



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

Volume 23, Issue No. 3

TEVET 5775

JANUARY 2015



Rabbi Reena Spicehandler
(Visiting Rabbi)

As I prepare to intensify my involvement on the staff of GJC during Rabbi Lewis's maternity leave, I can't help but notice that these months coincide with our reading of *Shemot* (Exodus), the account of our ancestors' journey through the wilderness. We too are embarking on a sacred journey together, one that I hope will be filled with much joy, learning, and community. During my first three months as Visiting Rabbi during Rabbi Zeff's sabbatical, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you and to work as part of GJC's amazing rabbinic team. I look forward to getting to know many others on a more personal basis in the months ahead.

It is in the nature of things that many of our encounters may be at times of personal sorrow and stress. Some may feel disappointed that Rabbi Zeff and Rabbi Lewis, whom you know and love, will be away on their own journeys during this period. I hope that you will feel that I am your "Rabbi in Reserve" and that

you can come to me for comfort and/or conversation. You can make an appointment to meet with me through Kate Lawn or by emailing me at **rabbi.spicehandler@germantownjewishcentre.org**.

In the meantime, I'd like to introduce myself briefly. After growing up in a Reform Zionist Hebraist family in Cincinnati, Ohio, I completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Chicago in French Language and Literature and Comparative Literature. I graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College with a certificate in Jewish Geriatric Chaplaincy. Following my ordination I spent ten years as Dean of Students and Admissions at RRC where I also taught Modern Hebrew Literature in Hebrew. For the past dozen years I have specialized in the interim rabbinate, serving Reform and Conservative congregations in times of congregational crisis. I am a founding Board Member of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia with which I remain actively involved.

My partner, Jeremy Brochin, and I have been members of GJC since we moved to Philadelphia. Our children, Ari and Elana, are involved Jewish adults, something I attribute in large part to their having grown up in this

community.

I hope that what I have written serves as a prelude to our getting to know each other more deeply over the next few months. Please do introduce yourselves on Shabbat and consider making an appointment during the week. I look forward to our continuing journey together.

Program Highlights

Red Cross Blood Drive
sponsored by Men's Club
January 4

Shabbat Beit Midrash Begins
January 10

Skype with Rabbi Zeff
January 11

Bizarre Talmudic Passages
(Adult Ed Class with
Rabbi Joshua Gutoff begins)
January 13

Friday Night Family JAM
January 16

Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat
January 17

MLK Day of Service Program
January 19

President's Message



Three Membership Goals

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President

Among the most important things we must do, as a congregation, is to continue to attract new members. New members are our lifeblood.

It's not easy. Where are the elusive unaffiliated Jews who should be the focus of our efforts? How do we get them to our website, let alone to services, ECP, the Religious School, or the specific activity that will make each prospective member say, "Hey, this is the place for me, the place I can no longer live without!" What do we do if they show up – but refuse to wear a white flower and we don't know who they are? How do we (successfully!) engage the person whom we do not know, standing on the edge of kid-dush, in meaningful conversation?

These are not easy questions, nor are they questions faced only by Germantown Jewish Centre. But they are questions we must try to answer.

One of the things we know and are continuing to learn is that it takes an entire synagogue community to maintain and grow its membership. It takes the engagement and cooperation of the staff, the lay leadership, and every congregant. Each "touch" with any potential congregant is crucial. We never know which "touch" might cement a relationship – or create a long-standing negative impression, from which we might never recover.

Both the centrality and the difficulty of this task is recognized in the recent By-Law revision. In the revision, we eliminated some standing committees – but not Membership. Quite the opposite, we declared Membership one of the few standing committees worthy of retention, and

merged several other committees into Membership. We defined standing committees as those which perform essential corporate functions that require regular and sustained efforts. We merged public relations, communications, and the old membership into our new and improved standing Membership Committee.

Of course, declaring the Membership Committee a new and improved standing committee is a far cry having a Membership Committee that functions as envisioned in the revised By-Laws. Indeed, we've had many people devote great amounts of time to the Membership, Public Relations, Communications, and other committees in the past, and we've been deeply grateful for those efforts. Now it is time to take those efforts to the next level, and to have a unified approach to building and retaining our membership, which is actively discussed from the Executive Committee level through the entire membership.

So, whose arm did I twist into taking on this task?

Frankly, no one. Our Executive Vice-President for Community, Naomi Klayman, has voluntarily thrown herself into it. (This strikes me as perhaps more difficult than being President, so I hope you will all join me in thanking Naomi, and offering her your help!).

With the support of Nina, the Rabbis, and the entire Executive Committee, Naomi is leading us into exciting new efforts. She has identified three key Membership Committee initiatives: (1) outreach to unaffiliated Jews in our geographic area; (2) encouraging Jews who enjoy our programming to become GJC members; and, (3) ensuring that we are meeting the needs of current members. Each of these is, quite obviously, critical, and each will require the coop-

eration of the entire congregation.

Working toward these three goals will involve engaging in some important outreach activities. It will also include training and awareness-raising. We want to become a more welcoming and more inclusive community, and we want the welcoming inclusion to extend across all of our myriad of activities. We want to notice people on the periphery and to feel fully empowered to engage them in conversation – whether or not they are already GJC members.

Naomi, Josh Goldblum and Linda Kriger have been interviewing new members (defined as those who joined in the last three years), ongoing members – especially those in lay leadership positions across our various activities, and some who have left GJC because they were dissatisfied. We are using that information to identify and reinforce what we are doing "right," and to improve areas where we can do a better job of connecting and engaging, with both potential and existing members.

This work is both exciting, and critically important. And it is far more than Naomi, or even the entire Executive Committee, can do. Indeed, it is more than the Executive Committee and the office can do! We will need the help of the entire congregation – and we will be asking for it. Expect us to reach out to you in various ways over the next year or so. If you have ideas, let me, or Naomi, or Nina know. And, when you hear from us, please respond favorably to our requests for help. Work with us to create an even stronger, more caring community.

Thank you, and best wishes for a happy secular New Year!



IN CELEBRATION...

