



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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ADAR 5775

MARCH 2015



Rabbi Reena Spicehandler
(Visiting Rabbi)

Let Your Spirit Move You

touched him greatly. Other congregants visit our elders at Cathedral Village and in their homes, and this too makes an important impact.

Many of our member rabbis have volunteered their support in a variety of ways these past months, particularly by enriching the Charry Service with their insights and creativity, when giving guest Divrei Torah. Perhaps it does not take a village, but it does take our entire community to insure that GJC thrives during this transitional time of sabbatical and maternity leave.

We will soon conclude the book of *Shemot* (Exodus) with Parashat Vayakel-Pekudei which tells of the Israelites building a *mishkan* (Tabernacle) for God in the wilderness. We read in Exodus 35: 21-29: "And everyone who excelled in ability and everyone whose spirit was moved came, bringing offering for the work.... Thus the Israelites, all the men and women whose hearts moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord, through Moses, had commanded to be done, brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord." It is only after this, in Exodus 40:27 that "...the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the presence of the Lord filled the Tabernacle."

I'd like to challenge each of us to think of what we can bring to GJC, our "Tent of Meeting," in order to

allow God's presence to continue to live among us. (See Rabbi Dayle Friedman's article on Pg 12 about participating in the weekday minyan, for one possible suggestion.)

Program Highlights

Israeli Politics through Comedy

"Arab Labor" TV Series

Viewing & Skype Discussion

Red Cross Blood Drive

sponsored by Men's Club

March 1

GJC Celebrates! Purim

Minyan Masorti Purim

March 4 – Erev Purim

Purim Carnival

March 8

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat

with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard

Gordon and his wife

Lori Lefkowitz, Ph.D.

March 13-14

Women's Club Premier Program

& Fundraiser: Flower Arranging

Kids' Stuff Exchange

March 15

Passover Tot JAM with

Chana Rothman

March 22

Women's Shabbat featuring

Emilie Passow Ph.D.

March 28

It's hard to believe that two months have passed since my last column and that Purim and Pesach will soon be upon us. I have learned much about the inner workings of GJC during this time and would like to share some of my observations with you.

I have been very impressed by the support and caring that goes on in our community of communities. When my husband remarked on the level of pastoral care at GJC and asked me whether our congregation had unusually high needs, I realized that this was, in fact, not the case. Rather the need appeared to be greater because so many of you were concerned that fellow congregants get supportive caring during difficult moments. It is the level of caring and communication that is unusually high.

Several weeks ago a congregant who had recently had surgery called to thank me for a home-cooked meal prepared by our Chesed volunteers, accompanied by a card made by our sixth grade class wishing him well. He intends to keep that card which

President's Message

I Can't Wait to go Back!

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



My family-Jessica, Jake, Alex and I had the great pleasure and privilege of going on the GJC trip to Israel. Here are a few of my lasting images from the trip.

One morning in Jerusalem, we visited to an organization called Pantry Packers, to pack bags of rice for Israel's poorest families and senior citizens. The activity wasn't unique. Here in Philadelphia, one could engage in similar activities either with Philabundance, which is a secular organization, or with Jewish Relief Agency, which is a much smaller Jewish organization. What struck me as unique was that Pantry Packers is the food distribution arm of Colel Chabad, which was founded in the 18th century by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement. The full-time employees directing the volunteers were, I assume, Lubavitchers. Before we began, someone in our group asked for whom we would be packing the rice. We learned that Pantry Packers' recipients are screened and selected on a non-discriminatory basis by local government, without regard to gender, ethnic background, or degree of religious observance. In short, it was Lubavitchers taking care of everyone.

A few days later, we went to Kibbutz Hannaton, whose Executive Director, Rabbi Yoav Ende, has actually been to GJC (and will be skyping in for programs in March and May this Spring). We heard how the Masorti (conservative) Kibbutz had dwindled recently to very few families, only to be rejuvenated by an effort to build an innovative, pluralistic community, based on education, tradition, ecology and Zionism. The Kibbutz views itself



as being central in an on-going dialogue about what it means to be Jewish. We heard that the Kibbutz was trying to hold services that would be comfortable across a wide range of observance, and how they balanced those competing interests – so that the Synagogue could become a communal center. We heard about their compromises in regards to Shabbat: electronics may be used only in private places; cars that members intend to use on Shabbat must be parked beyond the Kibbutz gates before Shabbat begins. We heard about their twists on the traditional kibbutz, in which they retain cooperative elements, but also have differential salaries, and home ownership. Mostly we heard how the members of the Kibbutz are trying to create a space that is neither secular nor orthodox, that harmonizes modernity and tradition, religious tolerance and Zionism, community and freedom of choice.

Finally, we visited Yemin Orde Youth Village, where we met Racheli Yaso, the Director of Visitor Relations and Outreach Programs. Yemin Orde, as some of you may know, was founded in the 1950s as a safe haven and home for Holocaust orphans and immigrant children. Today, Yemin Orde has more than

400 resident children, from around the world, who are in need of a home and a family.

Racheli, who led our tour, was born in Ethiopia, and made aliyah with her family in 1984, when she was 7, during Operation Moses. As she and her family struggled to adapt to Israeli life, she lived in a youth village. After graduating from the youth village, she served in the IDF as a soldier-teacher for children from underprivileged backgrounds. Racheli told us the story of her family packing up everything they owned, leaving Ethiopia, trekking through the Sudanese desert, all with little knowledge of where they were going. She told us about being rescued by the IDF – and then later, when she was older, meeting IDF soldiers who participated in Operation Moses. She told us about the more than 125,000 Ethiopian Jews who have been brought to Israel – where they had to learn a new language, and a new culture. She talked about the difficulties, including her own attempts as a teenager to leave her Ethiopian culture behind, only to realize later how much it meant to her and to younger Ethiopian Jews.

continued on page 6



(December 2014 – January 2015)

IN CELEBRATION...

Reena & Aryeh Friedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Reva Erlich, daughter of Ilana & Adam Ehrlich

Tamara Cohen & Gwynn Kessler on the birth of their son, Klie

Connie & Sam Katz on the birth of their grandson, Asa Prentiss Smith, son of Lauren Katz & Prentiss Smith

Lily Seldin on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Jakob Friedman-Slifker on becoming Bar Mitzvah

Cyrilla Rosen on the marriage of her grandson, Eric Rosen, son of Sharon & Jordon Rosen, to Hilary Jacobs

Cyrilla Rosen on the birth, in Israel, of her great grandson, Gavriel Yichiam, son of Shiri & Brian Rosen, grandson of Sharon & Jordon Rosen

Rabbi Annie Lewis & Rabbi Yosef Goldman on the birth of their daughter, Zohar Lieba Lewis Goldman

Micah Ravital on becoming Bar Mitzvah

Connie Katz on her special birthday

Kathryn Hellerstein on winning the Jewish Book Council's 2014 Women's Studies Barbara Dobkin Award for her book *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987*

