



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

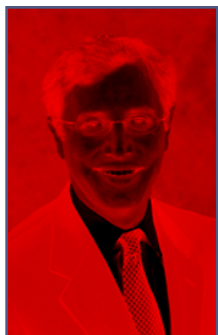
Volume 18, Issue No. 4

TEVET 5770

JANUARY 2010

Rabbi's Column

Caring For Our Torah Scrolls



By Rabbi Adam Zeff

Our Torah scrolls are at the center of our community's worship and study, and maintaining them is one of our most sacred obligations. Each of us can take a part in helping to care for our scrolls by being careful when we interact with them in the course of a service, whether we are having an aliyah, reading from the scroll, carrying it, lifting it, or tying it. Please take a look at the guidelines I have writ-

ten to help us care for the scrolls (see below). The interactions we have with the Torah scrolls are deeply meaningful to us, but they also have the potential to damage the scrolls if they are handled incorrectly. Taking care with the scrolls is the single most important thing we can do to preserve them for ourselves and those who come after us.

Maintaining our scrolls also requires the help of outside experts – scribes. Torah scrolls are written on parchment made from the skin of a kosher animal. To create a smooth, white surface for writing, the parchment is coated with lime, and the

letters are written on top of the lime using special ink and a quill. This method has advantages – for example, the letters are easy to correct because they lie on top of the parchment, rather than being absorbed into it as happens with ink on paper. But the materials degrade over time, which means that scribes must review our scrolls every few years and, if necessary, repair them.

We recently had all of our scrolls inspected, and six of them were extensively repaired by Machon Ot, a group of scribes based in Israel, at a cost of over \$20,000. This cost was covered by generous donations over the years to the Torah Restoration Fund, but it has depleted the fund completely, so it will now need to be replenished through donations for future reviews and repairs.

Many of our scrolls are nearing 100 years of age, but with proper care by the congregation and regular maintenance by the scribes, they can be a legacy that we pass down to succeeding generations at the Centre. All of us have our part to play, and I thank you in advance for your support in this effort.

CARE OF TORAH SCROLLS

"It is a Tree of Life to those who hold it fast" (Prov. 3:18)

CARRYING *"Ezra the priest brought the Torah before the congregation" (Neh. 8:2)*

- Never carry scroll unless tied and covered.
- Always carry on right shoulder.
- Carry upright, with both hands underneath rollers.
- Carry with opening facing out.
- To lay down, place one hand on side and lay down with opening facing up.

READING *"He read from it...to the men and the women" (Neh. 8:3)*

- Never touch scroll with hand.
- Pointer should not touch letters.
- Those saying blessing should touch tallit or siddur to margin of column, not to letters.

LIFTING (HAGBAH) *"Ezra opened the scroll in the sight of all the people" (Neh. 8:5)*

- While scroll is lying down, open it to the width of one to three columns and position it so that a seam is in the middle.
- Lift handles and move scroll down so that the bottom edge of the reading table is in the middle of the scroll.
- Push down on handles, bend knees, and lift up, using table as fulcrum to lever scroll into air.
- Show opening to congregation.
- Carefully lower and sit with opening facing you.

ROLLING (GELILAH) *"This is the Torah that Moses set before the Israelites" (Deut. 4:44)*

- Make sure scroll is rolled evenly so edges are not damaged.
- Keep light pressure on both sides of scroll so it is rolled tightly and does not fold.
- Make sure rollers fit together as intended.
- Tie scroll gently but firmly, with knot or clasp in front of opening of scrolls, facing away from you.
- Dress scroll with front of mantle facing away from you, with the mantle's slit in back (facing you).

Winter Highlights

Beit Midrash - Shabbat morning learning for the entire community

Begins January 9 and runs through February

Granger Memorial Shabbat
January 16

Shabbat B'Yachad Neighborhood Dinners
January 22

Carlebach Shabbat & Potluck
February 5

Women's Club Purim Bash
February 20



President's Message

USCJ: Looking Back & Ahead

By Howard Treatman, President

I have just come back from spending time at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). Most of us probably don't spend that much time thinking about the USCJ, but the recent years have been a time of turmoil for the organization. I see it most from the discussion in the synagogue President's list-serv that I am a member of. There is deep recognition within the movement that the needs and interests of American Jews have changed, and that the USCJ has not kept up. At the convention I found it remarkable how blunt, and sometimes distressed, the discussions were about how the movement has lost its vision for remaining relevant to current and future generations of Jews.

With all this, there was also a great deal of excitement at the convention. The USCJ just installed its first new Executive Vice President in 23 years, Rabbi Steven Wernick. Many of us know Rabbi Wernick from his time as Rabbi at Adath Israel on the Main Line. Steve is a friend and I sensed a lot of hope in his

ability to lead the USCJ forward. I was impressed by the lay leaders I met and the teachers who presented. Within the family of Conservative congregations there are truly so many talented and committed people. At the convention Rabbi Gordon, who co-chairs the USCJ Public Policy and Social Action Committee, led sessions on Social Justice, one of which included a report on hands on synagogue projects that featured our own Rachel Falkove speaking about her work at the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

A full discussion of the issues facing Conservative Judaism is beyond the scope of this article. Many of these issues will undoubtedly also affect GJC. GJC doesn't have a monopoly on good ideas and we certainly have areas that need improvement. However, I was left with the distinct feeling that the crisis being described at the convention does not exist at our Centre.

I often remark that the work we do here at GJC is very important. It is not just important because we are filling the needs of our community. It is important because, through our own experimenta-

tion and evolution, we are coming up with many of the answers that American Jews, and the USCJ in particular, are looking for. I note that Rabbi Gordon's leadership has been critical here. We may take these things for granted because they are such a part of our community, but they truly represent something innovative: The way that we easily draw from the wisdom of all denominations and are home to a diverse variety of approaches to prayer; the way that lay minyanim and havurot find a comfortable home within a synagogue community rather than existing outside of it; the way that we have built a community of people intertwined with each other; the energy of our diverse Shabbat community where up to 200 people routinely make Shabbat a focus for their week; the way we build community and serve community through our commitment to social action. These are all things that other communities are looking to duplicate and learn from. I am very proud that we can model these innovations and proud of where GJC and Rabbi Gordon sit within the Conservative Movement.

"Did You Know?"

The Temin Canteen Room

By guest columnist Mindelle Goldstein

Just as we refer to the gathering spaces at GJC as the Marcus, the Silver and the Maslow, Women's Club suggests that we also remember the family who dedicated the Canteen Room. From now on let us refer to it as the Temin Canteen Room.

Annette and Henry Temin were among the earliest and longtime members of the Centre family. They were prominent within the Philadelphia community as well. Henry was a respected lawyer and was involved with *Purdon's Pennsylvania Laws and Statutes* (the unofficial consolidation of the statutes of PA law). Annette was a leader in the League of Women Voters and the Citizen's Committee for Public Education. She served on the first Board of Directors of our Centre and was Chair of the School Committee.

Annette & Henry's three sons attended our Religious School and as adults they flourished. Their eldest son, Michael Temin is a bankruptcy lawyer and adjunct professor at the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Howard Temin was a renowned cancer researcher. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1975. Sadly he passed away in 1994 from lung



Henry Temin is the central figure in a light colored coat.

cancer at age 59. Their youngest son, Peter Temin PhD, is widely cited as an economist and economic historian. One area of his expertise deals with the Great Depression. Peter is professor emeritus of the Harvard Institute and the Elisha Gray II Professor of Economics Emeritus at MIT.

continued on page 6



(Oct 7-Dec 9 2009)

MAZAL TOV TO...