Art Ellis on his promotion to Vice President for Communications and Member Relations at WHYY

Anna & Jason Shurak on the naming of their daughter Masden

Kathryn Hellerstein on the publication of her new book, *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987*

Brian Shaw on passing his exam and becoming a Board Certified Cardiologist

Ken Weiss on the publication of his new book, *Psychiatric Expert Testimony: Emerging Applications* Edited by Kenneth J. Weiss, MD and Clarence Watson JD, MD

Jim Meyer on his 70th birthday & 30th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Joan Stern for receiving the Leading Woman Award from Ladies First

Ed & Andrea Rock on the birth of their granddaughter, Liora Daphna Rock

David Axelrod & Keira Chism Axelrod on the birth of their son, Max Henry Axelrod

David & Betsy Tesutsch on the birth of their granddaughter

Lauren Mermelstein daughter of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein & granddaughter of Maurice & Maxine Feldman, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Jerry Kutnick & Wendy Weingarten on the birth of their grandson, Miles, son of Meira & Eric

Marty Kaplan on his 85th birthday

Carol & Marty Kaplan on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan

Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky on the birth of their granddaughter, Amira Taealasi King, daughter of **Gary & Naomi Walinsky-King**

Nina Gordon on her 70th birthday

Ann & Martin Itzkowitz on the wedding of their son Job to Jessica Wuebker

Jim & Sandy Meyer on the birth of their grandson, Henry Ruthrauff

Josh Bolton & Natalie Lyalin on the birth of their son Boaz

IN MEMORIAM

Cheryl Kamm, stepmother of **Shira Kamm Alberts**

Evelyn Sherman, mother of **Sandra Sherman**, and grandmother of **David**, **Natania** and **Rachel**

Henry Rosenthal, father of **James Rosenthal**, father-in-law of **Jessica Shamash**, and grandfather of **Mozelle**

Samuel Merion, husband of **Cecile Merion**, and long-time member of Germantown Jewish Centre

Scott Oster, brother of **Allan Oster**

Dr. Karen Glaser, wife of **Richard Glaser**, and mother of **Lena**, **Simon** and **Zachary**

Judge Murray Goldman, husband of **Rosemary Goldman**, and long-time member of Germantown Jewish Centre

Irvin J. Borowsky, father of **Ned Borowsky**, father-in-law of **Caren** and grandfather of **Sonya**

Jill Fixler, sister of **Rabbi Dayle Friedman**

Marc Barag, husband of **Nancy Barag**, and father of **Rachel** and **Molly**



Shabbat Chai-Lites

January 3

- Kol D'mamah • No Children's Services or Childcare

January 10

- Beit Midrash
- 9:30 AM – Charry Service/Dorshei Derekh – Mazal tov to Micah Ravital, son of Genie & Ameet Ravital, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Musical Marching Minyan • Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

January 16-17

- Friday Night Family JAM with Chana Rothman
- Beit Midrash • Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat

January 23-24

- Kol Zimrah • Beit Midrash

January 31

- Beit Midrash

February 7

- Beit Midrash
- 9:30 AM – Charry Service/Minyan Masorti – Mazal tov to Serena Levingston, daughter of Judd Levingston & Hillary Kruger, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Kol D'mamah • Musical Marching Minyan
- Havdallah Family JAM with Chana Rothman

February 14

- Beit Midrash • Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

February 21

- Beit Midrash
- Charry Service – Mazal tov to our 3rd Graders and their families on the Tanakh Ceremony

February 27-28

- Kol Zimrah • Charry Service – Men's Club Shabbat

Kabbalat Shabbat /Kol Zimrah

Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning

Services at 10 AM (unless otherwise noted above)

Beit Midrash 9:30 AM

Kol D'mamah at 10 AM

Musical Marching Minyan at 11 AM

Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit at 11 AM

Shabbat Morning Kids Space - Room 305

Kids are welcome to play Shabbat-friendly games in Room 305 - bring your own and some will be provided. Please respect the space, clean up after yourselves and put all games away after use.

A note of gratitude from Marty Kaplan:

To all of my Centre friends and family, I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all of your prayers, thoughts, phone calls and notes of encouragement during my recent illness. They were in truth, the true essence of helping me on my road to recovery. Your prayers must have been heard by HASHEM, as I am slowly making the recovery my doctors and family were hoping and wishing for.



Seth Lieberman and Beth Janus

Beth Janus and Seth Lieberman each bring social and spiritual energy to GJC. They both contribute vitality to the community and invigorate their own lives.

Beth, 42, was born in Richmond, Virginia and attended public schools there. Her family was very connected to the small Jewish population there. "Literally, many of the Jews in Richmond were my relatives," she said. "My grandmother was one of nine children. I felt a real connection with the other Jews around me."

Her parents attended a traditional Reform Congregation, where the wearing of kipot and tallitot were discouraged. In high school, she became active in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO). "It's pretty amazing to think about it now, as a rabbi trying to get people involved," she said, "that we'd get over 100 kids to come to a meeting every Sunday."

She went to Smith College, a politically liberal and Jewishly arid campus. "That's where I discovered I wanted to be a rabbi," she said. "I realized just how important Judaism was to my life. The Jews who go to Smith didn't really care about Judaism. That was very shocking to me. Growing up, I thought if you were Jewish, you felt an automatic connection to other Jews. I didn't feel it that much at Smith. The women there didn't think Judaism was compatible with being a liberal and feminist. I was a liberal and feminist. It became my mission to show you can be a liberal and feminist and a practicing Jew."

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

She spent her junior year of college in Israel, which provided her with a full Jewish life. Upon graduating, she decided to get some Jewish working experience before applying to the Hebrew Union College (HUC) Jewish Institute of Religion.

Beth moved to San Diego to work at the Bureau of Jewish Education. She taught in an unaffiliated Hebrew School in a program for interfaith families. "I realized how much I didn't know growing up in the Reform Movement in terms of Jewish education," she said. She attended services in synagogues of every denomination, from Orthodox to Reconstructionist and a Reconstructionist rabbi mentored her.

Armed with real life experience, she attended HUC, taking an additional year to learn hospital chaplaincy. Beth had been pre-med until her senior year in college and chaplaincy "seemed like a great fit," she said. "I loved being in a hospital."

During rabbinical school in 1998, she met Seth at Ansche Chesed, a Conservative synagogue on the upper West Side of Manhattan. "Seth was visiting New York for the weekend and he came up to me and said, 'Didn't I just see you at Havurah institute?'" It wasn't a pick-up line. He really had seen her.

Seth, 49, was raised in Westchester County, NY, mostly in Chappaqua, which he describes as "an upper middle class community with newer wealth and a lot of focus on achievement and academic success. I did very well, so I was one of the winners in that world, but to me that's not the ultimate purpose. Chappaqua definitely was focused more on consumption and achievement than on communal values."

Seth's Jewish journey was much less direct than Beth's. He grew up in a Reform synagogue, whose rabbi, Chaim Stern, was a luminary in the Reform movement. He went through his bar mitzvah and confirmation and still didn't

know what the shemoneh esrai was. "Even as a 16-year-old, in my successful striving in my suburban school, I questioned whether there wasn't some spiritual work that had a heavier weight to it."

