



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

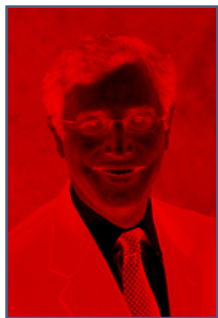
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MAY 2010

Transitions



By Rabbi
Adam Zeff

We are entering a time of transition in our professional leadership at GJC, and we are also in the midst of a time of transition in the narrative of Torah and the cycle of the Jewish year, from the freedom we celebrate on Pesach to the acceptance of Torah on Mt. Sinai that we recall on Shavuot. At times like these, it is important to remember how much of Jewish tradition is based on times of transition and the lessons they have to teach us.

The Hebrew word for transition is *ma'avar*, which comes from the same root as *ivrim* or "Hebrews," the earliest word in the Torah that describes the Jewish people. We are wanderers, a people perpetually in transition. In the

Torah, our ancestors are always on the move, from Mesopotamia to the land of Canaan, down to Egypt and back out of Egypt, heading toward the Promised Land that always seems just out of reach. As we often note, the Torah ends its story in the wilderness. Just at the point when the Israelites are about to enter the land of Israel, our tradition takes us back to the beginning to start the journey once again.

When the Israelites leave Egypt and begin their wanderings in the wilderness, the Torah tells us that "God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearer" (Exodus 13:17). Ibn Ezra interprets this verse to mean that God did not want them to arrive at the Promised Land too soon. The newly freed Israelites had much to learn before they could enter the land as a people. They needed the time of transition in order to absorb the valuable lessons that the wilderness had to teach them.

In the Talmud (BT Eruvin 53b) Rabbi Yehoshua ben Hananiah tells this story:

Once a child got the better of me. I was traveling, and I met a child at a crossroads. I asked him, "Which way to the city?" and he replied, "This way is short but long, and that way is long but short." I took the "short but long" way. I soon reached the city but found my approach obstructed by gardens and orchards. So I retraced my steps and said to the child, "My son, did you not tell me that this is the short way?" Answered the child, "Did I not tell you that it is also long?"

In this time of transition, we must have patience with each other as we move forward as a community, secure in the knowledge that we are walking this path together. Let us be open to all of the learning this period may hold for us, and may we go from strength to strength.

Remembrance of Alan Davis

Richard L. Bazelon

May, 2010, marks the third anniversary of the death of Alan J. Davis. Alan and Lyn were members of GJC for 29 years at the time of Alan's death. Alan's associations with GJC and with the West Mt. Airy community were important to him. Alan and Lyn's children, Jennifer and Michael, were Bat and Bar Mitzvahed at GJC. It is fitting that we, as a congregation, remember him. He was one of the most extraordinary Philadelphians of his generation.

Alan was a Philadelphian, from birth to death. He was born and raised in the Strawberry Mansion section of Philadelphia. He graduated from Central High School in 1953, from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, and from the Harvard Law School in 1960, where he was an editor of the Law Review. Following Law School, Alan and Lyn married in 1968, and

Philadelphia was always their home.

The term "Philadelphia lawyer" means many things to many people. Alan was the consummate Philadelphia lawyer, within the highest calling of that tradition. He had an extraordinary intellect, a voracious appetite for learning and thought, and the discipline and logic of legal training.

The breadth and variety of problems and situations to which he applied these attributes, and the skill with which he did it, were staggering. In his private practice, Alan handled the most complex, and often most high profile, commercial cases, and at the same time he handled major criminal matters. In the public sector, he was the City's lawyer, and essentially created a public sector law firm during the administration of Bill Green, and served directly as the City's chief labor negotiator during the administrations of Bill Green and Ed Rendell.

As a lawyer, there was virtually nothing he could not do, and do at the very highest level.

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Program Highlights

**Visit from Israeli Consul
General Daniel Kutner**

May 8

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

May 18

Spring Concert

June 6

Women's Club Flea Market

June 13



President's Message

Two years, just like that

By Howard Treatman, President

This is the last Centre Call article that I will write as your President. It is hard to believe that two years have already gone by. As I think back, however, I see that they were very full years, replete with challenges overcome and a beautiful growth in our bonds of community.

When I took office, even as we were recovering from the shock of the fire in the school building, we suffered a flood in the sanctuary building. Over the next year and a half we were occupied with the planning and the implementation of the restoration of our building. As we look at our building today, and remark at how it has not only been repaired, but restored to a level of beauty it has not exhibited for decades, we as a congregation can feel justly gratified.

As we were nearing the end of the restoration process, a new challenge confronted us. The deep global financial crisis posed significant threats to the well being of many of our congregants, and as a consequence to our community as a whole. Many synagogues and other non-profit organizations were gravely wounded by the financial distress. At Germantown Jewish Centre, we saw the threat early and prepared for it. We made the necessary spending adjustments and raised additional money from some very generous and committed individuals. This allowed us to broadly put out a message of support to our congregants during their time of economic hardship. As a consequence, we have gotten through the worst of the crisis with our membership intact, and with virtually no one leaving the shul for economic reasons. The crisis allowed our community to celebrate a shared core value: in our GJC community, our members are valued for the people they are, not the money they bring.