Miranda Kruger Levingston on her Bat Mitzvah
Susan Sternthal on the birth of her first grandson, Joshua Peter Bartle
Myra & Isador Kranzel on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Franklin Kranzel, born to their son Jerome Kranzel and their daughter-in-law Rian Berger
Toby Kessler & Esther Wiesner on the birth of their daughter, Liora Bella
Liz Bloch-Smith and Mark Smith on the marriage of their son, Benjamin
Meira Kavesh on her Bat Mitzvah
Nisa Raz on her Bat Mitzvah
Michael and Marta Sivitz on the engagement of their daughter, Laura Sivitz to Ari Leifman, of Washington, DC
Isaac Zukin on his Bar Mitzvah
Jacob Staub & Michael Spitko on their wedding
Carol Kapstein & Jay Tinkleman on their wedding
Ava Shore on her Bat Mitzvah
Camilla Barcan on her Bat Mitzvah
Jay Furman on the birth of his seventh great grandchild, Jade Dekota Gassman, in Atlanta GA
Leslie & Curt Pontz on the birth of their grandson, Sawyer
Elayne Blender and Itzik Lorant on the engagement of their daughter Aviva Blender Lorant to Paul Constantine
Gail & Howard Kunreuther on the engagement of their son David Loeb
Ellen & Albert Brown on the marriage of their daughter Kate
Connie & Sam Katz on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Katz
Neora Snitz on the birth of her son
Jim Meyer on the 25th anniversary of his adult Bar Mitzvah
Marty Kaplan on his 80th Birthday

IN MEMORIAM

Dora Yetta Toll sister of **Rebecca Nissenbaum**
Sandy Birnbaum wife of **David Birnbaum**, father of **Jeremy Steven Bauer** husband of **Nancy Bauer**
Bina Siegel Magilner sister of **Deborah Marine**
Katie Zimring wife of **Robert Zimring**
Leslie Ann Gross (Parker) wife of **David Gross**

REFUAH SHLEIMAH

Terry Smerling as she recovers from knee surgery
Zina Rosenthal, daughter of **Jay Furman**

The Centre would like to extend a special

"THANK YOU!"

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



Shabbat Chai-Lites

Jan 1-2

Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat
 Service of the Heart

Jan 8-9

Dorshei Derekh Shabbat Matching Dinners
 Minyan Masorti Shabbat Potluck Dinner
 Shabbat Morning Learner's Service
 Beit Midrash
 Parshat HaShavua B'Ivrit
 Bar Mitzvah of Max Amar-Olkus

Jan 15-16

Tot Shabbat
 Granger Memorial Shabbat
 Beit Midrash

Jan 22-23

Shabbat B'Yachad Dinner Matches
 Beit Midrash

Jan 30

Beit Midrash

Feb 5-6

Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat & Potluck Dinner
 Service of the Heart
 Minyan Masorti Anniversary Lunch
 Beit Midrash
 Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Galtman

Feb 13

Shabbat Morning Learner's Service

Feb 20 & 27

Beit Midrash

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturdays at 10 AM

Beit Midrash Shabbatot: Saturdays at 9 AM

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays at 10 AM

\$5 per session

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



Adult Education 2010/5770

Courses at a Glance

Please review the chart below for our courses at a glance. Complete details can be found on our website or in our printed brochure.

Advanced registration is requested for all courses. Contact the office to register.

Please note that the "Introduction to Islam for Jews" course beginning in February is filled. If you are interested in being added to the waiting list please contact the office right away.

DATES	TITLE	COST	TIMING	# OF SESSIONS	INSTRUCTOR(S)
Jan 10, 17, 31; Feb 7, 14, 21	ZOHAR II: TORAH THROUGH MYSTICAL EYES	\$60/\$75* (includes texts)	Sundays 10-11:30am	6	Rabbi Adam Zeff
Jan 10, 31; Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar 7	COOKING WITH THE RABBI	\$100/ \$125* (includes texts & ingredients)	Sundays 10-11:30am	7	Rabbi Fredl Cooper
Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18 (Note: Same Class offered in Sep, register once)	PAPER CUTTING: REVIVING A JEWISH FOLK ART	\$60/\$75* (PLUS materials fee to instructor)	Thursdays 7-9pm	6	Mindy Shapiro
Jan 24; Feb 7, 21	ANCESTORS & GHOSTS, REINCARNATING SOULS & SPIRIT GUIDES: JEWISH AFTERLIFE TRADITION THROUGHOUT THE AGES	\$30/\$40* (includes texts)	Sundays 7-8:30pm	3 (every other week)	Dr. Simcha Raphael
Feb 3, 10, 17 This class is filled	INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM FOR JEWS	This class is filled	Sundays	3	Professor Hussein Rashid
Apr 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28; May 2, 5	BEGINNERS HEBREW FOR ADULTS	\$100/ \$125* (includes texts)	Sundays 11:30am-12pm & Wednesdays 7-8:30pm	8	Jill Levy
Apr 18, 25; May 2, 16	WALKING WITH GOD	\$40/\$60* (includes texts)	Sundays 10-11:15am	4	Rabbi Gordon
Just Added!! Jun 6, 13, 20, 27	THE BIBLE & OPERA	\$40/\$60* (includes texts)	Sundays 10 AM—12 Noon	4	Sam Feinberg & Rabbi Zeff

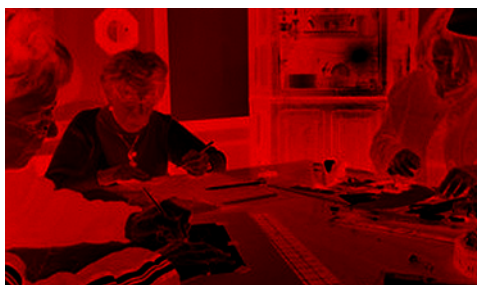
Papercuts By Papercut Teacher Mindy Shapiro



Seven talented women created beautiful papercuts this fall in the first session of "Jewish Papercuts: Reviving a Jewish Folk Art". One thing that was extraordinary about this group was that four of the seven women were left handed. What

are the odds of that? The course, which was scheduled to last six weeks actually continued for at least four more weeks, due to the enthusiasm of the participants. This gave them an opportunity to create more than one papercut. You can see some of the results in these photos.

The second session of this class begins Thursday night, January 14 at 7 pm. Consider attending. Many of the participants did not consider themselves talented, yet they emerged with beautiful works of art. I believe this happened because we all have creativity inside of us and need focused time and inspiration to let it emerge. Feel free to contact me with any questions.



Social Action Committee Update

What's the Green Mezuzah Havurah?

- a brand new havurah that meets once a month from January to June with study sessions led by experts on sustainability
- a place where you can learn new and fun ways to reduce your carbon footprint
- a community where you can discuss Judaism's essential green teachings, like *sova*, the concept of "enoughness"
- a group of friends who share ideas about buying and cooking delicious local food.

Join us!

Participation is Free!

Enjoy Green Mezuzah Havurah's kickoff potluck meal and intro to sustainability with fellow congregants Betsy Teutsch (Weavers Way sustainability columnist and all-around expert) and Anna Herman (long-time advocate for local sustainable food, food writer, and organic gardener) at the home of Sharon Webber (address provided upon registration) on Sunday, January 10 at 5 p.m.

Questions? Want to register?

Contact Sharon at 215-247-1631, sharonleawebber@comcast.net or Reena Friedman at 215-947-2965, friedm6@aol.com

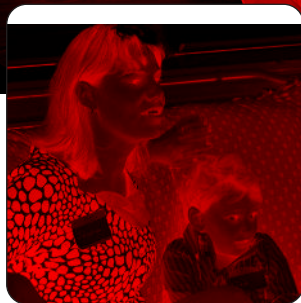
26th Annual Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat

Saturday, January 16

"In Your Home and On Your Way:
Living Jewishly & Sustainably"
with Rabbi Daniel Swartz

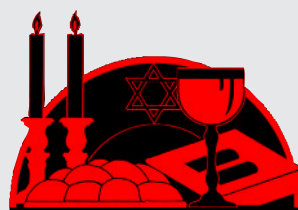


Membership Update



GJC's newest members gathered in the library for coffee and bagels at our New Member Meet & Mingle on Nov. 15, where they heard from key staff (Rabbis Gordon and Zeff, Rachel Gross, Elana Shaw) and had a chance to chat with several members of the Membership

Committee. They later toured the building on this particularly busy morning and learned about some of our treasured spots as well as ways to get around to all parts of the building.