But his attachment to Judaism was strengthened by a strong connection with his paternal grandparents, who lived on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn. "I remember taking the elevator to the 16th floor of their building," Seth says. "The hallway always smelled the same because everyone was cooking the same thing - chicken soup and schmaltz (chicken fat). They kept kosher. They were born in Russia. That was very important for me. My favorite thing growing up was to hear their immigration stories. They came to the U.S. because my grandfather was drafted into the Russian army, because it was dangerous, and they were poor. I still daven with his tallit and I have his tefillin. He was very poetic about living a harder but simpler life that was about family and tribe. He didn't talk about God particularly but there was a sense of rootedness that was very profound for me."

Seth tucked away those memories, "the fact that I had a foot in the world of Minsk and Pinsk." He went to Brown University. He embarked on social justice work. With a cash prize for a thesis he wrote, he funded a year-long trip to Latin America, building schools in Nicaragua and working with street kids in Guatemala.

When he returned to the United States, he graduated and moved to San Francisco. He searched for a spiritual practice in Buddhism and neo-paganism and spent time in a commune. But he never forgot his grandfather and remembered him by telling stories to friends about his grandparents' lives as immigrants.

"My grandfather, who wasn't alive
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Member Spotlight

Continued from page 4

anymore, kept showing up," he said. "I felt pulled to explore Judaism." Seth began to attend a variety of Bay area prayer spaces: havurot, Jewish renewal, Carlebach services." He met Shlomo Carlebach himself.

In Northern California, Seth continued the work he'd done in Latin America. For five years, he helped mostly Latino homeless people in San Francisco. "I came to see my fascination with Latin American immigrants as a dance with my grandfather's immigration," he says. "I'm still fascinated with the immigrant generation and their kids, what you keep and what you let go of."

But he was also tired of living hand to mouth and decided to go to American University for a degree in organizational development. He now runs a leadership development business, engaging the staff of Fortune 100 companies and large hospitals. "I'm interested in people in a particular

field, particularly medicine or science who go into leadership roles," he said. "There are ways their original training helps them and ways that some things about their socialization get in the way."

How did he go from helping homeless people to organizational development? He smiles. "We were doing the holiest work you could do," he answered, "and it was the most messed up organization ever. Holy people were barely making enough to live on, but were really at odds with each other. We brought in two organizational development people to help us."

Seth found the work to be life changing. "I had an issue with one of the nuns and I realized the problem was inside of me." Fascinated by the approach he saw the organizational development professionals take, he asked them 'How do I do what you do?' They said I would be a natural at it. The problem we were trying to solve - how to get different departments to work together- is what I do. I help the researchers, clinical staff and business staff to get on the same page

and collaborate."

After earning his masters degree, Seth moved to Mt. Airy, where a friend lived, and began working with Siemens medical systems. When he met Beth, he quit and started an independent consultant business. They were engaged and he moved his practice to the West Coast, where she had taken a pulpit position. They were married in 2002.

Beth's pulpit was at Temple Beth El in Santa Cruz. "People in general in California are less rooted," she observed. "It was very hard to find an adult Jew who was born in Santa Cruz. They didn't have the connection that the Richmond community had." Judaism was "one of many interests and aspects of their identity, which is different than being in a place where it's a primary rubric to live your life in," Seth said.

On the other hand, Beth loved the

continued on page 6

JEWISH ARTS & MOVEMENT

JAM

at Germantown Jewish Centre

**COME ONE
COME ALL**

**JANUARY 16th
FRIDAY NIGHT JAM
with Chana Rothman!**
**FEBRUARY 7th
HAVDALLAH JAM
with Chana Rothman!**

Call 215.844.1507 to REGISTER & MORE INFO

program@germantownjewishcentre.org



**FUNDED BY THE
Harold and Renee
Berger Family
Engagement
Endowment Fund**

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 5

"openness and the liberal sensibility. We would joke that anything new we did, we'd get all these people to come. They wanted things new and exciting."

Beth was the rabbi in Santa Cruz for four years until she gave birth to Nami, now 9. Two years later, she gave birth to Zekie, now 7. They stayed for four more years in Santa Cruz because they liked it.

Then Beth began to miss her family on the East Coast. Her father was ill and she wanted to spend more time with him. When they decided to move back East, they could have picked any place between Richmond and New York, where their families lived. She and Seth picked Philadelphia because there were many Jewish opportunities here and Mt. Airy because of the Germantown Jewish Centre.

Seth told Beth about GJC and she asked him if they had a preschool. He had no idea. He'd been single when he was here and had no connection to young family activities. That, of course, has changed. "We're really involved with the young family retreat," Beth said. "Last year, I co-chaired it. It's been really fun. It's been held for four years and it's been a great way for us to feel even more integrated into the community and deepen our friendships with people."

She recalled their very first Shabbat in Philadelphia. They walked in the door of GJC "and there was a family with kids our age," Beth said. "And inside there were even more families. Coming from Santa Cruz, where we were the youngest, forget having children, it blew me away."

Beth and Seth's favorite service is the Friday night Kol Zimrah service. Seth also particularly enjoys the Beit Midrash, when parents drop their children off at Shabbat School and have the opportunity to experience adult education at the same time. "You have a half hour with one of the rabbis and

study text alongside pretty smart people looking at it. Last year it was the psalms, year before that, it was about what the mitzvot mean."

Beth now works part time at the Narberth Havurah as an interim rabbi, helping them find a permanent rabbi. She also works at the Klein Center City Senior Program in the Federation Building on Arch Street.

Seth led the leadership development initiative at GJC to engage the next level of emerging leaders. He urged the formation of the first family retreat, because he wanted to engage young families with the synagogue in the hope that they will eventually step up and take on leadership roles in the synagogue.

Beth and Seth's children attend the Perelman Jewish Day School, Forman

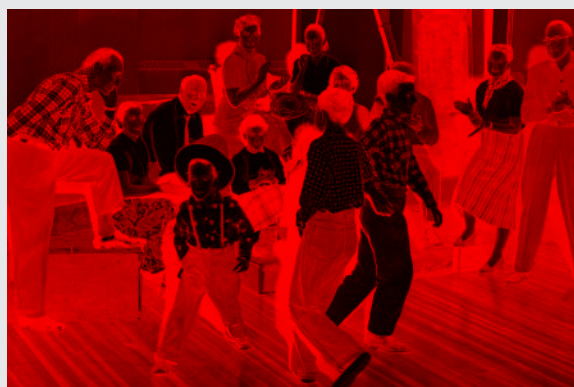
Center. Nami started school at Germantown Friends School, but in third grade, she asked her parents to switch her to Perelman. She had a thirst to learn Hebrew. Asked what friends she had at Perelman before she made the decision, on the assumption that she wanted to follow a friend there, Seth replied, "None. It all came from her."