I came into office determined to celebrate and advance our Centre's wonderful sense of community. It is where we are quietly innovating and creating something new. This is to be expected. We are a shul that has innovated in many ways over the decades. We were

the urban shul that resisting block busting and did not relocate to the suburbs. We were the shul that was among the first to host a havurah, and later multiple minyanim. We have pioneered and modeled cooperation between Jewish denominations and davening styles in the comfortable way that our prayer communities share space and fellowship.

What I see today at GJC is equally innovative and exciting. We have a Shabbat community that numbers in the hundreds. Our members' lives intersect in many ways and through multiple activities. The overlapping bonds of community have so grown, that our various subgroups have been knit together. In a time where many Americans are alienated and their relationships are limited to a few people, we have recreated the small town and superimposed it upon Mt. Airy: A place where people know each other, connect with each other and go through life together. I think people are looking for this sense of community and at GJC they can find it. We are creating a new model for what American Jewish life can be.

I have been delighted by the proliferation of community building activities over the past several years. Among other things we see this in the explosion of energy and program coming from our Women's club, the fellowship of our Men's club, the rejuvenation of our Hazak Group, the remarkable success of Tot Shabbat dinners, the opportunity for our whole community to study together in our Beit Midrash program, the multiple opportunities to share Shabbat meals together and the social action work we do together. This all builds on the wonderful communities that have developed in our prayer groups.

This doesn't happen in a vacuum. Rabbi Gordon and Rabbi Zeff and our staff are visionary professionals. In addition, we are blessed by a tremendous outpouring of lay energy which creates program and ways to connect. But primarily, it has been you. It is our members who have responded to this sense of community, valued it and have made it a priority in their lives. The more we have collectively put in, the richer and deeper

we have made our community.

Between the time I started writing this article and finished it, we have learned that Rabbi Gordon will be leaving us. We are all deeply saddened by this news and it will take some time to digest. Rabbi Gordon is a rare leader and he has been key in making our community what it is today. We should take this moment to appreciate and celebrate what Rabbi Gordon has accomplished here. But it is precisely because of the strength of our community, that I know we will emerge from this transition as an energized and even stronger congregation.

So at the end of two years, I see a shul that is in strong shape and moving forward in exciting directions. It is no secret that being a synagogue president is time consuming and can have its difficult moments. But let there be no doubt, I have treasured this opportunity and my greatest satisfaction has been getting to know so many of you. It has been my privilege to serve you. I will close not with "Shalom", but rather, "L'hitraot" (until next time).

Family Havurah Shabbat Potluck

**Sat. May 22, 12:30ish
at home of
Chip & Marta Becker**

Terrific way for families with children to get to know one another, non-members welcome. For questions contact volunteer coordinator Stefanie Seldin at sfseldin@gmail.com or 215-242-4838.



Remembrance of Alan Davis

Continued from page 1

Alan also gave generously of his time. His volunteer service ranged from tutoring as part of Marcienne Mattleman's (another longtime GJC member) Philadelphia Futures Program, to serving as a Trustee for the Free Library of Philadelphia, to serving on the Board of Directors of the PEW Charitable Trust. Alan did not fit any traditional mold. I never thought of Alan as a liberal or a conservative, or as a Democrat or a Republican. I think he thought of himself primarily as a realist, that is, someone who started with facts, however unpleasant or difficult to accept, and employed rigorous analysis to take him to his ultimate position. He cared about civil rights, but he believed that they must be balanced with the public need. Although he did not wear it on his sleeve, he had a huge heart and a quiet passion.

So much for generalities.

I first heard of Alan Davis in 1968, when I was clerking for Judge Edmund Spaeth. I learned that there was an assistant district attorney who had overseen an intensive investigation of sexual abuse of prisoners in the City's prisons. The investigation resulted in a major, well documented report and expose – a real “shocks the conscience” report that received national attention. The report necessitated reform. As Alan cogently put it in the report, “Holmesburg Prison is nothing but a factory of crime, where inmates are programmed to commit rape and robbery in preparation for the day they are released.” I thought to myself, this is a guy in law enforcement who goes where the evidence leads, and who cares about the problems he encounters, and is determined to do something about them. Public officials as well as inmates were implicated by Alan's report. (It is also the case that Alan served brilliantly as the Chief of Appeals in the District Attorneys' Office from 1966 to 1968, after which he returned to Wolf Block).

My relationship with Alan began at about the time of his transition back to private practice. We found ourselves as two of three members of a committee, working under the auspices of the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, which undertook to draft a statute providing standards for commitment and treatment of persons with mental illness. Our work extended over approximately

two years, and included a number of Saturday sessions. The proposed statute we drafted became the basis of the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976. I came to know Alan as a thoughtful, committed, and entirely unpretentious colleague.