Share a Shabbat Dinner and Meet New People at GJC

One of the ways in which the Membership Committee "Welcomes the Stranger" is by organizing Shabbat B'Yachad home hospitality dinner-matches several times a year.

It's always good to share a Shabbat dinner with family and friends. Shabbat B'Yachad is a way to expand that good feeling, and to encourage the feeling of community at GJC. If you've been a guest or a host at Shabbat B'Yachad, thank you for helping to build community by meeting "new" people. Some "new" folks may be those we have seen at GJC events and Shabbat and holiday services for years, but never knew the names that went with the familiar faces.

The next time you see an e-mail from Elana Shaw, Program Director, looking for hosts and guests for Shabbat dinner, please join! Share your home or share your company. It's a wonderful way to meet new and not-so-new members, welcome new people, or be welcomed to share a Shabbat meal. We are careful when matching to take into consideration a variety of preferences and needs, such as allergies, dietary needs, children, etc.

This year's remaining Shabbat B'Yachad Dates are January 22 & April 23. If you don't have easy access to e-mail, contact Elana in the office to be included.

Eco-friendly Tips of the Month

By Hal Goodman



In a survey by *Consumer Reports*, the following items show what percentage of Americans do what needs to be done, by using 'green' measures to help the environment:

- Always run a full load in the dishwasher. 83%
- Opt for drinking tap water. 77%
- Use recycled paper products. 47%
- Have programmable thermostats. 36%
- Get food at a farmer's market or co-op 29%
- Installed a water saving toilet 15%
- Don't rinse dishes before loading dishwasher . . . 10%



Additional Savings at The Little Shop on Sundays in January and February!

10% off all merchandise on Sundays, January 9 - February 28

This can be combined with the January monthly special of 20% off all merchandise, for a savings of **30%**

Men's Club News

A Warm Welcome to Interfaith Families

Ken Weiss, Men's Club President



I can still taste the latkes—literally. Is there a gastroenterologist in the house? But this isn't about my digestive dalliance. No, sir! Instead, let's savor the warm glow of our Hanukkiyah, the pride of the neighborhood. Many thanks to everyone who measured, hammered, herniated, bled or kibitzed. Then, when the final strains of Maoz Tzur were all but a hallucination, we schlepped to the Voorhees diaspora to fete David Kraut, our Man of the Year. That's a lot of activity for our club and we appreciate your support.

Recently, I was in an encounter group with the Men's Clubs Mid-Atlantic Region, held at Har Zion. It was about how we dealt with mixed marriages, Jews decorating trees, who's allowed on the bimah and what to do, if anything, with children from intermarriages. Our facilitator talked about the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs' Keruv (outreach) Initiative. The FJMC uses three premises to launch the conversation:

- More than one-third of American Jews are married to non-Jews.
- Close to one-half of recent "Jewish" marriages are between a Jew and a non-Jew.



IWO JIMA? No, it's the construction of GJC's giant Hanukkiyah!

- Of all the Jews who are co-habiting today, over 80% of these partnerships include individuals of non-Jewish origin.

The problem for all Jews is mixed families feeling unwelcome in synagogues. At home, how can we preserve the integrity of our traditions while welcoming the uninitiated? An issue for conservative Jews is losing families to non-halakhic reform congregations. Rabbis Gordon and Zeff are available to help you navigate through intermarriage issues. You can find a description of Keruv (outreach) online at <http://www.fjmc.org/Activities/Keruv.aspx> (there is a link from the Men's Club page on the GJC website).

I'm ready to hibernate, to hunker down and wait for Purim, perchance to dance. But wait, we have a fascinating program on January 24 co-sponsored by the Women's Club and the Social Action Committee. It's a talk by military chaplain Rabbi Jon Cutler, who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. After that, you'll be hearing from us about our Purim raffle—Passports to Israel. And if my crystal ball hasn't developed a cataract, I foresee Men's Club Shabbat on March 6. Any volunteers?

"Did You Know?" *Continued from page 2*

Annette Temin attended the ceremony in Stockholm when her son Howard received the Nobel Prize. Upon her return she proudly shared her experience with our congregation at Shabbat services. Annette related that Howard first bowed to King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden then turned, faced the audience and berated them for smoking.

When GJC's school building was first built the Canteen Room was multifunctional. It was the auditorium, the social hall and our meeting room. It was a place for Kiddush following services, B'nei Mitzvah receptions, and even served as the setting for the cocktail hour following the wedding ceremony of current GJC members Cyrilla and Irv Rosen. It is fondly remembered as housing "The Cotillion" – a dancing

class in the very late 1940s for Centre teenagers to mingle and learn "proper" social skills.

Today the Temin Canteen Room is in constant use. It is home to Minyan Masorti, it is used when GJC hosts families from the

Hospitality Network and is the site for Hazak programs. On rainy days this room resounds with the voices and laughter of our ECP children as they play, climb and delight in riding tricycles all round the Temin! And it is used for so much more!

JANUARY 10, 2010

Super Sunday

**ONE COMMUNITY
ONE CAMPAIGN
100% PARTICIPATION**

To register and for more information:
jewishphilly.org/supersunday
215.832.0630

**JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF GREATER
PHILADELPHIA**

TWO SHIFTS 9 am - 1 pm & 3 - 8 pm
 Childcare and children's activities

Jewish Federation Radnor Campus
 Bryn Mawr, PA

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

Rivkah Walton is an artist living in an apartment filled with boxes and boxes of the materials she uses in her art as well as pieces of her completed work. Exceptionally creative, Rivkah has been making art since she was four. Her mother and grandmother were both artistic and they encouraged and nurtured her creativity.

Rivkah grew up in Decatur, Illinois, in a Reform temple. She was very active in the youth group, but when she went to Michigan State University, she stepped back from Judaism. After college, she volunteered at a Christian liberation theology intentional community in Americas, Georgia. "I spent a year there and was very taken by the vision and commitment of these people," she recalls. "If I were Christian, I might still be there. I played at what kind of Christian I might be, but it was mental acrobatics."

Rivkah went back to Michigan for the High Holy Days that year. "I walked in on Rosh Hashanah evening services and something about the nusach (the prayer melody) bowled me over and I realized I couldn't leave Judaism. Or it wouldn't leave me. I set out to find a Jewish version of the community I'd had in Georgia."

And she did. Through a connection, she found Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, the founder of the Jewish Renewal movement, who had moved to Philadelphia and founded B'nai Or (now P'nai Or).

"When I arrived here in 1978, I arrived as a prospective graduate student in metalsmithing interested in Judaism." She received her MFA from the Tyler School of Art in 1982.

During the past 30 years, she says, she has developed a clear artistic vision. Her Judaica is not traditionally decorated. "What I try to do is look for the essence of the spiritual underpinning of the piece."

For example, when she made a challah plate, she asked herself what the nature of challah is. "Challah doesn't

mean braided egg bread. It means the piece of broken-off bread used for a sacrifice. Rivkah's "plate" rests tent-like in two pieces over a well where the salt goes. The smaller piece of the tent says "challah" and the larger holds the bread. "You reach into the crack to get the salt, which means you have to be aware of the tear to get the salt," and one thus become conscious of the sacrifice.

Another piece is a mezuzah. "I asked, 'what is the intrinsic nature of a mezuzah?' I wanted it to have nothing extraneous." It is made of six nails and two pieces of suede deerskin. "It's in the process of being attached at all times. If you look at these two pieces of leather, they're each in the shape of the Hebrew letter shin. Two shins embrace to hold the klaf (parchment inside the mezuzah).

There's nothing extraneous – just the klaf, and that which attaches it. No box, no decoration, no words. It's the essence of mezuzah."