"If GJC weren't here, we wouldn't be in Philadelphia," Seth said flatly. Before he met Beth, "I was co chair with Noel Eisenstat of the social action committee from 1999-2000. I liked the vibrancy and the fact that there was a progressive, meaningful community. The genius of GJC is not that there are so many minyans," he said, "but that the synagogue has the ability to spawn them."

SAVE THE DATE

"Making Good Neighbors"
Sunday, February 1 at 10 AM

Join us in welcoming Abigail (Abby) Perkiss, author of *Making Good Neighbors: Civil Rights, Liberalism and Integration in Post War Philadelphia* and an expert panel moderated by GJC's own Judah Labovitz. Panelists will discuss the history and legacy of integrating Mt. Airy, attempting to move beyond the utopian myths we sometimes subscribe to and address some of the complications



Children dance at Allens Lane Arts Center, *Philadelphia Bulletin*, 1957, used with permission from Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA. Seated in the back middle are mother and daughter, Marjorie (Z"l) and Ellen Kopeland. Ellen and her sister, Joan Silver (not pictured) are life-long GJC members, still active in our community.

and contradictions that beset the experience. We hope that examining the past can inform the tough discussions and actions we are engaging in regarding race relations today. This program will be a meaningful follow up to the Ralph Granger Memorial program.

This program is co-sponsored by Dorshei Derekh, Hazak, Men's Club, Minyan Masorti, Social Action Committee & Women's Club

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chairs,
Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

Cherie Goren has announced her retirement as Hazak Co-Chair, but assures you that she looks forward to participating in future programs and book club meetings! She wants to send a huge thank you to Sonia Dishler and all of the volunteers that have propelled Hazak to this point. Cherie is also grateful for the support of GJC Program Director, Elana Shaw, whose behind the scenes organizing is essential to making Hazak work.

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.

Early Childhood Program (ECP)



Celebrating, Learning and Growing in ECP

By Jodi Gordon, ECP Director

Here are a few photos from our Thanksgiving Feasts in the ECP. Our classes came together to celebrate friendship, family and food! Each class made a few delicious dishes to share with each other.



Shmita Corner

Parenting with a Shmita Consciousness: A Year for Reflection and Renewal

By Malkah Binah Klein and Nathan Martin

We recently co-lead a workshop on "Parenting with a Shmita Consciousness" at the inspiring 2nd annual Hazon Philadelphia Jewish Food Festival on November 16th. Some three hundred people gathered from throughout our region to reflect on the intersection of food, sustainability, and Jewish life.

This year at GJC, we are blessed with a number of programs, including



the Yom Kippur Bregman Lecture and Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial Weekend, to learn about integrating the principles of the Shmita, or sabbatical, year in our lives today. At our workshop, we began by inviting participants to share practices for personal renewal, both as individuals and as families. We then explored three values that are drawn from the Biblical texts on Shmita and had a rich brainstorming session about how to apply these values.

We share these values here and invite you to discuss them around the dinner table, the playground, and the office. We'd love to hear your approaches to

implementing these values this year.

Value 1: Slowing down and working less, consuming less, inspired by Leviticus 25: "But the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of Sabbaths - a ceasing for the land."

Value 2: Connecting with the wild, natural state of the Land, inspired by Exodus 23: "But in the seventh [year] you are to let it [the land] go and let it be."

Value 3: Radical Sharing, renewing the village culture, sharing with neighbors and those most vulnerable, based on Leviticus 25: "and the Shabbat growth of the land will be for all of you to eat."



**Hey Parents: Need a night out?
Send your kids packing for a**

GJC Nature Slumber Party

at Briar Bush Nature Center

Saturday, January 31 at 6 PM

to

Sunday, February 1 at 8:30 AM

For children 7 and up

**Parents may attend,
But chaperones will be provided**



Germantown Jewish Centre
A community of communities

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

Overnight includes:

Live animal show, night hike,
evening snack and breakfast

Guided by:

Mark Fallon, ECP Parent and
12 year veteran naturalist
for Briar Bush

Cost:

\$35/child

\$25 for each additional
family member
(adult or child)

Space is limited to 15 kids
and 10 adults

All proceeds
support the 2015
GJC Family Retreat
(May 8-10, 2015)

Contact Mark Fallon for
more information
or to register
mark@briarbush.org

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

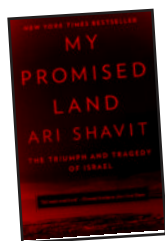
GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

We meet at Germantown Jewish Centre in the Quitman Library. We read fiction and nonfiction books of Jewish interest written mostly, but not solely, by Jewish writers and chosen by the group. Volunteer group members lead the discussion. For more information, contact Vilma Lieberman at vilmablue@yahoo.com or 215-885-5753.

January 13

Once We Were Brothers

by Ronald H. Balson



February 10

My Promised Land:

The Triumph and

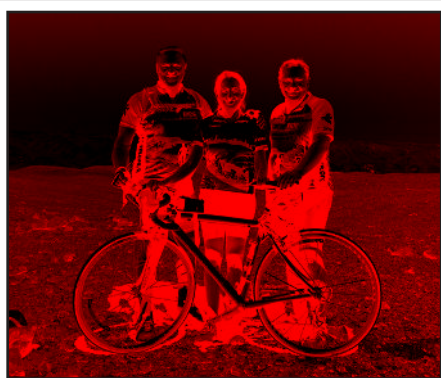
Tragedy of Israel

by Ari Shavit

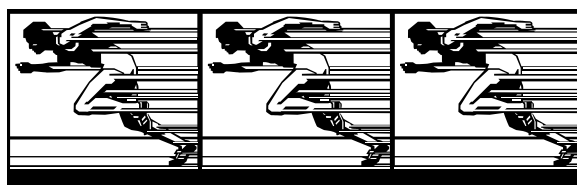
Adult Education 2015/5775: Courses at a Glance

Take the plunge into adult Jewish learning! Advanced registration is requested for all courses. Contact the office if you have questions or to register.

