Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. Writing this message is always a good opportunity to take stock in our recent successes here and to train an eye to our future. And it is fitting that, with the upcoming High Holidays and Jewish New Year, we do the very same thing on a personal and introspective level.

With complete certainty, I can report that there is a great deal of exciting and new developments here at the Vilna. First, we recently completed a full reconstruction of our front plaza deck and a careful restoration of our beautiful wrought iron ornamental fence. It was really interesting to me to see the process through demolition and actually get to see the materials and engineering hidden inside the concrete plaza deck. Most of it hasn’t seen the light of day since the building was constructed in 1919 and we were able to see it and touch it. It is now a modern and waterproof structure made to look exactly like the original. And I am excited for you to see our beautiful new plaza and restored fence.

Second, our staff continues to grow. We look to bring on a full charge bookkeeper in the coming weeks as well as grant writer to help us find additional programming and restoration resources. Also, we are pursuing a Director of Community Outreach and Communications. This new senior position will oversee all communications as well as a variety of outreach activities, programs, and events. Additionally, we have hired a part-time social media and online coordinator to help improve and manage our online presence. We are very much looking forward to continuing to build our staff so that we can fulfill the needs of the community and create a place for everyone.

The Vilna continues to make meaningful connections in the community and you will see many examples of this in the pages that follow, including in our calendar of events. You will read about networks of downtown populations as well as of partner organizations. Also, we enjoy growing numbers of groups coming to the Vilna for learning, exploration, identity, and of course, fun. They come from near and far and we are proud to be known as such a valuable resource. We are equally proud to be a destination for lifecycle events. Weddings, b’nai mitzvah, and other celebrations continue to fill the building with joy and add to the wonderful memories created here.

We have indeed built a foundation for the future; both physically and relationally. And we continue to build every day. I very much look forward to you joining us.

To you and yours from me and mine, wishing you a Shana Tova Tikatevu ve-Chatemahu. May you be written down and inscribed for a Good Year.

Barnet Wolf Kessel, Executive Director
Creating Our Future

“The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and their destination.” (Anonymous)

This quote exemplifies the path of the Vilna as we create our future. As we evolve as an organization, we continue to explore directions that will change the face of the Vilna as well as ourselves. I learn each day on this journey. I have witnessed the steadfast determination of our staff to reach out to the downtown Jewish community in order to provide for their needs; I have been part of the resolve of our Board of Directors with their commitment to create a place for everyone at the Vilna. Our passion, professionalism, and creativity enhance our course of action. Gratitude is my true feeling for everyone’s efforts and spirit.

Our five new Directors have added a wide range of talent. (Please read their brief biographies in this Scribe.) Each comes from a new affinity group and brings to the Vilna an array of new ideas for programs and events. Our fall programs reflect this new diversity; our Mosaic Project incorporates the whole community’s reenactment of one of our murals, our Lifesavers Series invites us explore our justice system, and our family events continue to be interactive, fun, and inviting. (Please check our calendar for a detailed listing. There is so much more!)

As the New Year approaches, our High Holiday events will be in full swing, with our wonderful Havurah on the Hill High Holiday services, our young family services, several opportunities to participate in Taschlich ceremonies, and our celebration of Sukkot with many different events in our beautiful Sukkah.

Next, we hope you will join us on September 27th at 11:30am for a special occasion; we will be holding a dedication ceremony for our front plaza, which has been newly restored this summer. We will have a brunch followed by meaningful program and musical ensemble while we honor our founders and especially, our dear friends and supporters, Evvajean and Richard Mintz.

May this coming year be filled with joy and health for you and your loved ones.

Deborah Feinstein, President. Board of Directors

New Directions

A new year — a new direction at the Vilna. Right?

In my first year here, I have seen remarkable growth in the organization. The physical building is seeing improvements. The leadership, programming, and overall impact is ramping up at an amazing rate. We are bustling with a new, active Young Families committee – people who are committed to growing a strong network of Jewish families downtown. To hear the building once again filled with song and laughter of the next generation may be the most satisfying sounds around. Our Vilna’s Downtown Social Club is taking root, as well. We are grateful for the leadership of these groups who are eager to meet and make meaningful connections with others living downtown. Though their stages in life are different, both groups are deeply vested in ensuring Boston’s Jewish community is a strong, interwoven network of diverse and caring people. As a member of this organization’s senior staff, I couldn’t be more pleased and proud.

But earlier, why did I ask you “Right?” in referring to a new direction? Well, this is not a new direction for us but rather it is reinforcing our true mission. This is the direction in which the building was built to GO. Each stone in our walls was laid with the intention of housing Boston’s community; of hosting dinners, of feeding families, and of inspiring connections. At long last, the building is living out its potential again. And there is so much more potential to achieve. We dream big around here, and we want you not only dream big with us, but help make those dreams a reality.