Her most ambitious undertaking is a one-of-a-kind Omer counter that she has developed over decades. It sits in a corner of her workroom. (Counting of the Omer refers to counting the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot as a way of

connecting the exodus from Egypt with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai.)

"It's about the land and the harvest," she says. A seven-by-seven matrix, the table-top is constructed of dark walnut and the four corners are made of light poplar wood, representing the corners of the field left for the poor. In the middle of each square is a tiny brass-lined hole. The Hebrew letters are the initials of the kabbalistic sfirot that correspond to the days of the week and the weeks of the Omer. "You can always tell where you are in the sfirot by the initials that are carved in the side of the matrix," she says.

In four shallow drawers beneath, there are 49 glass stalks of barley, fumed in silver to give them an iridescent look. Each

day, one stalk is put into a square – each a little taller than the previous one. At the end of the Omer, a standing field of barley has grown from a few inches to a little over a foot tall. It's a piece worthy of a museum. When asked if she would like to see it in a museum, Rivkah responded, "It should stay local and should be used each year." She would be thrilled if a patron purchased the piece for use and display by the GJC community.

Rivkah currently works for ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She founded the Institute for Contemporary Midrash (ICM) in 1996. The organization published eight issues of the journal *Living Text* and ran five years of summer training institutes. "We trained a lot of educators to use bibliodrama in their classes. Bibliodrama is an improvisational way of studying biblical text. It's text study that instead of emphasizing the intellect, emphasizes the imagination," she says.

"In its heyday ICM made contemporary midrash a recognizable field of creativity and study," she explains. "We brought 100 artists and scholars to New York for the Future of Midrash convocation," she says. "Until then, many people thought they were alone in interpreting biblical texts in an imaginative way."

ICM was supported for five years by the Nathan Cummings Foundation and Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation. Then the funding ran out. "Sadly, there's no way the training programs can financially work" without additional funding, which is difficult to get these days.

Rivkah's late father, Henry, left Germany in 1935 and brought his parents and brother to America, but his extended family perished. Her mother, Norma, is now living in Cathedral Village and has joined GJC.

At GJC, Rivkah started the Kol Nidre Food Drive after Hurricane Katrina. "For many years, I was deeply involved in the Germantown Minyan and Dorshei Derekh," she says, but these days her spirituality "is not so much in davening, but in social action and study."

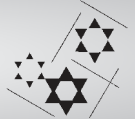


photo credit: Marcia Prager



Rivkah's Omer counter

Women's Club News



By Judy Schwartz, Women's Club Co-president

Hanukkah has passed with its lights in the window and its message of hope, and now it seems to get dark out very early and we don't have much of a sense that there really is a sun in the sky. What can we do, say, and think about that will take us out of this stupor, this state of semi hibernation?

A-ha! Women's Club to the rescue! I'm feeling a little perked up and less sluggish just thinking about this great group of women. Maybe if I come up with a list of – hmmm – five items, I'll begin to feel more alive, less somnolent. Let's see, here goes:

1. Thank you to Phyllis Kauffman and all the women and at least one man (Stuart Shils) for pitching in and making this our VERY Best Craft Show. Bagels and coffee at 7 AM, amazing



Thank you to Hillary Kruger, Beth Stearman, Odelia Mualem and Shellie Holl, who helped out at the White Elephant Sale.

crafts, warm and friendly vendors, and a buzz of excitement made the day one to remember. Everyone was all smiles and shopping bags. We had about 500 visitors come through, some Centre members and the rest from all over. Yasher Koach to one and all!

2. We spent a wonderful morning with Dr. Joel Schwartz at a continental breakfast followed by a talk from our very eminent speaker. The topic was "The Importance of Laughter." Women's Club and Hazak co-sponsored this Sunday morning activity and we learned much and laughed much.

3. Now I'm thinking about our coming program in January, 2010. **Sunday, January 24**, to be exact. This is an event that we are sharing with the Men's Club and Social Action Committee. Rabbi Jon Cutler will share his experiences as a Chaplain in Iraq. This will be a very exciting and stimulating meeting. Many of us know Jon from Gratz College, and when he teaches a course there, it is immediately filled – need I say more?

4. **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, February 20.** Mark your calendar and make no other plans because we are going to have a **Purim Bash** dance that's going to be "funtastic." Details will follow but we'll let you in on a little secret – we're going to have live music provided by a very special group that you know and love.

5. And last but not least – Bev and I feel very privileged to be co-presidents of Women's Club at our synagogue, Germantown Jewish Centre. It is just one very great place – something for everyone from three different prayer groups to a variety of courses and activities. We have two outstanding Rabbis who provide leadership and guidance to our community, and who are always available to explain, listen, support, and inspire.

Wow! I am feeling better already!!

Bev and I look forward to sharing 2010 with you. Be well, stay warm, and see you at the Centre.



Women's Club New Event

Save the Date!!

Purim Bash-



Great Food

Costume Contest

Great Fun!!!

February 20, 2010

8-11PM

Music and Dancing
with
Ken Ulansey Ensemble

It will be a
Shushan Sha-Na-Na
Night to remember!

5 STAR LIVE AUCTION



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



**IN JANUARY
EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP WILL BE 20% OFF**

AND

**With the Early Bird Special, Tuesday thru Friday from 12-3
take an additional 10% off everything.**

(The Sale discount of 20% CAN be combined with the Early Bird
for a 30% discount except on Wine, Books and Sale Items.)

**IN FEBRUARY
THE MONTHLY SPECIAL WILL BE TZEDAKAH BOXES
AND JEWELRY AT 10% OFF**

(The Monthly Special discount of 10% CAN be combined with
the Early Bird for a 20% discount except on
Wine, Books and Sale Items.)

AND

Gift Registry is available.

Remember our hours:

Sunday	9:30-12:30	Wednesday	12:00-8:30
Monday	CLOSED	Thursday	12:00-6:00
Tuesday	12:00-5:00	Friday	12:00-4:00

Early Childhood Program (ECP)



ECP Registration is Under Way!

ECP (GJC's Early Childhood Program) is now accepting Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year. We accept infants beginning at 6 months of age and continue through pre-K. For further information and a tour call or e-mail ECP Director, Mindy Pitkofsky at 215-844-1510 or ecp@germantownjewishcentre.org.



During the month of November ECP collected food donations for the Germantown Avenue Crisis Food Ministry. Dozens and dozens of families participated in the food drive. The week before Thanksgiving about 10 families delivered the food to the food bank, learned about how the ministry helps those in need and helped to sort food. Thank you to all of those who participated in this mitzvah!

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

We meet monthly on Tuesdays at 7:15pm. We read fiction and nonfiction books of Jewish interest written mostly, but not solely, by Jewish writers and chosen by the group. Volunteer group members lead the discussion.

We have been meeting at Border's in Chestnut Hill for years now and are saddened to learn the store is closing in early January. **However we look forward to meeting in our new home beginning in January, Big Blue Marble Bookstore (551 Carpenter Lane, a few doors down from Weaver's Way Coop).**

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

January 5, 2010

Murder on a Kibbutz by Batya Gur
This gathering will take place at the home of Dena Lake, 214 Haws Lane in Flourtown.



February 2, 2010

The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler and Changed the World by Kati Marton



TOT SHABBAT

Friday Night

Jan. 5 @ 6 PM

Sat. Feb 6

(Tot Havdallah) @ 6 PM

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

Does your child like to....

Sing, clap hands and play bells?

Dance around? Listen to puppet stories?

Do you like to...

Welcome Shabbat with other young families?

Not have to worry about kids being kids?

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

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

ADVANCED REGISTRATION & PAYMENT NECESSARY

Save the Dates:

Friday, Jan. 15 (Shabbat & Tu B'Shevat)

Saturday, Feb. 16 (Havdallah)

Fridays March 19, April 16, May 14, and June 18

DIVRAY CHINUCH

**...a few words from the
GJC Education Department**

Generously supported by the GJC Women's Club

In the midst of winter, we encounter the stories in our weekly Torah readings that detail our beginnings as a nation. Though we trace our Jewish lineage to Abraham and Sarah, and learn lessons from Noah and Adam and Eve, we look at our liberation from Egypt as the beginning of the Jewish "people." We enter Egypt as a large clan, and leave Egypt as a multitude. The way this multitude lived their lives, with their customs, rituals, rules and forms of government, made up the first Jewish community.