Title	Instructor(s)	Timing	Dates	Cost Members/ Non Members
Bizarre Talmudic Passages & their Philosophical Import	Rabbi Joshua Gutoff	Tuesdays 7:30-9 pm	Jan 13, 20, 27; Feb 3, 10, 17	\$75/100
Torah Teachings & End of Life Wisdom	Simcha Raphael	Sundays 7:30-9 pm Offsite Living Room Learning - let us know if you can host	Every other week Feb 8, 22; Mar 8, 22	\$50/65
Six Cities & Jewish History	Rabbi Robert Tabak	Wednesdays 7:30-9 pm	Feb 11, 18, 25; Mar 11, 18, 25	\$75/100
Coffee & Commentary (Torah Study)	Rabbi Lewis	Wednesdays 11 am - Noon	Apr 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20	\$60/75
High Holiday Torah Trope	Eve Pinkenson	Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm	Apr 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; Jun 3, 10	\$100/125



This fall three members of the GJC Community participated in the The Arava Institute & Hazon Israel Bike Ride. From left to right are Randall Miller, Mindy Shapiro and Howard Treatman. The ride allows participants the incredible opportunity to experience the beauty of Israel from the saddle of a bike. They learned about the ecological challenges in the region while exploring the Negev desert, and fundraising to support the work of The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies as well as Hazon. Kol ha-kavod on a marvelous accomplishment and thank you for sharing this breathtaking photo.



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

IN JANUARY

EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP IS 20% OFF*

AND this discount CAN be combined with the Early Bird Special for 30% off

(During this sale, there will also be a \$5 charge for gift wrapping)

In February Monthly Special is 10% off All Jewelry and Ahava Products

This CAN be combined with the Early Bird discount for a 20% off

Remember Our Hours

Sunday	9:30 – 12:30	Wednesday	12:00 – 7:30
Monday	Closed	Thursday	12:00 – 5:00
Tuesday	12:00 – 7:30	Friday	12:00 – 4:00

*except Wine, Books, Mezuzot Scrolls, Tefillin and Sale Items

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

Social Action Update

SOCIAL ACTION FLOURISHED AT GJC IN 2014 POWER Membership Boosts Involvement

By David Mosenkis

This has been a very active year for Social Action at GJC. Our membership in POWER, an interfaith movement, which became official in June, resulted in some amazing work by a diverse group of members. Social Action continued to deliver an array of educational programs and direct service to the community. There's a place for everyone to get involved – whether it's through educational programs, service opportunities, advocacy work, or prayer and study related to social justice.

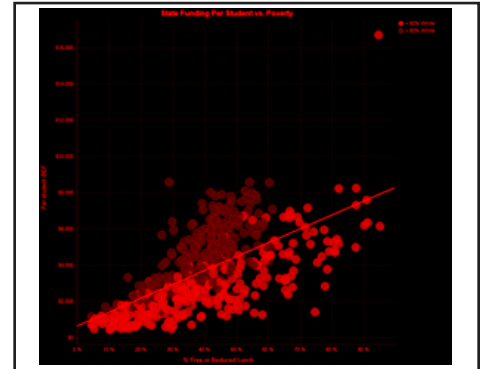
POWER Update

Our work with POWER took off quickly and has already actively involved more than 50 GJC members in a variety of ways. We joined with 40 congregations around the city to work on one of POWER's key initiatives: full and fair funding for Pennsylvania schools. Last spring, we also talked to voters about the ballot resolution to increase the minimum wage for workers at companies that subcontract with the city. Here are some highlights and accomplishments:

- GJC teams organized and participated in phone banks and door knocking campaigns to engage voters in both the spring primary and the fall elections. Altogether, 57 different members participated in some aspect of the work. These included parents and children. While space precludes thanking each of them individually, it was wonderful to work together on such an important cause. Special thanks to "Core Team" Leaders: Howard Bilofsky, Elayne Blender, Betty Ann Fellner, Barbara Bloom, Andrea Moselle, David Mosenkis Rona Pietrzak, Ilene Poses, Coleman Poses, Lois Robbins, and George Stern for all your hard work.
- For the November election, GJC members knocked on the doors of 545 infrequent voters in Mt. Airy, and got 117 of them to commit to vote. Our phone banks focused on "in-reach" to GJC members, and our volunteers

called nearly EVERY household in the new directory! This was a wonderful way to involve the whole congregation, build relationships, and increase involvement. We had conversations with 125 households and left messages for the rest. As a result, we identified 312 supporters of a Full Fair Funding Formula who committed to vote. Most also agreed to having a card sent in their name to their legislators saying that they had voted and asking them to champion school funding.

- Overall, POWER congregations made almost 130,000 attempts to contact voters and reached 6000 infrequent voters. Last spring, voters who were touched by POWER volunteers were 2.5 times as likely as other infrequent voters to get to the polls.
- GJC leaders played a role in persuading the Basic Education Funding Commission to allow community testimony at their hearings around the state beginning with their visit to Philadelphia in November. David Mosenkis testified about his research demonstrating dramatic racial bias in PA's education funding. The re-



This is the graph David Mosenkis prepared, intending to depict Pennsylvania's funding of its 500 school districts as a function of poverty and race. Districts with overwhelmingly white students are shown as light gray circles, those with more minority students as dark gray circles. Learn about racial bias in school funding at the annual Ralph Granger Memorial Program at GJC on January 17.

search has been covered in the media and mentioned by Mayor Nutter in his testimony.

Interested in getting involved? Contact David Mosenkis (dmosenkis@gmail.com) or Andrea Moselle (amoselle@comcast.net).

GJC Members Serving Schools in the Community

GJC's involvement at two Mt. Airy schools, Henry and Houston, is a great example of how we can get involved in an issue in different ways. While advocacy for changes in policy and practice on a city and state-wide level happens through POWER, these projects give members a way to create positive change through direct service to individuals via neighborhood community institutions.

"Community Volunteers" at the Houston School was conceived more than ten years ago when GJC member, Barbara Bloom established the Literacy Section. Four years ago, Elayne Blender joined Barbara in a leadership role and has since added the math tutoring and library staffing components and the group now has about 25 volunteers. In

this time of funding cuts, the group has also made it possible to open the library a few times weekly to teachers and their classes to check out books for research or reading. To learn more or volunteer, contact: Barbara Bloom at babloom@verizon.net (215 247-2311).

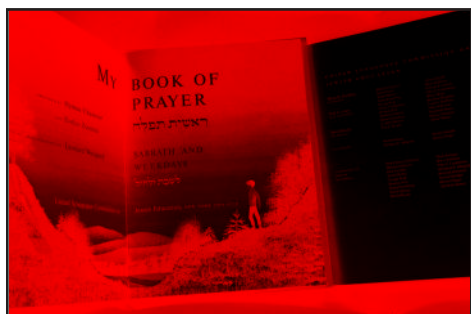
At the Henry School, GJC volunteers continue our longstanding commitment, adapting the program to meet changing school resources – for example, working within the classroom when the library was closed. This fall, six volunteers regularly visit the Henry School each week to read to children in grades K-2. Maxine Margolies (mmargx@aol.com) and Sandy Meyer (sms@meyeroneagle.com) coordinate the program, which was founded by Renee Levine.

