Volume 20, Issue No. 5 IYAR 5772 MAY 2012



# Not slaves, but not yet free

By Rabbi Adam Zeff

Each year at our Pesach seders we make two seemingly

incompatible pronouncements. We say, "Once we were slaves; now we are free," and we say, "Now we are slaves; next year may we be free." I have always been perplexed by this contradiction. Pesach is the Feast of Freedom, celebrating our release from Egyptian slavery and our (re)birth as a free people. It is our touchstone. So many times in the Torah we are taught that we are obligated to do right because God freed us from slavery in Egypt. In what sense could we still be slaves after going through all of that?

This year, my family's discussion at our seder table turned to the many varieties of slavery that existed in the ancient world. There was the enslavement of an entire people after their conquest by another nation, perhaps the closest analog to the situation of the Israelites in Egypt. And there was chattel slavery, the odious institution in which one person, dehumanized and reduced to an obiect, was owned by another, which flourished in the U.S. in the 18th and 19th centuries. But there was a third type of slavery in the ancient world, one that the Torah tried to regulate and bring under control but never imagined outlawing. That was debt slavery, in which one person sold his or her freedom to another in order to get out from under the burden of money owed.

The Torah had good reason for try-

ing to impose constraints on debt slavery, including limiting its duration and requiring good treatment of such slaves. Although in theory this institution allowed those crushed by debt a way out, in practice it often resulted in permanent enslavement as the slave owners kept adding to the debt owed, never allowing the slaves to catch up. All the power was concentrated in the owners' hands, and the slaves ended up caught in a trap, at the owners' mercy, powerless.

The shock for me this year was to realize how persistent debt slavery has been throughout history, from the ancient slaves spoken of in the Torah to laborers in medieval Europe to sharecroppers in the American South. And despite efforts to control and eliminate it, this practice has not abated in our own time, in our own country and abroad. Plantation owners in Africa use debt slaves to harvest and process the cacao that ends up in our hands as chocolate. Human traffickers in Europe lure men and women with the hope of good jobs only to entrap them in hard labor or in prostitution to "pay off their And in the United States, debt." migrant workers mired in debt are forced to work in the fields to repay those who brought them here.

These and other forms of economic oppression continue to flourish in our own country, in our own times. And that is why we acknowledge at our seder tables that we are not yet free. We are not at the end of our story; we are not at the end of the march from slavery to freedom. We are only part way down the path. We have made progress, but there is still so far to go.

This time between Pesach and Shavuot marks the progression of the Jewish people. We begin the journey as a people freed from Egypt, thinking we are now "free" to do whatever we want. So we say, "Once we were slaves; now we are free." We continue the journey as a people who come to stand at Mt. Sinai, knowing we have an obligation to push not just ourselves but our world from slavery to freedom. So we say, "Now we are slaves; next year may we be free." May the work that we do in this time, individually and as a community, move us all a little closer to that goal.

## Program Highlights

Installation Shabbat honoring Rabbi Zeff May 4-5

Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch honoring Mindelle Goldstein

May 6

#### **Blood Drive**

Sponsored by Men's Club May 6

GJC's 2nd Annual Family Retreat May 11-13

#### **Hazak Shabbat**

Featuring Professor Naphtali Meshel May 12

> Kol HaNoar May 18

Confirmation & 6th Grade Reads Torah in the Charry Service May 19

> Spring Concert honoring Carol & Marty Kaplan May 20

**Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**May 26

## President's Message

## A President's Gratitude

By Chris Levin, GJC President

This is my last Centre Call article as President of Germantown

Jewish Centre. I will confess that writing these columns has not been my favorite part of the job. I do like to write but I don't consider myself to be a deep thinker and have limited myself in this space to fairly simple cheerleading.

But my message this time is simple. It is one of gratitude on many different levels. I accepted this position with no particular game plan, no grand agenda—just a few things I hoped to accomplish and otherwise to work with the professional staff to help implement their visions. I was of course warned by a number of Past Presidents that "every President has his or her crisis" and I wanted to leave some room to deal with whatever time might toss my way. As it turns out, my lack of a game plan was a fortunate thing since any plans would have rapidly been consigned to the dust bin as we faced significant transitional issues. I think we all know what I mean.

For most of us, change is rarely easy. It often brings with it an unknown quantity that leaves us feeling uncertain and uneasy. It is so much easier to remain comfortable with the familiar. And so my first bit of gratitude is for the graceful way in this congregation has which embraced those changes and found the good in them. What could have been a crisis (or actually a series of crises) in fact turned into positive community-wide experiences. It doesn't always work that way.

And my second bit of gratitude extends to the large number of you – our community – who have given so freely of your time and skills to help us navigate those changes. This congregation is blessed with a large

number of members with a diverse array of talents and a great willingness to share those talents with the community. I won't name names because there are too many but they extend from those of you who have helped out with our professional staff changes to those who have worked on replacing the Charry sanctuary roof, to those who have helped to envision an expansion of the ECP playground, to those who have helped to envision a campaign to expand our endowment and secure our financial future. And of course, I have the utmost gratitude to the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and all the Committee Chairs and members who put in so much time on a daily basis to make this community a better place. One of the best parts of the last two years has been getting to know so many of you better and for that I am grateful.

Then there are those at the center of the change and with whom I have worked most closely – Rabbi Zeff, Nina Peskin and Gloria Geissler. In addition to the strong collaborative team Rabbi Zeff and Nina make, they

have brought new musical offerings that have enriched the Centre. We look forward to Annie Lewis joining us and adding to the chorus. Many of you do not know Gloria well, but as Finance Director, she does a consummate job of managing the budget (which requires knowledge of insurance options, heating fuel contracts, employment law and a host of other matters). It has been such a pleasure to work with them all. I have learned so much from each of them. I am also grateful to my successor Mitch Marcus for accepting the responsibility of becoming the next President and who I am sure will do a magnificent job leading us forward.

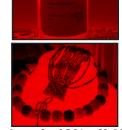
Finally, I am grateful to each of you. During my term, while navigating these changes and making difficult decisions, I have had the benefit of doing so with the support of this community. I am grateful you for your energy, your dedication, and your investment in Germantown Jewish Centre. It has been a privilege to serve you as President.