Today, we continue to design and redesign our communities in an attempt to make our Jewish lives meaningful. As we start this calendar year of 2010, the Education Department continues an experiment begun last year, renamed the *Beit Midrash* program.

Beit Midrash is designed to make our synagogue the place to be on Shabbat morning, whether we are looking for social contact, spirituality, education or all of the above. We hope to create an environment that will bring more of the community together in one place, at one time, facilitating greater interaction among all of us. We offer opportunities for those who choose to pray at any of our three *minyanim* to study together, even though they may pray separately. We offer opportunities for those who attend day school or supplementary religious school to learn and pray together, even though they may study in separate places during the week. We offer opportunities for members to meet and socialize with individuals from different "sub-communities," even though much of their activity in our building often places them in different locations because their lives may be at different parental stages. In short, we hope that this *Beit Midrash* becomes a strong center for community building and we urge all of you take full advantage of its opportunities.

Important Future Program Dates

Beit Midrash

Open to the entire community, adults and children alike

- Every Shabbat from January 9th Through February
- Schedule:

9:00 Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and of course...a nosh
9:15 Shabbat Study for Adults begin, child care begins
9:30 Religious School Classes begin promptly
10:00 All minyanim begin services
11:00 Kid's Services Begin
12:15 End of programs, kids Kiddush,
Services (close to) ending

- All GJC children, ages 1st through 7th grade are invited to study together with religious school children – please RSVP to Rabbi Kevin (X24) or Terry Smerling (X13)
- Look for details about Adult Study (9:15-10:00) on the GJC website or on flyers around the building. Sessions will include book introductions with GJC authors Rabbi Judd Levingston, Lori Lefkovitz and Ellen Frankel.

BBMM (Bar Bat Mitzvah Mehina)

- Shabbat Dates: January 9th and 23rd
- Sunday date (with parents) January 10th

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Chair, Cherie Goren

I am happy to report that as of the writing of this article we have 43 paid-up Hazak members! Dues are just \$10 per person and it is never too late to join. Paid-up Hazak members are welcome to attend all of our programs for free (guests are welcome to pay \$5 per program).

Our paid-up membership event in November with Rabbi Zeff was a wonderful way to start the year. Rabbi Zeff's modest manner is quite a contrast to his actual accomplishments. Few of us knew that he received a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania before attending rabbinic school. His program on "Piyutim: Jewish Devotional Music from around the World" even drew some guests not otherwise associated with GJC. Thank you Rabbi Zeff! And a great thanks to the Hazak steering committee for providing a gourmet breakfast!

Our next program is on Wednesday, March 10 at 1 PM in the Canteen Room at GJC. Our guest lecturer will be Dr. Marsha Edelman formerly of Gratz College, who will speak about "The history of Israel through Jewish Music."

We are in the process of forming a Hazak Coffee Klatch, a discussion group focusing on books and movies. We hope to meet monthly on a Wednesday afternoon to review books and movies of interest to the group. If you are interested in getting involved and especially in leading a discussion, please be in touch.

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.



Join the Ner Tamid Society by Making a Planned Gift

Please consider making a planned gift to the Germantown Jewish Centre's endowment fund. Planned gifts come in many forms, including, for example, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, trusts, or even a bequest in your will. Recent changes in the tax laws allow those over 70½ years of age to make tax-free distributions to charities from their IRAs through 2007. (Consult your tax advisor for details.)

For more information about how you can join the Ner Tamid Society, call either Dan Bacine (215-963-0600) or Joan N. Stern (215-569-5526), Co-Chairs of the Development Committee.

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

Questions? Contact Rachel Gross in the Office.

The Centre Call GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

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

Contributions For the period of October 7 through December 9, 2009

Todah Rabbah!

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Adult Education Fund	Honey & Martin Cohen Mitchell Hirsch Sylvia Hirsch Hillary & Judd Kruger Levingston Judah Labovitz & Ellen Ufberg Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Robert Hirsch, father in memory of Joseph Lifshitz, father in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Ava Shore, on her Bat Mitzvah in memory of William Beck, husband in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Bina Siegel Magilner, sister of Debbie Marine in memory of William Beck, husband in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Steven Bauer, husband of Nancy Bauer in memory of Arthur Kuriloff, father in memory of Herman Gerson, brother in memory of Joan Marcus Berger, mother in memory of Sam Silverman, father of Rick Silverman in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal in honor of Susan Sternthal, on the birth of her first grandson, Joshua Peter Bartle
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fund	Sonia Dishler Rose Beck	
Beck Scholar-in-Residence Fund		
Bess Schick Fund	Peshe & Peter Kuriloff	
Camp Scholarship Fund	Peter Kuriloff Charlotte Adler Lizanne Berger Jeanette Dudnick & Family Sheila & Hal Goodman Carol & Marcus Kaplan Hillary & Judd Kruger Levingston Rebecca Nissenbaum Judy Schwartz Bev & Ira Somerson Susan & John Stedman Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser Connie & Sam Katz Linda Joy Kugler Barbara Lissy Ellen Reese & Gary Stein Beth Rosenbaum & Noel Eisenstat Stefanie & Alex Seldin Elana & Brian Shaw Joan Stern Gisha Berkowitz Samuel Merion Jay Furman Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Herman Gerson, brother in memory of Joan Marcus Berger, mother in memory of Sam Silverman, father of Rick Silverman in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal in honor of Susan Sternthal, on the birth of her first grandson, Joshua Peter Bartle in honor of Benjamin Smith, on his wedding in memory of Harry Fishbein, brother refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal in honor of one of GJC's very special congregants for doing a mitzvah in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Steven Bauer, husband of Nancy Bauer in honor of Leslie & Curt Pontz, on the birth of their grandson, Sawyer in honor of Ava Shore, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Michael and Marta Sivitz, on the engagement of their daughter, Laura to Ari Leifman in memory of Bina Siegel Magilner, sister of Debbie Marine in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his special birthday in memory of Helen Hirsch, mother of Harry Hirsch in honor of Esther Rosenberg & Michael Ostroff, on their marriage in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl in honor of Zeke Zeff on his Bar Mitzvah in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl in honor of Hannah Shaw, on her 2nd birthday in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in memory of Fanny Seligman, mother in memory of Manya Merion, mother in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in honor of Esther Wiesner & Toby Kessler on the birth of their daughter, Liora Bella Keller in honor of Lauren Katz, on her engagement in honor of Benjamin Smith, on his wedding in honor of Leslie & Curt Pontz, on the birth of their grandson, Sawyer in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Zeke Zeff, on his Bar Mitzvah in memory of Robert Dishler, brother of Dr. Bernard Dishler in memory of Dave Jacobs, father in memory of Elizabeth Kutler, mother
Early Childhood Programs Fund		
Fanny Seligman Fund		
Floral Fund		
General Fund		
	Sarah Braun & Shai Gluskin	
	Beth & Dan Heyman Myer Jacobs Gordon Kutler	

