



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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TEVET 5772

JANUARY 2012



By Rabbi Adam Zeff

Narrowing the Distance Between Us

In December, my family of five took the "Food Stamp Challenge," limiting our food budget for a week to the average federal SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps) benefit of \$31.50 per person. Cheryl and I have written and spoken about how this changed our attitudes toward food and shopping. We initially decided to do this to raise our awareness of how SNAP impacts the more than 47 million people who benefit from it. But in going through this experience, we also sought to bridge the gap between ourselves and the members of our own congregation, neighborhood, and city who live this reality every day. For too many of us, simply having enough food to eat is a challenge that lasts far longer than a week. And the truth is that little separates those of us who have plenty from those of us who don't have enough. But you wouldn't be able to tell that from the way we live our lives.

We live in a world full of difference, but too often, even in a large city like Philadelphia, we tend to interact only with people much like ourselves. It is part of the history of Germantown Jewish Centre that the congregation made the decision to stay in and commit to a racially, economically, and religiously diverse neighborhood at a time when many were racing to the suburbs in order to

maintain the walls that separated people who were different from each other. And GJC has thrived in the intervening years by embracing a diversity of worship styles in our multiple prayer communities and a variety of other ways for people to connect to Judaism. But how often do we interact with those who are different from ourselves? How much do we connect across lines of difference, whether in the synagogue, in the neighborhood, or in the larger community?

Around the same time that GJC was struggling with diversity and change, another religious community not so far from us was doing the same thing. The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (FPCG), founded in 1809 and occupying its present site on Cheltenham Avenue near Germantown Avenue since 1871, was a largely white church in an increasingly African American neighborhood. Although FPCG, like GJC, was under pressure to move to the suburbs, it made the remarkable decision not only to stay in its location but also to become a truly integrated church – not only with a parity of black and white faces in the pews, but also with equal representation in the leadership and in the clergy. In the process, the church had to confront difficult issues of power and had to face the challenge of moving from mere tolerance of difference to acceptance and celebration of diversity in many different aspects of community life. [FPCG has a wonderful video outlining this history on its website at <http://www.fpcgermantown.org/index.php/community/videos/> - "Destined for Diversity?"]

This year, for our Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat on January 14th, we will be privileged to learn from the ministry team at FPCG, Reverend Dr. Nancy Muth (who is white) and Reverend Kevin Porter (who is black) about the challenges they have faced and the lessons they have learned, lessons that have particular relevance for our own diverse community. We will also hear from Jared Jackson of the organization Jews In All Hues about the struggle for acceptance of racial and ethnic difference within the Jewish community, and the conversation will be moderated by our own Dr. Dina Pinsky, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Arcadia University. Please join us as we all recommit our efforts to shrinking the distances that separate us and to bringing us together in all of our diversity.

Program Highlights

Shabbat Beit Midrash

Begins January 7

Kol HaNoar

(new Shabbat program/service for kids/families in grades K-2)

January 13

"From Tolerance to Acceptance: Diversity in Our Congregations"

Granger Memorial Program

January 14

Germantown Jewish Centre

unites as a community to support and present

From Tolerance to Acceptance: Diversity in our Congregations

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012



The 28th Annual Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 10:00 AM | Charry Service in Charry Sanctuary |
| 10:00 AM | Dorshei Derekh in Maslow Auditorium |
| 9:45 AM | Minyan Masorti in Temin Canteen Room |
| 12:15 PM | Light Kiddush Lunch in Charry Lobby |
| 1:00 PM | Speakers and Discussion |
| | <i>(Extended childcare provided)</i> |

How does a community make room for diversity? What does it mean to be an accepting congregation? We will learn from First Presbyterian Church of Germantown's Rev. Dr. Nancy Muth & Rev. Kevin Porter as they share the triumphs and challenges of intentionally creating an integrated church. Jared Jackson, Executive Director of Jews In All Hues, will then discuss the growing diversity in the Jewish community and how we can move from tolerance to acceptance. Dina Pinsky, Sociology Professor at Arcadia University will moderate the program.

We invite you to view this 9 minute video entitled "Destined for Diversity?" on the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown.

http://www.fpcgermantown.org/index.php/community/view_video/destined_for_diversity/



This event honors Ralph Granger, a well-loved and respected former custodian at the Germantown Jewish Centre. Ralph was a Christian African American who was known for his dignity and love for the synagogue. During his life he served as a role model to our community for valuing and respecting differences in others. The Granger Memorial Shabbat continues to pay tribute to his memory, while focusing on current social issues pertinent to the larger community in which we live.

Many thanks to Charry Service, Minyan Masorti, Dorshei Derekh, Women's Club, Men's Club, Social Action Committee and Hazak for co-sponsoring this event.



