



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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TAMUZ 5772

JULY 2012



By Rabbi Annie Lewis

Between the Keruvim: God's Voice in Relationship

During my first two summers in a rabbinical school, I flew off to Marin County, California to learn about building relationships across difference. I trained with Sister Judy Donovan, a Jesuit nun and community organizer who was working with local congregations on issues of homelessness and immigration. We piloted a summer social justice program for teenagers from two area synagogues. One participant, a teen named Tova, was an active member of her youth group with a deep love for all people. Tova was born with a chromosomal condition called Smith-Magenis syndrome as well as an ability to engage and connect with other people without inhibition.

At one point in the summer, we arranged a meeting between the Jewish teens and a group of Latino teens from the "Canal," a low-income neighborhood in San Rafael. As the teens from the Canal community center approached the synagogue building, the Jewish teens waited on the porch to welcome them. There was this extended moment of awkward silence. Then, like the midrash about Nachshon stepping into the sea, Tova stretched out her hand. Breaching the gulf, she said simply, "Hi. I'm Tova." The rest of the teens soon followed suit and greeted one another.

One of my favorite images in the Torah is that of the *Aron HaBrit*, the Ark of the Covenant, that accompanies the Israelites as they make their way in the wilderness. Parshat Terumah, in the Book of Exodus,

speaks of the golden cover of the ark that protects its contents- the tablets inscribed with sacred words. Formed from a single sheet of precious metal and perched above the ark are the figures of two *keruvim*, celestial creatures whose faces are turned toward one another and whose wings are spread over the ark. As we read in Parshat Naso just a few weeks ago, God speaks to Moses through the space between the two *keruvim*. This image of the voice of the Holy One radiating from the place of relationship between beings has been central to my rabbinic work.

Many commentators have wondered about the character of the mysterious *keruvim*. In the Talmud the term *keruv* is linked with the similarly sounding Aramaic word *k'ravya*, meaning "like a young child." Rabbi Simcha Zissel Ziv Broida (a 19th century teacher of *mussar*, known as the *Alter of Kelm*) extrapolates from this association that we should strive to be like children in our study of Torah, approaching it with a sense of wonder and a willingness to be surprised. No matter if it is our first foray into Torah or if we are *Moshe Rabbeinu*, the hope is that the more we learn, the more we will be awed by our endless potential for growth.

Other commentators describe the *keruvim* as a *chevruta* pair- study buddies sparring, offering different perspectives, brainstorming and sharpening their arguments for the sake of heaven. The study of Torah is a collaborative enterprise. Its gems of truth are unearthed in relationship. Each person's perspective is essential for ongoing revelation of God's will

in the world. Though the words of Torah may be repeated each year and in each generation, they are changed, enlivened and renewed by each individual who speaks them and by each community that comes together with words of Torah at its center. Alongside the questions of Rashi and the rulings of Rambam, I carry the Torah of Tova and of all those I have met along my path to the rabbinate.

In my visit to the Germantown Jewish Centre last spring, I was wowed by the warmth, diversity and energy of the congregation. It is an honor to serve as your next assistant rabbi and I look forward to getting to know the many individuals who make up the fabric of the community. I am hopeful that my life and my Torah will be greatly enriched by the relationships we will build and by the work we will do together toward the flourishing of GJC.

Summer Highlights

Tot Shabbat

June 29

Israeli Dancing Summer Sessions

Wednesdays at 7 PM in July & August

Kol D'mamah

July 14 & Aug 11

Tisha B'Av

July 28-29

Pajamarama

July 31

Hazak Opera Under the Stars

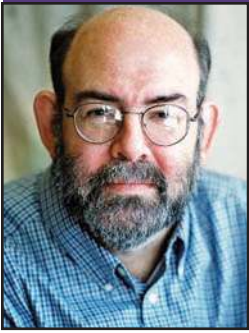
Aug 14

Summer Sampler

Aug 15

Kol Zimrah

Aug 24



President's Message

By Mitch Marcus, GJC President

As you read this summer issue of the Centre call, I am just now beginning two years as President of Germantown Jewish Centre, following in the footsteps of Chris Levin, who now becomes Immediate Past President. Before turning in the September Centre Call to goals for the coming year, I can't help but be impressed both by Chris's tremendous accomplishments as president through what has been two years of extraordinary transition and by how much that transition demonstrates how special the GJC community is.

As Chris's term now comes to an end, Rabbi Zeff has been recently installed as our senior rabbi, and Nina Peskin has completed a year and a half as our executive director. Rabbi Annie Lewis has just joined us as our assistant rabbi and Chana Dickter joins us as our religious school director, both on July 1.

Significant numbers of younger members have stepped into leadership. Parents of students in our religious school mobilized to form a committee to develop a new religious school curriculum, and a group of ECP parents has spearheaded a new effort to extend our playground. The inevitable replacement of the roof of the sanctuary building has begun, to be completed by the end of the summer, and it is completely funded by revenues currently in hand as a result of our annual building fund assessment. Chris has led our congregation to significant achievements and from strength to strength in the past two years.

Right before Chris became president, of course, Rabbi Gordon suddenly moved to Boston, as the result of a remarkable academic opportunity for his wife Lori. Chris began her presidency by working with a newly-appointed transition commit-

tee to design and execute a thoughtfully developed transition process. An online congregation-wide survey was followed by a series of well-attended parlor meetings that brought members of all of our sub-communities together to look at who we are, what our aspirations are and what we believe GJC needs in the years to come. This process resulted in a spontaneous community-wide consensus both that Rabbi Zeff was the right person to lead us in the years to come and that we all belonged to a remarkably vibrant, successfully diverse community.