Come to a program. Enjoy a lecture. Share a Shabbat evening with me. It is amazing to see what your support creates here. Let me shake your hand and thank you for your involvement with this unique, lively, important, and historic place that is so special to you, to me, and to our future.

With wishes of health, happiness, and peace in the New Year and beyond,

Rosa Kramer Franck, Development Director
Gala Wrap-Up

Our Connecting Communities gala this past April was our biggest to date! With 250 guests from all over the country packing the sanctuary, the evening was full of festivity with plenty of homage paid to our wonderful and deserving honorees, Mark E. Atkins and Robert L. Beal.

Attendees ate, drank, and enjoyed lively remarks from our staff and lay leadership. Special guests Jesse Sage, a Havurah on the Hill alumnus, and Taylor Swartz, one of the first people to become bar mitzvah in the building after its rescue, both shared their personal stories of connection to this special place. Jordan Rich, radio host on WBZ, lead a laughter-filled live auction that inspired bidding wars that raised critically needed funds for our operations and initiatives. Afterward, guests gathered in the community room for a sumptuous dessert reception and conversation before ending the evening.

Special thanks to our honorary co-chairs, Harold and Jamie Kotler and City Councillor Josh Zakim as well as our Gala committee and Sandy Swartz as chair. And thank you to all who supported our honorees and our organization and allowed us to achieve our fundraising goal!
NEW PROGRAM  Lifesavers Speaker series

Kicking off this fall at the Vilna is our new Lifesavers Speaker series. Made possible with a generous gift from Jason Weiner and Nicole Zatlyn, this ongoing series invites the community inside our building to hear fascinating stories from people saving lives every day. Starting off on Monday evening, October 19th at 7PM, our first installment features the Innocence Project. Attorney Aliza Kaplan, Associate Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School and a co-founder of the Oregon Innocence Project and Dennis Maher, Innocence Project Board Member and exoneree, will share their story of working to free Dennis from nearly 20 years of wrongful imprisonment.

Joining us on February 4th will be Dr. Nahid Bhadelia, an infectious diseases physician at the Boston University School of Medicine and the Director of Infection Control and Medical Response at National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory (NEIDL) at Boston University. Dr. Bhadelia will share her stories from on the ground working with Ebola patients in Sierra Leone. Keep an eye on our website for information on these two programs as well as information on a third session currently in the works.

The Vilna’s new Downtown Social Club plans to gather together at a nearby restaurant immediately following each program. Please contact Rosa at rosa@vilnashul.org to save your place with the Social Club and visit our website to sign up for the Lifesavers Speaker series programs!

The Vilna Shul’s front plaza and fence project is complete!

Thanks to generous grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the George B. Henderson Foundation as well as funding from our Richard Mintz Restoration Fund, the Vilna’s front plaza deck has been completely rebuilt. It is historically accurate to the original appearance and constructed using the most technically advanced building materials. Additionally, the decorative black wrought iron fence and gates have been painstakingly restored and reinstalled around the front of the building. From the sidewalk, the front of the property looks exactly as it did when it was originally built in 1919!

Special thanks to the highly respected preservation architecture firm of Spencer & Vogt Group, Inc. for their continued partnership with us. Our relationship with them goes back well over 20 years ago and to initial interest in rescuing the building. Also, we are grateful to M.J. Mawn, Inc. for their skillful construction and management of the project.
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN   Support our Cultural Center
Thank you for being a part of the Vilna community! We are a Jewish cultural center housed in a beautiful and historic building — the only one of its kind remaining in Boston. Your dollars go far here, and every donor and every dollar is important to us.

Please make a fully-deductible gift today! You will enable the Vilna to:
•    Maintain and preserve this unique landmark building
•  Welcome everyone who wishes to learn more about the Jewish experience
•   Develop exciting new programs, tours, exhibits, workshops, and concerts which showcase Jewish culture and history

Contribute now! Honor our past, beautify our present, and set us on the path to a vibrant future. Please visit www.vilnashul.org/support/donate, call (617) 523-2324, or return the enclosed envelope.

NEW HORIZONS   Opportunities to join the Vilna staff
As the Vilna Shul continues to grow and focus its resources, it is seeking a talented and results-oriented Director of Community Outreach and Communications. Please go to http://www.vilnashul.org/news/story/director_of_community_outreach_and_comm for a job description and more details. Additionally, we are looking for a grant writer experienced in the non-profit sector. Please go to http://www.vilnashul.org/news/story/grant_writer for more information.

FROM BROKEN PIECES TO A NEW LIFE
In the Community Room of THE VILNA, the once colorful 20th century folk art images are crumbling. We are bringing this mural back to life by recreating it in the form of a mosaic that represents the original, but with a contemporary flair. By building this mosaic together as a community project, we will be honoring the spirit of the mural itself, while re-envisioning it for the Beacon Hill community of the 21st century.