Germantown Jewish Centre

400 West Ellet Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215-844-1507
www.germantownjewishcentre.org



(October, 2011 – November, 2011)

passed the PA Bar and was sworn in by Judge Susan Gantman on October 24, 2011

Curt & Leslie Pontz, on the birth of their new grandson, Ethan

Ken Weiss, on being presented with the national award for Outstanding Teacher in a Forensic Psychiatry Program by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law in Boston

Ken Weiss, on the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

George Stern, on being honored by NIM

Rosalie August, on her 80th birthday

Carol & Marty Kaplan recently celebrated the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Sam Kaplan, at the Southern Steps In Jerusalem, Israel and again at Congregation Adath Jeshurun. Sam is the son of Elon and Beth Kaplan.

Barb Menin, on her special birthday

Molly Tinkleman, on her special birthday

Dan Bacine, on being honored as GJC Men's Club Man of Year

CORRECTION -

Aaron & Lucille Weber, on their 63rd wedding anniversary

IN MEMORIAM

Lillian Feldman, a long-time member of GJC

Faye Weiss, mother of **Susan Sternthal**

Miriam Blitzstein, mother of **Ilene Blitzstein Poses**

Frances Emas mother of **Robert Emas**

Donald Pomeranz, father of **Anthony Pomeranz**

Klara Furman, a long-time member of GJC and mother of **Martha Schleifer** and **Alan Furman**

Isaac Djerassi, father of **Ramy Djerassi**

Beryl Burd, a long-time member of GJC and wife of **Emanuel Burd**

Elaine Robinson, mother of **Mike Robinson**

Stanley Ned Rosenbaum, father of **Sarah Rosenbaum**

NEW MEMBERS

- Shai Ben-Yaakov & Kate Dugan & family
- Dara Feinstein & family
- Avi Kaplan & Tresa Grauer & family

WELCOME!



Shabbat Chai-Lites

January 6 & 7

- Carlebach Shabbat • Beit Midrash
- Parshat HaShavua B'lvrit

January 13 & 14

- Kol HaNoar
- "From Tolerance to Acceptance: Diversity in Our Congregations" (Granger Memorial Shabbat)
- Minyan Masorti begins EARLY at 9:45 AM • Beit Midrash

January 20 & 21

- BBMM Family Program & Shabbat Dinner
- Kol D'mamah • Beit Midrash • Tot Havdallah

January 27 & 28

- Kol Zimrah
- 9:30 AM – Minyan Masorti/Charry Service – Mazel tov to Zachary Hahn, son of David Hahn & Barbara Weiss, on his Bar Mitzvah
- Beit Midrash

February 3 & 4

- Carlebach Shabbat • Beit Midrash
- Parshat HaShavua B'lvrit

February 10 & 11

- Tot Shabbat • Beit Midrash • Kol D'mamah

February 18

- Beit Midrash

February 24 & 25

- Kol Zimrah & Potluck
- Charry Service – Tanakh Ceremony • Beit Midrash

Kabbalat Shabbat

Fridays at 6 PM (*unless otherwise noted above*)

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturdays at 10 AM (*unless otherwise noted above*)

Beit Midrash

Saturdays at 9:30 AM

Corrections:

High Holiday Thank You

- Thank you to Maurice Feldman for singing in the Choir
- Thank you to Bev Somerson & Judy Schwartz for addressing the community on behalf of Women's Club

Early Childhood Program (ECP)



Students from Gan Katan sorted donated food collected during ECP's annual food drive. Several families brought the food to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry the week before Thanksgiving.



Education Department

*Generously supported by the
GJC Women's Club*

IMPORTANT FUTURE PROGRAM DATES

January and February

Beit Midrash –

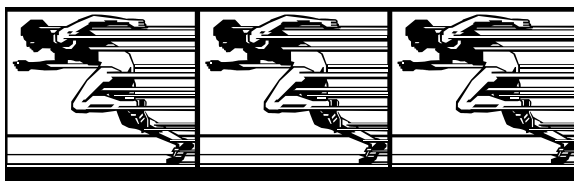
Religious School meets on Shabbat (and not on Sundays), from 9:30 till 12:15.

BBMM (Bar Bat Mitzvah Mehina)

- Shabbat Dates (students only): January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
- Friday, January 20th, for parents, students and siblings (RSVP please)

KADIMA (6th and 7th graders) & ATID (4th and 5th graders)

- January 22nd, Pool Party



Run, Run, Run (Don't Walk, RUN) to the Little Shop

IN JANUARY

EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP* WILL BE 30% OFF

**In February the Monthly Special will
be Bowls and Platters at 10% off**

*(The Monthly Special discount of 10% CAN be combined
with the Early Bird for a 20% discount.)*

**And on Sundays in February everything
in the shop* will be 10 % and bowls
and platters will be 20 % off.**

Hours

Sunday	9:30 – 12:30	Wednesday	2:00 – 8:30
Monday	Closed	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00
Tuesday	2:00 – 5:00	Friday	12:00 – 4:00

***(except on Wine, Books, Mezuzah
Scrolls and Sale Items. And during
this sale, there will be a \$5 charge
for gift wrapping)**



**Join the
Ner Tamid
Society
by Making a
Planned Gift to
GJC**

Please consider making a planned gift to the Germantown Jewish Centre's endowment fund. Planned gifts come in many forms, including for example – charitable gift annuities, life insurance, trusts, or even a bequest in your will. For more information about how you can join the Ner Tamid Society please contact the office.