Over the years of Alan's legal practice at Wolf Block, and later at Ballard Spahr, I came to know him as a “lawyer's lawyer.” He often had the lead role for a major defendant in high profile, high stakes commercial litigation. He was brilliant in court, and as a strategist. At the same time, he handled major criminal matters. Given the range and importance of the cases, and the skill with which he handled them, I could only conclude that Alan had little time for sleep. I subsequently learned that Alan was an avid reader, particularly of history.

I loved working with Alan; we worked together closely on several matters during the last five or so years of his life. At the same time, I must confess that I was slightly in awe of him. I recall with particular fondness that after a long day of deposition in Santa Monica, California, in which I was questioning a client of Alan's, we spent a leisurely dinner with his son Mikey, and my daughter Lara (both then living in Los Angeles), listening to them talk about the experiences at GJC and Germantown Friends School. (My daughters say they learned everything they knew about music from Mikey).

Alan most prized his four years as the City Solicitor under the administration of Bill Green, and his subsequent service in the Rendell Administration. After the Rizzo administration, when Bill Green became mayor, the City was at the crossroads, financially and in many other ways. Alan was a major part of the successful effort to restore financial stability and public integrity. He turned the City Solicitor's office into a professional, law firm type of operation, recruited young talent, nurtured careers, and stopped the long accepted practice of farming out legal work on the basis of political patronage. For the first time in my experience in Philadelphia, it became a badge of honor to work in the City Solicitor's Office. As Lyn has described it, these were the years of Camelot.

Alan was called again to public service by Mayor Rendell, and again served as the lawyer statesman. The threshold test for the administration, and for the City, was its labor contracts with the city

unions, and Alan was the person to whom the Mayor turned. Because he was so fact based and keenly analytical, he understood what was required for the City, and what was attainable. He played a major role in charting the course to the City's financial soundness, and its credibility in the financial world, which were necessary for its social and economic programs, and the Renaissance which followed. He was the chief negotiator for successfully implementing this plan, both with the City unions and the School union.

At the time, many thought that drawing the line with the City's unions would not succeed. The norm in Philadelphia was for city administrations to make expedient settlements in labor negotiations. (I had experienced this first-hand as Chair of the Redevelopment Authority.) Alan was a firm and skillful hand on the tiller in helping to guide the City through these uncharted waters. As Mayor Rendell said of Alan, he was the “unsung hero” in helping the City avert fiscal disaster. “It was his plan. He put it together,” said Mayor Rendell.

Another role that was very important to Alan was mentoring. In addition to performing this role in the District Attorney's Office, as City Solicitor, and in private practice, Alan taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School (Advanced Criminal Procedure) and greatly enjoyed for many years the University of Pennsylvania Inns of Court, where he served in leadership positions. I recall that at a rather small dinner on the occasion of his seventieth birthday the participants included the young lawyers with whom Alan worked closely at the Ballard firm, as well as his assistant/secretary for many years, Nancy Murano.

Alan was also a devoted husband and father.

In the titles of articles written about Alan at the time of his death, he was described as “solicitor of great influence,” and “legendary Philadelphia litigator.” Both were accurate, and neither does him justice without the other. Alan was a consummate attorney, applying his knowledge and skills as an attorney, with a passion for public affairs, to the incredible range of matters which he handled. In this role, he moved easily between the private and public sectors at the highest levels, and each role enhanced the other. The expression “the best and the brightest” has become popular. For Alan, I prefer “the wisest and the finest.”

What's New in the Mishpoche?

(Feb. 6, 2010 - April 13, 2010)

IN CELEBRATION...

Corey & Ari Pontz on the birth of their son, Ezekiel Aaron.

Leslie & Curt Pontz on the birth of their grandson, Ezekiel Aaron.

Ronald & Shelley Weber on the birth of their grandson, Ezekiel Aaron.

Carol & Michael Robinson on the birth of their granddaughter, Abigail Maya Robinson.

Maya Sultar on her Bat Mitzvah.

Sandy & Jim Meyer on the marriage of their son Alex to Anna Oler.

Phyllis and Max Lieberman on the birth of their grandson, Seth Harry Jacob Lieberman.

Connie Katz on being honored by the Women's Division, State Israel Bonds.

Daniel Holl on his Bar Mitzvah.

Leah & Norman Schwartz on the birth of their great-grandson, Dov Leshinsky.

Ilana & Adam Zion on the birth of their daughter, Shoshanah Naomi.

Ben Steinlauf on his Bar Mitzvah.

Ronit & Howard Treatman on the Aufruf of Yosef Rafaeli & Traci Wallis (Yosef is Ronit's brother).

Marilyn Silberstein on being honored by the GJC Women's Club at the Torah Fund Brunch.

Hannah Spear on her Bat Mitzvah.

Emily Fish on her Bat Mitzvah.

Amy & Sandy Wine on the birth of their daughter, Talia Corrine Wine.