Lauren & Andy Ufberg on the birth of their son Henry

Jenna & Robert Isaacs on the birth of their daughter Magnolia

Serena Levingston on becoming Bat Mitzvah

IN MEMORIAM

Irving Warhaftig, father of **Caren Borowsky**, father-in-law of **Ned** and grandfather of **Sonya**

Adele Ajl, mother of **Diane Ajl**, mother-in-law of **Neil Kitrosser** and grandmother of **Daniel and Jeffrey Kitrosser**

Dr. Fredric Raichlen, brother of **Linda Millison**, brother-in-law of **Marty Millison** and uncle of **Martha Millison**

Kalman Broitman, father of **Helene Broitman**

Roslyn Nissen, wife of **Arthur Nissen**, mother of **Jill Nissen** and **Diane Nissen** and long-time member of GJC

Miriam Kavesh, mother of **Bill Kavesh** and grandmother of **Meira and Aaron**

Bunny Stein, wife of **Sid Stein**, and a long-time member of GJC

Gabriella "Gabi" Fellner, mother of **David Fellner** and **Michael Fellner**, mother-in-law of **Betty Ann Fellner** and a long-time member of GJC

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



Shabbat Chai-Lites

March 7

- Kol D'mamah
- Musical Marching Minyan

March 13-14

- Beit Midrash
- Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Gordon and his wife, Lori Lefkovitz, Ph.D.
- Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

March 21

- Charry Service – 6th Graders read Torah
- We welcome Nir Topper, from the Galilee Foundation for Values Education

March 27-28

- Kol Zimrah
- 9:30 AM - Women's Shabbat featuring Emilie Passow Ph.D.

April 3-4

- Pesach begins

April 17-18

- Hazak Shabbat
- Pirke Avot Study

April 24-25

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service – 4th Grade Ashrei & 5th Grade Haftarah
- Pirke Avot Study

Kabbalat Shabbat /Kol Zimrah

Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning

Services at 10 AM (unless otherwise noted above)

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.

ISRAELI DANCING

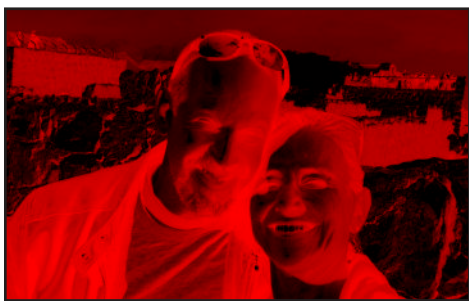
Sundays in March - April
at 10 AM (not 4/5 or 4/12)

\$5 per session

For more info

call Tamar Magdovitz
at 215-247-9614





**Steve Masters and Beulah Trey
at the top of Masada**

Beulah Trey (age 57) and Steve Masters (age 56) lead full lives. Married almost 20 years, they have two sons, Ari, 17, and Charlie, 15 and are members of Dorshei Derekh at GJC.

Beulah was born in Port Elizabeth, and grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. Her parents' families emigrated from Lithuania to South Africa where Lithuanians comprised 90% of the Jewish population. Beulah was seven when her family came to America. "My father didn't see a future in apartheid South Africa," she said. "He didn't want his children growing up feeling that one race is inferior to another."

Beulah never before had seen television or snow. There were other subtle adjustments to be made. She felt like a foreigner, but spoke English. Sometimes, her family misunderstood American idioms. "When someone says, 'Call at 9 am, we showed up at their door at 9 am,'" Beulah said, smiling. "In America call means using the phone but in South Africa it means to visit." Beulah's identity is still very tied to South Africa. "There's nothing like an African sky. When I go back, my 6-year-old senses return."

She grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her parents enrolled her in a modern Orthodox Jewish day school, a move that had a profound, lasting impact. At age 11, she asked her father why he was sending her to the school when the family didn't observe Orthodox practices. He answered, 'So you will feel at home in any Jewish community,' "and it did just that," she said.

The experience was defining. "I've always been a feminist, and the Orthodox day school was a challenge," she

said. "My Talmud teacher in 10th grade called my parents and said I asked too many questions, which my parents believed was my job to do as a student." So her parents sent her to a secular, private college preparatory school. Beulah went on to Swarthmore College.

After graduating, she moved to Oregon and stayed for five years. She didn't fully connect with the Jewish community aside from teaching Hebrew School. Still, Beulah's essence is spiritual and she began to search for an elusive God in other traditions. "When I got to Philadelphia, I knew I wanted to explore Judaism," she said. She joined a new Reconstructionist congregation, Mishkan Shalom, to integrate her spiritual searching with her Judaism.

Professionally, she embarked on a path towards her current work. She got a masters degree from Penn in educational psychology and became certified as a marriage and family therapist. Several years later, she received her PhD from Penn, where her advisor was GJC member Peter Kuriloff. She opened a private practice and worked as a psychologist for one of the early HMOs, later becoming a mental health administrator there. In 1992, Beulah brought her psychological experience into organizations. She began to consult with the Center for Applied Research, a management-consulting firm that was an offshoot of the Wharton School. In 2007 she started Vector Group Consulting with colleagues in Europe. The firm focuses on leadership, teams and culture, mostly in health care.

Beulah and Steve first met through peace work at the Shalom Center during the first Gulf War in 1991. A year later, they began dating. Steve's mother first heard about Beulah when Steve called her to say he was dating an African American Jew. "How wonderful," she answered. They were engaged 18 months later on Beulah's 36th birthday and married in 1995.

Member Spotlight

By Linda Kriger

"One thing I love about Steve is that he embraces Judaism in a totally uncomplicated way," Beulah said. "He loves the Jewish people." Beulah was transitioning from the Judaism of her youth to something different and knew she wanted to give her future children a love for Judaism. "And here Steve was with that love."

With their two boys, they joined Mishkan Shalom. Beulah was on the board of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. "Mishkan is a beautiful community," she said. "It is a place to find yourself in Judaism." The family joined GJC and Dorshei, about eight years ago. "We love Dorshei Derekh, the singing and d'verei torah. We feel very at home." Beulah was Dorshei's High Holiday coordinator for two years.

Beulah's spiritual searching brought her to study, teach and develop a contemporary approach to Mussar with Rabbi Ira Stone of Congregation Beth Zion-Beth Israel (BZBI). Mussar, the Jewish tradition of moral and ethical character development, is a centuries old toolbox filled with texts and practices geared to rediscover the joy and holiness which occur in those moments when we are fully keyed in to others in our lives. In 2004, together with Rabbi Ira Stone, Miki Young z"l and Jim Culbertson, she co-founded the Mussar Leadership Program to promote contemporary Mussar theology and practice. Beulah leads a Mussar study group at BZBI and one at Mishkan Shalom. In addition to Mussar groups at GJC and on the Main Line, other groups have convened in California, Ohio, Washington State, Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Steve grew up in Lincolnwood, Illinois, next to Skokie. The fourth generation in an observant Reform Jewish family, he attended Shabbat services every week and every holiday. Active in the Reform youth movement, NFTY,

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Member Spotlight

Continued from page 4

Steve attended Hebrew school, Hebrew high school and a Hebrew-speaking Reform camp in Wisconsin for three summers. "I've been in love with Israel and Judaism my whole life," he said.