Tot Shabbat

at Germantown Jewish Centre

Remaining 2011-12 Schedule

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Sat. Jan. 21 | Tot Havdallah* |
| Join us for a craft project and musical Havdallah ceremony to separate Shabbat from the rest of the week. Followed by delicious dinner. | |
| Fri. Feb. 10 | Tot Shabbat* |
| Sat. Mar. 31 @ 11 AM | Special Ginat Shabbat |
| Our weekly pre-school program with Kathy Amrom moves to the Charry Sanctuary this week. Followed by a special Kid's Kiddush sponsored by ECP. | |
| Fri. Apr. 20 | Tot Shabbat* |
| Fri. May 18 | Tot Shabbat* |
| Sun. May 20 @ 10 AM | Tot Music Program |
| Family sing-a-long with Rabbi Adam & Mikael Elsil. | |
| Fri. Jun. 29 | Tot Shabbat* |

*Requires advanced registration & payment



Germantown Jewish Centre

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www.germantownjewishcentre.org

Tot Shabbat & Holiday programs are especially geared towards toddlers and pre-schoolers and their families.

It's your opportunity to celebrate and learn while allowing your kids to be kids! Join Rabbi Adam Zeff for food, fun, and learning!

Unless otherwise noted we begin at 6 PM in the Marcus Auditorium with singing, marching and a puppet show led by Rabbi Adam. This interactive program is followed by a simple yet delicious catered meal that begins at 6:30 PM.

Cost is \$5 per person (adult & child alike) and reservations are required.

Contact Elana Shaw at
program@germantownjewishcentre.org
or 215.844.1507 X19
for more info or to RSVP

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

Sam and Connie Katz are fixtures at the Germantown Jewish Centre. Sam is a three-time mayoral candidate and now a documentary filmmaker. Connie, past president of the Women's Club and co-manager of the



Connie & Sam Katz

Little Shop, is probably one of the most widely known members of the community. Sam and Connie are also co-chairs of Philadelphia's chapter of American Associates of Ben Gurion University in the Negev.

But there had to be something you didn't know about them beyond their extensive resumes, so here goes.

Connie was born in Cleveland, OH and moved to Durham, NC in 1960, when she was young enough to now consider Durham her hometown. Her mother was a nurse and her father a physician who taught at Duke. She attended Goucher College in Baltimore where, as a freshman, she met Sam Katz, a Philadelphia-born sophomore at Johns Hopkins, at a mixer that she had organized and planned.

"I asked her three questions when we met," Sam says, grinning. "What's your name? What's your major and are you Jewish?"

"He wasn't expecting me to say I was Jewish," Connie interjects. "She said she had a date," Sam continues, "I said 'can you break it?'" "I'd never broken a date in my life until then, but I did," Connie says. "Then we were off and running."

Sam grew up in Wynnefield and attended the old Har Zion. He graduated from Central. He knew what he wanted to do from an early age.

"I was seven when I decided I wanted to go into politics," Sam says. "Three things influenced me: I was active as a sample ballot carrier,

stuffing the neighborhood with flyers. I worked in the '56 election for Adlai Stevenson. And the Kennedy campaign in '56 got my attention.

"In 1960, Kennedy came to the Bala Cynwyd Shopping Center and we walked over," Sam said. "It was the largest crowd I'd ever seen in my life. Probably more important, my parents took us to the Richardson Dilworth house. He was a pioneer resident in Society Hill and he would hold open houses to entice other Philadelphians to come to Society Hill. Driving home, I asked my father who he was. I decided at that point I wanted to be mayor."

Sam's career got its real start while in college, when he began working for Herb Fineman, then the Democratic speaker of the PA House of Representatives.

Near the end of college, Sam gave up his apartment in Baltimore to work in Harrisburg. He would stay with Connie in Baltimore, taking his last 9 credits to graduate from college and hitch back to Harrisburg to work. There he began meeting people and making connections.

"I stayed in the apartment of John Pittinger, then the Secretary of Education in the (Milton) Shapp administration," Sam recalls. He met college presidents and other notables. "It was a pretty exciting time to be a young person involved in that stuff," Sam says. "When I was 21, I ran for committeeman in Wynnefield as a Democrat."

Connie and Sam married right after her graduation. They moved to Manhattan where Sam attended the New School for Social Research and took what he calls his "pre-mayor" courses in urban affairs and policy analysis. Connie was a psychology major. She worked for two years as a research assistant on a federally funded project at the National Council on Alcoholism.

When they moved back to Philadelphia in 1974 she worked for

the affiliate council coordinating programs on alcoholism and drug addiction for area medical and nursing students. Connie then received a Master's degree in school psychology at Temple. She became a school psychologist, worked for a couple of years and then, with four children, became a homemaker and volunteer.