Joan Stern, on the birth of her granddaughter, Talia Corrine Wine

IN MEMORIAM

Mel Silberman, husband of **Shoshana Silberman**

Dr. Margaret Filante

Lyle W. Hall, Jr., brother-in-Law of **Sam Katz**

Baruch Bricklin, husband of **Ruth Bricklin**

Louis Matkoff, father of Meryl, Lisa and Yehuda

Arnold Halpern, uncle of **Alan Mendelsohn**

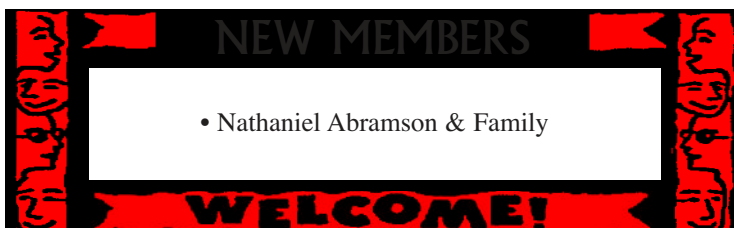
Rebecca Tobias, wife of **Steve Tobias**

Irv Rosen, husband of **Cyrilla Rosen**

Anna Kfare, grandmother of **Michael Posner**

REFUAH SHLEIMAH

Nan Myers, as she recovers from ear surgery



GJC has cemetery plots for sale
at King David Cemetery in the Northeast.
Questions? Contact Rachel Gross in the Office.



Shabbat Chai-Lites

May 1

- 9:30 AM – Combined Chai Service & Minyan Masorti for the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Spear
 - Service of the Heart
 - Pirke Avot Study

May 7-8

- Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- Shabbat Morning Learner's Service
 - Parshat HaShavua B'Ivrit
- 4th Grade leads Ashrei in the Chai Service
- Israeli Counsel General Daniel Kutner speaks in the Chai Service
 - Pirke Avot Study

May 15

- 10 AM – Bat Mitzvah of Emily Fish in the Chai Service
 - Pirke Avot Study

May 22

- Ginat Shabbat in the Chai Service
 - Family Havurah Potluck Lunch

May 29 – Memorial Day Weekend

- No Children's Programming

June 4-5

- Men's & Women's Club Installation Dinner & Program
 - Service of the Heart

June 12

- Parshat HaShavua B'Ivrit

June 18

- Tot Shabbat

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays at 6 PM in June
Fridays at 6:30 PM in July and August

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturdays at 10 AM
(unless otherwise noted above)

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays at 10 AM

\$5 per session

For more info call Tamar
Magdovitz at 215-247-9614



Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

Yichus is a Yiddish word that means “good blood” and “wellborn”. But if you don’t live up to the promise of your family stature, then you haven’t really got it.

Marta and Chip Becker each have *yichus* in their own way.

Chip is a son of Edward and Flora Becker. His father, who died in 2006, was a highly respected judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Arlen Specter called Judge Becker the “101st senator” for the power that his rulings had in shaping federal law, according to the New York Times. His written opinions often guided the Supreme Court and shaped law on a variety of procedural and substantive issues.

Chip’s mother was also a lawyer who went to law school after Chip (the youngest child) was born. She was an assistant district attorney, a partner in one of the first all-women firms in Philadelphia, and spent many years as a master in the Philadelphia Family Courts deciding custody and support matters. Chief Judge Rehnquist once observed that as between him, Chip’s father, and Chip’s mother, his mother by far had the hardest job. She now lives in Center City.

Chip, 39, grew up in the Frankford section of Northeast Philadelphia in the house in which his father lived nearly his whole life. He went to Germantown Friends and to Williams College and on to Yale Law School in 1997. He then clerked for a judge in the federal First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston. He is now a partner at Kline and Specter in Philadelphia, where he manages the firm’s appellate practice and works with trial lawyers on various legal issues. “I’m the face of the firm in the appellate courts,” Chip explains.

It was while he lived in Boston that Chip met Marta, at a Shabbat dinner given by a mutual friend. She told him that she was in a relationship of more than two years. He asked her out anyway. She accepted (they went ice-skating on the Frog Pond) and broke up with her boyfriend the next weekend. “What are you going to do, marry the guy?” Marta remembers her ex-boyfriend asking her.

But that dinner was not the first time Chip saw Marta. Chip explains, “A cou-

ple of years prior I had attended the Harvard Medical School second year show. The female lead was drop-dead gorgeous – a great dancer with platinum-blond hair and long legs who could do a mean Valley-Girl imitation. Two years later, I met Marta and found out that she was the lead and had dyed her hair for the role.”

Which brings us to Marta’s *yichus*, she came by her show business side honestly. She was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the San Fernando Valley (hence the good Valley-Girl accent). Like her parents, she excelled academically. She went to Harvard College, and Harvard Medical School. She did her residency at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, in part to be near her parents who had moved to coastal North Carolina.