When Steve was a high school freshman, he won round trip tickets to Israel by placing first in Chicago's Jerusalem Quiz, an academic contest open to Jewish high school students. He used those tickets during the summer between high school and college to take the first of many trips he would make to Israel. He studied in a Hebrew ulpan at Ben Shemen youth village and toured the country.

Steve majored in political science at Yale and spent his undergraduate years organizing on behalf of a wide variety of social justice causes like handgun control, democratic socialism, antiapartheid divestment and freedom for Soviet Jews. His most notable success came after he was elected to lead a new student handgun control group as a freshman. By the time he had graduated, his group had successfully lobbied for passage of local legislation in New Haven and a new state law in Connecticut.

In college, Steve experienced a seismic shift in thinking about Israel. During his freshman year, he went from protesting PLO officials coming to speak on campus to embracing the need for Israel to negotiate with the PLO over the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Finding himself relatively alone in these views at the time, Steve wondered whether he could be both deeply committed to Judaism and to social justice inside the Jewish community. "I resolved the tension by choosing to stay connected Jewishly on campus and becoming an activist outside of the Jewish world."

Thus began Steve's long career in social justice work. After graduating, he took a job in Washington as na-

tional student organizer and regional lobbyist for the National Coalition to Ban Handguns. He then worked on the successful re-election campaign for Sam Gejdenson, a progressive first term congressman from Connecticut, the first child of Holocaust survivors to be elected to Congress.

Steve then moved to Boston and became executive director of the Massachusetts state gun control group, and went to Boston University Law School. While in law school, Steve helped to represent black parents in Boston's school desegregation lawsuit and worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center to seek justice for victims of Klan violence.

After law school, he moved to Israel and lived for a year in a communal house committed to social change in Jerusalem. There, he worked for prominent civil rights and civil liberties organizations. He led the Jerusalem chapter of Israelis Against Apartheid and participated in virtually every peace and human rights demonstration in the country. "In Israel I could integrate my Jewish identity with my passion for social justice," he said. He worked as a volunteer attorney for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, led a tour for American Jewish supporters of the Israeli peace movement and served as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress in June 2010.

Steve moved to Philadelphia, and joined the Pennsylvania bar. Just after he returned to the U.S., the Intifada began, and he became consumed with it. He joined with the Middle East Task Force of the local New Jewish Agenda chapter and took a national role. "If the intifada had started when I was still in Israel, I'd have stayed," he said. "I thought about making aliyah, but my Hebrew wasn't fluent enough to practice law in Israel."

Steve clerked at a private law firm that did class action work before taking his first legal job at Community Legal Services. But he didn't leave his Israel activism behind. "I started organizing demonstrations in front of the Israeli consulate along with Rabbi Brian Walt

(later the rabbi of Mishkan Shalom). I didn't understand the effect of our protests on the local Jewish community," he said. "I'd just come from Israel where people protested in front of the Prime Minister's house all the time. The Philadelphia Jewish community totally freaked, even though we were saying things that you could read every day in the Israeli papers."

He found a Jewish home at P'nai Or and loved the Jewish Renewal movement. But, "every once in a while, when I wanted a 'really traditional service,' I'd go to Dorshei," he said with a smile. A short time later, he helped start Mishkan Shalom and served on the board.

Steve moved to Washington to be Assistant Director of the Jewish Peace Lobby in the early 1990s. After he became involved with Beulah, he moved back to Philadelphia and joined a law firm for six years as a labor lawyer working on behalf of unions. In 2000, he was recruited to work at City Council where he worked closely with his mentor, the late Councilman David Cohen. Steve stayed for twelve years. "Sadly," he said, "all the progressives left toward the middle of my tenure there."

After the second Intifada began, Steve co-founded the 50,000-member Jewish peace group Brit Tzedek v'Shalom and served as its second national president. In 2010, Brit Tzedek merged with J Street, becoming its grassroots arm and Steve became a founding national board member of J Street. "Brit Tzedek never had much access to the White House while George W. Bush was President," he said. "But when President Obama was elected, I was invited to the White House for Hanukah and the Vice President's home for Rosh Hashanah."

About to turn 50, Steve got back into long distance cycling, a passion from his youth. He completed his first century (100 mile) bike ride in New York during Hazon's Labor Day ride,

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Member Spotlight

Continued from page 5

raising funds for the environment. "Doing something in the Jewish community that wasn't about protesting Israel was such a pleasure," he said with a broad smile. "Nobody's getting bent out of shape. There's a whole way to be socially active without alienating people. What a concept! In my younger days I used to gravitate toward polarizing, conflicting positions. That doesn't make me as happy as it once did."

In 2012, after leaving City Council, Steve took on his most challenging cycling challenge, riding 1,100 miles over three weeks from Helena, Montana to Saint Paul/Minneapolis as part of Hazon's Cross-USA ride. Along with 14 others, he rode about 70 miles

a day, visiting Jewish communities in Montana and the Dakotas and raising awareness for sustainability and food justice.

Later in 2012, Steve opened his own law practice "to empower groups that traditionally haven't had access to power," including the Bicycle Coalition, Scenic Philadelphia - an anti-billboard group - and a labor union for airport workers.

He soon realized that while lobbyists for wealthy clients received year-round retainers, his clients couldn't afford to pay him when City Council was in recess. "So I started to represent community groups and community-focused developers who want to work toward a more collaborative approach to community development," he said. He joined the board of the Sustainable Business

Network and leads their policy initiatives. "I want to work with people who have similar values and look at business as a social enterprise."

As for GJC, Beulah and Steve have found a spiritual home here. Steve is a member of the Israel Programming Group and Social Action Committee. Mourning his mother, Benita, who died last fall, he frequents the morning minyan and the offsite Monday evening minyan organized by Masorti, where he appreciates praying together with members from other minyanim. Beulah enjoys and appreciates Dorshei Derekh. "I get so much pleasure saying we are a community of minyanim," she said, because we view our differences not as a stopping point but as the beginning of a conversation."

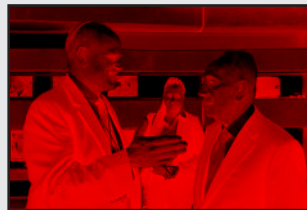
President's Message

Continued from page 2

One thing that really struck me while listening to Racheli was her love and appreciation for Israel, and her gratefulness to the IDF. And, Racheli had my absolute favorite line of the entire trip, when she told us about her arrival in Israel. She was shocked, she said, to look around and see the faces of the Israelis. "Who knew," she reported thinking, "there were so many white Jews?"

