience is facilitated by Jewish Song Leader, Beth Goldstein. Held monthly. All are welcome!  
\*\*Date Rescheduled from May 12th to 19th\*\*

### **Family Center Plant Sale Pick-Up**

*Sunday, May 20 · 9 a.m.-12 p.m.*

### **Brothers All**

*Sunday, May 20 · 10-11:30 a.m. · Falk Library*

For men only. Come meet friends, enjoy a tasty continental breakfast, and participate in a lively discussion.



### **Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival**

*Monday, May 21 · 7:30 p.m. · Levy Hall*

The Jewish Music Festival makes Rodef Shalom its home for "Ayre" with David Krakauer. This eclectic musical show about religious harmony is just one stop the festival will be making in our community. Information about all shows can be found at [www.pjmf.net](http://www.pjmf.net)

### **Rosh Chodesh**

*Monday, May 21 · 6-8 p.m. · Small Dining Room*

Women are invited to welcome the new moon (Rosh Chodesh) and new Hebrew month Sivan at our brown bag dinner discussion. RSVP to Susan: richmans@pahomeschoolers.com, (724) 783-6512

### **Solidarity at Sunrise**

*Tuesday, May 22 · 7:30-8:30 a.m. · Wechsler Gallery*

Begin your day and the month of Iyar with a joyful, peaceful morning service in solidarity with Women of the Wall. You'll be on your way with bagel and coffee in hand!

### **Pirke Avot Class**

*Wednesday, May 23 · 8-9 a.m. · ALC 2*

Pirke Avot, the Ethics of our Fathers contains many of Judaism's most cherished aphorisms in the context of our sages' wisdom about how to live a good and ethical life.

### **Brotherhood Discussion Series**

*Thursday, May 24 · 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. · Levy Hall*

*Outlook for the U.S. Economy and a Quick Peek At Occupy Wall Street's 1%* presented by: Sandra D. Williamson, Associate Professor, Retired, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh. Join us for discussion and lunch. Lunch is \$5/person. No RSVP required. Sponsored by Brotherhood.

### **Handwriting 101**

*Thursday, May 24 · 8-10 p.m. · Aaron Court*

Back by popular demand, Michelle Dresbold demonstrates how to read a person's behavior, thoughts, motivations and secrets through handwriting. Have your own handwriting analyzed at a reception following the presentation. No reservation needed. Sponsored by Sisterhood.



**FOR EVENTS:** RSVP TO JOANN RUFFING: (412) 621-6566, [RUFFING@RODEFSHALOM.ORG](mailto:RUFFING@RODEFSHALOM.ORG)





## Ongoing Events

### Daily Service

Mondays–Thursdays · 5:30 pm · Cohen Chapel  
Reflect at the end of the day. Recite kaddish for a loved one. Support and be supported by your Temple family. Come as you are.

### Sewing Workshop sponsored by Sisterhood

Tuesdays · 10 a.m. · Sisterhood Room  
Beginners welcome. A brown bag lunch follows.  
Contact Nancy Rosenthal: (412) 828-4844

### Toddler’s Afternoon Open Play

Tuesdays · 3–5 p.m. · Berkman Family Center Classroom  
A classroom and the playground will be open for children who are accompanied by an adult to hang out with friends.  
Contact Mimsie: (412) 621-6566 x127, leyton@rodefshalom.org

### Mitzvah Sandwich Making

Fridays · 8:30–10 a.m. · Kitchen  
Join our volunteers to make 150 sandwiches for the East End Cooperative Ministry’s shelter. All welcome!  
Contact Len Merkow before coming: (412) 521-0477

### Yoga sponsored by Sisterhood

Fridays · 9:30–11 a.m. · Freehof Hall  
Men and women are welcome. Cost is \$10/class. Bring a mat.  
Contact Sharon Lesgold: (412) 904-2611

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Shavout Schedule



### *Celebration of Receiving the Torah from Mt. Sinai*

#### Erev Shavuot Service

Saturday, May 26 · 7:30 p.m. · Sanctuary

#### Tikkun Leil Shavout (Off Site)

Saturday, May 26 · 10 p.m.-1 a.m. · JCC

#### Shavout Service (Off Site)

Sunday, May 27 · 10:30 a.m. · Temple Sinai

#### Building Closed

#### Shavout

Sunday, May 27

#### Memorial Day

Monday, May 28