On her father Steve’s side, Marta’s family were “movie people.” Her grandfather Irving Goldberg, who changed his name to Taylor, wrote popular songs sung by the likes of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. His wife Katherine was a show-girl at the MGM studios who danced in the Wizard of Oz. Her parents have a photo of Katherine combing the Cowardly Lion’s hair with Judy Garland standing next to her! Marta’s father Steve has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of movies and was a long-time movie reviewer in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Marta’s mother Patricia, on the other hand, grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in a poor Irish-Finnish Catholic family. They were so poor that hunger was a regular part of family life. At 17, Marta’s mother graduated high school and entered the convent, where she remained as a Franciscan nun for 15 years. “She did this because she loved religion but also to gain an education,” Marta explained. Marta’s mother earned her college degree and a masters degree in education and taught in Catholic schools in Wisconsin. When she left the convent in her early 30’s, she moved to Los Angeles where her sister lived and where she taught high school. One day she entered a liquor store. “She met this swarthy guy working there and they started dating. She figured it was okay because he was Italian. Turned out he was Jewish (she didn’t know from Jews), but by then it was too late.” Marta’s father, now retired, was an attorney in private practice and in North Carolina served as a criminal magistrate. Her mother



The Becker Family

became a high-level administrator at UCLA where she ran statewide projects at the school of education.

Marta grew up with a wide variety of religious exposures: the Unitarian church, Hanukkah at her grandparents’ house, Christmas at her own house. Her mother, who is extremely well read and educated religiously, never baptized Marta or her twin brother Jonathon. When I was young I’d ask, ‘what religion are we?’ Marta says. “My mother said, ‘Well, I’m going to teach you about all the religions and when you’re 16 you’ll decide.’ When I was 16 I told her I was an atheist. That was just me being a teenage girl. In college, I realized that Judaism was for me. I just kept hanging out with Jewish people, boys mostly. I’d date Jewish guys and go to their families one after another and that’s how I got sucked in. It made sense to me. My brother, same house, same parents, had a very personal experience with Jesus after college and ended up becoming baptized Episcopalian. That’s what he practices. He baptized his children.” Marta began the process of conversion to Judaism quite on her own and before she met Chip.

They made a deal when they decided to marry. He would follow her to North Carolina during her residency. Afterward they would settle in Philadelphia. They married in 2000 and spent a total of five years in North Carolina. They moved to Philadelphia in 2004. Chip started at a large Center City law firm and in 2007 moved over to Kline and Specter, where he’s been ever since.

Marta is an otolaryngologist – a specialist in ear, nose and throat - at the Berger Henry ENT Specialty Group, a medical practice in Roxborough, Chestnut Hill and other locations. She goes to work early and usually gets home early, in time to help their children with homework. Isaac, 7, is in first grade at the Henry School. Jacob, 5, and Naomi, 3, are enrolled in ECP. Marta

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Men's Club News



**Ken Weiss,
Men's Club President**



AT LAST! After two postponements, the Men's Club Mid-Atlantic Region finally held its Man of the Year affair at Temple Beth El in Voorhees. Pictured here is honoree David Kraut (right) being serenaded by Ken Weiss, recalling David's life history as "The Ballad of Davy Kraut." Also pictured: About two dozen GJC members on their feet singing along, "Davy, Davy Kraut, king of the GJC." Golden kippot were substituted for coonskin caps, to avoid detracting from the gravitas of the ceremony. To view the video on YouTube, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6pyq5aDEXM>

Early Childhood Program (ECP)



In April ECP celebrated Passover with Rabbis Lenny, Adam & Kevin!

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 5

has been chair of the ECP committee for four years. She was a champion swimmer in southern California and still swims, runs and bikes. Chip is Vice President for Education at Germantown Jewish Centre and in that capacity oversees ECP, the religious school, and the synagogue's various educational and social programming for youths. He has also taken on the transformation of the synagogue library. Chip is not a champion swimmer and Marta would "dust him" in a triathlon.

Chip's religious background was in the Reform movement and he grew up at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park. "But over the years, mainly at Yale, I found myself in more of a Conservative environment. That was an ideological shift but had more to do with the Hillel and who my friends were. When Marta and I were in North Carolina, once again the place we found

that worked for us was a Conservative synagogue. I gradually have identified with a Conservative point of view, though educationally I'm very much from a Reform background."

When they moved back to Philadelphia, they initially lived in Chestnut Hill but wanted Marta's parents to spend more time with them and their children. When Chip's cousin mentioned that they were moving out of their house in Mt. Airy, they snatched it up because it has a carriage house in the back. Marta's parents now live in that carriage house from April to October each year. "Baseball season," Chip says. Indeed, Steve Taylor is a huge baseball fan and goes to a lot of games. He now even roots for the Phillies over the Dodgers.