During Chris's first year, our executive director also left, no longer deferring her long-standing intention to move to Washington DC. Chris realized that our newly-hired membership

began her rabbinate here, fits our community in many different dimensions. She told the on-line Mt. Airy Patch that her choice of the rabbinate "comes out of a real passion for connection, spirit, stories and people." Rabbi Lewis began as assistant rabbi of GJC on July 1.

Our final search was a search to find a new religious school director, as we split the responsibilities of our previous full-time education director between the newly defined assistant rabbi position and this new part-time position. The Religious School director search committee, like our other search committees, was representative of all of our sub-communities, but in addition, its leadership and the majority of its membership were

"The search committee adopted as a central goal finding a Jewish educator to partner with us to develop a detailed workable curriculum that implemented these values."

director, Nina Peskin, would make a wonderful executive director. This new team of Chris, Rabbi Zeff and Nina rapidly evolved a style of deeply collaborative leadership and teamwork that, we have been told repeatedly, is rare in synagogues and, yet again, moves us into a leadership position within the Conservative movement.

This past fall, we began to search for an assistant rabbi. This search began with an extensive written description of who we are as a congregation, as we entered into the official search process of the Conservative movement, to help young rabbis clarify immediately whether we would be a good match for their rabbinical aspirations. The strategy worked, and we interviewed four very strong candidates who understood the unusual requirements for serving as rabbi in a community of communities. Rabbi Annie Lewis, who was our community's first choice to join us and who just

younger than the generation that currently provides most of our leadership. These folks were Religious School parents who had launched a significant effort to design a new integrated religious school curriculum based on our community's shared educational values. The search committee adopted as a central goal finding a Jewish educator to partner with us to develop a detailed workable curriculum that implemented these values. After a careful, broad search, the committee recommended that Chana Dickter, a strong Jewish educator, be offered the position of religious school director. Chana has been hiring teachers for next year and began her position officially July 1.

Emerging now from the rabbinic and professional leadership transition that Chris unexpectedly inherited and that snowballed during her

Continued on page 4



(May, 2012 –
mid-June, 2012)

IN CELEBRATION...

Leah & Norman Schwartz on the birth of their great-grandson, Yitzchok Nadler, son of Bayla Esther (Schwartz) & Shlomo Nadler of Jerusalem, Israel

Michael & Shelley Spear on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac Spear

Rebecca Nissenbaum on her 95th birthday

Jay Furman on his 100th birthday

Stan & Bev Diamond on their 52nd wedding anniversary

Stan & Bev Diamond on the high school graduation of their grandson Ross

Kenneth J. Weiss, MD on being inducted as a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the group's highest honor, at the annual meeting in Philadelphia

Anne Shlay on her daughter Emma's college graduation and Fellowship Award to study in Senegal

Judy Schwartz on the high school graduation of her granddaughter Rachel

Maxine & Maurice Feldman on the graduation of their grandson from Brandeis University

Gisha Berkowitz on her special birthday

Mindelle Goldstein on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch

Rabbi Adam Zeff on his installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre

Cyrella Rosen on the engagement of her grandson Brian Rosen to Shiri Himmel (in Rishon L'Zion, Israel)

Cyrella Rosen on the graduation of her granddaughter, Chofit Chai, from Hebrew University and her continuation at Hebrew U. for a Doctoral Program in scientific research

Cyrella Rosen on her birthday

Cyrella Rosen on the graduation of her granddaughter Rachel Belkin from Indiana University

Jonathan & Andrea Moselle on the engagement of their daughter Elizabeth to Jason Henderson

Germantown Jewish Centre on donating enough food to Philabundance in 2011 for 383 meals to feed our neighbors in need

Jose Toro, GJC maintenance staff member, on his daughter Kayla Marie Serrano's acceptance with full scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University

Cheryl Roth-Frank and Jonathan Frank on the graduation of their son Michael I. Frank from Springfield High School. Michael will be spending the next year in Israel on Young Judea's year course, then continue on at University of Mass

Cheryl Roth-Frank and Jonathan Frank on the graduation of their daughter Judith D. Frank from the University of Pennsylvania with a MS in Education

Burgandy Holiday for completing her Masters in Social Work from West Chester University

Polly & Jeff Berman on the birth of their daughter Miriam Faye Berman

Melissa Klein & Neysa Nevins on their 10th wedding anniversary

Judd & Hillary Kruger Levingston on the graduation of their son Ivan from Barrack Hebrew Academy

Jake & Linda Kriger on the graduation of their son Ezra from Barrack Hebrew Academy

Alan Sacks & Joan Pitzele Sacks on the graduation of their daughter Rachel from Barrack Hebrew Academy

Ivan & Rebecca Wolnek on the graduation of their son Avi from Perelman Jewish Day School

Gabriel Miller & Minna Ziskind on the graduation of their daughter Ari from Perelman Jewish Day School

Ivan & Rebecca Wolnek on the graduation of their daughter Reena from Saligman Middle School

Pearl Raz on the graduation of her daughter Nisa from Saligman Middle School

Shai Gluskin & Sarah Braun on the graduation of their son Gabe from Saligman Middle School

Steve Asher & Louie Elfant Asher on the college graduation of their daughter Rena

Aryeh & Reena Friedman on the college graduation of their daughter Shira

Wendy Weingarten and Jerry Kutnick on Meira Weingarten's (daughter of Marty Weingarten, z'l') completion of graduate school

Rodney Griffith & Moira Rosenberger on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah Griffith-Rosenberger