Back in Philadelphia, Sam took a job with a civic group, then got hired into a management firm called Public Financial Management (PFM) in 1976. "Ed DeSeve had a big vision for being a finance advisor to state and local governments," Sam says. "It sounded like a really cool thing to do. I resisted him at first. I was still involved in campaigns - Lou Hill's for mayor, then Rev. Bill Grey for Congress, then Bill Green for the U.S. Senate.

When he was finished, Sam went to work at PFM in late 1976. In December 1979, Ed became Philadelphia's finance director and Sam became head of PFM, where he spent the next 17 years. The firm grew from two people to almost 200. "Now there are almost 500 workers and they're all over the country," Sam says. "It's the largest public finance organization in the nation." PFM branched out to finance sports stadiums, airports and urban transit. He was constantly on the road. "I'd show up at the airport at noon for a 12:15 plane," he says.

In 1991, Sam took a leave of absence from PFM and ran for mayor for the first time.

"Someone said to me, 'You must be so upset. You never see your husband,'" Connie said. 'I answered, 'I've never seen him more.' Up until that point, he had no Philadelphia business. During the mayoral campaign, I'd see him every night. The kids were young and they loved it." "That was the end of my public finance career," Sam says. "Once I got off the road, I didn't want to go back."

continued on page 7

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 6

Sam switched his party registration in February 1990. "I didn't have a chance in the Democratic Party," Sam says. "Ed Rendell had the nomination locked up."

Sam lost the three-way Republican primary in 1991. "I didn't see the difference then, which is so obvious now, between the Republicans and Democrats," he says. "Now you can't even have a conversation. Bush One wasn't hated the way his son was hated. And there wasn't the same pollution that has developed since."

Despite his determination never to travel again, Sam returned to PFM between elections doing sports stadiums in other cities and participating in the financing of what is now the Wells Fargo Center here.

He ran again – this time in the Republican primary for governor in 1994 and lost to Tom Ridge. Through it all, Sam traveled the state with Connie and their four children.

"Politics was always his thing," Connie says. "It was his dream and he knew it was nothing I went to bed dreaming about – ('Nightmarish about,' Sam interjects) - but if you think about educational opportunities for your kids, there was a lot they learned by being outside the city and around the state talking with people. There was a lot to be learned by losing the first couple of times," she says. "Not so much at the end."

Asked if any of his children wants to get into politics, both Sam and Connie agree that their son, Ben, 23, has "got the skills and personality and interest. Whether he'll choose to do it or not it's too early to say." Ben is currently in the Air Force training as a navigator in Pueblo, CO. Lauren, 31, works as an attorney with a large corporate firm in Philadelphia. Philip, 29, works with Sam on documentaries. Liz, 25, is a nurse in NY working with children with cancer, and waiting to come back to Philadelphia to become a midwife.

In 1994, Sam joined forces with several others to launch Stafford Capital Partners, a company that invested and acquired a share of golf courses, family entertainment center with picnic areas, and other recreational facilities. ("That didn't go so well one summer when we had 45 days of rain," Sam says.)

They also invested in a Native American gaming project in Northern California from 1996-2008. "It was a dominant undertaking in my business career," Sam says.

Sam acknowledges that it would have been "appealing to walk away from it. It was attacked in Congress. It was a story of one disaster after another that we managed to overcome. Out of the investment of \$11-12 million dollars, we ended up returning \$140 million to our investors. But the slog that was required to get through this and the obstacles were the stuff of a novel."

Sam ran for mayor once again in 1999. "That campaign was the highlight of my otherwise lowlight political campaign. We lost by 4,700 votes out of 450,000 votes cast. It was obvious to both Connie and me that we were finished. I had this lifelong ambition that wasn't going to be realized."

He was offered leadership in Greater Philadelphia First (GPF). After three years, it merged with the Chamber of Commerce.

Sam ran for mayor yet again one last time, in 2003. "Thirty days out we were winning. Then they found the bug in the mayor's office and my candidacy was a footnote; it became only about Republican dirty tricks. We lost by 15 points. Up 6 points to down 14 without moving our lips."

"There was always the next thing," Connie says. "He's a very tough person, very motivated and doesn't give up easily. Now he keeps reinventing himself: cooking, travel planning, making documentaries of all sorts. Go to the library to see if there's a documentary about Philadelphia. 'Oh no documentary exists? Oh I'll

make it.' He knows how to ask really good questions. He's a great listener and not at all shy to knock on anyone's door to ask questions."

Will Sam ever retire? "I think he considers himself retired right now," Connie says. "Everything he's doing is pretty much volunteer. He'll be the most fun retired person because he's really interested in everything. He loves learning and doing things."

Sam has produced three documentaries about the history of Philadelphia. The second, taking place from 1793-1820 will be aired on Channel Six sometime in March, he says.

Since May he's been working on the 250th birthday celebration of the Declaration of Independence. It will take place from July 4, 2025-July 2027. "I'm going to invest in a fleet of motorized chairs for my friends," Sam says. "I'll be 76." "You'll still be going strong," Connie says, "running for some office."