Religious School

Finding Our Place in the Chain of our Community of Communities

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

One afternoon in November, something extraordinary happened. My parents were cleaning out the upstairs rooms of their house, and I was in Washington, DC helping them sort through some items, including a few shelves of Jewish books they had set aside. There, on the left hand side of the shelf, something caught my eye. Amid the sea of my brothers and my old religious school text books and Chayim Potok novels were two volumes I had never seen before. A set of *My Book of Prayer*, volumes one and two, pub-



lished by the United Synagogue of America (now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) in 1959. I was puzzled. What were these fifty year old children's *siddurim* doing here? How had these gotten to my parents' house? Both my father and I had grown up in Reform congregations, and my mother in an Orthodox community. Whose were they?

I opened the cover. The siddur, which bore my late grandfather's bookplate, was illustrated by Leonard Weisgard, a first cousin of my grandmother. These first edition *siddurim* must have been a gift to him and the family from Cousin Leonard. How fascinating, I thought. I knew that Leonard Weisgard had illustrated children's books, but never knew he had worked on a Jewish project, let alone with the United Synagogue. The siddur was not only beautiful but very thoughtfully crafted, interweaving the Hebrew of our prayers with



creative and child-friendly translations and illustrations connecting these prayers to the lives of the students.

Out of sheer curiosity, I turned to the back of the book, to the list of members of the committee. There, listed as both a member of the Commission on Jewish Education and as the chairman of the Committee on Prayer Materials was Rabbi Elias Charry, then the rabbi of Germantown Jewish Centre. There I stood, dumbfounded, in my brother Sam's childhood bedroom, holding a children's siddur that was given to my grandfather when my father was 16 years old, illustrated by my grandmother's cousin, and edited and compiled by a committee convened by Rabbi Charry. In that moment, I felt a sense of cosmic connection, a feeling of purpose and place. It was as if in the tapestry of my Jewish journey, I had hit a button and zoomed out – seeing the way my journey was interwoven with those of my family, our congregation at GJC, and the larger American Jewish community.

One of the most humbling and incredible things about working with our students at GJC is that I, along with our incredible teachers and lay-leadership, get to do the sacred work of paving the way for new Jewish Journeys every day. Earlier this fall, I had the opportunity to attend services in *Minyan Dorshei Derekh* with our 6th grade BBMM class on the Shabbat that was the eve of Rabbi Dr. Deborah Waxman's inauguration as the President of RRC and the Jewish Reconstructionist Commu-

nities. As Rabbi Dayle Friedman gave Rabbi Waxman a special misheberach blessing at the Torah, the students began to turn to me and ask what the occasion was for this special *aliyah*. When I told them, they were astounded. "But what is she doing here at our synagogue, at Germantown Jewish Centre?" they asked. "Because she lives here in Philadelphia," I answered, "*Dorshei* is her Jewish community." They each had the same look on their face that I must have had as I held the *My Book of Prayer*. They felt that sense of place and purpose, that "Aha moment" of connection.

It is not only in these big moments, that we recognize this look, but in the small ones too. As our students create and sell *hanukiyot* to support water projects in South Sudan in projects that extend far beyond their b'nai mitzvah date, they feel it. When they notice a familiar last name on the *yartzeit* wall of an ancestor whom they had never met and ask a parent or a grandparent about their story, they experience it. As they travel to Israel, Poland, and the Deep South on Jewish teen travel experiences over the summers, they sense it. When they open the *Kol Haneshamah* siddur or the *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, and see that the names of many of the contributors belong to adults whom they have prayed with all of their lives, they get it. And in all of the other moments that we do not have the opportunity to witness, but are in no way less powerful, they find their place in the chain of our Community of communities.

"How lovely the synagogue is—" reads the translation to *Mah Tov* in *My Book of Prayer*. "The place where my people pray together! Oh God, You are kind to me. I am glad that I can come to Your House to pray. There I feel Your nearness."

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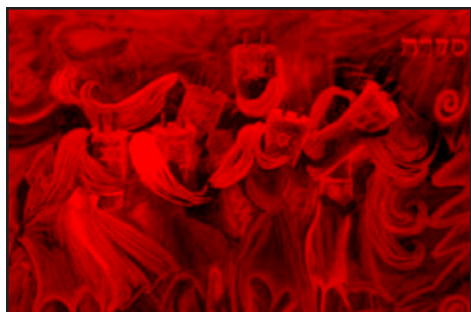
PRESENTED BY THE GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE'S WOMEN'S CLUB

Women's Club News

Torah Fund History Through Pins

Yona Dansky and Dena Lake, co-presidents of Women's Club

For over fifty years, Torah Fund has issued distinctive pins designed by outstanding artists that have been worn with pride by women throughout the world. GJC Women's Club has assembled an archive of Torah Fund pins. If you haven't yet had a chance to view the **Torah Fund History Through Pins** display now is the



time! It is located just outside the main entrance to the Charry Sanctuary (inside the glass cabinet, next to the tallitot rack).

Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund Campaign supports the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. The pins were first issued in 1957. The pins on loan are from GJC's Women's Club members' own collections or from family members who in generations past were proud Seminary supporters.

We have collected all but 6 pins: 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1961-62, 1964-65. In the display you will find paper pictures of these missing pins. Please take a look at this remarkable collection and if you think you or a family member might have one of the missing years contact Susan Weiss at 610-909-8127 or Peninah Berdugo at 215-885-7333.

We want to thank the following women of the Women's Club that searched their jewelry boxes as well as relatives (with permission) to help make this project possible. The following Women's Club members lent

pins. Marcy Bacine, Peninah Berdugo, Sarah Braun, Sonia Dishler, Maxine Feldman, Carol Kaplan, Connie Katz, Eve Pinkenson, Martha Schleifer and Susan Weiss.

Your Torah Fund contribution

strengthens and perpetuates Conservative/Masorti Judaism throughout the world. In recognition of your generous support at the Benefactor Level (\$180), you will receive the Torah Fund pin for 5775.

SAVE THE DATE

Torah Fund Honoring Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson May 3, 2015

Save the date! Torah Fund will be held on **May 3, 2015** honoring **Judy Schwartz** and **Bev Somerson**.

What is Torah Fund, you ask??

The Torah Fund Campaign is a national effort by Women's Clubs throughout the country to raise money and support for the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). JTS prepares rabbis, cantors and Jewish educators and is the fountainhead of the Conservative movement in the US.

But the Torah Fund Brunch is really a free lunch, right?

Not really. We actually offer a 3 Bell brunch at the beautiful home of one of our congregants with over 100 friends and Centre neighbors enjoying noshing and schmoozing. Our Women's Club members do the cooking and baking and the morning is sensational! Although there is no charge, we hope that attendees will donate to Torah Fund in support of JTS.