Ellen Frankel on the opening of her first opera, Slaying the Dragon

Bradley & Christina Terebello on the birth of their son, Gabriel Ephram Terebello

Joel Sweet & Orit Netter on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Yamit Netter-Sweet

Jake & Linda Kriger on their wedding anniversary

Barbara Breitman on the MSW graduation of her daughter, Keyonne Thalía

Rabbi Annie Lewis on her ordination from Jewish Theological Seminary

Mikael Elsila on being named GJC's Congregant of the Year

Kathy Amrom on being GJC's honoree at NIM's Annual Assembly

Susan Weiss, who was named a finalist in the children's story competition sponsored by JewishStoryWriting.com. You can read "How the Bagel Got Its Hole" at <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B6lOq9lte0c7c2ZFdVN3Q0NmU1U>

Sonia Voynow & Brett Boyer, on the high school graduation of their daughter Julia

Dayle Friedman and David Ferleger along with Robb Hutter, on the high school graduation of their daughter Anya Friedman-Hutter

Paula & Jordan Spivack, on the high school graduation of their sons, Daniel & Jacob

IN MEMORIAM

Seymour Beer, father of **Michael Beer**

Seth Aryeh Golin Weisman, brother of **Karey Bacon** and uncle of **Ronia**

Ursula Joachim, aunt & great-aunt of **Naomi Hirsch & Shira Kamm**

Nathan Erlbaum, brother **Sheila Erlbaum**



President's Message

cont'd from page 2

term as president, it is perhaps surprising to see how undiminished our community's strength, energy and enthusiasm remained throughout, and how much energy and optimism is now in the air at GJC. The recent installation of Rabbi Zeff as our senior rabbi serves as a wonderful example. Instead of a solemn formal ceremony marked by outside speakers, we gathered our sub-communities together to joyously celebrate Rabbi Zeff, highlighted by Rabbi Zeff passing through arches of multicolored heart shaped flags held by members of all of our sub-communities, in a ceremony that almost shouted out our affection for Rabbi Zeff and excitement for the coming years.

Chris steps down as president after having shepherded GJC through quite a series of transitions. The processes that she instituted and fostered left us clearer about who we are as a community and realizing that behind the diversity of our community of communities model, there are strong common values and a strong common sense of purpose. We all owe her our enduring gratitude.

Shabbat Chai-Lites

June 29 & 30

- Tot Shabbat
- Charry Service moves to the Chapel for the summer

July 14

- Kol D'mamah & Childcare

Aug 11

- Kol D'mamah & Childcare

August 24

- Kol Zimrah

Kabbalat Shabbat

Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning Services

Torah Study at 9 AM

Services at 10 AM

Kol D'mamah at 11 AM

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chairs, Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

Our program highlight in May was our annual Hazak Shabbat event. Since when we were young, girls were not called to the Torah, it's still amazing to see so many women (along with the men) participate in the Charry service with enthusiasm! Thanks to Frank Krafchik and Centre Catering, who went all out, we had a most beautiful and delicious Kiddush. Please save the date for Hazak Shabbat on May 4, 2013! Whether you are of Hazak age or not, or whether you normally attend the Charry service or not, everyone is invited to honor the elders of our congregation as we lead the service and celebrate afterwards with Kiddush. Don't be shy, join us next Spring!

Our Book Group meets once over the summer on Wednesday, July 11 at 10 AM in the Silver Kiddush Lounge. As of this writing, we have not yet chosen a book.

This summer Hazak is lucky enough to feature two programs led by our own amazing Sam Feinberg. On Wednesday, June 27 at 1 PM Sam is treating us to "The Mystery of Sherlock Holmes." And then he returns for Hazak's annual "Opera Under the Stars: A Verdi Preview" on Tuesday, August 14 at 7:30 PM (rain or shine, we will be indoors in case of inclement weather). This event kicks off our 2012-13 programming. Have a great summer and we will see you soon!

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.

ISRAELI DANCING

Summer Sessions
Wednesdays
at 7pm
\$5 per session



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



נר תמיד

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.

For more information about how you can join the Ner Tamid Society, contact the office.



Germantown Jewish Centre's SUMMER SAMPLER

Join us for an evening of music, food, study & dessert



**Wednesday, August 15
7-10 PM**

**Join us for a preview of classes and events to be
offered in the coming year and get a taste of
what GJC is all about!**

**Event is geared towards both current and
prospective members. Please invite friends
who are curious about the Centre.**

**For more info or to RSVP contact Elana Shaw at
program@germantownjewishcentre.org or
215.844.1507 X 19**



Sherry and Bob Pomerantz

Bob and Sherry Pomerantz, longtime members of the Masorti minyan and stay-at-home psychologists (their offices are in their home), embody the well known profile of loyal Philadelphians who have lived here since birth or who left and came back to stay for good.

Bob, 61, is a Philadelphian in spirit, although not by birth. He was born in Coral Gables, FL where his father was the assistant head of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Miami. When he was nine months old, they moved to North Jersey where his father became a Hebrew School principal in South Orange. Bob attended public schools and after-school Hebrew schools.

Bob's life in Philadelphia began when he was 15 and his father took a job as principal of the Har Zion Hebrew School. His parents, Bob says, "stayed here for 11 years and then moved back up to North Jersey. They came down here long enough for Sherry and me to meet. Their job was done and they moved back."

Bob and Sherry met when they were 15 at Har Zion Midrasha. As Bob remembers it, "My father had his eye on Sherry a lot earlier than I did, but when your father says 'I have a girl for you' the last thing you want to do is go out with her. We had to percolate for a long time."