So much to remember:
Our wonderful 10 % specials
continue with the
May Special: Seder Plates

We are introducing a monthly wine special at 10% off. Every Sunday there will be a sampling of the wine that is on special for the month. The month of May features Binyamina Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon which retails at \$23.00.

Hours	
Sunday	9:30 - 12:30
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	12:00 - 5:00
Wednesday	12:00 - 8:30
Thursday	12:00 - 6:00
Friday	12:00 - 5:00
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	Closed 12:00 - 5:00 12:00 - 8:30 12:00 - 6:00



June is 10% off All
Merchandise
(with the usual exceptions) so think of the
Little Shop for Mother's
Day, birthdays and
graduations.



Come see our new jewelry. We have necklaces, made in South Africa; the profits are used for orphans of aids.



We have bracelets from Mali; the profits support the families who make them.

### The Centre Call Germantown Jewish Centre



#### IN CELEBRATION...

Marcy & Dan Bacine, on the engagement of their son Matthew Bacine to Alyse Levy, daughter of Lynn & Bob Levy

(February, 2012 – March, 2012)

Isador Kranzel, on his special birthday

Sandy Marks & Adam Zissman, on the birth of their baby boy, Emmet

Lauren & Andy Ufberg, on the birth of their baby girl, Gabrielle

**Chana Bonn**, is "schepping nachas" from the bar mitzvah of her grandson Eliyah Hai David Bonn-Yavneh in Jerusalem, Parashat B'shalach

Marcy & David Fish, on their 18th wedding anniversary

**David Barcan & Maribel Beas,** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Rafael Barcan

Aley Murtaugh, on the birth of her daughter, Claire

Sandy & Mike Rodin, on the birth of their granddaughter Claire to Aley Murtaugh

Louie and Steve Asher, on the birth of their first granddaughter

**Cheryl Bettigole,** on her appointment as Chief Medical Officer of CompleteCare Health Network

**Nina Israel**, on the birth of her first granddaughter, Yemima Chen Israel

**David Ferleger & Dayle Friedman,** on the B'nei Mitzvah of their children, Anat & Avram Ferleger

**David Kanthor,** on the marriage of his sister Jennifer Kanthor to Joe Schwartz

Sonia Dishler, on her special birthday

Stan Diamond, on his special birthday

Wendy Weingarten and Jerry Kutnick, on the engagement of Uri Weingarten (son of Marty Weingarten, z'l') to Gali Porat, daughter of Moshe and Rachel Porat

Wendy Weingarten and Jerry Kutnick, the engagement of Meira Weingarten (daughter of Marty Weingarten, z'l') to Eric Selkowitz, son of Diane and Scott Selkowitz.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Newlin Booth, husband of and step-father of Lila Booth & Beth Rosenbaum

George Shore, husband of and father of Joy Shore & Jackie and Ava

Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren

Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff

Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine

Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman



# Shabbat Chai-Lites

#### May 4 & 5

- Installation Shabbat honoring Rabbi Zeff
  - 6 PM Tot Shabbat
  - 6:30 PM Community Dinner
    - 7 PM Kol Zimrah
  - 12:15 PM Community Kiddush
  - 1:15 PM Installation Ceremony

#### May 11 & 12

- Family Retreat (offsite)
- Hazak Shabbat featuring Professor Naphtali Meshel
  - Kol D'mamah

#### May 18 & 19

- Kol HaNoar
- Confirmation & 6th Grade Reads Torah in the Charry Service

#### June 1 & 2

- Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat
- Charry Service Mazel tov to Noah Griffith-Rosenberger on becoming Bar Mitzvah

#### June 9

• Kol D'mamah

#### June 16

 Charry Service – Mazel tov to Yamit Netter-Sweet on becoming Bat Mitzvah

#### June 22

• Kol Zimrah

#### June 29

Tot Shabbat

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat**

Fridays at 6 PM (unless otherwise noted above)

#### **Shabbat Morning**

Torah Study at 9 AM Services at 10 AM

Pirke Avot at 4 PM (offsite through May 26)

## ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays at 10 AM \$5 per session

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





The Kaplans have been dedicated members of Germantown Jewish Centre for 49 years. While raising their family in Mt. Airy they were drawn to Rabbi Charry and the community's commitment to Jewish education and support of Israel.

Carol & Marty's involvement spans several areas at GJC. As a duo, their first leadership role was starting up Machane Marom, a Hebrew speaking day camp. Marty is a civil engineer by trade and this expertise led to his serving on the House Committee for 16 years and is now on the House & Design Committee. He also served on the Religious Committee and completed three terms as Men's Club president. Marty served as GJC President from 1994-1996, coinciding with Rabbi Leonard Gordon's arrival, a period of exciting and challenging changes that enabled GJC to survive and thrive.

Carol has been a dedicated Women's Club volunteer since her early days at GJC. She served as Women's Club President and fondly recalls cooking for Kiddush and more. She cochaired the Catering Committee and served on the Israel Affairs and Religious Committees as well.

GJC's Spring Concert & Fundraiser

## **Show Stoppers: Broadway in Trio**

With Amy Armstrong, Chris Lenz & Tom Baust honoring

# Carol & Marty Kaplan Sunday, May 20

6:30 PM hors d'oeuvres 7:00 PM concert

\$3,600 pillar\* \$2,500 benefactor\* \$1,000 patron\*

\$500 sponsor\*\* \$250 donor\*\* \$125 friend\*\*

\$20 general admission

\$10 students, seniors and young adults 13-17

Kids 12 and under free

See order form on reverse

General admission tickets can be purchased in advance, or at the door

- \* includes 4 tickets, preferred seating, and special acknowledgment in the program (due by May 11)
- \*\* includes 2 tickets, preferred seating, and special acknowledg ment in the program (due by May 11)

The Kaplans are involved in other volunteer organizations such as Hadassah and Israel Bonds. They are the proud parents of 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 4 sabra great grandchildren and counting. For nearly half a century the Kaplans have shared their lives with us, along with their love of Israel and devotion to the Jewish community. Germantown Jewish Centre is proud to honor Carol and Marty Kaplan.