So, you're asking, what's in it for me???

You will earn mitzvah credits by supporting the Seminary. You will also honor Judy and Bev with both your presence and a donation in their honor. You will munch on the most delicious food....Just think of a huge buffet with all your favorite foods. There is also a speaker. This year we have the privilege of having Chancellor Arnold Eisen from JTS. We also have a display of beautiful Torah Fund Cards available

based on the amount of your donation. These cards can be sent for simchas or expressions of condolence.

How can I contribute?

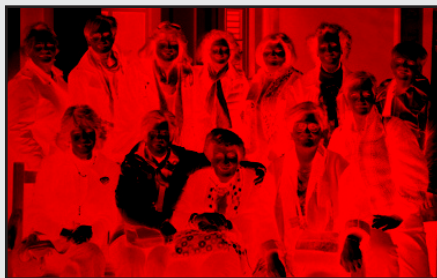
Each year a lovely Torah Fund Pin is designed for women choosing to contribute a minimum of \$180. Please check out the gorgeous display in the Charry Lobby of the pins through the years. Contact one of the Torah Fund Chairs (see below) and a pin will be delivered to you. Also, your donation is not required until May, so you can wear the pin for months and publicize for us, at no cost to you.

What happens at the Brunch besides eating?

Two things... We take this opportunity to honor dedicated women from within our community. This year we are honoring Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson, past co-presidents of our Women's Club. By attending our event, you will learn all about these 2 remarkable women and how they have enriched our GJC community.

We also invite a guest speaker each year who is always interesting, entertaining and topical. This year our speaker is Chancellor Arnold Eisen from JTS. There will be more information available as the day approaches.

Please contact the Torah Fund Chairs for questions and more information. Maxine Feldman (maxfeldman@aol.com) Connie Katz (connie.katz@verizon.net) Barb Menin (blmenin@gmail.com)



Women's Club "funraising" event took place on a beautiful fall day, October 30, with a tour of Winterthur Museum and their special exhibit featuring the Costumes of Downton Abbey.



Great fun was had by a fantastic crowd, including multiple generations, at the Women's Club/Men's Club Paid Up Brunch. The performance by Naomi Weiss and musicians was top notch.



Save the Date for GJC's Annual Women's Clothing Exchange Sunday, February 22 from 11 AM – 1 PM

By Genie Ravital

The Women's Clothing Exchange at Germantown Jewish Centre is an annual community and charitable event that serves many functions. Some participants have described it as a win-win-win!

Every year women in the community are asked to donate any clothing

Shoes, Sweaters, Coats, Jeans, Dresses, Skirts, Blouses, Jewelry & accessories, Pajamas and lingerie, Bathing suits & exercise clothing.

After the room is all set up like a giant bazaar, women from all over the city come and donate \$20 to "shop" through all these things and take home whatever they like.

It is a festive atmosphere—with music, friends and a private place for trying on clothes.

The event raises thousands of dollars to donate to different important social justice work.

This year the proceeds will be divided between POWER, a coalition of people from different faith communities across Philadelphia who are advocating for social justice in Philadelphia, Dining For Women, a



Photo Credit: Shoshanna Wiesner

group of women who get together monthly to learn about and fund different grassroots women's groups around the world, and the GJC Women's Club.

When the event is over, all the leftover items are then donated to Whosoever Gospel Mission in Germantown. This program supports people who have been homeless and struggled with addictions in getting the help they need to get clean, sober and vocational training.

It is a win!win! win!

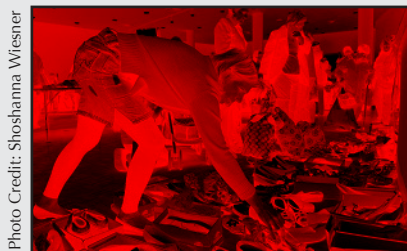


Photo Credit: Shoshanna Wiesner

and accessories that are in good condition, but which they no longer use. A large group of volunteers then sorts all these donations into categories:

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, 2014 through November, 2014

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	Ron Moses	in honor of David & Keira Axelrod, on the birth of their son, Max
Beck Scholar-In-Residence Fund	Bev & Ira Somerson	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
Bess Schick Memorial Fund	Dena & Ed Lake	in honor of Art Ellis, on his recognition at WHY
		in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
		refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
		in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein
		in honor of Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on the birth of their granddaughter, Amira Taealasi King, daughter of Naomi Walinsky-King and Gary King
		in honor of Nina Gordon, on her 70th birthday
	Dena Lake	in memory of Eva Lamar, aunt
	Susan Rothschild	in memory of Moritz Heimann, father
	Charles Schleifer	in memory of Elaine Ives-Cameron, sister
	Bill & Terry Taiani	in memory of Frances Friedmann Neiman, a long time member of GJC
		in memory of Anne Lawrence, mother-in-law
Camp Scholarships Fund	Stephen Tobias	in honor of Dick & Barbara Menin
	Ronni Myers	in memory of Bess Feinstein Sivitz, mother
	Michael Sivitz	in memory of Faye Weiss, mother
	Susan Sternthal	refuah shleimah to Barbara Menin
Chesed Fund	Ronni Myers	in memory of Pearl Weissler, mother
	Chava Weissler	in memory of Benjamin Kaufman, grandfather
Early Childhood Program Fund	Bonnie Buyum	in memory of Violet West, mother
	William Moody	
General Fund	David Basior & Ariel Zaslav	
	CGI Management, Inc	
		in memory of Frances Friedmann Neiman, a long time member of GJC
	Ann & Alan Cohen	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
	Lyn Davis	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
	Mikael Elsila & Dina Pinsky	in memory of Sheryl Kamm, stepmother of Shira Kamm Alberts
	Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
	Bambi & Bob Granovsky	in honor of Judy Schwartz
	Deborah E. Hoellein	in memory of Frances Friedmann Neiman, a long time member of GJC
		in memory of Cheryl Kamm, stepmother of Shira Kamm Alberts
	Don & Harriet Joseph	in memory of Evelyn Sherman, mother of Sandra Sherman
		in honor of Adina Abramowitz & Naomi Klayman, on their wedding
	Toby Kessler & Esther Wiesner	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
		refuah shleimah to Ned Kripke
	Marilyn Kutler & Ira Silberman	in honor of Howard & Ronit Treatman, on Hannah becoming Bat Mitzvah
	Judd Livingston & Hillary Kruger	in memory of Roseanne Slifker, mother of Michael Slifker
		in memory of Benita Masters, mother of Steve Masters
		in honor of Ed & Andrea Rock, on the birth of their granddaughter, Liora Daphna Rock
	Neil & Nancy Lewis	in honor of the GJC Staff
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in memory of the daughter-in-law of Bruce Elfenbein
		refuah shleimah to Marilyn Kraut
		in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister of Rabbi Dayle Friedman
	Joe & Carolyn Meyer	in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
	Jeffrey Needleman	in memory of Nathan Needleman, father
	Allan Oster & Izhar Naveh	in honor of Barbara Menin
		in honor of Ruth Loew & Robert Tabak
		in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister of Rabbi Dayle Friedman
		in honor of David & Betsy Tesutsch, on the birth of their granddaughter
	Hershel & Betsy Richman	in memory of Abraham Richman, father
		in memory of Jerome Rosner, father
	Hershel Richman	in honor of Dena & Ed Lake
	Betsy Richman	in memory of Paul Shane, husband of Dr. Ana Marjanovic-Shane
	Gwynne Sigel	in memory of Margaret Sostack, mother
		in memory of S. Andrew Spear, father
	Maura Sostack	in memory of Irving Stearman, grandfather
	Michael Spear	
	Beth Stearman	