Bob actually ventured as far away as Cleveland to attend Case Western Reserve, but moved back after his

freshman year because he missed his life and friends in Philadelphia. (That's how you know he's a Philadelphian at heart.) He transferred to Temple, spent his junior year at Hebrew University and graduated from Temple in 1972, along with Sherry.

Sherry was born in Wynnefield, where her parents belonged to B'nai Aaron, a small congregation nearby. She, too, went to public schools and Hebrew school. When she was nine, her family moved to Havertown. She and Bob not only went to Hebrew School together, they were friends in USY, worked at Camp Ramah at the same time and took psychology and biology classes together at Temple. Sherry recalls that, "I sat in the front and was ambitious and he was the one who sat in the back and did whatever he did. And we were just really good friends. Our parents knew each other through my father's involvement in United Synagogue, and his father's role as a Jewish educator in a Conservative synagogue."

Nevertheless, they didn't start dating until they were both college graduates in 1972. Three years later they married. Sherry went straight to graduate school at Temple University and received her doctorate in educational psychology. She received clinical training later.

At the beginning of her career, she did research and evaluation for OICs of America founded by Rev. Leon Sullivan, evaluating a federally funded teen manpower training program. She also evaluated therapeutic day schools for the Eagleville Hospital. She began a private clinical practice in 1991 treating children and adolescents, their families, as well as adults and couples. Over the years she has worked with patients with eating disorders as well as those with depression and anxiety and has done many community, parent and school presentations.

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

Out of college Bob worked as an aide at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Center (now Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment). After he completed his master's degree he worked as a drug and alcohol counselor at 8th and Girard. After a few years he returned to Temple University to study for his doctorate in Counseling Psychology. After completing his graduate studies Bob worked as a staff psychologist in a psychiatric hospital and then was the Clinical Director of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, before starting his private practice. Their daughter Miri was born in 1981 while Bob was getting his psychology credentials and their daughter Rachel was born in 1984, as Bob was studying for his psychology licensing exam.

Sherry knew about GJC because of her involvement with USY as a teenager. As regional membership chair in northwestern area, she visited the synagogues in Mt Airy, East and West. (Her use of the plural of synagogue indicates that she remembers a time when Mt. Airy had more than one or two.) She was encouraged to come to the minyan services by Nita Polay, who became Cantor Sheldon Levin's wife. Sherry and Bob started coming to GJC in 1980 when Sherry was pregnant with Miri. "We enrolled her in ECP (GJC's day care) because there was only one more spot. I didn't even have a job yet," Sherry says. Bob adds, "We did research into other options, and ECP was better by far." Ruthie Feldman, the first director and a Minyan member at the time, had been a neighbor of Sherry's in Wynnefield. Sherry recalls that when they lived in Plymouth Meeting, she would drive to Mt. Airy to drop Miri off during the first year of ECP's existence and then drive to Eagleville, PA to work. She

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Member Spotlight *cont'd from page 6*

would do the round trip again at the end of the day.

Over the years, Sherry and Bob lived through the changes in attitude towards and configuration of the GJC minyanim. "The minyan was always part of GJC but a lot of minyan members were not as completely integrated into the synagogue as they are now, even though most people were members of GJC. Even so, some long time synagogue members needed time to adjust to the unfamiliar minyan culture."

When she sat on the GJC Board and participated in the Kashrut committee, Sherry had the opportunity to get to know some of the Charry service regulars and they got to know her. Her involvement with ECP was another connecting point to the shul beyond the minyan. At one time Sherry was co-chair of the membership committee and is still a member of the committee to this day.

In the earlier years, Bob admits that his primary emotional loyalty was to the minyan as a body rather than to the whole synagogue. More recently, Bob served on the synagogue personnel committee and chaired it for a couple more years. Bob has also served on Masorti's Mazkirut, its governing body, for the past few years.

Their daughter Miri, 31, who lives in Manhattan and who initially worked for the Jewish Publication Society, now works for the Jewish Book Council, an organization that promotes literature of Jewish interest. Her primary responsibility is to manage the network of Jewish Book Fair coordinators around the country. She runs an annual conference in which 250 authors who have new books of Jewish interest present a 2 minute description of their work, sort of like "speed dating," introducing themselves to the Book Fair coordinators, who then make choices about which authors to bring to their communities. She also works on the

JBC's website and does special programming. She is married to Jeremy Dauber, a Yiddish literature professor at Columbia, whom she met when he was a judge for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, a yearly prize awarded to an emerging author under the auspices of JBC.

Rachel, 28, is an electrical engineer who works for a small consulting firm in Hoboken that designs signal flow systems for broadcast stations, creating the systems that allow the

control rooms to communicate with broadcast feeds coming in and going out from the station. She lives in Manhattan.

Both daughters have been active in the Hadar Minyan in New York, which reflects the influence of their having been raised in GJC and in Minyan Masorti.

"We have stayed at GJC," Sherry says, "because of the community of people we have felt really connected to for a long time."



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Northwest Philadelphia

May 21, 2012

Gisha Berkowitz
511 Woodbrook Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Dear Gisha:

The Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN) extends our thanks to Germantown Jewish Centre for generously donating \$3,000 from the congregation's Tzedaka collections to our organization.

Germantown Jewish Centre's support of NPIHN's activities encourages and enables our participating congregations and volunteers to continue our good work in providing hospitality and services to homeless families. We will keep you informed of our progress in periodic reports throughout the year. The Centre's generosity clearly extends beyond the financial realm, and we are very grateful for all the kindnesses you extend to us through GJC's hosting of families and wonderful volunteers.