### Germantown Jewish Centre

400 W. Ellet Street Philadelphia, PA 19119

215.844.1507
office@germantownjewishcentre.org

#### About the Performance

The concert will include a smorgasbord of Broadway tunes in solos, duos, & trios - ranging in emotion from fun to frenzy! Program selections may include songs of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hammerstein and tunes from Les Miserable, Fiddler on the Roof, Pippin, Phantom of the Opera and more!



Susie and Mitch Marcus

Mitch Marcus, slated to be the next President of the Germantown Jewish Centre, has had a rich and expansive professional, personal and spiritual life, including a position as co-chair of GJC's Religious Committee for seven years.

Mitch was born in 1950 in Southwest Philadelphia on the same block where his mother grew up and where his daughter Rachel, 32, and her partner Eileen, now live. After a year and a half, Mitch's family moved to Yeadon, across the street from Beth Tefillah, a conservative synagogue, where Mitch found himself almost every day of the week until sixth grade.

His family then moved to Easton PA, where his father grew up and where Mitch went to junior high and high school. Mitch's father was born in South Dakota in a tiny town at the edge of a Rosebud Sioux reservation. He carried a rifle from the age of four, Mitch says, and when drafted into the Korean War, Mitch's father, a Jewish orthodontist, was the best shot at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He moved to Easton to establish an orthodontic practice there.

Mitch went to Harvard, then graduate school at MIT. He was a research scientist in artificial intelligence and linguistics at MIT, where he worked closely with linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky.

"I do a funny combination of computer science and linguistics," Mitch explains (as best he can). "I

## Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

realized I needed to be in a place that didn't ask if I was one or the other but would understand what the combination meant. My thesis was a computational interpretation of Noam Chomsky's theories and a really speculative model of what might be going on linguistically in people's heads."

Mitch turned down a teaching job at MIT, in part because "nobody had kids on the MIT faculty until they were tenured and we had our first child while I was in grad school. We wanted children as soon as we possibly could."

Mitch and Susie met their sophomore year of college at a fall mixer. She was at Wellesley. They quickly became deeply involved and married six weeks after college graduation. This summer, they will be married 40 years.

Mitch took a job at Bell Labs in North Jersey, where he remained for eight years. "Bell Labs at the time was the most amazing pure research environment you've ever seen," Mitch recalls. "They were interested in fundamental scientific questions that mattered to them. If you want to build a machine that can read your email or talk to you over the phone, you need to understand linguistics very deeply. There was no direct, 'Tell us what product you're going to build.' But the group I was working with was working on speech synthesis - what happens to your mouth when you talked."

Another reason Mitch left MIT and went to Bell was, he said, because, "the research I do is kind of risky. My thesis was well received and I wanted to walk away from it and be able to risk failing. If you need to constantly prove you're the best in the world you can't take risks and my work has been about taking big intellectual risks."

After living in Westfield NJ, and being active in a large Reform synagogue, Mitch and Susie came to Philadelphia in 1987. The University of Pennsylvania offered Mitch an endowed chair – he's the RCA profes-

sor of Artificial Intelligence - and a full professorship when he was 35. Two years later he accepted the post at 37.

Susie, meanwhile, began her post college life focused on motherhood. "I always wanted kids," Susie says. "I didn't have professional goals when I was younger. I just wanted to be a mother. Right after Josh was born I got interested in biostatistics and ever since then I've had at least a part time job."

They have three children: Josh, 36, who lives in West Philly with his wife Hannah and their daughter, Sara Bela; Rachel, 36, who lives 3 blocks away and Ben, 30, who lives in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Susie was born in Newark, NJ in 1950 and grew up in Meadville PA, a small town in the northwest part of the state. She accumulated two masters degrees and a doctorate before, during and after her childbearing years. She received a Masters in Mathematics from Clark University before she had children; a Masters in Biostatistics from the Harvard School of Public Health when Rachel was born and Josh was 3 1/2; and a PhD in statistics from the Wharton School when Josh was in high school. She is an associate professor of Psychiatry and Biostatistics at Columbia University and holds an appointment at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in psychiatry and biostatistics.

Among the studies she participated in was one that questioned the warning on labels of antidepressants saying that the medications would lead to suicide if given to teenagers. Her studies are mostly funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health.

Mitch and Susie's spiritual lives became particularly rich when they lived in the Boston area. They had traveled to Israel and the following year, Susie's sister gave them an article talking about a havurah called

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### **Member Spotlight**

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Havurat Shalom in Somerville. "Art Green had just left it and moved to Philadelphia and I responded to the article, which was written by Bill Kavesh (now a member of Minyan Masorti) and within a couple of weeks we joined. We went to talk to Bill about how to keep kosher, even though we were vegetarian," Mitch recalls. "It was a tiny, intensive community," he says. "We started keeping kosher overnight, and were very strictly shomer shabbas for a couple of years. It was like going from 0-60 in 10 minutes, studying Zohar in Aramaic with Danny Matt (author of God and the Big Bang), studying Sfat Emes, and it was just amazing. Susie was really into it." They also attended the National Havurah Institute every summer, where they met a number of people from GJC.

When they prepared to move to Philadelphia, they received advice about living either in Mt. Airy or Elkins Park. "The Elkins Park people said Mt. Airy was too funky. Funky sounded great to us. We were invited to visit by the Teutsch's and came

down in January in the middle of a blizzard. Dorshei was 6 months old."

Mitch and Susie thought their dream was to go back to Boston. "I'd pulled Susie from Boston where she was a graduate student with some of the best people in biostatistics. She said 'I'd rather move to Philadelphia'" and they've lived here for 25 years.

Mitch delineated four initial goals for his GJC presidency: The first goal, he said, "is that I really want to strengthen a deep sense of collaboration between the professional and lay leaderships in the synagogue. There really needs to be a widely shared understanding of what the roles are. I'd like to work with Rabbi Zeff and the rest of both the lay and professional leadership to reach a stable understanding and to codify it."