Connie and Sam moved to Chestnut Hill in 1974 and to Mt. Airy in 1983. They have been members of GJC since 1978. "ECP is what hooked us into the Centre because Lauren was one of the first six children to attend," Connie says.

They looked at neighborhood and private schools for their children, Connie says. "I never imagined we'd send our kids to a Jewish Day School. I grew up with almost no Jewish education. But of all the things we could give our children, this was one thing that between the two of us we couldn't give them. We did it, and if I had to do it over again, with no windows and no playing field, I'd do it again. My kids now want to send their children to Jewish day school."

Connie's work for GJC is untiring. She is an expert buyer for the Little Shop and a booster for all things related to the synagogue. Together, Connie and Sam are a power couple at GJC.

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chairs,
Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

Those that braved the rainy, miserable day for our program in November were well rewarded! We watched and discussed the film "Echoes from a Ghost Minyan," provided to us courtesy of Gratz College. The film is a nostalgic, touching look into South Philadelphia, where most Jews in the Philadelphia area got their start.

Our Hazak Book Club is going strong. We read the non-fiction book *Eichmann Trial* in November and the novel *Wherever You Go* in December. Everyone is welcome! Contact us for January's selection.

We miss some of our long-time supporters and members. If you have not been receiving Hazak emails and/or mail please check in with us so we can confirm your Hazak membership and/or interest.

We have some wonderful plans for winter and spring. We look forward to providing you more details in the coming weeks!

Hazak is the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's organization for Jewish men and women, 55 years and older. The name HAZAK is an acronym. The het stands for Hokhma (wisdom), that zayan for Ziknah (maturity) and the kuph for Kadima (looking ahead). The Rhea Shils Chapter of Hazak at Germantown Jewish Centre has offered programs that appeal to a wide audience since 2003.

GJC's Employment Networking Initiative

By Rod Griffith, Men's Club President

Nationally, unemployment hangs stubbornly at nine percent. In Pennsylvania, it is a little bit better at 8.1 percent, the highest state unemployment rate in more than twenty-five years. More than 40 percent of those unemployed are "long-term unemployed," who have not had a job in more than twenty-seven weeks. Another 8.9 million people, or 5.7 percent of the work force, are under-employed.

Those are staggering numbers. They mean that many of our friends, family, neighbors, and GJC community members are suffering the stress and trouble that comes with unemployment and under-employment. In the face of those numbers and that suffering, our community has an obligation to act.

GJC has begun an effort to assist members who are looking for work. Chris Levin, Ned Kripke, Jeff Needleman, Abby Weinberg and I have put together a structure to establish a jobs network through which GJC members can provide information about job openings and those seeking work can learn about those opportunities. We hope that we will also be able to tap into some community resources that will provide those looking for employment helpful advice on the job market and how to "repurpose" your resume for different types of work.

To make this effort successful, all of us have to take part. We must be diligent in learning about hiring efforts by our employers, colleagues and others and promptly provide information about openings.

Beyond that, we need to be aware of the employment situation of fellow GJC members. All of us should make a special effort to learn who within the GJC community is looking for work. We should know a two-sentence description of their abilities and the work that they could do.

When we hear of a job opportunity, we should promptly tell any fellow GJC member who might be a good fit for the job. When an acquaintance or colleague tells us about a position that they are seeking to fill, we should be able to tell them about any GJC member who might be a good fit. In short, every GJC member should be part of the job search network of fellow GJC members.

- **If you have knowledge of or access to employment opportunities** and specific job descriptions, please send them to Abby Weinberg, Interim Assistant Director at GJC (GJCabby@yahoo.com). You can find a helpful form on our website. You can also send internet links and/or printed job descriptions along with this form.

- **If you are a "job seeker,"** please email Abby Weinberg (GJCabby@yahoo.com) and request to be placed in our Employment Opportunity Group. Once we compile a list of available jobs, we will send it to this list ONLY. We will then send updated lists once or twice per month to this group as new jobs are sent in.

**Special Thanks to the Wolfe Family Foundation for
generously supporting programming at GJC.**



Happy Sixth Birthday, Women's Clothing Giveaway!

By Betsy Teutsch

Seated at The High Point at Allens Lane, meeting over coffee to plan an event, my mini-backpack caught Sue Wasserkrug's eye. "Funny, I once had backpack that looked just like that", she commented, quizzically. "Well... did you donate it to the GJC Women's Clothing Giveaway?" Having just met, we looked at each other and burst out laughing. Sue meeting up with her old backpack, one of my favorite Giveaway finds, totally captures the whimsy and heimishness of our annual happening.

Not only was this hilarious, it solved a challenge for me: what on earth to say, writing about the Giveaway for the sixth time? In truth, though, our Giveaway has grown and evolved in many new ways, due to the creativity, planning, and hard work of many devoted volunteers from Women's Club and the Social Action Committee. Sue, by the way, is a neighbor who volunteers at the event, too.