May our Northwest Philadelphia communities of faith continue to work together to eliminate homelessness, living our lives with a sense of responsibility towards one another. Thank you again for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Rachel
Rachel Falkove
Executive Director



*Gisha -
Thanks so much!
We are about to launch
our second network in
NE Philadelphia. These
funds from GJC will be
a big help.*



Junior Congregation Summer Edition

Led by Kids for Kids

11:00 AM in Room 309

Join us virtually every Shabbat
morning over the summer

Families & children of all ages
and abilities welcome

Adult supervision provided

Ends with a light kids kiddush



Early Childhood Program (ECP)

This Spring many volunteers came together to plant new trees in our playground. The trees will offer more shade for our children for generations to come. Volunteers included ECP families, former ECP families, and adults without out children, as well as GJC staff members Eric Word and Shoshanna Wiesner, that came out on their days off. When we work together, the work goes quickly, and we enjoy a sense of connection to our community and accomplishment. Thank you to all of the adults and children who volunteered to improve our wonderful playground!



We are not sure who had more fun celebrating Passover in ECP, Rabbis Adam and Kevin, who told the Passover story with puppets, or the kids who got to listen!

Special Thanks

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

Summer Programs for Tots

at Germantown Jewish Centre

Summer Tot Shabbat

Friday, June 29—See right for details*

*Requires advanced registration & payment

PajamaRama Potluck & Puppet Show

Tuesday, July 31 at 5:30 PM

On the GJC Playground
(or indoors if raining)

Please join us for a potluck dinner and puppet show with Rabbi Adam, plus a little play time on the playground!

Please bring a pareve or dairy dish to serve at least 10 people.

A-J	Main Dish
K-P	Drinks/Dessert
Q-Z	Salads

Pajamas optional!

Please RSVP to Elana at
program@germantownjewishcentre.org

This program is presented in partnership with
JKidPhilly,
a program of the Jewish Learning Venture

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Club News

From the desk of Judy and Bev . . .

Dear Women's Club Board, Women's Club, the Congregation, and GJC Staff,

By the time that you read this, Bev and I will no longer be co-presidents of Women's Club. The new presidents will be Maxine Feldman and Barb Menin. However, we would like to take a moment more of your time and officially thank the many people who have supported us for the past three years.

To our Board – thank you for calling us and asking us to become your presidents. We were scared, apprehensive, and overwhelmed; but you were there to support and encourage us. We were very fortunate to have all of you as our mentors. As we say over and over again, we have gained and grown so very much through this experience. It has indeed changed our lives and we heartily recommend and endorse the experience.

To all of our Women's Club members – thank you for supporting

Women's Club financially by joining and paying your dues. Thank you also for shopping at the Little Shop, whose proceeds helps us financially support the synagogue's various activities. Thanks also for being involved in our religious school and other activities for children and families. And last but not least, thank you for attending and participating in our programs, that (we hope) are meetings everyone's needs.

To our congregation – We thank you for everything that you do because without you and your presence, we would merely be a figment of the imagination. You and our wonderful Rabbi are the foundation upon which we have built everything. You teach us, inspire us, hear us, and fill us with joy and appreciation for all that we have and are able to share with our Centre home and family.

To the GJC staff – We thank all of you – Nina, Elana, Kate, Shoshanna, Eric and his crew for always being there for us. You take messages, help

us sort priorities, run off copies, answer questions, remind us of when things are due, set up rooms for us, mark off spaces on various floors, take care of electrical problems, and believe it or not, we could go on and on.

To Frank and his kitchen staff – We thank you for your unending supply of patience and good humor as we constantly search for new foods and prices to meet the needs of our community, including vegetarian and gluten free fare that is always delicious and beautiful to behold.

As has been said before, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Thank you to one and all for being members of our "village" and helping to raise not just our children, but our entire community.

Todah rabah!!

Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson
Past-presidents of Women's Club

Torah Fund on May 6, 2012

If you were not at our Torah Fund Brunch, you missed a glorious event. Our amazing co-chairs, Maxine Feldman, Connie Katz, and Rose Beck created a happening. From start to finish, everything was just perfect: the warmth and hospitality, not to mention beautiful home that Kathy and George Amrom allowed us to use, the very day itself with blue skies and sunshine, and especially our honoree, Mindelle Goldstein. The brunch was absolutely lavish, delicious, and beautifully displayed. Nina Peskin and her accompanist, Mikael Elsila, presented a program titled "Songs with Feeling: Music by Israeli and American Artists," which everyone loved. Last but not least, due to the very generous contributions of Centre members, Mindelle, and her family and friends, we were able to raise a very generous sum of money for The Jewish Theological Seminary. The day was a "10."

Yesher Koach to all!

Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson



Social Action Update

Social Action Committee Lives Up to Its Name in 2011-2012

By Andrea Moselle, SAC Member

GJC's Social Action Committee, chaired by Maxine Margolies with support from Board Liaison, Coleman Poses, continues to be an active force for education, action, and collaboration with other Synagogue groups, and the broader community on a number of fronts from environmental issues and voter registration to creation of The Story Hour, an Introduction to the Library, at our neighborhood elementary school. Here are some highlights of 2011/12:

Environmental Issues—a 2012 series of educational programs and activities included:

- "Scientific & Jewish Ethical Perspective on the Fracking Boom in Pennsylvania" featuring two GJC congregants, Dr. Ken Lande and Rabbi Melissa Klein, was presented at a January breakfast meeting by the SAC and the Men's Club. Vinny DiLorenzo moderated the discussion
- "Gasland," the movie, was shown in February, followed by guest speaker, Gerry Silverman from Protecting Our Waters and a panel discussion featuring Silverman and event organizer. Lynne Iser
- "Roadmap to Renewable Energy" was presented on Earth Day and was co-sponsored by an extensive list of Northwest Philadelphia organizations and congregations. Speakers included Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, John Quigley, former Secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Ken Lande, Professor of Physics at the University of Pennsylvania. Josh Peskin moderated the discussion.
- Our 2nd Electronics Recycling, a popular activity, co-sponsored with the Men's Club, was held in March. Developed and organized by Sharon Webber, Coleman Poses provided oversight this year. Suggested voluntary contributions, ranging from

\$5.00 to \$20.00 totaled over \$2,700, which subsequently went to the Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, which provides temporary housing for the homeless of Northwest Philadelphia.