The second goal is that "Our community of communities model is really very strong but it's still the case that many members of the shul feel themselves to be a member of one subcommunity and not a member of the synagogue as a whole. I want to work with the professional leadership to increase the opportunities for members of the shul to be involved in activities with other shul members and get

to know people across the entire shul."

Third, Mitch also wants to reorganize the planning and budgetary process, shifting from creating a new budget every year to a three year model for planning and budgets, in which financial goals would be set out three years in advance based on GJC's values and priorities.

Finally, Mitch wants to insure that "the synagogue continues to change to meet the needs and the style of the next generation of shul members." For example, GJC has long used the model of standing committees to get most jobs done, whereas leaders in the younger generation often view ad hoc groups as a better model for getting particular jobs done.

Mitch looks forward to taking on the presidency of GJC in June.

"I like serving communities," Mitch said. "I owe a tremendous amount to the Germantown Jewish Centre. It's been very important to my life for a long time. So when asked to serve I felt an obligation to do so. The opportunity to be president with Rabbi Zeff and our new professional team is really very special."

## Purim Tzedakah Update

Dear GJC Community,

Thank you so much for supporting the Sri Guru Nanak Food Bank in Kenya. I can think of no better way of celebrating Purim than by helping those who are in dire need as a result of the drought and famine currently taking place in East Africa. Your generous gifts will go a long way to support the Kenyan Sikh community's efforts to distribute food as this crisis continues. It means so much to me as a GJC kid to have our community's support for this important work!

For more information or to get involved please be in touch with me at nomi.teutsch@unitedsikhs.org or go to www.unitedsikhs.org/solidarity! Warm regards,

Nomi Teutsch on behalf of UNITED SIKHS

Many thanks are in order for the wonderful results of our first synagogue-wide Purim Tzedakah Collective. We were able to distribute over 175 Mishloah Manot baskets to attendees, members and guests alike, our maintenance staff, office staff, and faculty. That was a lot of baskets to assemble but our energetic crew got the job done in just over an hour! We had fun, actually, and enjoyed Yossi

Ravital's creative assistance, actually climbing into the bin of donated clementine boxes which was too deep for us to reach.

We are so



grateful to our tzedakah partners, to whom we disbursed \$2,193.53, the balance of donations after paying the cost of the baskets. Each of them does wonderful work feeding the hungry, as close as our neighbor Church of the Annunciation's food pantry, and as far as the Sikh Kenya Foodbank feeding famine victims in the Horn of Africa. And as you can see from their notes of thanks, these organizations are grateful for the donations from our community.

The five programs are:

- Weavers Way Community Programs: Stenton Family Manor Community garden. (Stenton is a homeless shelter.)
- Hazon, supporting sustainable, local farming
- The Female Hebrew Benevolent

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### **Purim Tzedakah Update**

Continued from page 6

Society, helping provide Passover food to 8 clients

- The Church of the Annunciation Food Pantry
- The Sikh Food Pantry in Kenya, via Nomi Teutsch, a Tony Blair Interfaith Fellow at United Sikhs.

More details are available at www.GJCMishloachManot.word-press.com

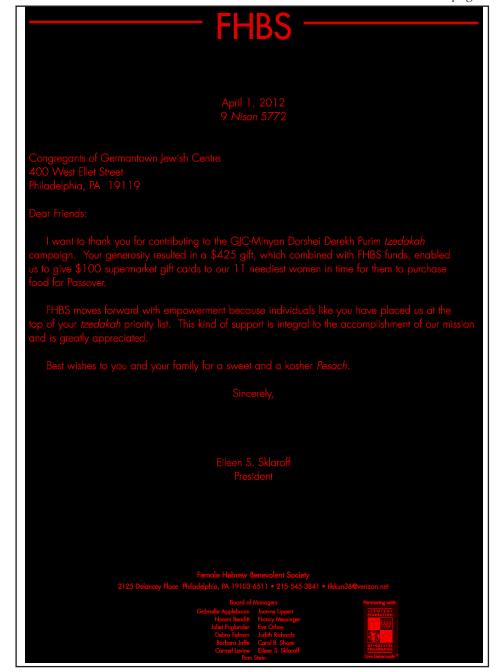
Kudos to co-chairs, Betsy Teutsch and Elana Shaw and thanks to helpers Mikael Elsila, Doug Lerner, Phill Goldberg, Nina Israel and all the assemblers. As well as to all of our donors . . .

Adina Abramowitz & Naomi Klayman Diane Ail & Neil Kitrosser Alex & Sheila Avelin Marta & Chip Becker Julia Bell & Jeff Sultar Peninah & Albert Berdugo Lila & Dan Berman Cheryl Bettigole & Adam Zeff Michael Blackman **Emily Blake & Karen Dunn Barbara Bloom** Meryl Bonderow & Togo Travalia Sarah Braun & Shai Gluskin **Bobbi Breitman & Avruhm Addison Eleanor Brownstein** Reba Carmel & Eric Franklin Amy Cohen & Mark Spiller Tamara Cohen & Gwynn Kessler **Debrah Cohen** Ken Cohen & Doug Lerner Fredi & Heshie Cooper Leah Corsover & Jonathan Rossos Lynne & Art Ellis Sheila Erlbaum Rachel Falkove & Michael Masch **Helen & Michael Feinberg** Dayle Friedman & David Ferleger **Audrey Fingerhood** Dana & Jacob Goldberg Elisa Goldberg & Steve Weinberg **Phill Goldberg Shelly Goldman** Haviva Goldman & Greg Lattanzi Anna Herman & Robert Dudnick Dina Pinsky & Mikael Elsila Hila Rimon-Greenspan & **Itay Greenspan** Peninah Kelberg & Mike Gross Nina Israel & Beto Duec

Lynne Jacobs & Alan Silverblatt Barbara Jaffe & Howard Langer Harriet & Don Joseph Melissa Klein & Nesya Nevins Hillary Kruger & Judd Levingston Sarit & Ken Kunz **Jacob Lieberman Ruth Loew & Bob Tabak Amy Loewenthal** Gena & Rob Lopata **Arnie Lurie** Tamar & Sam Magdovitz Alice & Richard Mandel Sue & Mitch Marcus Kate & Geoff Margo Gina Michaels & John Phillips