Space precludes me from writing about all of the people we met, and all of the issues about which we learned. These three stand out as examples of my lasting impression from the GJC trip: Israel is a sixty-six years young country, that exists against the odds in a rough and frequently Anti-Semitic neighborhood, that has been attacked too many times in its brief history and must devote too many of its precious resources to defense, and still, it exists as the proud and accomplished home to an amazingly diverse group of Jews, engaged in many different ways of being Jewish, and using their respective understandings of Judaism to make Israel a better place. I can't wait to go back.

Seeing Israel through Fresh Eyes: *The Experience of an Interfaith Pilgrimage with Christians & Muslims*



Rabbi Gordon with Shimon Peres

**with Rabbi Leonard Gordon, GJC's Rabbi Emeritus
and his wife Lori Lefkovitz, Ph.D.**

Friday - Saturday, March 13 - 14

Friday, March 13 • 6:00 PM • Kabbalat Shabbat Service
"Jerusalem as a City of Compromise" teaching by Rabbi Gordon

Saturday Morning, March 14 • 10:00 AM • Chayry Service
*"What We Remember When We Remember the Shoah in Israel:
Visiting Yad Vashem with Christians and Muslims"*
D'var Torah with Rabbi Gordon & Lori Lefkovitz, Ph.D.

Rabbi Gordon will also honor Cherie Goren on her 90th Birthday

*The entire GJC community is invited to join together for Kiddush
following services sponsored by Cherie Goren, along with Dorshei Derekh,
Minyan Masorti and Germantown Jewish Centre*

Saturday Afternoon, March 14

Program following Kiddush at approximately 1:30 PM
*"The Imperative of Interfaith Work: Lessons from a Pilgrimage
to Israel and the Palestinian Authority" with Rabbi Gordon*

Early Childhood Program (ECP)

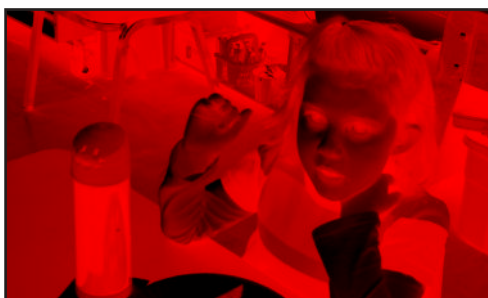


Celebrating, Learning and Growing in ECP

By Jodi Gordon, ECP Director



We had some animal visitors too! We ended our visit with Mark by investigating how trees grow and observed tree rings or "birthday rings" and of course sang Happy Birthday to the Trees!



ECP celebrated Tu bi'Shevat (The New Year of the Trees) with a special seder where we enjoyed some fruits which grow in Israel such as figs, oranges and grapes. We also had a visit from Mark Fallon, an ECP Parent and Naturalist at Briar Bush Nature Center. We learned all about trees and what they give people and what trees give animals.

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An Act of Extraordinary Generosity

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



Dr. Anthony and Malvene Arce

During my years on the Executive Committee, and now as President, this community has repeatedly astounded and inspired me with its generosity, its kind-heartedness, and its dedication. I am so pleased to share with you an extraordinary act of generosity by congregants who exemplify those attributes.

Many of you knew Dr. Anthony and Malvene Arce as active and engaged members of our community. Malvene was active in Women's Club. Tony was active in Men's Club. He also studied Jewish history and text with Rabbi Gordon, and learned Hebrew at GJC. Dr. Arce died recently. We were deeply surprised to learn that, unbeknownst to anyone, Dr. Arce left a \$500,000 bequest to GJC in his will.

The Arces' daughter, Judy, recalls her parents moving to Philadelphia and finding GJC. They immediately felt a sense of belonging at the Centre. They found people to be warm, friendly, and "real." They found they could relate to people they met and right away felt "welcomed into the fold." They appreciated GJC's unpretentious culture and its focus on meaningful issues. Judy remembers that her parents "loved supporting Germantown Jewish Centre because it meant so much to them." She recalls them discussing the amount they would give each year, and saying, "Let's increase it, because we are getting so much out of it!"

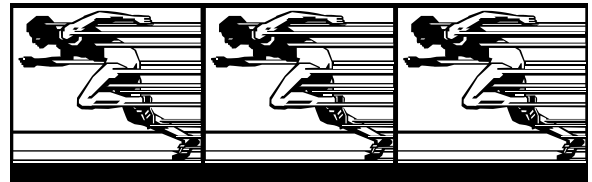
After careful consideration, and

discussion with Rabbi Zeff and the Board, the Executive Committee intends to use Dr. Arce's bequest in two ways. First, we know that the Arces cared about religious education, so we are creating the Anthony and Malvene Arce Education Fund, to support the GJC Religious School. Many of you know that our Religious School - like virtually all synagogue religious schools - operates at a deficit. The Anthony and Malvene Arce Education Fund will contribute each year to help operate our Religious School.

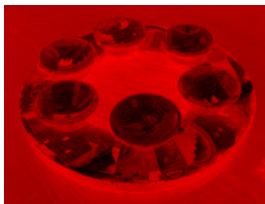
Second, Dr. Arce's gift demonstrates the importance of planned giving in his own life. So we plan to use a portion of his bequest to create the Anthony and Malvene Arce Legacy Program. This

annual program will be designed to educate and assist our congregants in estate planning. The event will also gently encourage planned giving to GJC, to honor the very behavior which Tony and Mal have so ably modeled. We hope to create events that will be both educational and enjoyable, and that will help us remember Tony and Mal.

We hope these two uses of the bequest will keep Tony and Mal in our thoughts and memories, and set an example of generosity, for years to come. If you are interested in following the Arces' example, and making a planned gift to GJC of your own, please contact either me or Nina Peskin.



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



**Come to the Little Shop for
all of your Pesach needs!**

**All our wine is kosher for Passover
We have what you need for Pesach
And it is ON SALE!!**

March Special: 10%

**Seder plates, matzah plates, matzah covers,
and Elijah & Miriam's cups ***

April Special: 10% off all Kiddush Cups

**And gift certificates for the Little Shop
always make great presents for every occasion**

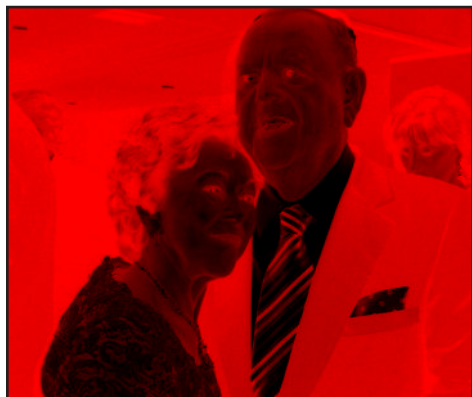
Remember Our Hours

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

***Combine our monthly specials
with the Early Bird Special for 20%
off our already low, low prices
*except Wine, Books, Mezuzot
Scrolls, Tefillin and Sale Items**

My Visit with Bunny Stein: Tribute to a Great Lady

By Helen Feinberg



Bertha (Bunny) Stein was a long-time member of Germantown Jewish Centre who passed away in January 2015. GJC Past President (and new co-chair of Hazak), Helen Feinberg, was moved to share the following story of an afternoon spent with Bunny several years ago.