Henry School—GJC continues its commitment to support our neighborhood school, C.W. Henry, with a cadre of volunteers who meet weekly with Henry students for The Story Hour. Coordinated by SAC member Renee Levin, the program was developed with the help of a grant from the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia in 2008 as part of the Henry Home & School Association's project to revitalize the school library. Volunteers give their time on a regular, ongoing basis. The program has served nearly 1000 children over the last four years. (For more information, see Renee Levin's article, *Henry School Library Program Still Going Strong!* on page 13.)

Community Activism

- Voter ID Education – GJC has supported voter registration drives in the past and this year, SAC member Howard Bilofsky, has been part of a group sponsored by the Committee of Seventy that is working to educate Philadelphians who may be impacted by the recent voter identification legislation. Look for future SAC programs and articles to learn more about how this can impact you and how you can get involved this fall.
- "Our Democracy Is Not for Sale" – On April 25, the SAC hosted an event which featured the award winning documentary, PRICELESS\$, and a planning meeting which brought together a broad coalition of local groups and activists who have come together around the Supreme Court decision on campaign contributions in Citizens United v. FEC. This gathering was one of many that took place around the country as part of a national campaign. The SAC will work towards educating voters on the City Council

Resolution, and understanding the "ballot question," we will encounter at the polls in November.

- 5th Annual Clothing Giveaway, conceived and organized by Genie Ravital, and co-sponsored by SAC and GJC's Women's Club, was held in February, and was our most successful.

High Holy Day study

- Annual Oscar Bregman Memorial Lecture – SAC organizes this program, held on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Our 2011 program, moderated by Peter Maas was "*Lessons of the Holocaust: View from the Third Generation*", and featured speakers Leah Lande, a third generation Holocaust survivor and volunteer for the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), a group which works on a variety of programs to take a stand against racism, and create a positive future for everyone. Doug Porpora, professor of Sociology at Drexel University discussed societal indifference to the Holocaust and lessons learned.
- Introduction to the Haftarah on Yom Kippur morning was delivered this year by Coleman Poses

Looking Ahead—the committee is already planning for the fall, beginning with a focus on health care for the Bregman lecture. This year, new members to the Social Action Committee have increased the scope of our activities and brought with them new and vital areas of involvement in social action.

• We encourage interested Centre members to join the committee or get involved. If interested Contact committee chair, Maxine Margolies.

• To get notifications of SAC meetings and other emails of interest, please sign up for the Social Action Email List by sending an email to gjc-socaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Going Home

By Mindelle Goldstein

During the closing meeting of GJC's Board of Directors in May, Maxine Margolies (our Social Action Committee Chairperson) encouraged members of GJC to volunteer at the Henry School. She suggested that a synagogue priority be more involvement in our local public school. Maxine emphasized that this could result in the Henry school becoming a viable option for more of our graduating ECP families.

Hannah Jarvis, daughter of GJC members Marilyn Kass and Jeffrey Jarvis, is a second grader at Henry. Recently her mom Marilyn facilitated visits at the school for a program called "Art Goes to School." The program involves volunteers presenting enrichment lessons in art appreciation to Henry students in Kindergarten and second grades. I volunteered to help and was assigned one of the kindergarten classes. It was a wonderful and informative experience for me. The spacious room was welcoming and class size small. Art created by the students decorated the walls throughout the building. My class of five and six year olds was alert and responsive. The students asked pertinent questions and proudly told me that *The Banjo Lesson* by Henry Osawa Tanner was also displayed in their art room. Several in the group had visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art with their families. When I displayed a painting by Vermeer, they were quick to notice that my pearl earrings resembled "the lady's in the picture!"

A dad was seated at the rear of the group. When my presentation ended he offered to carry the heavy portfolios filed with reproductions. He explained that he had taken the day off to "hang out in his children's school." Such parent involvement was inspiring as was my visit.

My visit marked my first return to the Charles W. Henry School since I had been a student there in the 1940s. As I drove away, I decided that despite the title of the novel by Thomas Wolfe, indeed, *I could go home again!*

Henry School Library Program Still Going Strong!

By Renee S. Levine

Started as a project of GJC's Social Action Committee, the Introduction to the Library Story Hour has been operating at the C.W. Henry School since February 2009. The program began by serving eight classes, ranging from Kindergarten through third grade. The story telling originally took place in the school library, which was also revitalized by volunteers from GJC. This year, story telling volunteers were welcomed to classrooms instead, as the library was often needed when the weather was poor and students could not go outside.

Volunteers who read to the children range from parents of Henry students, as well as GJC and other neighborhood volunteers. Some of our original volunteer readers are still involved in the program today! Over the years we have also recruited new volunteers to read to the classes.

The students are generally alert and interested in the stories we read to them! While there are occasionally children who have trouble sitting still, the teachers are always present, ready, and available to help. Volunteer story tellers have found the experience so rewarding and several have reported students spotting them around the neighborhood and saying hello and "Didn't you read to my class in kindergarten?" Clearly we have made an impression.