Lyndall & Chuck Miller Nahariyah & David Mosenkis Adina & Norman Newberg **Steve Newman Jovce & Carl Norden** Allan Oster **Barb Pearson** Rona Pietrzak Rayzel & Simcha Raphael Neely & Leon Rosen Joseph Rotenberg Melissa Schiffman & Tom McLaughlin Amy Schrager & Craig Barkan Mindy Shapiro & Allan Mendelsohn

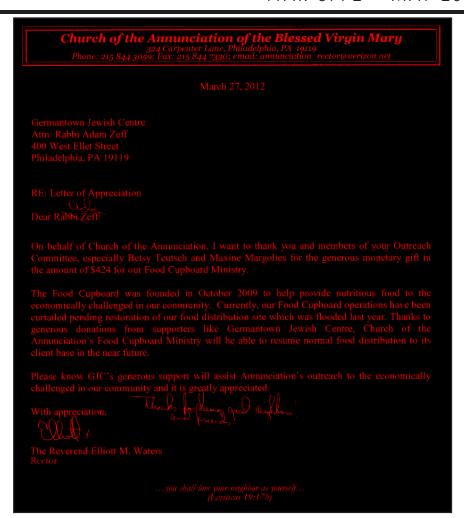
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### **Purim Tzedakah Update**

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**Hideko Secrest** Stefanie & Alex Seldin **Carolyn Seplow** Elana & Brian Shaw Wendy Smith & Michael Posner Ellyn Specker & Lawrence Charap Reena Spicehandler & Jeremy **Brochin** Jacob Staub & Michael Spitko Beth Stearman & Mitchell Berk **Amanda Steinberg Debbie & George Stern** Danielle Stillman & Matt Utterback **Betsy & David Teutsch Carol Tinkleman Beulah Trey & Steve Masters** Sonia Voynow & Brett Boyer Sylvia Voynow Maani Waldor & Mark Fallon Rivkah Walton **Ellen Weaver Sheila Weinberg** Abby Weinberg & Nathan Martin Leah Weisman & Eric Brunner Susan & Ken Weiss **Esther Wiesner & Toby Kessler** Rachel Zibbell



## Early Childhood Program (ECP)

In March ECP students celebrated Purim with Rabbi Kevin and Tigger! They also put together 88 Mishloah Manot bags that were distributed to seniors at the Klein JCC.



Our pre-school students had a lot of fun in a family program called "PJ Prepares for Shabbat." Here they are singing with music teacher Miss Amy Jo.



## **Education Department**

Generously supported by the GIC Women's Club

## IMPORTANT FUTURE PROGRAM DATES

May

### **SHABBAT, MAY 19TH CHARRY SANCTUARY**

- Confirmation Class 5772 Ceremony
- Kitah Vav (6th grade) reads Torah

#### BBMM (Bar Bat Mitzvah Mehina)

- Shabbat Dates (students only): May 5th and June 2nd
- For parents an Students, May 20th

#### ATID (4th and 5th graders)

May 6th, Bowling

#### **KADIMA** (6th and 7th graders)

May 20th, Bowling

### Hazak

### **Programming for Adults 55+**

By Hazak Co-Chairs, Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

n March 18, Hazak sponsored "Not JUST Your Grandmother's Yiddish Concert" featuring the Philadelphia Workmen's Circle Chorus. Nearly 100 people attend-



ed, all smiling, clapping and singing along. It was a real happening. For those of you who missed it, please join us next year, as we intend to make this an annual event!

We are looking forward to Hazak Shabbat on May 12 as members of the community 55 and older will help to lead the Charry Service. We will also welcome special guest Naphtali Meshel, Assistant Professor of Religion and Judaic Studies at Princeton. And please join us for a special kiddush following the service.

The Hazak Book Club will continue our discussion of *The Misunderstood Jew* on May 9th at 10 AM. And our June 13 selection will be announced soon.

Join us on Wednesday, June 27 at 1 PM for a gem of a program, both interesting and educational, with GJC's own Sam Feinberg on Sherlock Holmes Baker Street. We will kick of our new season in August with our annual Opera Under the Stars program, stay tuned for a date and more details

As you can see, if you are not a member yet a member of Hazak, there is a lot you are missing. Dues are



just \$10 annually and it's never too late to join. Please contact us.

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.

### Women's Club News

#### From the desk of Women's Club

ow can it be? Is it possible? No way is it the beginning of May. Where has the time gone? Yesterday it was January - cold, wet, and dreary and today it is warm, sunny, and the trees and gardens are filled with greenery and the year is almost half over.

Since we last "spoke" much has been going on, all of it quite fabulous. Just to highlight a few of our programs, there was the Purim Bash with great music for dancing, delicious food for eating, laughter galore due to the Purim Spiel, an auction filled with wonderful things to bid on, and of course the company of all of our family of Centre friends. One of the highlights of the evening was the costume parade where one could meet all sorts of characters from high church people to Hollywood stars. The evening was a hoot!

What else went on these last few months: There was Thinking Together About The Un-Thinkable, an intergenerational community discussion program that focused on end-of-life planning. We had a light breakfast and then panel presentations and facilitated discussions led by a Rabbi, doctor, nurse, and lawyer. It was an important discussion and we were very pleased that so many people decided to participate. Thank you especially to Rivkah Walton for coordinating the program, as well all of the facilitators and panelists that volunteered their time.

Another highlight was Women's Shabbat and Scholar-in-Residence with Dr. Lori Hope Lefkovitz, who holds the Ruderrman Chair in Jewish Studies at Northeastern University, where she is a Professor of English and Director of the Jewish Studies Program. The theme of the weekend was "Wake-Up Call: Themes of Journey and Renewal"and discussion the ranged Maimonides through Dante, Tennyson, Shir Hashirim to Yehuda Amichai and the conclusion was a poem found in the Hagaddah. It was a very exhilarating and stimulating experience. Our own Centre women led Services on Saturday and it was a joy and pleasure to see and hear them. Their degree of comfort and expertise on the bimah always makes me feel proud. It is a worn and hackneyed phrase, but we have indeed "come a long way."