Last year the Swap took a quantum leap, becoming the Giveaway. One of our challenges was the enormous surplus of donated clothes left at the end. Marcy Bacine reached out to day care centers and organizations that support low income women around the city, inviting them as guests to the event; many enthusiastically attended. Our beautiful marquee Lincoln Drive sign, featuring the stunning papercut by our own Mindy Shapiro, helped build excitement. As a result, we tripled our attendance, raising over \$4500 to donate to Darfur refugees, and had way less clothing leftover. (The remainders are donated to Whosoever Gospel Mission in Germantown.) Our permanent website helps with social networking. Rivkah

Walton has created lovely fliers and other PR materials. We have created something really exciting and impactful!

Genie Ravital has coordinated this event since she dreamed it up back in the day. She has developed systems that work beautifully, kept track of details like who can lend dress racks, where the signs are stored, how many tables we need. Our volunteers are seasoned as well, often pitching in as personal shoppers, with Connie Katz heading up food and details.

Last year there was some worry that there might be a riot when so many women showed up prior to the opening at 11:00 AM, but everyone managed to find clothing without pepper spraying other shoppers. Many happy women walked out with large designer shopping bags (donated, of course) full of gently used clothing. Throughout the day, additional garments were continually added to the tables, as women laid out donations before commencing their own hunting and gathering expeditions.

Women For Women International is this year's beneficiary. Nicholas Kristof recommends its important work with women survivors of war and conflict. Of the dozens of wonderful organizations working globally to help lift up women, this one best expanded the Darfur Alert path we have taken, but also we love its name. Women For Women pretty much sums up what the day is all about.

Details about the Clothing Giveaway are at our site www.WomensClothingGiveAway.com. To volunteer email Geniebud@gmail.com or to link us to more agencies serving low income women, contact Marcy Bacine, marcy49@me.com

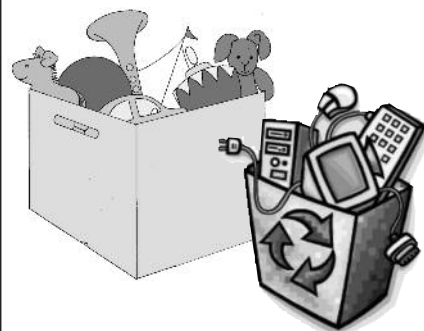


Germantown Jewish Centre's
ANNUAL
Women's
Clothing
GiveAway
Sunday, January 29
11AM - 3PM at GJC
www.WomensClothingGiveAway.com

\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION TO WomenForWomen.org
Helping women survivors of war rebuild their lives

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

Save the Date!
Sunday, March 25
Kid's Stuff Giveaway
and
Electronics Recycling Event



Women's Club News



GJC Women's Club Presents:

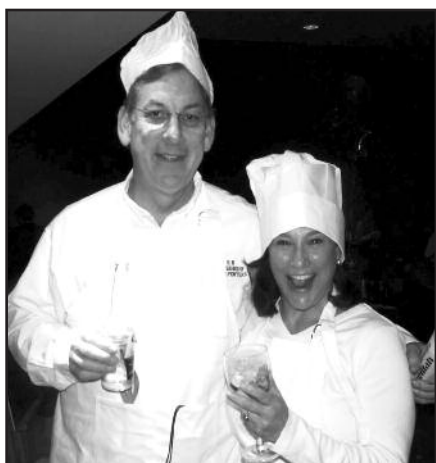
Purim Bash: On The Silver Screen

February 25, 2012, 7:30-11:30pm

Come ONE, Come ALL! Be prepared to have a BALL! The Women's Club is hosting our 3rd Annual Purim Bash and it will be the BEST YET! Dress UP or dress down – be your favorite film star or character – or not. Live music, Purim Shpiel by our very own choir, mini-live auction, costume contest, clowning, food and FUN promises to be the standard for the evening.

Admission is \$45 per person, but if you come with 9 friends (reservations must be made together) then it's \$40 per person. If you are age 36 or under – then you can come for \$30 per person. What a DEAL!! We love our patrons and sponsors – your financial support makes this event happen. Sponsors are \$136 per person and Patrons are \$172 per person. R.S.V.P. to Nan Daniels at nhd3505@infionline.net

So, come have FUN and help make our biggest FUNDRAISER a huge success.



**Photos from
Purim Bash 2011**

**Credit Yona
Diamond Danský**



Full Camp Fee Scholarships Available!

L'Chaim!



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PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

We meet at Germantown Jewish Centre, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, always at 7:15pm. We read fiction and nonfiction books of Jewish interest written mostly, but not solely, by Jewish writers and chosen by the group. Volunteer group members lead the discussion. Everyone welcome, please join us!

For more information, contact Dena Lake at 215-233-1414 or denareva@comcast.net.

Tuesday,
January 10
Song of Songs



Tuesday,
February 14
Mazel
by Rebecca Goldstein

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Adult Education 2011-2012/5772

Please review the chart below for our courses at a glance. Complete details can be found on our website or in our printed brochure. Advanced registration is requested for all courses. Contact the office to register.