Along with the Story Hour, we were fortunate to connect with Eugene Okamoto of the Harvest Book Company. He is an alumna of the C.W. Henry School and graciously donated books that we distributed to the classes in our program. These books were donated for students to keep and take home to read! The first distribution

occurred at the end of the 2009-10 school year. In 2010-2011 we increased book distribution to three times a year. The students very much appreciate being able to take books home.

As the school year wound down, we learned that the Principal, Mrs. Caren Trantas, is retiring. She has been a wonderful supporter of the library programs and we are sad to see her go, but wish her well. We hope to meet the new principal over the summer and anticipate her continued support for all that we do.

Thank you so much to the volunteers that made story hour a success this year: Rona Pietrzak, Gloria Hoffman, Barbara Jaffe, Jeanne Allen, Dena Lake, and Bruce Sacks (the first male to join our story hour volunteer crew!).

A note from Maxine Margolies, Social Action Committee Chair – All of us on the Social Action committee want to express our sincere appreciation to Renee Levine who created the story hour, volunteers as a story teller, and coordinates all aspects of the program! Thank you for making an impact on so many in the Henry School community.

A note from Elana Shaw, GJC Program Director and Centre Call Editor - My husband and I toured the Henry School in May, as we are beginning the process of deciding where to send our older daughter to school. When we walked by the library, the parent that gave us the tour mentioned to our group that volunteers organized by GJC had put together the library again after years of no school library. It was a proud moment for me, as I was able to share more details about the reading program to the small group of parents assembled on the tour.

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 April 1 through May 31, 2012

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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General Fund	Lynne Furman	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
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	Cherie Goren	refuah shleimah Rosalie August
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		refuah shleimah Rosalie August
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	Aaron & Lucille Weber	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
		in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
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	Lawrence Sternthal	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Jonathan Stoler	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Elaine & Zel Ashin	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	The Boer-Dudnick Family	in memory of Nathan Erlbaum, brother of Sheila Erlbaum
	Irene Cluck	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Sonia Dishler	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Lynne & Art Ellis	in memory of Nathan Erlbaum, brother of Sheila Erlbaum
	Marty & Carol Kaplan	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Edith Klausner	in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
	Norman & Adina Newberg	in honor of Ivan Kruger-Levingston, on his graduation from Barrack Hebrew Academy
		in honor of Ezra Solway, on his graduation from Barrack Hebrew Academy
		in honor of Rachel Sacks, on her graduation from Barrack Hebrew Academy
		in honor of Avi Wolnek, on his graduation from Perelman Jewish Day School/Saligman Middle School
		in honor of Gabriel Gluskin-Braun, on his graduation from Saligman Middle School
		in honor of Ari Miller, on her graduation from Perelman Jewish Day School/Saligman Middle School
		in honor of Nisa Raz, on her graduation from Saligman Middle School
		in honor of Reena Wolnek, on her graduation from Saligman Middle School
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in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday

in honor of Jay Furman, on his 100th birthday
in memory of Esther Weisman, grandmother
in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff
in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo
in honor of Melissa Klein & Neysa Nevins, on their 10th wedding anniversary
in memory of Victor Menin, father
in memory of Reba Siderio, sister
in memory of Benjamin Rosenbaum, father
in memory of Isidor Rosenthal, father-in-law
in honor of Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on the birth their grandson
in honor of Ann & Martin Itzkowitz, on the birth of their twin granddaughters
in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
in memory of Seymour Beer, father of Michael Beer
in memory of Benjamin Bateman, father
in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
in memory of Seymour Beer, father of Michael Beer
in memory of Rebecca Tobias, wife
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their grandson's graduation from Brandeis University
in honor of Michael & Shelley Spear, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac
in honor of Meira Weingarten, on her graduation from Widener College
in honor of Rachel Marcus, on her graduation from Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing
refuah shleimah Bob Zimring
in honor of Melissa Klein & Neysa Nevins, on their 10th wedding anniversary
in honor of Sonia Dishler, on her special birthday
in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
in memory of Beth Wiener, mother
in honor & appreciation of Nina Peskin, for her participation in the Torah Fund Brunch
in honor & appreciation of Mikael Elsila, for his participation in the Torah Fund Brunch
in memory of Claire Moselle, mother
in memory of Sadie Wernick, mother
in memory of Leonard Rosenthal, husband
in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
in memory of Seymour Beer, father of Michael Beer
in honor of Sonia Dishler, on her special birthday
in memory of Ursula Joachim, aunt of Naomi Hirsch & great-aunt of Shira Kamm
in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
in memory of Betty Werner, friend
in honor of Dina Pinsky & Mikael Elsila, for hosting our family for seder
in memory of Charles Myers, grandfather
in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
in memory of Marjorie Kopeland, mother
in honor of Carly Morrison becoming Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Maya Goldstein Wattelman's start of service in the Israeli army
in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff
in memory of Benjamin & Mildred Weinrach, parents
in memory of Stephen Weinrach, brother