This is just a brief summary of some of our programs and events these past months. We hope that you support Women's Club by paying your yearly dues (\$40.00), but even if you aren't a member, you are welcome to attend all of our programs. So we hope to see you at our very next event: It is our Torah Fund Brunch where we will honor Mindelle Goldstein on Sunday, May 6th at 11 a.m. Call Maxine Feldman or Connie Katz for further information and to make a reservation.

Shalom V'lihitraot

Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson Co-Presidents of Women's Club

## New Opera Aims to 'Slay' Intolerance

World premiere by GJC member Ellen Frankel opens at Prince June 7

new opera, Slaying the Dragon, with libretto by long-time GJC member Ellen Frankel and music by composer by Michael Ching, will have its world premiere on June 7 and 9 at the Prince Music Theater. Presented by Philadelphia's Center City Opera Theater, it will have additional performances at the Academy of Vocal Arts on June 14. 16, and 17, during the national Opera America Conference. On Thursday night, May 3, Women's Club will sponsor an hour-long program about the opera here at GJC, during which Ellen will talk about the two-year evolution of the opera and show video clips of staged workshops. Additionally discount performance tickets will be made available through Women's Club.

Based on a true story depicted in *Not by the Sword* by Kathryn Watterson, which was discussed by GJC's book group back in 1996, *Slaying the Dragon* is about a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, who renounces violence and hatred because of his unlikely friendship with a rabbi and his wife. The opera is a powerful vehicle for confronting contemporary themes of tolerance, the dangers of inflammatory rhetoric and stereotyping, and the possibilities of atonement, forgiveness, and personal redemption.

In writing the music for *Slaying* the *Dragon*, Asian-American composer Michael Ching counters intolerance through the joy of music,

bringing together a range of lively, eclectic, and wide-ranging styles. For his score, Ching drew from a variety of musical genres and sources—Yiddish folk songs, Vietnamese children's songs, sacred music from the *mahzor*, Aryan rock, Broadway, and pop tunes. *Slaying the Dragon* is Ching's third full length opera.

Although Slaying the Dragon is Ellen Frankel's first opera, she has been writing libretti for choral works for the past twelve years, working primarily with Philadelphia composer, Andrea Clearfield. In May 2000, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony premiered Clearfield's cantata, Women of Valor, which included two pieces by Frankel, "Sarah" and "Hannah." In 2011, the Women's Sacred Music Project commissioned Clearfield and Frankel to write a new movement, "Hagar," for an adapted version of Women of Valor, which was performed in September 2011 at GJC's Selichot service as well as at a Catholic abbey in Paoli.

In May 2006, Philadelphia's prestigious Mendelssohn Club Choir and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra presented Clearfield and Frankel's oratorio, The Golem Psalms, inspired by the ancient Jewish legend of the Golem, at the University Pennsylvania. It has also been performed at Haverford College, Indiana University, and at Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center. Frankel and Clearfield have signed agreements with Center City Opera Theater to develop a fulllength opera based on the Golem, as



part of CCOT's Creative Development Projects.

Dr. Frankel is the author of ten published books, including *The Classic Tales, The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols, The Five Books of Miriam,* and *The JPS Illustrated Children's Bible,* which is given by GJC each year to Religious School second graders. She served for eighteen years as the Editor in Chief and CEO of The Jewish Publication Society, and was named its first Editor Emerita upon her retirement in 2009.

# PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

We meet at Germantown Jewish Centre in the Quitman Library. 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 215-233-1414 or email denareva@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 8 We will be viewing the film, Constantine's Sword, the story of James Carroll



Tuesday, June 12 Day after Night by Anita Diamant

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

## Social Action Update

By Howard Bilofsky

GIC's Social Action Committee invites you to learn more about the new Pennsylvania Voter ID law and why it deserves your concern and action.

Many Pennsylvanians consider the new Voter ID law a serious challenge to everyone's right to vote. Very briefly, the new law requires that registered voters show an approved picture ID at the polls during a primary or a general election. The law's supporters claim that this legislation will reduce fraud at the polls.

Opponents, however, feel that the cost of implementing the law is very high. Not only the cost to the Commonwealth but the cost to individual voters is substantial. Lost time and

lost wages and the complications of getting a valid ID are remarkably burdensome. All of which will actually deter legitimate voters from exercising their right to vote. Many detractors have compared the law to the poll taxes of the old South. Another problem with the new law is that it appears to unfairly impact certain groups: the poor, minorities, the young, disabled and seniors. Finally, many believe that the law will have very little effect on voter fraud or, more to the point, that fraud is not even a problem.

If you have not been following the Voter ID issue closely please see the explanation created by the non-partisan good government Committee of Seventy at

www.seventy.org/voterid.

Try to keep in mind how it applies to you and also to your kids in college, young friends or older folks and many poorer citizens.

Would you like to learn more?

Would you like to learn more about how this will impact you and how to comply with the new law?

Would you like to learn more about how you can help and join the GJC's Social Action Committee?

Contact the GJC's Social Action Committee (SAC) just send an email to gjcsocaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and feel free to contact Howard Bilofsky at hbilofsky@mac.com

# Thank you to GJC and the Kids Stuff GiveAway & Electronics Recycling Organizers!

By Rachel Falkove,

Executive Director of NW Phila Interfaith Hospitality Network and a proud GJC Member!

orthwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN), an emergency shelter, supportive services,

housing and advocacy program for homeless families of our community, sends a **BIG** thank you to



Germantown Jewish Centre and to the amazing organizers of the Kids Stuff GiveAway & Electronics Recycling Event. Together these events, both held on March 26th raised about \$4,700 for NPIHN's summer activities fund, providing scholarships and camperships for homeless and formerly homeless children who have lived in our program. NPIHN's goal is to link 75 children and teens with meaningful summer activities, first jobs and opportunities that will open new interests, worlds and experiences, building each child's resume from kindergarten on up. As NPIHN proudly sends many high school seniors off to college, we know that our children's programs are making a difference, ending the cycle of homelessness for the families we serve.