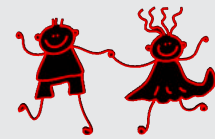
GJC is an integral part of Chip and Marta's life. As Chip explains, "We walk into the building almost every day of the

week, whether for ECP, Shabbat services, Religious School, a meeting of some kind, or a social event. We have developed many friends through GJC. The same is true with all of our children. GJC and its many communities are central to our life. It has given us much and we are glad to be a part of it. From our vantage, GJC's recognition as one of the top 25 synagogues in America is absolutely right and well deserved."

The Centre would like to extend a special

"THANK YOU!"

to Ruthie and Paul Premack of San Antonio, Texas, for their monthly donation of a case of 100% post consumer content recycled paper.



TOT SHABBAT June 18 @ 6 PM

Come welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Adam Zeff in a celebration specially geared for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers!

Does your child like to....

Sing, clap hands and play bells?

Dance around?

Listen to puppet stories?

Do you like to...

Welcome Shabbat with other young families?

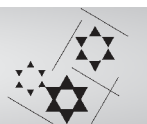
Not have to worry about kids being kids?

Join us at 6 pm for a Shabbat Celebration followed by a simple yet delicious catered dinner (around 6:30 pm)

Cost is \$5 per person (adults & children)

ADVANCED REGISTRATION & PAYMENT NECESSARY

Women's Club News



Women's Club Inaugural "Purim Bash" was a HUGE success. Our cheerleader was inspired to say - *Come out next year. The date is March 12, 2011. Be there or BE SQUARE!!*

Photo by: Susan Pardys

Hands-On Holidays Sponsored By The Women's Club Of Germantown Jewish Centre

The GJC Women's club is sponsoring a series of "Hands-On Holiday" events. The events are open to people of all ages who want to experience the holidays with hands and senses, and learn in the process. Passover was the first in this series and as part of this, on March 21st, a corner of GJC was magically transformed into Ancient Egypt. The Israelites were preparing to flee into the desert!



Planting: They planted wheat grass seeds in order to have wheat berries.



Grinding: The wheat berries were ground into flour with a mortar and pestle.



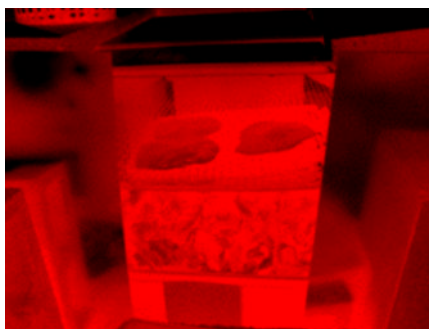
Mixing: The flour was mixed with olive oil, salt, and water.



Kneading: The Ancient Israelites kneaded the dough.



Rolling: The dough was rolled out until it was very thin.



Baking: This flattened dough was baked in a tabun, or Biblical era outdoor oven, which had been especially constructed for the occasion.



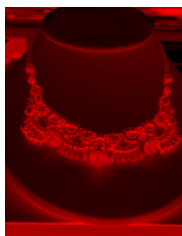
Eating! The Ancient Israelite flatbreads were taken out of the tabun and eaten while still hot.

Be on the look out for the next in the series, Shavuot. Come milk a real goat and learn how to make cheese! Special thanks go to Ronit Treatman and Anna Herman for organizing this series.



Here we are...nearly at the end of our selling season. It's been a GREAT year thanks to all of you – but there's still time for more fantastic gifts and deals before the summer cuts your shopping short.

The **MAY SPECIAL is Mezuzah cases**. All of our mezuzot are reduced 10% during May. (Scrolls are not reduced.) Come check out our selection – it's really quite spectacular with a range of prices and styles. OF COURSE you can combine this special offer with our Early Bird Special! Shop between 12-3 on Tuesdays through Fridays and receive 10% off our merchandise except for wine, books, mezuzah scrolls and sale items. It's a great deal!



Ayala Barr Necklace

If you haven't been to the shop in some time, please come and check out our NEW lines. We are now carrying Michael Aram Judaica, Silver Seasons jewelry and giftware, and items from the Jewish Museum in New York. We have a new Israeli vendor who has introduced us to some contemporary items from his Israeli artists and jewelers. Spode Judaica is handsome as

are pieces designed by Gary Rosenthal, Tamar Baskin and Beames. Beautiful jewelry from Israel and the USA is calling for your perusal.



Spode Shabbat Set

We will have limited hours over the Summer Months which will be publicized via the GJC weekly e-mail. Remember to shop for your upcoming special occasions – Mothers and Fathers Day, graduations, engagements, bridal showers, weddings and birthdays! We have FANTASTIC children's presents for newborns to age 5+ so come early and often to our favorite spot – THE LITTLE SHOP!



Israeli Dancing Anyone?

By GJC Israeli Dancers Marc Rauer, Tamar Magdovitz and Yona Diamond Dansky

Have you ever wondered why you hear music wafting through various places in the building on Sunday mornings? Israeli dancing takes place in the Marcus Auditorium most weeks, and occasionally in the Canteen Room to accommodate other GJC activities.