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	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	in honor of Rabbi Zeff & the office staff, for making borrowing a Torah for our special occasion so easy
Gary Charlestein	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
Francine Cohen	in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
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Michael & Helen Feinberg	in honor of Julia Boyer, daughter of Sonia Voynow & Bret Boyer, on her high school graduation
	in honor of Anya Friedman-Hutter, daughter of Dayle Friedman & Robb Hutter, on her high school graduation
	in honor of Daniel Spivack, son of Paula & Jordan Spivack, on his high school graduation
	in honor of Jacob Spivack, son of Paula & Jordan Spivack, on his high school graduation
Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
Betty Ann & David Fellner	in memory of Paul Schwartz, son of Norman & Leah Schwartz
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	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	in honor of Elaine & Lee Dushoff, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	in honor of David Barcan & Maribel Beas, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Raphael Barcan
	in honor of Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on the birth their grandson
	in honor of Nina & Josh Peskin, on the birth of their daughter Maya Rochelle
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David Fish	in memory of Richard Fish, father
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Reena & Aryeh Friedman	in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father of Vincent DiLorenzo
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	in memory of David & Dora Goldstein, parents
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Mindelle Goldstein	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
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Steve Jones	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff
Carol & Marty Kaplan	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
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Vilma Lieberman	in memory of Kenneth A. Lieberman, husband
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Jim & Sandy Meyer	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre

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	Andrea & Edward Rock	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
	Judy Schwartz & Bev Somerson	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
	Leah & Norman Schwartz	in honor of Rabbi Adam Zeff, on his Installation as Rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre
	Alex & Stefanie Seldin	in memory of Seymour Beer, father of Michael Beer
	Myrna Snyder	in memory of Samuel Litten, father
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Religious School Fund	Marty & Carol Kaplan	in gratitude for Rabbi Kevin Bernstein, and all he has accomplished at GJC
	Nan Myers & Mark Lipshutz	in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
	Judy Schwartz	in gratitude for Rabbi Kevin Bernstein, and all he has accomplished at GJC
	Women's Club	in gratitude for Rabbi Kevin Bernstein, and all he has accomplished at GJC
Social Action Fund	Carol & Marty Kaplan	in honor of Isador Kranzel, on his special birthday
	Dena & Ed Lake	in honor of Stan Diamond, on his special birthday
	Alice & Richard Mandel	in memory of Jay Dushoff, brother of Lee Dushoff
	Maxine Margolies	in honor of Anne Shlay, on her daughter Emma's college graduation and Fellowship Award
	Samuel & Cecile Merion	in honor of Gisha Berkowitz, on her special birthday
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	Judy Schwartz & Bev Somerson	in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman
	Mindy Shapiro	in honor of Michael & Shelley Spear, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac
		in memory of Henry Darmstadter, husband
		in memory of Betty R. Werner, sister
		in memory of Samuel Z. Kobran, father of Marcy Bacine
		in memory of Regina Spitzer, grandmother
		in memory of Aaron Blumenthal, father
		in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the graduation of their grandson Daniel
		in honor of Rodney Griffith & Moira Rosenberger, on the high school graduation of their son Jacob
		in memory of Charlotte Shapiro, mother
		in memory of Samuel Shapiro, father
		in memory of Sharon Shapiro, sister

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	Joan Silver	in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their grandson's graduation from Brandeis University in memory of Max Moses, grandfather in honor of Mindelle Goldstein, on being honored at the Torah Fund Brunch
Women's Club	Howard & Yona Diamond Dansky	in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their honor at the Spring Concert
	Sonia Dishler	
	Franny, Irv, Jacob, Aliza & Abby Elson Frances Gold Carol & Marty Kaplan	in honor of Sonia Dishler, on her special birthday in memory of Max Gold, husband in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman in honor of Marcy & David Fish, on their 18th wedding anniversary in honor of Hilda & Paul Minkoff, on the high school graduation of their grandson, Jake Minkoff in honor of Judy Schwartz, on the high school graduation of her granddaughter, Rachel Siegel in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the graduation of their grandson Daniel in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Amy Feldman in honor of Susan Sternthal, on the birth of her granddaughter, Rebecca Fay
Youth Families Retreat Fund	Craig Barkan & Amy Schrager Toby Kessler & Esther Wiesner Melissa Klein & Neysa Nevins Michael Posner & Wendy Smith Art & Lynne Ellis	in appreciation of the ECP teachers and staff in appreciation of the Young Families Retreat in appreciation of the Young Families Retreat in appreciation of the GJC community & the Retreat organizers in honor of Michael & Shelley Spear, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac
Youth Activities Fund	Curt & Leslie Pontz	in memory of Samuel Brockman, father of Andi Brockman in memory of Seymour Beer, father of Michael Beer in memory of Harry Pontz, father
	Curt Pontz Leah & Norman Schwartz	in honor of Michael & Shelley Spear, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in honor of Judy Schwartz, on the high school graduation of her granddaughter, Rachel Siegel
	Bertha Stein	in memory of Nathan Weinstein, brother

GJC has cemetery plots for sale at King David Cemetery in the Northeast.

Questions?
Contact the Office.

**Don't forget to check out
our NEW website!**



www.germantownjewishcentre.org

**Members can now
make donations online**



***So much to remember:
We are open all summer
And we will have the gifts that
you need***

for weddings, for that visit down
the shore, to welcome a new baby,
for birthdays and anniversaries.



**Our Hours for July and August
Wednesday 12:00 – 6:00
Friday 12:00 – 6:00**

**(Or by appointment if you call or e-mail Marcy
Bacine, marcy49@me.com or 215- 247- 8118)**



**And we will have
High Holiday items
at the end of August.**



(215) 844-1507 fax: (215) 844-8309
Web: www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

Mitch Marcus

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of Conservative Judaism

Please submit all articles via email to

Program@GermantownJewishCentre.org.

Deadline for the September issue is August 1

For advertising information call (215) 844-1507 ext 19

Save the Date

Selichot

September 8

Tot Rosh Hashanah

September 16

Kol Zimrah

September 28