One beautiful summer day in 2008 I had the pleasure of spending time with Bunny and Sid Stein in their beautiful Bryn Mawr home. I had more or less invited myself, in order to probe Bunny's memory and raid her recipe collection for inclusion in the "GJC Cooks" cookbook that was in the works. It was a memorable afternoon.

The Steins' home, like Bunny herself, was gracious and elegant; the gardens were lush and well-tended. There was a pool, in which Bunny told me she skinny-dipped regularly because it was, she said, better for her tremor. Inside, sitting at the dining room table, Bunny's stories flowed, and Sid sometimes joined in, with his brilliance and humor (which I had never experienced before that day, he had always seemed kind of intimidating).

Bunny told me about the heyday of Women's Club, in the 1950's, when "we had covered dish lunches on an afternoon during the week. Two hundred women would come, all wearing hats and gloves." Luncheon dishes included a liver and onions appetizer, poached salmon on a silver tray, and cakes. This was the era when, for a Bar Mitzvah, the parents and their friends (whose kitchens were kosher) baked cakes and cookies and brought them in to be enjoyed at the

Friday night Oneg Shabbat after services.

The women offered, and took, cooking classes. Bunny taught challah making. She would not give me the recipe, making clear that "you have to watch me do it. No two bags of flour are the same." She explained that her recipe was the result of experimenting, because at the time she needed to make a salt-free challah. When this was no longer a requirement, she added some sugar and salt, but the quantities of ingredients remain unknown. Bunny told me twice that Mildred Magil (z"l), Frankie Moses (z"l) and Carol Kaplan, our own master baker of biscotti and other treats, took the challah-baking class. So maybe I will have to ask Carol for a demonstration!

Bunny offered several of her cooking secrets, which shall remain secret no longer. She suggested adding one tablespoon of Manischewitz wine to a recipe or knaidlach. Also for Pesach, she recommended poaching Anjou pears in red wine (probably Manischewitz again), and serving them with a chocolate sauce. For Rosh Hashanah she liked to offer pot roast with onion and kreplach, which she had boiled for soup.

Perusing her earlier GJC cookbooks, (and including page numbers), Bunny credited long-time GJC members like Lillian Feldman for "Selma's Coffee Cake," Julia Fox for her Mushrooms and Rice, Cele Brown for her Hungarian Sour Cream Schnecken, and Jeanette Dudnick for her Russian Tea Balls. She read out several recipes, which I wrote

as fast as she spoke, including Split Pea Soup from Diana Stern (z"l), Joan N. Stern's mother, Ann Nodler's Chocolate Icebox Cake which is good for Pesach, and Anne Orloff's (z"l) Half-Hour Vegetable Soup, which many of us might not be able to use because it contained a teaspoon of Accent (MSG).*

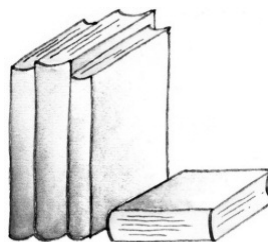
Bunny told me about the time her daughter Joanne, a pastry chef, took her to a Pastry Chef Society affair, where she was able to obtain – no doubt she charmed it out of them -- the recipe for Le Bec Fin's chocolate chip cookies.*

But Bunny's best story was of the recipe for the cake she recommended most highly, which she had been given by a member of the Board of the Technion in Haifa, Israel. She gave me a copy of the recipe. Like many recipes of the 1960's it calls for prepared cake mix, canned fruit and instant pudding. It is actually called "Better Than Sex Cake," but Bunny renamed it the "Aishes Chayeel" (Woman of Valor) Cake.* I'm going to make it this month, in Bunny's memory.

Oh, and as I was getting ready to leave, Bunny brought me into the kitchen and gave me a 9" square baking pan containing an unbaked challah, to take home. She instructed me how long to bake it, and said I could keep the pan, she had so many. Whenever I use it I think of Bunny.

*Recipes available upon request

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Social Action Update

What's Race Got to Do With It?

By Andrea Moselle and David Mosenkis

This year's Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat program on January 18 offered a window into the experience of Blacks in today's America. GJC member Rabbi George Stern led a dialogue with his friend Reverend Cean James, founding pastor of Grace Christian Fellowship (GCF), a church in southwest Philadelphia that has recently spawned a satellite community in Mt. Airy. Reverend James spoke candidly and personally about his experience and that of his congregants, including countless occasions of being viewed as suspicious in situations where white people are not. GJC member David Mosenkis presented the results of his research demonstrating dramatic racial disparities in the way Pennsylvania distributes money to its 500 school districts, whereby districts with predominantly white student populations receive significantly more funding per student than economically similar districts that

are more racially diverse. Reverend James recounted his experiences in Ferguson last fall as one of several POWER clergy leaders who supported non-violent demonstrations in the face of an aggressive and militarized police response. He praised the markedly more disciplined and restrained response of Philadelphia police to local protests.

Two days following the Granger event, on MLK day, following a morning when many participated in service projects, dozens of GJC members joined thousands of Philadelphians in an afternoon march and rally for justice, jobs and education. The previous week, 5 GJC members gathered with 200 members of POWER congregations from across the city to learn and experience how to talk openly and honestly about race. And Sunday February 1, a standing-room only crowd in the Temin Canteen Room heard Professor Abigail Perkiss and GJC members Judah Labovitz, Joan Silver, and Ellen Kopeland



GJC members were among thousands at the MLK day march and rally for justice, jobs, and education.

share research and personal experiences on the racial integration of Mt. Airy.

The topic of race has become central in discussions of public schools, pursuing economic justice, and understanding the history and future of GJC and the Mt. Airy community. The Social Action Committee is planning further opportunities for members to engage in dialogue about race. If you are interested, contact George Stern, Andi Moselle, or David Mosenkis.

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chair, Coleman Poses

After ably chairing the Hazak Committee for many years, Cherie Goren has "retired" from the job of reaching out to GJC members "of a certain age" (over 55), and organizing and creating engaging programs. The new co-chairs are Helen Feinberg and Coleman Poses, who thank Cherie deeply for all the work she has done to keep Hazak "hazak."

It seems like I'm always following Helen. At Beth Am Israel in the 50's and 60's, the 200+ junior congregation was divided into "units" of about ten children to a unit. Each unit had a Unit Leader, and a Unit Leader in Training (ULIT). Helen was my ULIT. She was the person that always gave me direction during the service. At Germantown Jewish Centre, Helen was the VP assigned to the

Social Action Committee, with which I am still very much involved, and I served as a GJC board member when Helen was president. So when Helen approached me on the street to ask if I wanted to co-chair Hazak with her, how could I say no to somebody to whom I have listened all of my life.