The Kids Stuff GiveAway is a creative house cleaning and sharing project and a brilliant idea. The first weekend of spring was a perfect time to start spring cleaning, emptying closets and reorganizing before Passover. The committee of the 3rd annual Kids stuff GiveAway has created a wonderful venue for teaching our children to share what they no longer need, recycle, and reduce landfill waste, and raise funds for a tzedakah project that helps needy children. The event was very well attended, and welcomed many attendees who were needy in a warm and respectful manner. It was a true example of a "win..win" for all involved. Many thanks to Amy Schrager and the committee members - Leah Corsover, Haviva Goldman, Melissa Klein, Martha Millison and Wendy Smith for organizing this event and opening it to our broader community. Thanks also to the many parents and volunteers who assisted with the event.

Meanwhile the Electronics Recycling

event was being held at GJC for the second time and saw a constant flow of folks for nearly four hours dropping off their old computers, toaster ovens, calculators, batteries, bulbs and virtually anything with a plug! A huge thanks to Sharon Weber and Coleman Poses for organizing the event, as well as other volunteers for helping out.

And finally, thanks also to the GJC Interfaith Hospitality Network



Committee, under the leadership of Milt Cohen and the many wonderful GJC volun-

teers who cook delicious meals and provide encouragement and companionship to NPIHN families during our stays at GJC.

As a member of GJC, I feel very proud to be part of our wonderful synagogue community that offers so many great opportunities to work towards tikkun olam, repair of our world.

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 February, 2012 through March, 2012

Todah Rabbah!

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fund	Ellen Ufberg	in memory of Pearl Axelrod, mother
Beck Scholar-in-Residence Fund	Rose Beck	in memory of Joseph Mahon, father
<b>Bess Schick Memorial Fund</b>	Jeanette Dudnick	in honor of David Ferleger & Dayle Friedman, on the B'nei
		Mitzvah of their children, Anat & Avram
	Judah Labovitz & Ellen Ufberg	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Hershel & Betsy Richman	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	•	in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff
	Mariann E. Schick	in memory of Becky Soloff, friend
		in memory of Patricia Neighbors Schick, sister-in-law
	Helen Schneeberg	in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lila Booth & step- father of Beth Rosenbaum
	Ellen Ufberg	in memory of William H. Axelrod, father
Camp Scholarships Fund	Harry Kissileff	in memory of Julia R. Kissileff, mother
Chesed/Kesher Fund	Fredi & Heshie Cooper	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
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	Diamond Dansky	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Jerome Labovitz, father
	Marcy Landesburg	in appreciation of the Chesed Committee
	Dan & Melissa Livney	in honor of the first birthday of Boaz Livney
	Melissa Gartenberg Livney	in memory of Beatrice Gartenberg, grandmother
		in memory of Pearl Rosenbaum, grandmother
	Beth Stearman	in memory of Lillian Stearman, grandmother
	Deborah Stern	in memory of Myron Schoen, father
	Jane Tausig	in memory of Ted Hans Tausig, father
Dorshei Derekh	Carol & Marty Kaplan	in honor of David Ferleger & Dayle Friedman, on the B'nei
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Early Childhood Programs Fund	Joyce & Sheldon Eveloff	in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine, on the engagement of their son Matthew to Alyse Levy
	Phyllis Kauffman	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Linda Kugler	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Jeffrey & Linda Needleman	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Elizabeth Richman	in memory of Mae Rosner, mother
	Martha & Chuck Schleifer	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Judy Schwartz	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Joan Silver	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Susan & Berel Sternthal	in honor of Kathy Amrom, and her wonderful Purim puppet
	Shelley Weber	in memory of Benjamin Marged, father
	Women's Club	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
Fanny Seligman Fund	Gisha Berkowitz	in memory of David J. Berkowitz, son
	Herb & Elinor Finkelstein	in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lila Booth & step- father of Beth Rosenbaum
Floral Fund	Elise Bromberg	in memory of Fortunee Bromberg, mother
General Fund	Anthony Arce	in memory of Malvene Arce, wife
	Emanuel H. Burd	in memory of Louis A. & Kathryn M. Burd, parents
	Peter Kuriloff	in memory of Nancy Kuriloff, sister
	Peter & Peshe Kuriloff	in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo
	Ed Lake	in memory of Morris Lakernick, father
	Ed & Dena Lake	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
		in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff

## The Centre Call Germantown Jewish Centre

## Contributions Continued

Im & Sandy Meyer  in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cheric Goren in honor of Marcy & David Fish, on their Bilk weeding anniversary in memory of Marcy & David Fish, on their Bilk weeding anniversary in memory of Marcy & David Fish, on their Bilk weeding anniversary in memory of Morris Picker, father in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lial Booth & step- father of Belt Rosenbaum, anun in memory of Samule Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine in memory of Samule Belt Rosenbaum in memory of Samule J. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine in memory of Samule Pashona, nath in memory of Samule Pashona, nath in memory of Samule Pashona, nath in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cheric Goren in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cheric	Continued Continued		
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Aaron Weber in memory of Samuel Weber, brother in memory of Ida Weber, mother		Lucille & Aaron Weber	
in memory of Ida Weber, mother			
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In memory of Joseph Goren, habband of Cheric Goren		Lucille & Aaron Weber	in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren

### **Contributions** Continued

**Israel Affairs Fund** 

**Interfaith Hospitality Network** in memory of Ben H. Nash, grandfather Alexandra Volin Avelin

in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lila Booth & step-Gisha Berkowitz

father of Beth Rosenbaum

in memory of Frieda Eisen, mother of Ambassador Norm

Eisen

Frieda Sanders in memory of Ray Wasserberg, aunt

in memory of Abraham Goldenberg, brother

Hyman Zelkowitz in memory of David Zelkowitz, father

in memory of George Shore, husband of Joy Shore & father of Carol & Marty Kaplan

Jackie & Ava

in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lila Booth & step-

father of Beth Rosenbaum

in honor of Leah & Norman Schwartz, on the marriage of their

granddaughter Elisheva

in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren Marcy Landesburg

in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo

in memory of Harold Landesberg, husband

Cyrilla Rosen in memory of Faye Weiss, mother of Susan Sternthal

> in honor of Jeanette Dudnick, on her special birthday in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their grandson's

becoming Bar Mitzvah

in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff & Cheryl Bettigole, on the Bar