Contributions *Continued*

	Joyce & Gordon Kutler Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in honor of David Kraut, on being named Man of the Year by GJC Men's Club
	Henry & Fredelle Menin	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in honor of Susan Sternthal, on the birth of her first grandson, Joshua Peter Bartle
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in honor of Michael and Marta Sivitz, on the engagement of their daughter, Laura to Ari Leifman in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in honor of Nan Myers & Mark Lipshutz in memory of Myrtle Manheimer, mother in honor of Saul Zebowitz, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz
	Ronni Myers Joyce Norden Pearl Raz	in honor of Meryl Sussman, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Rabbi Vivie Mayer, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Linda Cherkas & Chaim Dworkin, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Albert Berdugo, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Barbara Weiss, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Ned Kripke, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Berel Sternthal, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Liz Bloch-Smith, for participating in the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz in honor of Kelilah Miller, for leading Shabbat Services for the Bat Mitzvah of Nisa Raz
	Mitchell Rosnov Martha & Charles Schleifer Mildred Seidman Stefanie & Alex Seldin Mark Solomon Shelley & Michael Spear	in honor of GJC providing wonderful memories in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Arnie Seidman in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome in memory of Helen Bayer Solomon, mother in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome in honor of GJC
Hazak	Noah T Winer Maya & Steve Elson Helene & Sam Feinberg	in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Steven Bauer, husband of Nancy Bauer in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his special birthday in memory of Lillian Markovitz, aunt in memory of Ruth Meilachowitz, mother in memory of Mark Fields, brother in memory of Judith Fleischman, mother in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his special birthday in memory of our beloved grandparents in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday
	Mindelle Goldstein	in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Jerome Rosner, father in memory of Abraham Richman, father in memory of Robert Dishler, brother of Dr Bernard Dishler in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in memory of Bina Siegel Magilner, sister of Debbie Marine in memory of Bess Frank, cousin in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg in memory of Anne Itzkowitz, mother in honor of Marilyn Silberstein, on the birth of her grandson in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their granddaughter, Debra Feldman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
	Cherie Goren	
	Cherie & Joe Goren Hillary & Judd Kruger Levingston Rebecca Ladenheim Dena & Ed Lake Leah Mandelblatt Mr. and Mrs. Patrick & Margaret Norton Elizabeth Richman Hershel Richman Linda & Arnold Snyder Phyllis Kauffman Marcia Landesberg	
Israel Affairs Fund		
	Leah & Norman Schwartz Joan Stern Lucille & Aaron Weber Sonia Dishler Jeanette Dudnick Janet Elfant & John Keogh Martin Itzkowitz Carol & Marcus Kaplan	
Israel Garden Fund		

Contributions *Continued*

Kiddush Fund	Carol & Marcus Kaplan Marcia Landesberg Charlotte Adler & Edward Frishman Frances R Batzer Baylson Michael Baylson Cathy & Rick Beckett Mindy Blechman Ellyn Charlestein-Phillips	in honor of Aaron & Lucille Weber, on their 61st wedding anniversary in honor of Zeke Zeff on his Bar Mitzvah in memory of Dora Yetta Toll, sister of Rebecca Nissenbaum in memory of Max Batzer, father in memory of Edna Baylson, mother in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in memory of Alan Phillips, husband in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in honor of Zeke Zeff on his Bar Mitzvah in memory of Leon Druckman, husband in honor of our aliyot at Ava Shore's Bat Mitzvah in honor of Alex Meyer, on his engagement in honor of Jim Meyer, on the 25th Anniversary of his adult Bar Mitzvah in honor of Barbara Menin, on her birthday in honor of Richard Menin, on his birthday in honor of Ellen Weber, on moving in honor of Melissa Klein and Neysa Nevins in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in honor of Zeke Zeff, on his Bar Mitzvah in honor of Marilyn Silberstein, on the birth of her grandson in honor of Sandy & Jim Meyer, on their son's engagement in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of June Rigberg, aunt; mother of Nancy Rigberg in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome in memory of Robert Dishler, brother of Dr Bernard Dishler in memory of Martin Robins, brother in memory of Dora Cherry, aunt in memory of Robert Dishler, wife of Sonia in memory of Anna Rosenthal, mother-in-law in memory of Abraham Wernick, father in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday in memory of Clemens Brand, father in memory of Richard Gross, father of Rachel Gross in honor of Sandy & Jim Meyer, on their son's engagement in honor of Gert Jacobsohn, on his 80th Birthday in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of Leon Dumas, father of Paula Solomon in honor of Marilyn Kass and Jeff Jarvis in honor of Rabbi Dayle Friedman in honor of Carol Kapstein & Jay Tinkleman, on their marriage in honor of Eliana Actor-Engel, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Ronald Lance, father in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg in honor of Jonathan Friedan and Ilana Trachtenberg, on their wedding in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in memory of Sandra Birnbaum, wife of David Birnbaum in honor of Eliana Actor Engel, on her Bat Mitzvah in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring in honor of Zeke Zeff on his Bar Mitzvah in memory of Charles Meilachowitz, father in memory of Elaine Ives-Cameron, sister in memory of Phillip Schleifer, father in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg in memory of Herbert D Sterns, father in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz in memory of Lena & Herman Salmansohn, Mother-in-Law & Father-in-Law in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl in memory of Robert Sultar, father in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
	Marcia & Earl Diamond Henry & Kathy Donner Naomi Druckman Jimmy & Allison Grossman Carol & Marcus Kaplan	
	Susan & Morris Klein Marilyn & David Kraut	
	Phyllis & Max Lieberman Elizabeth & Hershel Richman Beth Rosenbaum & Noel Eisenstat	
	Mathilde Rosenfeld	
	Nancy Rosenthal Ruth Rosenthal	
	Martha & Charles Schleifer Beatriz Leah & Norman Schwartz Patty & Stephen Segal Joan Silver & Michael Eisman Marta Sivitz Marta & Michael Sivitz	
	Paula & Mark Solomon Jacob Staub & Michael Spitko	
	Marcia Szymanski & Sharon Friedman Shellie & Jeremy Holl	
Library Fund		
Minyan Masorti Memorial Shabbat Fund	Barbara Menin Maxine & Maurice Feldman Judah Labovitz & Ellen Ufberg Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	
	Leah & Norman Schwartz	
Music Fund	Hideko Secrest & Laurence Rozenzweig Joan Silver Lynne & Art Ellis Mindelle Goldstein Charles Schleifer	
	Chava Weissler & Nancy Fredland Ellen Brown	
	Rebecca Ladenheim Gloria Salmansohn	
Playground Fund		
Prayerbook & Ritual Items Fund	Hideko Secrest & Laurence Rozenzweig Jeffrey Sultar Betsy and David Teutsch	