Hazak, for people unfamiliar with the group, serves the members of the GJC community who are 55 and over. Although, ironically, Hazak is one of the youngest committees in the synagogue (it has been in existence for only about 10 years). Even so, Hazak has made its mark in the fabric of GJC's culture. Sam Feinberg's well curated annual summer event, Opera Under the Stars, has become as much of a GJC institution as the Purim Bash, the Hanukiyah, and the Granger and Charry memorial events,

amongst others. During the next few months, Helen and I will be discussing ideas for the coming year with each other, the synagogue leadership, and our membership. If you have any program ideas or visions for Hazak, or would like to volunteer, please contact Coleman Poses at cposes@verizon.net or Helen Feinberg at helen@dca.net.

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.

Religious School

Pinat Ha-Hinuch (Education Corner)

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

Every Tuesday night, from 7:00-9:00pm, I watch as GJC is transformed! As our 7th-10th graders come into the building, they bring their curiosity about Jewish tradition, charisma and deep connection to one another to a wide range of courses that both challenge them intellectually and model for them the many ways they can engage with Jewish education as they become adults. Here is a just a small glimpse of what our teens are up to in just a few of their electives at T2 (our Teen Tuesdays & Confirmation program).

Exodus 31:1-5

And Adonai spoke to Moses, saying, "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to devise skillful works, to work in gold, and in silver,

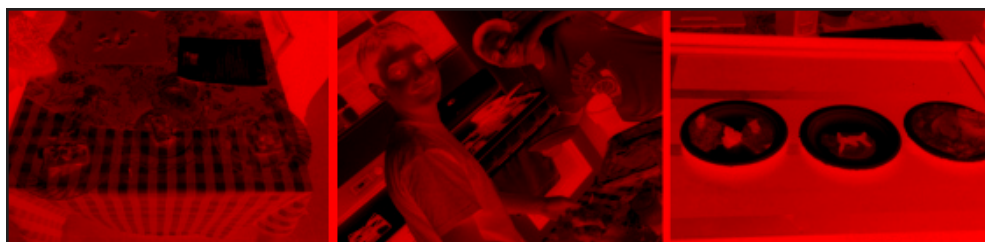
and in brass, and in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all manner of workmanship.

Song of Songs Rabbah 6:11

A walnut that falls in the dirt – if you pick it up, wipe it, rinse it and wash it, the nut is restored to the way it was and is good for eating. So too with Israel, when they are dirtied by sin all year long, on Yom Kippur they are cleansed (and restored to their original condition).



Teens in our T2 program this semester are learning Modern Hebrew as they build Knock-hockey sets for kids at GJC, and to donate to other local youth organizations throughout the city.



In "Beyond Bubbe's Kitchen," our 7th-9th graders do so much more than just cooks! Teens study Jewish texts about food and learn about history and culture of Jewish communities around the world.

Annual Kids' Stuff Exchange Sunday, March 15 from 11am - 2pm

By Amy Schrager

It's time to start collecting your kids' stuff!

Germantown Jewish Centre will hold our 6th annual Kids' Stuff Exchange on Sunday, March 15th from 11 am – 2 pm. This WIN-WIN event allows families to donate kids' clothing, toys and equipment that their children have outgrown and take home what they can use for the next phase of family life. With a suggested \$20 donation, families take home up to 3 bags of "new-to-you" kids' stuff and one larger item.

The Kids' Stuff Exchange accepts clothing (infant to teenage sizes), shoes, books, maternity clothes,

toys, games, high chairs, strollers, sports equipment and more! Items can be dropped off at GJC, from Sunday, March 8th through Friday, March 13th. Collection bins are located in the Chapel Lobby and outside the Charry Lobby doors (easily accessible from the parking lot, if you have lots of stuff!). Please bring items in bags or boxes. Items should not be broken, stained or torn. Thanks!

We are still recruiting volunteers to help sort the items on Saturday evening, March 14th and to help with the event

on Sunday, March 15th. If you are available, please contact Amy Schrager at kidsstuffexchange@gmail.com. Be sure to join us for this fun and worthwhile event.



A Place of Comfort: Saying Kaddish in the Morning Minyan

By Rabbi Dayle Friedman

I have just finished saying Kaddish for two dear ones in the past year and a half. First, I said Kaddish for 11 months for my Dad, Don Friedman, z'l, who died in August, 2013. It was not a given that I would end up saying Kaddish at daily minyan for my father. His connection to Judaism was vestigial and gastronomic. He would have been bemused by my taking on this practice. But, on reflection, this was the right way for me to mourn, both for my own sake, and for the sake of *ha'alat haneshamah*, elevating my Dad's soul.

More recently, I have just completed *sheloshim*, thirty days of saying Kaddish for my beloved sister, Jill Friedman Fixler, who died all too soon of cancer at 61.

I have had the blessings of saying Kaddish in the morning minyan in our home shul, GJC, and in Congregation Adath Israel in Merion Station, in addition to at least 8 other congregations I've encountered on my travels.

When I first started saying Kaddish, I was stopped by the very first words:

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash shemei rabba
B'alma divra chirutei*

**Let God's great name be magnified and sanctified
In this world created according to God's will.**

How could that be so? Did God will a world of loss? A world of ashen taste and sight? A world of primal order disturbed?

Over time, I came to notice words that follow soon after those:

*Vi-yamlich malchutei b'chayeichon
uviyomeichon*

**God's reign is made manifest
through our lives, through our days.**

The Divine was manifest in the life and days of the Dad I mourn, the

precious sister I will miss forever.

In the life and days I make as I take in their legacies, sifting, winnowing out all that grew from their wounds and brokenness, savoring and nurturing all the brilliance and beauty that flowed from their *neshamot tehorot*, pure souls that became more and more evident as their small souls melted away throughout their long illnesses.

Later, my attention was drawn to this phrase:

*L'eilah mikol birchata v'shirata
Tushbechata v'nechemata*

Beyond all blessing and song, praise and comfort...

The experience of saying Kaddish in the minyan has truly been beyond all praise, beyond any consolation I could imagine.

In the minyan, I've been able to be simply a mourner--not a mother, not a rabbi, not a wife, just a bereaved daughter and sister. I had a place where nothing was demanded of me, and where I was not alone in my grief.

The minyan has been a world of immense kindness--whether it was Berel's friendly welcome or Mitchell, who kept inviting me to lead parts of the service as I tried my hardest to melt into the wall, until he finally placed his hand on my shoulder and gently said, "Tell you what. You tell me when you're ready." Such tenderness.

The minyan has been a place of wrestling--with so many words, with repetition (why 2 Ashrei's--one isn't enough?) and with the bareness of the davening--no rousing melodies, just business-like intention to say the words and get through in time to get to work and whatever responsibilities await us.

The minyan has been a place of learning, thanks to the beautiful, pithy Torah teachings shared each morning by Rabbis Zeff, Lewis and Sklover.

Ultimately, I have come to treasure

saying Kaddish in the minyan. I have come to feel that the words of the prayers and the melodies of chanting are the soundtrack, but what has been key, for me, is the feeling of being enfolded in a warm embrace, *olam chesed*, a world of kindness.