Mitzvah of their son, Avi

Cyrilla Rosen & Family in memory of Irving Rosen, husband & father

Leah & Norman Schwartz in honor of Tanya & Raphael Schwartz, on the marriage of

their daughter Elisheva to Ishiah Asher Waitzberg in Beit

Shemesh, Israel

Israel Garden Fund Marilyn Barr in memory of Edward I. Greenstone, father

> Arnold Barr in memory of his loved one

in memory of Walter Marine, husband Deborah Marine

in memory of Henry Siegel, father

in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine **Kiddush Fund** Saul & Kathy Axelrod

> in memory of Henry Feinberg, brother Sonia Dishler Ms. Joyce Eveloff in memory of Miriam Blumenthal, mother

Dena & Ed Lake in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren

Dick Menin in memory of Irvin Menin, uncle Michael Rodin in memory of Sherwin A. Rodin, father

Leah & Norman Schwartz in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo

Joan W. Stern in memory of Sarah Winderman, grandmother

in memory of Lillian Winderman, aunt

Melanie Berman in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff

Linda Dzuba in memory of Rose Pinkenson, mother Sam & Helene Feinberg in memory of Jeffrey Zaslow

in memory of Edward Sostack, father Maura Sostack

Men's Club Carol & Marty Kaplan in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo

in honor of Carol & Michael Robinson, on the birth of their

grandson

Minvan Masorti

**Library Fund** 

**Memorial Shabbat Fund** 

Carol & Marty Kaplan

in honor of Louie & Steve Asher, on the birth of their first

granddaughter

Leah & Norman Schwartz in honor of David Hahn & Barbara Weiss, on the Bar Mitzvah

of their son, Zachary

Wendy Weingarten in memory of Ernest Weingarten, father-in-law

in memory of Rose Weingarten, mother-in-law

in memory of Robert M. Traub, father

### The Centre Call Germantown Jewish Centre

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Bev & Ira Somerson

in honor of Stan Diamond, on his special birthday

in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo

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**Special Education Fund Torah Restoration Fund** 

Women's Club

Joyce Videlock

George Amrom

Kathy & George Amrom

in memory of Matthew Wainer, father

in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren

in memory of Peter Rock, brother of Ed Rock in memory of Leon & Ida Amrom, parents

in memory of Lou Amrom, brother

Mitchell Berk in memory of Mollie Needleman, grandmother

Chana Bonn in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson Eliyah Hai David

Bonn-Yavne in Jerusalem, Parashat B'shalach

Maxine & Maurice Feldman refuah shleimah to Bud Kutler

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in memory of Anne Pinkenson, mother Martha & Chuck Schleifer in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff

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Frances Gold in memory of Gertrude Meloff, sister

Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky in memory of Klara Furman, mother of Martha Schleifer and

Alan Furman

in memory of Miriam Blitzstein, mother of Ilene Blitzstein

Poses

in memory of Joseph Goren, husband of Cherie Goren in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo in memory of Annette Dansky, mother of Howard Dansky

Carol & Marty Kaplan in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine, on the engagement of their

son Matthew to Alyse Levy

in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine

in honor of her aliyah at Women's Shabbat

Marcy Landesburg Women's Club - Torah Fund Susan & Randy Klueger in honor of Mindelle Goldstein, on being honored at the Torah

Fund Brunch

Racine Murdock in honor of Mindelle Goldstein, on being honored at the Torah

Fund Brunch

**Youth Activities Fund** Curt & Leslie Pontz in memory of Newlin Booth, husband of Lila Booth & step-

father of Beth Rosenbaum

in memory of George Shore, husband of Joy Shore & father of

Jackie & Ava

Curt Pontz in memory of Selma Goodman, aunt Joan W. Stern in memory of Charles B. Stern, husband

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**Questions?** Contact the Office.

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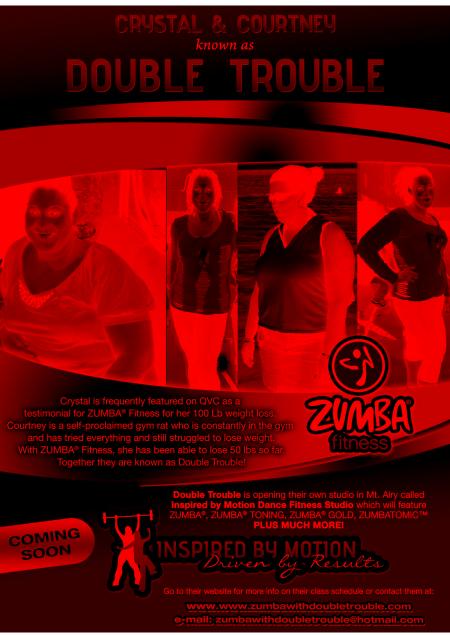
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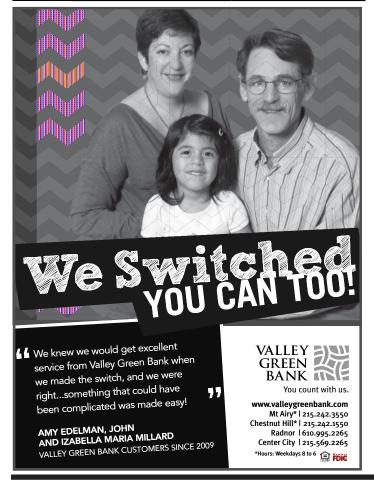
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For more information about how you can join

the Ner Tamid Society please contact the office.



Philadelphia, PA 19119



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Please submit all articles via email to program@germantownjewishcentre.org. Deadline for the summer issue (online only) is June 1.



## **Save the Dates**

Women's Club & Men's Club Installation lune 6

> **Annual Meeting** lune 13

**ECP Camp Keshet Begins June 20**