The well-known mosaic artist, Bette Ann Libby, will be leading the project.

Please join us on NOVEMBER 1 and NOVEMBER 8 (1-4 pm) to help bring this American mural back to life, connecting the past and present to build the future.

Open and free for all. For sign ups, scheduled times, and more information, call Rachel Spilecki at 617-523-2324 or visit vilnashul.org.
NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2015

MARK ATKINS  A globally successful entrepreneur and business leader, Mark received the Vilna’s 2015 Visionary Leadership Award. With his vision, he turned Invention Machine into a global enterprise. He also served as a mentor to multiple early stage entrepreneurial companies. Adapting his expertise in business to numerous non-profit companies and universities, he is transforming the future. He is currently a Professor in the College of Management at University of Massachusetts (his alma mater) in Boston. This next year is a crucial year for the Vilna and he will be helping chart our future by joining the Marketing and Strategic Planning committees.

NANCY SOBIN DROUUR  Having spent most of her life in the Boston area, Nancy has contributed to the community in numerous ways. As an educator for the Holocaust Studies program, Facing History and Ourselves, and also as a leader in development for the Brimmer and May School, Nancy has been able to combine her depth of feeling for her Jewish identity and her passion for education. She is a mentor to many children and has helped them to reach their goals. She was Development Director for the Brimmer and May School for over twenty-five years and raised millions for their capital campaign, annual fund, and endowment fund. She is also a great golfer and supportive mother and wife. Nancy will bring her expertise to the Capital Campaign committee.

JIM KUTCHIN  Having recently moved to downtown Boston from Andover, Jim and his wife Peri bring a zest for new adventures to the Vilna. For Jim, a strong sense of community is integral to his way of life; he came to the Vilna to find that community, and will help to build it in downtown Boston. Though Jim spends most of his time running his successful electronic sales representative business, he has an extensive background in architecture, collects modern art, and is very interested in historical immigration patterns and early Jewish life in America. He is profoundly concerned with the future impact of Jewish assimilation on our children and future generations. Jim will be a member of our Outreach/Program committee as well as on our Marketing committee.

WENDY J. PERLMAN  Wendy is an attorney with over 30 years experience, working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector. After working as a legal counsel for two Massachusetts agencies, Wendy led a consulting business for small nonprofits. Since retiring to raise her family, Wendy has focused her interests in educational and family-based organizations including Parent Talk in Needham, Needham Education Foundation, Needham League of Women Voters, and the Needham Giving Circle. She volunteered as a literacy tutor in Boston schools and is currently involved in the Sibling Sundays Foster Care Program. Committed to the preservation of Jewish history and culture, she will serve on the Outreach/Program committee of the Vilna. Wendy will also sit on the Strategic Planning committee.