Contributions *Continued*

Rabbi Gordon's Discretionary Fund	Ellen Wolin, Marilyn Bush, Jeffrey Wolin and families	in memory of Louis Wolin, father, grandfather in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday
	Shirley Chalick	in memory of Eva Lamar, aunt of Dena Lake
	Dena and Ed Lake	in honor of Gert & Myra Jacobsohn, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Stefani & Joel Letvak	in memory of Bob Conner, father
	Chris Levin	in memory of Nathan Needleman, father
	Jeffrey Needleman	in honor of Rabbi Gordon
	Linda Needleman	in memory of Yossi Rubenstine, husband of Marlene Rubenstine
	Frances Neiman	in memory of Marsha Stone, wife of Robert Stone
		in memory of Carol Levitt, daughter and sister of Mitzi Pichney and Sheryl Hershinger
		in memory of Esther Moscow, sister of May Sweed
Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund	Adina & Norman Newberg	in honor of Rabbi Gordon
	Nan Daniels	in memory of David Shapiro, father
	Myer Jacobs	in memory of Myra Jacobs, wife
	Dena & Ed Lake	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Robert Zimring
	Barbara & Richard Menin	in honor of Rabbi Zeff
		in honor of Eliana Rachel Bekelman, on her baby naming
Religious School Fund	Beth Rosenbaum & Noel Eisenstat	in honor of the high holiday davening of Rabbi Adam Zeff
	Leah & Norman Schwartz	in honor of Zeke Zeff on his Bar Mitzvah
	Charlotte Adler	in memory of Ferdinand Gerson, father & Henry Adler, father-in-law
	Tina & Michael Rettig and Family	in memory of Norman Cooper, uncle of Susan Pardys
Social Action Fund	Sherman Aronson	in memory of Stanley Aronson, father
	Peninah & Albert Berdugo	in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz
	Bev & Stan Diamond	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
	Lynne & Art Ellis	in honor of Nisa Rose Raz, on her Bat Mitzvah
	Helen & Michael Feinberg	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
	Ann & Martin Itzkowitz	in memory of Lisa Baird, daughter of Deena Baird
	Ruth Loew & Robert Tabak	in memory of Lester Netsky
		in honor of Esther Wiesner & Toby Kessler on the birth of their daughter, Liora Bella Keller
	Cecile Merion	in memory of Nechama Naomi Kapstein Rosenbach, sister
	Judith Miller	in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg
		in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah
		in honor of Miranda Livingston, on her Bat Mitzvah
		in honor of Nisa Rose Raz, on her Bat Mitzvah
		in honor of Eliana Actor-Engel, on her Bat Mitzvah
	Adina & Norman Newberg	in honor of Camilla Barcan, on her Bat Mitzvah
		in honor of Betsy & David Teutsch, for their support and friendship
		in memory of Aviva Ben-Yaacov, mother of David Ben-Yaacov
		in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz
Synaplex Fund	Esther Wiesner & Toby Kessler	in honor of the birth of their daughter, Liora Bella Kessler
	Hideko Secrest & Laurence Rozenzweig	in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome
Torah Restoration Fund	George & Kathy Amrom	in honor of Pearl Raz, on Nisa Rose's Bat Mitzvah
		in honor of Susan Sternthal, on the birth of her grandson
		in honor of Eve Pinkenson, on her beautiful and meaningful davening on Yom Kippur
		in honor of David Hahn, on his thoughtful Yom Kippur d'var torah
		in memory of Ann Glickman, sister of Norman Newberg
		in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz
		in memory of Alice Rome Shea, sister of Dr. Jack Rome
		refuah shleimah to Jerry Kutnick
		in honor of Edward and Andrea Rock, for their daughter Miriam being recognized as a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist
		in honor of Marcy Bacine's special birthday
		in gratitude for the honor of Kathy Amrom being called to the Torah as Kallat Bereshit
		in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday
	Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz
	Marcy Feldman Rost	in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler
	Jay Furman	in memory of Abraham Blumenthal, grandfather
	Eve Pinkenson	in memory of Jane Blumenthal, mother
		in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
		in memory of Louis Piser, father
	Daniel Piser	in memory of Robert Dishler, husband of Sonia Dishler
	Judy Schwartz	in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their granddaughter, Debra Feldman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
	Joan Silver	in honor of Marcy Bacine, on her special birthday
		in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl
	Susan & Berel Sternthal	in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
		in memory of Rachel Nadjar, mother
	Lucille & Aaron Weber	in memory of Jacques Weinstein, husband
	Mary Weinstein	

Contributions *Continued*

Women's Club

Women's Club of GJC
Women's Club & Men's Club

Sonia Dishler
Frances Gold
Carol Kaplan
Phyllis Kauffman
Judy Schwartz

Mindy Shapiro
Beverly Somerson

Youth Activities Fund

Marian Darmstadter
Bob Epstein

Hillary & Judd Kruger Levingston
Tamar & Sam Magdovitz

Leslie & Curtis Pontz
Leslie Pontz
Elizabeth & Hershel Richman

Hideko Secrest & Laurence Rozenzweig

Beth Stearman & Mitchell Berk
Bertha Stein
Joan Stern
Esther Wiesner & Toby Kessler

in memory of Pauline Federman, mother-in-law
in honor of Patty Segal, for hosting the Book Review
in honor of Sam Katz, in appreciation of his Philadelphia
Documentary presentation
in memory of Rose Feinberg, mother
in memory of Samuel Munder, cousin
in memory of Ruth Pinn, mother
refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their granddaughter,
Debra Feldman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their granddaughter,
Debra Feldman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Lena Potash, mother
in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Camilla Barcan, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Zeke Zeff, on his Bar Mitzvah
in honor of Harry Dudnick, on his Bar Mitzvah
in honor of Marta and Chip Becker
in memory of Muriel Steier, mother of Shellie Holl
in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
in memory of Ezekiel Levinson
in memory of Katie Zimring, wife of Bob Zimring
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 80th birthday
in honor of Leslie & Curt Pontz, on the birth of their grandson, Sawyer
in honor of Miranda Levingston, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Nisa Rose Raz, on her Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Meira Kavesch, on her Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Rita and Jacob Weinstein, parents
in memory of Bernard Katz, father of Sam Katz
in honor of the birth of their daughter, Liora Bella Kessler

Tired of Your Old Floor?



www.keystonefloorworks.com

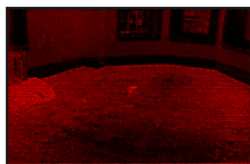
Let us impress you with a New Look!
Residential • Commercial • Honest Dependable Craftsmanship



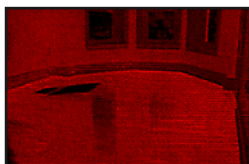
12 GREAT REASONS TO CALL US:

1. Owner Operated
2. Fully Licensed & Insured
3. Reasonable Prices
4. Courteous & Reliable Service
5. All In-House Craftsmen
6. Guaranteed Quality
7. Written References
8. Celebrating our 23rd Year
9. Shop At Home Service
10. Hundreds of Colors, Patterns & Textures
11. Free Estimates
12. Staffed Showroom

- **Hardwood Specialists**
- Major Brands • Sanding & Refinishing
- Custom Design Work • Cork Floor Products
- Serving All Suburbs • New Installations
- Repairs & Restorations • Buff & Wax
- Borders, Inlays, Stairs
- Hardwood Floors Refinished Like New



Setting the Standards in the Industry
Quality of Material - Preparation
Application - Removal



Dust Control Systems
To protect your household goods

Historic Restoration
Written References
Written Guarantees

Carpeting Experts
To assist your combination of needs in Hard Woods and Carpeting

P.O. BOX 833, BALA CYNWYD
MAIN LINE
(610) 668-8881

SHOWROOM
8109 GERMANTOWN
CHESTNUT HILL
(215) 247-0220

1530 LOCUST ST.
265 • PHILA.
(215) 546-9750

Experts in Electronic Security for Commercial Properties...



**KASTLE
SYSTEMS**

Contact Kastle Today for a
Free Security Assessment.

215-232-3700
www.kastle.com
2325 Fairmount Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130

...Since 1972!

*Goldstein's Rosenberg's
Raphael Sack's* INC.

SELECTED
Independent
FUNERAL HOMES

Providing funeral counseling and pre-need arrangements.
215-927-5800 • 1-800-622-6410
For hearing impaired:
215-927-3397 (TDD/Sorenson VP)
PHILADELPHIA CHAPEL
Bennett Goldstein, Supervisor
6410 N. Broad Street • Philadelphia, PA 19126

Gateways to Aging Well

We can help seniors balance their desire for independence with their need for preventative services and programs, helping them maintain the best quality of life possible.

**For more information,
call 215-854-1830**

A collaboration between JEVS Human Services and Klein & Stiffel JCCs
Funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Still looking for work?
JEVS can help!

If you are Jewish and live in the Delaware Valley, you may qualify for the **helpinghands** program –and it's FREE!

For more information, call 215-854-1834

Funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Sort It All Out!
Who better than a librarian to help you get organized?