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR(S)	TIMING	DATES	COST GJC MEM- BERS/NON MEMBERS
QUICK & DIRTY GUIDE TO THE JEWISH MOVEMENTS	Rabbi Adam Zeff & Student Rabbi Alanna Sklover	Saturdays 9-9:30 am	Jan 7, 14, 21, 28; Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 Part of Beit Midrash Shabbat	FREE
INTRO TO MUSSAR (TAKE 2)	Mindy Shapiro	Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 AM	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 Feb 7, 14	\$100/125
PSYCHE, SPIRIT & THE MYTHIC JOURNEY IN TORAH & MIDRASH	Dr. Simcha Raphael	Sundays 7:30-9 pm	Monthly Jan 22, Feb 12, Mar 11	\$40/50
JEWISH FOLKTALES: THEY'RE NOT ALL SET IN CHELM	Student Rabbi Alanna Sklover	Sundays 10:30 am - 12 pm	Jan 22, 29; Feb 5, 12	\$40/50
HOLIDAY CHANTING & YOGA SERIES	Leah Weisman	Varies See next column	Wednesday, February 8 @ 7 PM & Sunday, April 1 @ 10 AM	\$30/40 for both \$20/25 for one
QUICK & DIRTY RACE THROUGH THE BIBLE	Rabbi Adam Zeff	Sundays 10-11:30 am	Mar 4, 11, 18, 25	\$40/50
WRITING THROUGH THE OMER	Tamara Cohen	This class will begin the week of Pesach. Exact dates and times TBD.	7 sessions. Contact the office for details	\$75/100
JEWISH THEATER: FROM THE YIDDISH PLAYHOUSE TO MODERN STAND-UP	Student Rabbi Alanna Sklover	Tuesdays 7-9 pm	Apr 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15	\$60/75



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our NEW website!**

www.germantownjewishcentre.org

Members can now make donations online

Social Action Update

“Cool It”: Kicks Off Social Action’s Year

By Coleman Poses

The first Social Action event of the year occurred on Wednesday, November 30, at the home of Coleman & Ilene Poses with the screening of a little known film entitled “Cool It.” There was more than one reason for the film’s obscurity, one being that it was not very good. It was essentially an infomercial for the film’s subject, Bjorn Lomborg, a political scientist with an interest in environmental and economic matters, who heads the Copenhagen Consensus Center, which brings scientists from around the world together to discuss how to tackle the most pressing prob-

lems facing humankind today. His views on the environment are designed to irritate people of every political stripe because:

1. He claims unequivocally that global warming is a real phenomenon brought about by human activity, and
2. The manner in which we are currently trying to stop or reverse global warming – (e.g., international treaties, cap-and-trade) – are useless and often counterproductive.

Lomborg is an attractive, intelligent, and articulate personality. But this was not what I found most grating about the film, or the man. The general consensus was that his matter-of-fact, degage manner

that he displayed during the movie was as manipulative as “An Inconvenient Truth” (a film that Lomborg disparages) telling us that we only have ten years to solve the problem of global warming.

Yet for its shortcomings, there are a number of interesting things that the film has to say. One thing is that global warming is something that you can worry about only if your other needs have already been met. In one segment, he goes to a school in a very poor neighborhood in Kenya and asks the children to prioritize three issues as they saw it: improving education, addressing global warming, and fighting disease. The results were:

Improving Education – 1;

Addressing Global warming – 3;

Fighting Disease – Just about the rest of the class of about 30.

Cut to an English elementary school where all of the children of about the same grade level as the Kenyans express the urgency of addressing global warming.

The movie also makes the point that we should use the carrot rather than the stick in weaning people off of fossil fuels: develop cheap alternative energies, and use geo-engineering (artificially cooling the earth through reflective surfaces, neutralizing greenhouse gases, etc.)

Certainly not a great film, but in the end, it helped us to become more sensitive to certain issues that have been off of our radar in our quest to address global warming.

CRYSTAL & COURTNEY
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DOUBLE TROUBLE



Crystal is frequently featured on QVC as a testimonial for ZUMBA® Fitness for her 100 Lb weight loss. Courtney is a self-proclaimed gym rat who is constantly in the gym and has tried everything and still struggled to lose weight. With ZUMBA® Fitness, she has been able to lose 50 lbs so far. Together they are known as Double Trouble!

Double Trouble is opening their own studio in Mt. Airy called **Inspired by Motion Dance Fitness Studio** which will feature ZUMBA®, ZUMBA® TONING, ZUMBA® GOLD, ZUMBATOMIC™ PLUS MUCH MORE!

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Go to their website for more info on their class schedule or contact them at:
www.zumbawithdoubletrouble.com
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Save the Dates!

**“Fracking, Boom or Bust?
Marcellus Shale in Context”**

Sunday, January 22 at 10 AM

Co-sponsored by Men’s Club &
Social Action Committee

“Gasland” Film Screening

**Q&A with a representative
from Protecting Our Waters**

Wednesday, February 15

at 7:30 PM

Sponsored by Social Action Committee

The Centre Call GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

The fastest way for your contribution to be processed is for you to fill out a Contribution Form (available in the office or on our website) and return it to the office along with a check. Or just send in a check with a note.