Germantown Jewish Centre has hosted the Sunday morning Israeli dance group since 1997. It was originally organized by Tamar Magdovitz, who continues to coordinate the group. Grant Shulman has been teaching and leading the dances since 2003.

Grant teaches second grade in Philadelphia. He learned Israeli dance while a student at Cornell. At first, he brought that experience as a participant in the Sunday session but quickly blossomed as one of the premiere Israeli dance instructors in the Philadelphia area. This can be witnessed in GJC's growing attendance. It was not unusual to be in the low teens as far as attendees were concerned, even 5 years ago. Today, the normal attendance on Sunday mornings easily reaches into the twenties. It is an amazing sight to see beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers, all folk-dancing together and helping each other. The dancers range in age from preschoolers to well into their retirement years. And the music is not just Israeli. Tunes from many countries fill the air most Sunday mornings.

Many dancers come from other parts of the Delaware Valley, and for many this is where they first get acquainted with GJC. Marc Rauer, who attends up to five Israeli dance sessions a week when not teaching at the Community College of Philadelphia or computer consulting, noted, "It's the friendliest of the Israeli dance groups that I've seen in this area," he said. "Everyone was very welcoming from the first day I attended in 2003 and, I might add, the whole facility of the Germantown Jewish Centre acts this way, top to bottom. Grant and Tamar are great at what they do," he added.

Marc's comments are echoed by other dancers. John Frank, a GJC member, also dances at several Israeli and

GJC'S TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT—TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010

FINDING GOD IN THE PARKING LOT

REFLECTIONS ON REVELATION INSPIRED BY THE FILM "A SERIOUS MAN"



Text study and discussion led by
Dr. Elsie Stern, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Rabbi Leonard Gordon
Rabbi Adam Zeff

Join us in the Charry Sanctuary for an evening of learning inspired by the Coen brother's film, "A Serious Man." In anticipation of the Tikkun, we will sponsor showings of the film on May 5th at 1 PM and on May 12th at 7 PM. You are also encouraged to arrange your own screenings at home and with friends.

Even if you have not seen the film, join us for the conversation, Tuesday, May 18 from 9 PM—Midnight following our Confirmation service at 7 PM. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening.



Germantown Jewish Centre

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

international folk dancing sessions during the week and is on the faculty of the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. He added, "Grant's teaching style is non-threatening for those who are new to Israeli dance. His patience and his practice of continual reinforcement of steps are great for any beginning student. And, there are more than enough good dancers in the circle to follow when Grant is out of view."

Until the 1970s or so, most Israeli

dances had the feel of international folk dance. The '70s saw a large expansion of the Israeli music industry. In the Sunday class in the Marcus Auditorium, it's not unusual to have a traditional folk dance, a hip-hop number, a variation on a waltz and a type of disco beat play in succession. The choreographers create new "phrases" of steps to account for this diversity, and YouTube versions are available now for online review of most Israeli dances.

DIVRAY CHINUCH

...a few words from the GJC Education Department

Generously supported by the GJC Women's Club

The Jewish people are in the midst of some major counting. Not only are we approaching the climax of our counting of the Omer, to conclude with the holiday of Shavuot, but the most famous counting weekly portion, Bemidbar, will soon be upon us. In this parashah we are told, to begin both the book of the bible and the portion, that a population census of the Israelites is to take place.

This is also the time of the year that the Education Department counts its successes and its failures. Operating most closely with the calendar year, we look at our activity and our programs, evaluate ourselves, with the help of students, parents and other professionals. We then begin to think about plans for next year. We sit down and think about how we can strengthen our efforts to serve our youth.

The religious school is completing a very successful year. The hallways are alive, bustling with activity during our in-school hours, while bulletin boards serve to highlight our learning and activities when we are not in class. While a large, enthusiastic class of first graders will "graduate" to a twice weekly program of second grade, a sizeable group will move from a successful ECP program to join us on Sunday morning to replace this graduating group. These two large, full classes are an exciting harbinger of a bright GJC future.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday nights, our halls are filled with the "lively" sounds of our teens. The Confirmation Class of 5770 will complete their studies and mark this completion at our Shavuot Confirmation ceremony. Next year's confirmation class will be large, and a large group of seventh graders will join the Wednesday night scene next year. The place will be hopping!!

Our Shabbat programming enjoyed a terrific January and February Beit Midrash program. As hoped and predicted, Shabbat Beit Midrash was an active, busy period of study for the entire synagogue, from 9 AM adult education and snacks, through the children's and adult services. We look forward to much of the same next year.

Just as important are our plans to remedy our major disap-

pointment of this year. We hope to jump start both our older and younger youth groups, with regular activity for each of these groups. In this way we can begin to rebuild our youth groups that are so important in making the social connections between our youth, whether they pursue their Jewish studies at our religious school or in day school.

It has been an exciting year, and we look forward to next!!!