The minyan can be intimidating--so much ritual and liturgy--but it truly doesn't matter whether you know the liturgy, whether you are praying, meditating, or spacing out. Just by walking through the door, you become a hero, for by your very presence you are making a difference.

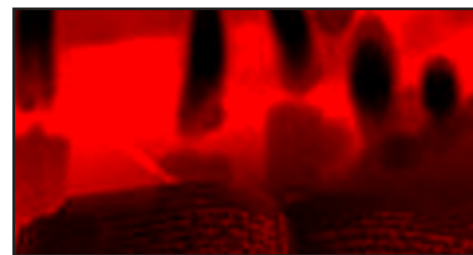
These words come near the end of the Kaddish:

Yehei shelama raba...aleinu v'al kol yisrael.

May great peace come upon us and upon all Israel.

I am grateful for the peace that has come to me through the long, bitter-sweet slog of saying Kaddish in the minyan. I am grateful to each and every person who helps constitute the quorum of ten adults so that mourners can say Kaddish; I intend to continue doing my part to help to make the minyan. And I pray that all who do this sacred mitzvah will be met with peace, well-being and wholeness.

You, too, can perform the mitzvah of making the minyan. GJC's morning minyan meets every Monday and Thursday at 7:15 a.m. (and ends in time to make the 8:18 train to Center City), and every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

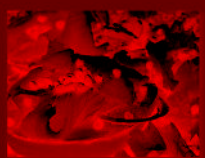


Women's Club News

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

**Save the date!
Torah Fund Brunch**

**May
3**



Sunday, May 3rd ~ 11:00AM

Please join us for our annual Torah Fund Brunch when we honor Bev Somerson and Judy Schwartz, former Women's Club Co-Presidents.

Arnie Eisen, Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor, one of the world's foremost authorities on American Judaism, will be the guest speaker. Under his tenure he has been recognized for transforming the education of religious, pedagogical, professional, and lay leaders for Conservative Judaism. He has made his philosophy of Jewish "learning, leadership, and vision" a principle by which to study and live within and beyond the walls of JTS.

Our gracious hosts will be Kathy

and George Amrom, 8319 Seminole Street in Chestnut Hill. Torah Fun Chairs are Barb Menin menin1911@comcast.net, Maxine Feldman maxfeldman1709@aol.com & Connie Katz katz.connie@gmail.com

All proceeds support the Jewish Theological Seminary. Contributions are welcomed at the door.

Building Beautiful Update

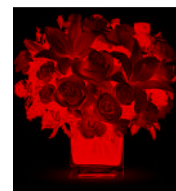
Thanks to all of you who have so generously contributed to this year's project – the installation of benches outside of the Religious School and the Charry Sanctuary. We are very close to reaching our goal. It is not too late to add your name to the list of donors. Checks can be mailed to GJC, attention Marilyn Silberstein.

Women's Intergenerational Gathering

The next Women's Intergenerational Gathering is Sunday, March 1st. Contact Naomi Gordon gordonclay@hotmail.com or Carol Tinkleman ckvla12@verizon.net for more information about this group.

A GJC Women's Club Premier Program & Fundraiser Create Your Own Flower Arrangement Sunday afternoon March 15th

Here's your chance to learn how to create this kind of beautiful centerpiece!



Learn to make your own beautiful flower arrangements under the tutorial of Gwen Whedon a professional flower arranger and teacher from Penny's Flowers. Each participant will create two beautiful centerpieces to take home.

This is a great opportunity to bring your mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, or best friend. Of course, there will be refreshments! Scrumptious desserts and sandwiches served with tea.

For more information, contact Barb Menin at menin1911@comcast.net. *This is a Women's Club Fundraiser.*

Mark your calendars!

Women's Shabbat & Scholar-in-Residence

Saturday, March 28th

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Emilie S. Passow will be our Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Passow serves as the Co-Director of the Certificate Program in Medical Humanities as well as being an Associate Teaching Professor of English and Philosophy and Judaic Studies Program at Drexel University.

She will give the D'var Torah in the Charry service. Following the community wide Kiddush, she will enlighten and entertain us with a text teaching entitled, "ADAM and EVE: *WHAT in the WORLD WERE they thinking???*"

Women's Club will provide free extended Childcare on Saturday. However, it is necessary to RSVP to Joan Silver at jsilver516@aol.com

Platform Lift Ribbon-Cutting



A ribbon-cutting for the new platform lift was held just following the outdoor Hanukiyah candle lighting at GJC on December 18. As noted on the nearby plaque, the lift was dedicated in loving memory of Alan J. Phillips, by the Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation, and Ellyn and Amy Phillips, with gratitude for the generous contributions from GJC members. With these gifts, you have all demonstrated the value our community places on making Judaism accessible. Ellyn and her family were present.

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.

March 10, 2015

Hope: A Tragedy
by Shalom Auslander



April 14, 2015
**The End of Your Life
Book Club**
by Will Schwalbe



Join us for



Wednesday, March 4

6:30 PM • GJC Celebrates! Purim

This program is especially for children and families, but all are welcome! Programming includes a creative, fun Megillat Esther reading, Purim spiels, costume parade and hamentaschen. Children and adults are invited to come in costume and have fun! (But please also join us even if you are not in costume.)

7:30 PM • Minyan Masorti Purim

Join us for our annual rock 'n roll Ma'ariv led by Jake Kriger and a full traditional megillah reading, followed by a fun-filled shpiel including jokesters, singers, dancers and more!

Sunday, March 8

11 AM • Purim Carnival

For children of all ages - bring your friends! Moon bounce, shoot the hoops, games, prizes, food & fun. Tickets available at the door



SAVE THE DATE

Money & Politics: A Civil Discourse Program
Wednesday, April 29 at 7 PM at GJC

By Lou Walinsky

On Wednesday, April 8 Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park will host their 3rd Annual Bernard Wolfman Civil Discourse Forum; this year's topic is *Money + Politics: Does Money Make Policy?* GJC is pleased to be hosting the first-ever follow up to this program on Wednesday, April 29.

The initial Civil Discourse Forum at Beth Sholom focuses on the implications of how we fund political campaigns, parties and organizations. The program will be moderated by Chris Satullo, WHYY's Vice President of News and Civic Dialogue, and features experts with opposing views about political funding – Craig Holman, Ph.D. is the Government Affairs Lobbyist for Public Citizen and will speak in favor of campaign finance reform, and John Samples, Ph.D. is the Vice President and Publisher of the Cato Institute,

who will present as skeptic of campaign finance regulation. Now in its third year, the Civil Discourse Project's mission is to explore the critical issues of our time, to model civil disagreement, and to provide opportunities for people on all sides of an issue to learn from each other and take meaningful action.

The follow up program at GJC on April 29th will be moderated by GJC member Lila Corwin Berman, Director of Temple University's Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. Whether you are able to attend the initial program at Beth Sholom or not, we invite you to partake in the dialogue at GJC to further explore the ideas presented by Drs. Holman and Samples.