- Sort papers, reduce clutter
- Set up home or office files
- Fill out forms, make calls

Debbie Stern, MLS
215-848-9503
debstern502@msn.com



NO JOB TOO SMALL

GIOVANNI'S MASONRY

STONE WORK • CONCRETE
WALKWAYS • STAMPED CONCRETE • REPOINTING
RETAINING WALLS BUILT & REPAIRED • FLAGSTONE PATIOS

GIOVANNI IANNUZZI **610-718-0241**

REINHART
CARPET OUTLET INC.
THE BEST CARPET STORE IN TOWN
4th Generation Family Business



Fred Reinhart
67 W. Queen Lane • Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-449-2221
www.ReinhartCarpetOutlet.com



JACK M.
BARRACK
HEBREW ACADEMY
FOR LEARNING • FOR LEADING • FOR LIFE

Open House
February 2,
9am-noon

To visit, contact Vivian Young
at vyoung@jbha.org or
610-922-2350. Visit us on the
web at www.jbha.org

**Local Bank,
Sound Management**

Jay Goldstein
President and CEO
Mt. Airy Resident

**VALLEY
GREEN
BANK**
You count with us.

Plenty of on-site parking
7226 Germantown Ave | 215-242-3550
23 W Highland Ave | 215-242-1550
www.valleygreenbank.com
HOURS: Weekdays 8 to 6
Member FDIC

What's Happening at The Gershman Y

The Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival Presents
Documentaries & Dialogue
January 11 - February 15
Full schedule and tickets at www.pjff.org

For The Kids
Shalom Yoga
Ages 3-5
8 sessions: Jan. 26 - March 23, 3:30-4:15pm
\$64 for session series

Let's Make Music
Ages 6-24 months
2 sessions: Jan. 29 - March 5/April 9 - May 14,
10:00-10:45am
\$64 each session series

Classes
Modern Hebrew Literature
6 Thursdays: Jan. 28 - March 4, 6:00-7:30pm
\$140

**Moguls, Mensches and Nudniks:
Jews and American Cinema**
4 Wednesdays: Feb. 3 - 24, 10:00am-1:00pm
\$125

Exploring Mixed Media
5 Thursdays: Feb. 11 - March 11, 6:30-8:00pm
\$130 & materials

**Hands-On! Hamentaschen
Baking**

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2:30-4:30pm, \$18
Location: Philly Kitchen Share, 1514 South Street

The Galleries at The Gershman Y
In The Borowsky Gallery

**Beyond The Surface:
Women in Pop Art**

FREE

In The Open Lens Gallery

**New Orleans Before and After:
Photographs by John Woodin**

Opening Reception for both:
Friday, January 22, 5:00-8:00pm

Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 15, 7:15pm
\$16 adults; \$12 kids

One Book, One Jewish Community
**All Other Nights Author Dara Horn in
Conversation with Adena Potok**
Thursday, January 21, 7:00pm
\$8 advance; \$10 at door

Save The Deli

Tuesday, January 26, 7:00pm
\$20 advance; \$24 at door*
*includes delicious deli dinner from Famous Fourth Street Deli

Israeli Dance Marathon

Saturday, January 30, 8:00pm-3:00am
\$14

The Joseph P. Sobo Sunday Brunch Series

**The Strong Horse: Power, Politics
and the Clash of Arab Civilizations
with Author Lee Smith**
Sunday, February 21, 11:00am
\$22 advance; \$25 at door, includes brunch

**Purchase tickets at
www.gershmanY.org
or call 215-545-4400.**

*The
Gershman Y*

Broad Street at Pine, Philadelphia

BOYS CONNECTION

A clothing store even a boy could like.

CLOTHING, SPORTSWEAR, SHOES,
TUXEDO SALES & RENTALS.
HUSKY SIZES OUR SPECIALTY

NOW DISCOUNT PRICING!

286 Montgomery Avenue Bala Cynwyd, PA
610-660-9330

Suits • Sportcoats • Shoes • Jeans • School Clothes • Accessories

Tutoring for Reading and Language Arts

Wilson Reading System Certified



Ellen Reese

Tel: 610 668 9865

Cel: 267 971 7970

e-mail: emr@telegraphics.com

Reservations
Recommended

BYOB Only
Kosher Wine

Free delivery in
Center City

SINGAPORE

Kosher Vegetarian Restaurant



All Major Credit
Cards Accepted

Banquets &
Catering Available
Including Bar &
Bat Mitzvahs

Certified Kosher by Rabbinical Assembly of Philadelphia

Southeast Asian vegetarian food including vegetarian dim sum.
Food derived from Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim cooking.
Strictly vegetarian including vegan. Brown rice available.

1006 Race Street • Philadelphia • (215) 922-3288

Parking at 11th & Race

Where Jewish culture and fun meet.

CAMP
GALIL
HABONIM DROR

www.campgalil.org



Over 60 Years of Kibbutz Values • Leadership • Sports • Hebrew • Shabbat • Fun

An overnight camp located in Upper Bucks County, PA.

Call Abbey 484.684.6532 • registrar@campgalil.org



\$1,000 Discount for Eligible 1st Time Campers

We roll out the carpet...everyday



12 GREAT REASONS TO CALL US:

1. Owner Operated
2. Fully Licensed & Insured
3. Reasonable Prices
4. Courteous & Reliable Service
5. All In-House Craftsmen
6. Guaranteed Quality
7. Written References
8. Celebrating our 23rd Year
9. Shop At Home Service
10. Hundreds of Colors, Patterns, & Textures
11. Free Estimates
12. Staffed Showroom

www.keystonefloorworks.com

CARPETING & WOOD FLOORS



Copyright © 1998 by World Floor Covering Association. All rights reserved.



- Monsanto
- Wear-Dated
- Anso Worry-Free
- Dupont
- Wellco
- Dolfield
- Walden
- Northwood
- WALL TO WALL
- REMNANTS
- HIGH QUALITY

- Hardwood Specialists
- New Installations
- Repairs & Restorations
- Sanding & Refinishing
- Buff & Wax
- Custom Design Work
- Borders, Inlays, Stars
- Hardwood Floors Refinished Like New
- Serving All Suburbs

SHOWROOM

1530 LOCUST ST.
265 • PHILA.
(215) 546-9750

8109 GERMANTOWN
CHESTNUT HILL
(215) 247-0220

P.O. BOX 833, BALA CYNWYD
MAIN LINE
(610) 668-8881



Jewish day schools lack great academics. Especially when it comes to science. (myth)

Meet Jake Stein. He can tell you why two black rabbits can produce a pure white one. And he's only 10. (fact)

At Perelman Jewish Day School, we teach our kids to think differently.

Like our fifth graders, who learn to master topics like DNA, chemistry and the circulatory system. By blending remarkable research, analysis and presentation skills, our students enjoy a real-world scientific experience that you won't find at another school.



That's the Perelman difference. A superior private-school education, infused with values, responsibility, acceptance and integrity. All in two languages.

Call for a private tour or sign up for an Open House!

Wynnewood

Stern Center (K-5)
1/12
9:30-11:30 am

Melrose Park

Forman Center (K-5)
1/13
9:30-11:30 am

Melrose Park

Saligman Middle School (6-8)
1/22, 2/19
9:00-11:30 am

610-658-2518, ext. 225



Accredited by Pennsylvania Assn. of Independent Schools (PAIS)
Member of the Solomon Schechter Day School Association
Endorsed by United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism

www.pjds.org

©2009 PJDS



Germantown Jewish Centre
400 West Ellet Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Willow Grove, PA
Permit No. 179

Inside Centre Call

Rabbi's Message	Page 1
President's Message	Page 2
Shabbat Chai-Lites	Page 3
What's New in the Mishpoche	Page 3
Adult Ed	Page 4
Social Action	Page 4
Shabbat B'Yachad	Page 5
Men's Club	Page 6
Member Spotlight	Page 7
Women's Club	Page 8
Little Shop	Page 9
ECP	Page 9
Hazak	Page 10
Education Dept.	Page 10
Contributions (begin on)	Page 11



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

Leonard Gordon
RABBI

Adam Zeff
ASSISTANT RABBI

Howard P. Treatman
PRESIDENT

Rachel Gross
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gloria Geissler
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Rabbi Kevin Bernstein
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Mindy Pitkofsky
ECP DIRECTOR

Elana Shaw
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ken Weiss
MEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT

Bev Somerson & Judy Schwartz
WOMEN'S CLUB CO-PRESIDENTS

Affiliated with the United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism

*Please submit all articles via email to
Program@GermantownJewishCentre.org.*

Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 5

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



Save the Date

Granger Memorial Shabbat
Saturday, January 16

Women's Club Purim Bash
Saturday, February 20