Contributions *Continued*

General Fund

Robert Sullaway
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Aaron & Lucille Weber
Gloria Weiss
Helene Feinberg
Cherie Goren

Hazak Fund

Carol & Marty Kaplan

Susan Rothschild
Leah & Norman Schwartz

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Rose Lifschitz
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Israel Affairs Fund

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Leah & Norman Schwartz

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Israel Garden Fund

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Rochelle Fellman
Simon Glaser
Carol Kaplan
Peter Kuriloff
Nan Myers & Mark Lipshutz
Ronni Myers
Leah & Norman Schwartz

Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund

Beth Stearman & Mitchell Berk

Emily Blake

in memory of Renee Levine, long time member of GJC
in memory of Karen Glaser, wife of Richard Glaser
in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
in honor of the Hahn-Weiss Family
in memory of Frank Rosenberg
in memory of Mark Fields, brother
in memory of Judith Fleischman, mother
in memory of Scott Oster, brother of Allan Oster
in memory of Leon King, husband of Diane King
in memory of Samuel Merion, husband of Cecile Merion
in memory of Kay Strauss, sister
in memory of Frances Friedmann Neiman, a long time member of GJC
in honor of Esther Raphael
in memory of Anna Sanders, mother-in-law
in memory of Jeanette Goldenberg, sister
in memory of Tillie Zerkowitz, mother
refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
in memory of Leon King, husband of Diane King
in memory of Benita Masters, mother of Steve Masters
in memory of Frances Friedmann Neiman, a long time member of GJC
in honor of Howard & Ronit Treatman, on Hannah becoming Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Rose C. Gaber, mother
in honor of Howard & Ronit Treatman, on Hannah becoming Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Bess Frank, aunt
in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in appreciation of Sylvia Lifschitz
in memory of Barbara Ann McCracken, mother
in honor of Howard & Ronit Treatman, on Hannah becoming Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Ed Lake, on his birthday
in memory of Frances Rodin, grandmother
refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
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in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein
in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan
in memory of Meyer Winderman, grandfather
in memory of Sam Buyum, grandfather
in honor of Phill Goldberg
in memory of Klara Furman, mother
in memory of Lena Salmansohn, mother-in-law
in memory of Herman Salmansohn, father-in-law
in memory of Louis Wolin, father
in appreciation of GJC & Rabbi Lewis for all of her support & officiation at their wedding
in honor of Josh Barah & Devorah Lissek
in honor of David & Keira Axelrod, on the birth of their son, Max
in appreciation of Rabbi Lewis, for her support during Mitchell's illness
in memory of Leon Druckman, husband
in memory of Esther Abrams, mother
in honor of Dr. Karen Glaser, wife of Richard Glaser
in memory of Ruth Pinn, mother
in memory of Arthur Kuriloff, father
in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
in honor of Nan Myers & Mark Lipshutz
in honor of Ann & Martin Itzkowitz, on the wedding of their son Job to Jessica Wuebker
in appreciation of Rabbi Zeff, for his support during Mitchell's illness
in honor of Karen Dunn, for her wonderful contribution to Emily's life and to the GJC community

Contributions *Continued*

Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund

Emily Blake

Religious School Fund Social Action Fund

Nan Daniels
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Roslyn Nissen
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Special Education Fund Special Fundraising Torah Restoration Fund

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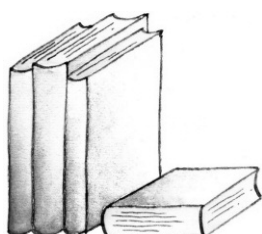
in honor of Betsy Teutsch, on the publication of her amazing, informative and important book
in memory of David Shapiro, father
in memory of Carl Milison, brother
in memory of Sarah Ostrow, grandmother
in memory of Joseph Hoffman, father
in memory of Dr. Karen Glaser, wife of Richard Glaser
in memory of Samuel Gross, father
in memory of Louis Piser, father
in memory of Renee Levine, long time member of GJC
in memory of Deena Brockman, sister
in memory of Max Cohen, father
in memory of Omi Corley Trail, mother
in memory of Esther Reitman Tatarsky, mother
in appreciation of Rosh ha-Shanah Services
refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
in memory of Anne Itzkowitz, mother
in honor of Jaime Kauffman, on receiving her Masters of Art
in Administration
in memory of Jane Blumenthal, mother
in memory of Abraham Blumenthal, grandfather
in memory of Joseph Pinkenson, father
in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of
their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of
Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein
in memory of Samuel Munder, cousin
in honor of Melissa Klein, Dr. Neysa Nevins & Tani Nevins-Klein
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of
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in memory of Ezekiel Levinson, father
in memory of Charles Stein, brother

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Montefiore Cemetery is proud of upholding Jewish traditions. The cemetery offers Jewish families a beautiful resting place with character and a wide variety of options.

And, as always...

- ★ No vaults required.
- ★ 0% Interest on all purchases
(Interest-Free Financing offered, in accordance with Jewish Law)
- ★ 100% Interest in taking care of your family with dignity and respect.



Protect Your Family Through Pre-Planning



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*Serving the Jewish Community...
Preserving Our Tradition*

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Please submit all articles via email to
program@germantownjewishcentre.org.
Deadline for the March Issue is February 2.



Save the Dates

"Making Good Neighbors" (See Page 6 for more info)
February 1

Havdallah Family JAM with Chana Rothman
February 7

Torah Teaching & End of Life Wisdom with Simcha Raphael
Adult Ed course that begins on February 8

Six Cities & Jewish History with Rabbi Robert Tabak
Adult Ed course that begins on February 11

Women's Clothing Exchange
February 22

Men's Club Shabbat
February 28

Purim Bash Fundraiser
February 28