IMPORTANT FUTURE PROGRAM DATES

Religious School

- May 8th, Kitah Dalet, fourth grade leads Ashrei in the Charry Service
- May 9th, No religious school for the strict observance of Mother's Day!!!
- May 12th, Last day of Wednesday religious school
- May 18th, Confirmation celebration, Erev Shavuot
- May 23rd Last day of Sunday religious school
- June 5th, Kitah Hei, fifth grade reads Haftarah in the Charry Service

BBMM (Bar Bat Mitzvah Mehina)

- Shabbat Dates: May 8th and May 22nd
- Sunday date (with parents) May 16th

MAY 26TH, End of Year Dinner Theatre Trip for GJC Teens

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Chair, Cherie Goren

Our Book and Film discussion group has started as a smashing success and has attracted more participants each time. Thank you to Sonia Dishler for leading our April discussion of Amos Oz' *Tale of Love and Darkness*. Please join us on May 5 at 1 PM for a viewing of the film "A Serious Man" followed by discussion moderated by Rabbi Fredi Cooper. We'll serve dessert too. All of our programs are free for Hazak members and \$5 for guests. It's never too late to join Hazak, annual dues are just \$10. I am happy to report that we have more than 50 paid members and are growing. I'd like to extend a special welcome back to our "snow birds." I am also happy to announce that Sonia Dishler will join me as co-chair of Hazak for next year.

April 24th we sponsored our 2nd annual Hazak Shabbat and Kiddush. Thank you to all of our over the age of 55 volunteers for participating in the service!

This summer we are planning another Summer Opera Under the Stars program with Sam Feinberg, stay tuned for more details.

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.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

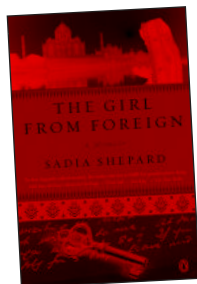
GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

We meet monthly on Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Big Blue Marble Bookstore on Carpenter Lane in Mt. Airy. 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.

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

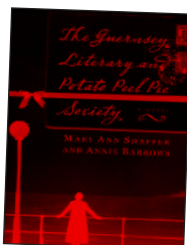
May 4, 2010

The Girl from Foreign
by Sadia Shepard



June 1, 2010

The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society
by Mary Ann Shaffer



The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia invites you
to join the Center City Jewish Community for you

KEHILLAH • PALOOZA

OUTDOOR FAMILY FUNFEST AND LAG B'OMER CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 2, 2010 • 18 Iyar 5770 • 11:30 am
Northern Liberties, Philadelphia

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Lag B'Omer is a time to dance, sing, picnic and enjoy the great outdoors.
Join in our celebration with a bonfire (provided by the Jewish Center of
Northern Liberties), outdoor games and sports, music and fun.
Come out and represent your synagogue and our Jewish community.

11:30 am – 1 pm Bonfire and Entertainment 830 N. American St. (just south of Poplar St.)

Enjoy a Kosher lunch (hotdog, chips, dessert) for just \$5

1 pm Dance your way to Liberty Lands Park – 913 - 961 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia

1:15 -2:30 pm Community Field Day, Music Celebration

Visit jewishphilly.org for updates on games and activities

2:15 – 3:30 pm Sports competition – join with our synagogues
in very friendly competition

For more information, contact Susan Stanek:
sstanek@ifgp.org • 215.832.0597

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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.

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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 honor of Carol & Michael Robinson, on the birth of their
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	Mathilde Rosenfeld Judy Schwartz	in honor of Leslie & Curt Pontz and Ronald & Shelley Weber, on the birth of their grandson, Ezekiel Aaron
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Youth Activities Fund	Curt Pontz Leslie & Curt Pontz	in memory of Selma Goodman, aunt in memory of Samuel Goldblum, father of Josh Goldblum in honor of Adena & Alex, on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Abigail Klem Molot in memory of Rebecca Tobias, wife of Steven Tobias and mother of Jake & Zack
	Leah & Norman Schwartz Joan Stern	in honor of Maya Sultar, on her Bat Mitzvah in memory of Samuel Goldblum, father of Josh Goldblum in memory of Charles Stern, husband in honor of David Kraut, on being named Man of the Year by GJC Men's Club



Join the Ner Tamid Society by Making a Planned Gift

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. Recent changes in the tax laws allow those over 70½ years of age to make tax-free distributions to charities from their IRAs through 2007. (Consult your tax advisor for details.)

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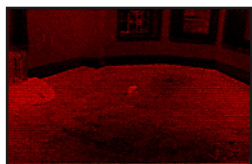
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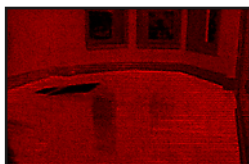
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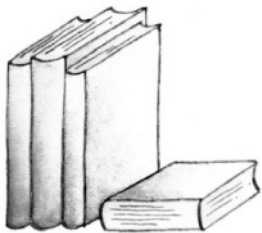
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