LIZA SCHNEIDERMAN  A resident of the South End, Liza Schneiderman hails from Toronto. She is a clinical therapist with a practice based in Boston. She and her husband, Gary Shub, are parents of two daughters, Isabelle and Emma, who attend the Rashi School, Boston area’s reform Jewish day school. Both girls will become b’not mitzvah at the Vilna. Liza has a traditional Jewish background and traces her ancestry to Lithuania, and therefore feels a deep connection to our historic building. She has been instrumental in working to create downtown Jewish community programs at the Vilna and has agreed to serve as a co-chair of our Young Families committee this coming year. Liza and her family plan on attending the Vilna’s High Holiday services this fall and will continue to bring friends and family to the Vilna for programs and future engagement.
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS
@THE VILNA SHUL
Programs for Everyone!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/10/15</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Roof-top cocktail party with live jazz at a private home in the South End (Event at a private address. Please call 617-523-2324 for details.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/15</td>
<td>5-6:30pm</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Young Families Erev Rosh Hashanah with Stephen Brickman of the Sing-Together-Project Free for all families. Sponsored by Margi Gad and Dr. Daniel Bley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/15</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>High Holidays with Havurah on the Hill – Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14/15</td>
<td>9am-1:30pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>High Holidays with Havurah on the Hill – Rosh Hashanah Day 1– Kiddush and Tashlich to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14/15</td>
<td>10-11:30am</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Young Families Rosh Hashanah with Jeff Klein, Family Educator Free for all families. Sponsored by Margi Gad and Dr. Daniel Bley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15/15</td>
<td>9am-1:30pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>High Holidays with Havurah on the Hill – Rosh Hashanah Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/20/15</td>
<td>TBA late morning</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>Young Professional Taschlich program sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/21/15</td>
<td>1:30-2:30pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Seniors Connect! with Carol Clingan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22/15</td>
<td>5-6:30pm</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Young Families Kol Nidre 6:30pm sharp with Stephen Brickman Free for all families. Sponsored by Margi Gad and Dr. Daniel Bley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22/15</td>
<td>Kol Nidre 6:30pm sharp</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>High Holidays with Havurah on the Hill – ErevYom Kippur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23/15</td>
<td>9am-2pm, 4:30pm-7pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>High Holidays with Havurah on the Hill – Yom Kippur: – Break-fast following services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23/15</td>
<td>10-11:30am</td>
<td>FS</td>
<td>Young Families Yom Kippur with Jeff Klein Free for all families. Sponsored by Margi Gad and Dr. Daniel Bley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27/15</td>
<td>10:30-11:30am</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Membership event with Brian Powell  (Please call 617-523-2324 for details.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27/15</td>
<td>11:30am-1:30pm</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Mintz Family Plaza Dedication–Musical Celebration and Brunch (call 617-523-2324 for details.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/27/15</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Sukkah Building with Havurah on the Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1/15</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Scotch and Shmooze in the Sukkah networking event/neighborhood open house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/15</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Sushi in the Sukkah – neighborhood lunch (Please call 617-523-2324 for details.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/15</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>Shabbat in the Sukkah! with Havurah on the Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/15</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>Young Families dinner and program in the Sukkah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/4/15</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Walking tour of Beacon Hill's sacred sites w/ Joe Cornish, Historic New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19/15</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Lifesavers Speaker Series Kick-off featuring the Innocence Project. Sponsored by Jason Weiner and Nicole Zatlyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17/15</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE Belkin Farms Hard Cider tasting with Food Pairing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1/15</td>
<td>1-5pm</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Community Mosaic Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1/15</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Special Screening of Raise the Roof; A feature documentary about the rebuilding of the 18th-century Gwoździec wooden synagogue by Yari and Cary Wolinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8/15</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Third Annual Descendants Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8/15</td>
<td>1-5pm</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>Community Mosaic Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:  C - Community  F - Family Friendly  S - Spiritual  
* Please call to confirm event times: (617) 523-2324  www.vilnashul.org
The volunteer leadership of the Vilna’s Young Adult Programming arm, Havurah on the Hill (HOH), is reaching its 13th year. Celebrating this milestone of organizational adulthood, HOH is not slowing down. Quite the contrary! Several successful summer evenings were spent at the Vilna, gathering young leaders from around the city to come together food, drink, community, and thought-provoking topics during two recent monthly Kabbalat Shabbat evenings. The foremost distributor of Israeli wines lead a tasting to great enjoyment, and the founder of Sosúa75, an organization working to promote the living heritage of Jews in the Dominican Republic, inspired fascinating conversation.

HOH looks forward to an action-filled fall, kicking things off with the High Holidays. With a large crowd that crosses ages and stages in the lifecycle packing Vilna’s sanctuary each year, HOH members work tirelessly to ensure a welcoming and meaningful experience is had by all in this powerful place. Observances start with Erev Rosh Hashanah services on Sunday, September 13th. For service dates, information, and ticket registration, please visit vilnashul.org or call (617) 523-2324. We hope you’ll join us for any and all of our upcoming events.

Plans are already underway for the annual Sukkot celebration under the stars, and a special Chanukah gathering will take place in December. Stay tuned here for more developments and details!

**Want to know more about HOH?** HOH is an independent fellowship run by a council of young professionals. One of the first of its kind in Boston, HOH has been meeting at the Vilna Shul for over a decade and forms the core of our Vilna’s Young Adult community. Each year you can join HOH for monthly lay-led, non-denominational Kabbalat Shabbats, to hear intriguing speakers, celebrate festivals, and take part in learning programs for young adults and the young at heart. We welcome you to learn more and get involved by contacting Dan Lachar at dlachar@gmail.com.

**Volunteers Wanted!**

We’re looking for event volunteers and docents with all kinds of backgrounds and skills! If you’re looking to support a great organization and share Jewish history and culture with people from all around the world, email info@vilnashul.org or call (617) 523-2324 and learn how you can get involved.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**Richard E. Teller**

Earlier this summer, we lost a beloved member of the Vilna family. Richard Teller was a quiet and transformative supporter here for over 20 years. Buildings can be special for the places they hold in our lives. This building is special for the place it holds in the life of the Jewish community of Boston and in the life of Richard Teller. And he will always be special to the Vilna because he helped bring it back to life. And we thank him for not only his support but also for his belief that this place should serve all aspects of life. He helped us see another purpose for this building; from a man who lived a purposeful life.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Richard’s family and loved ones. May his memory be for a blessing.

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**You Can Host Your Next Event at the Vilna**

Do you or your family have a special event you want to celebrate in an unforgettable space? Consider the Vilna for your next bar or bat mitzvah, wedding, birthday, or any simchas!

Contact us (617) 523-2324 or email info@vilnashul.org to learn how you can turn your special day into an unforgettable memory with us!