Contributions For the period of October, 2011 through November, 2011

Todah Rabbah!

Sincere thanks and appreciation to those who remember to honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

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		in memory of Paul Schwartz, son of Norman & Leah Schwartz
		in honor of Isador & Myra Kranzel, on their 50th wedding anniversary
		in honor of Richard & Eileen Bazelon, on the marriage of their daughter Dana to David Frankel
		in honor of Allan & Jane Greenspan, on the marriage of their daughter Emily
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	Dena Lake	in memory of Eva Lamar, aunt
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		in memory of Gladys & Claire Schwartz, aunts
	Nick & Lisa Pettinati	in honor of Renee Levy-Clair, on passing the Pennsylvania Bar
	Judy Schwartz & Bev Somerson	in memory of Miriam Blitzstein, mother of Ilene Blitzstein Poses
		in memory of Frances Emas, mother of Robert Emas
	Joan Silver	in memory of Miriam Blitzstein, mother of Ilene Blitzstein Poses
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	The GJC Israeli Dancers	in memory of Anita Lazarus, mother of Della Lazarus
	Barbara Lissy	in memory of Miriam Blitzstein, mother of Ilene Blitzstein Poses
		in memory of Frances Emas, mother of Robert Emas
		in memory of Bernie Jacobs, father of Lynne Jacobs
	Judy Schwartz	in honor of Curt & Leslie Pontz, on the birth of their grandson Ethan
	Joan Silver	in memory of Faye Weiss, father of Susan Sternthal
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in honor of Curt & Leslie Pontz, on the birth of their grandson Ethan
Floral Fund	Gloria Salmonsohn	in memory of Lena Salmansohn, mother-in-law
		in memory of Klara Furman, mother of Martha Schleifer and Alan Furman
	Ellen Wolin	in memory of Louis Wolin, father

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in memory of Michael Goldberg, father of Phill Goldberg
 in honor of George Stern, on being honored by NIM
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 in memory of Frances Emas, mother of Robert Emas
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in memory of Elaine Robinson, mother of Michael Robinson
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 in memory of Fanny Seligman & Sigmund Linchis, parents
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 in memory of Lillian Feldman, a long-time member of GJC

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 Alan Furman

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in honor of Molly Tinkleman, on her special birthday
 in memory of Faye Weiss, mother of Susan Sternthal
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 in honor of Linda Cherkas & Chaim Dworkin, on the marriage of
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 in honor of David & Nahariyah Mosenkis, on the marriage of their
 son Eitan to Leah

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in honor of Elaine & Lee Dushoff, on their 50th wedding anniversary
 in honor of Reena & Aryeh Friedman, on the marriage of their son Uri
 in memory of Paul Schwartz, son of Norman & Leah Schwartz
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 in memory of Klara Furman, mother of Martha Schleifer and
 Alan Furman

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in memory of Anita Lazarus, mother of Della Lazarus
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 in memory of Nechama Naomi Kapstein Rosenbach, sister
 in memory of Jeanette Goldenberg, sister
 in memory of Solomon Goldenberg, father

Bonnie Buyum
 Cecile Merion
 Frieda Sanders

in memory of Anna Sanders, mother
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 in memory of Paul Schwartz, son of Norman & Leah Schwartz
 in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bar Mitzvah of their
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 Emily Blake
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	Joan Silver	in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their grandson's becoming Bar Mitzvah
	Women's Club	in appreciation of Connie Katz, for being an ongoing, gracious host
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	Phyllis Kauffman	in honor of Daniel Bacine, on being honored as Man of the Year by GJC Men’s Club
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 in memory of Pauline Corsover, mother
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 in honor of Barbara Menin, on her special birthday
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 in honor of Michael Posner, on his receipt of tenure
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 in memory of Miriam Blitzstein, mother of Ilene Blitzstein Poses
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in memory of Mary Hellerstein, mother of Kathryn Hellerstein
in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff & Cheryl Bettigole, on the Bar Mitzvah
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in memory of Paul & Faye Weiss, parents of Susan Sternthal

in memory of Bernie Jacobs, father of Lynne Jacobs

in memory of Mary Hellerstein, mother of Kathryn Hellerstein

in memory of Carlyn Stern, mother of George Stern, grandmother of

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in memory of Klara Furman, mother of Martha Schleifer and

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in memory of Elaine Robinson, mother of Michael Robinson

in memory of Irving Stearman, grandfather

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in memory of Samuel Munder, cousin

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Mindelle Goldstein

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Alan Furman

in memory of Elaine Robinson, mother of Michael Robinson

in memory of Faye Weiss, mother of Susan Sternthal

in memory of Frances Emas, mother of Robert Emas

in memory of Anita Lazarus, mother of Della Lazarus

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*Please submit all articles via email to
program@germantownjewishcentre.org.
Deadline for the March Issue is February 1.*



Save the Dates

Kol Zimrah & Potluck Dinner
February 24

Women's Club Purim Bash Fundraiser
February 25