To prepare for the follow-up discussion, the GJC Civil Discourse Committee (Lou Walinsky, Anne Shlay, and Dan Kanofsky) is seeking six volunteers to attend the April 8 program and to

function as reporters, with three people listening closely to one speaker and three to the other. At the GJC program, these volunteers will present the perspectives offered by their assigned speakers. Lila Berman will then facilitate an interactive discussion on the topic among all participants.

As is policy for the Bernard Wolfman Civil Discourse Project, the moderator and all attendees will be required to engage in conversation in a civil and respectful manner.

For more information about the Beth Sholom program and to register, please go to www.civildiscourseproject.org. For more info about the GJC program, to volunteer to be a reporter at the Beth Sholom program, or to RSVP for attending the GJC program, please contact Elana Shaw in the GJC office.

Shmita Corner

From Eden to Manna to Shmita: An Ancient Teaching for Our Generation

By Rabbi Arthur Waskow

The Shmita year is part of one of the most important threads of Torah, one deeply concerned with the relationships between *adam* (humankind) and *adamah* (Mother Earth). It is hardly surprising that an indigenous people of shepherds and farmers saw their relationship with the Holy One Who breathes all life, shaped by their sacred relationship with their land, especially through the foods they grew and then offered as sacrifice.



Rabbinic Judaism, bereft of emotional or political connection with any land, turned its attention to words of prayer and midrash as ways of getting in touch with God, and to shaping a decent community of *adam* with but little relationship to *adamah*. It is our own generation, facing a catastrophic crisis in the Earth-earthing relationship, that has gone back to Biblical Judaism for guidance on how to apply indigenous wisdom to the planet as a whole.

From this perspective, the Eden story is a powerful parable. In the story, God speaks on behalf of reality saying to the human race: "Before you there is great abundance. Eat of it in joy! And eat with self-restraint: there is one tree whose fruit you should abstain from." But the human race does not restrain itself, and the result is that the abundance vanishes. History unfolds in scarcity, as human beings work every day with sweat pouring down their faces, in order to wring barely enough food from an Earth that gives forth thorns and thistles.

The story presages and prophesies our history. It is, for example, the

story of the Gulf of Mexico, when BP refused to restrain itself and brought death upon its workers and disaster for the abundance of the Gulf. Yet the Torah teaches us to see beyond disaster. It tells another story that begins with disaster - a Pharaoh who oppresses human beings and pours Plagues upon the Earth.

And then comes the great hinge of human history. Pharaoh's tyranny is dissolved into the Sea of Reeds, and then comes the first step in reversal of Eden's disaster. When the people belly-ache about the scarcity of food in the Wilderness, YHWH - the Breath of Life -- brings forth an astonishing abundance. There falls a flaky food that the people have never seen. They call it *mahn-hu*—"what's that" -- and we know it as "manna." And it comes with Shabbat, one day of utter restfulness that is the first hint that toilsome labor need not govern all the future.

This story is, I think, also a parable. In the story, the people learn to restrain themselves not sullenly or ascetically, but with the joy that pervades Shabbat. As they do so, abundance continues to pour forth. But this is a story in the wilderness. How can this teaching be of use when the people cross the Jordan and begin to cultivate a land? And here we come to Shmita. Shepherds quickly learn that they must rhythmically move their flocks to new pastures, for otherwise the sheep will gobble up the grass, destroy it and themselves. Self-restraint: they move the sheep.

The farmers cannot move in space. So they learn, perhaps through generations of experience, to move in time. They let the entire land lie fallow for one year of every seven. Mother Earth herself, says Leviticus 25, is entitled to a restful Shabbat. In the next chapter of the Torah, we are warned what will happen if we refuse to let the Earth make Shabbat. The Earth will rest, regardless. It will rest on our heads: there will be famines, plagues, floods, draught, and the people will become refugees in exile. A warning that is echoed by our modern ecologists.

So today we realize: For about 200 years, the most powerful institutions and cultures of the human species have refused to let the Earth make Shabbos. By pouring carbon dioxide and methane into our planet's air, we have disturbed the sacred balance in which we breathe in what the trees breathe out, and the trees breathe in what we breathe out. We are suffering from what I like to call "global scorching," it's more than just global warming.

So now we are struggling to work out what it means to let our planet rest from overwork. For Biblical Israel, this was the central question in their relationship to the Holy One. And for us and for our children and their children, this is once again the central question of our lives and of our God.

Rabbi Waskow will be leading a GJC course entitled "Learning from the Shmita Year: Now What?" that begins April 14. Contact the office for more info or to register. He founded (1983) and directs The Shalom Center. In 2014 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award as Human Rights Hero from T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. His most recent book of 22 is *Freedom Journeys: The Tale of Exodus & Wilderness Across Millennia*, co-authored with Rabbi Phyllis Berman (Jewish Lights Publ., 2011). His most recent arrest of about 22 was in an interfaith climate action at the White House before Passover & Palm Sunday, 2013.

Meet the Men Behind the Scenes...

GJC's annual Granger Memorial Shabbat honors Ralph Granger, a respected and well-loved former custodian of the Germantown Jewish Centre. Mr. Granger was a Christian African-American who was known for his dignity and his dedication and love for the Centre. During his lifetime, he served as a role model to our community for valuing and respecting differences in others. The Granger Memorial Shabbat, held annually over MLK weekend, pays tribute to his memory, giving us time to focus on how we deal with difference in our neighborhood, our city, and in the larger world.

On Granger Memorial Shabbat we also take the time to honor our current maintenance staff team, who we are so grateful for, and who really are the men behind the scenes making GJC run smoothly. In case you did not join us for Granger Memorial Shabbat, please



read a bit about our incredible maintenance staff here.

Eric Word, the head of our maintenance staff, has been working at GJC for 26 years and values the relationships he has

formed within the community since he first came to the Centre at age 5 and started working here at age 14. In addition to his invaluable handywork, in the last years Eric took on new project management responsibilities, and continues to excel at all he does. Born in 1974 in Germantown, Eric has lived in Philadelphia his whole life and enjoys sports, movies and learning new things. When he is not at work, Eric likes to relax and spend time with his son. Eric hopes to own and run his own business one day. For now, Eric is the muscle that keeps the GJC facility running and we are incredibly appreciative!



Jose Toro was born in Puerto Rico in 1964. He has lived in Philly for more than 40 years and has been working at GJC for the past 11 years. He is a kind, serious, hard-working man

who enjoys helping others. Jose appreciates the nice people and great staff here at GJC and hopes to keep learning more so he can continue to contribute to the community and help others achieve their goals. He recently has taken on some new administrative responsibilities in the maintenance department. When he is not working, Jose enjoys spending time with his family, especially with Kayla, his daughter, who attends Carnegie Mellon University on a full academic scholarship.



Dennis Plowden is a Germantown native who joined the GJC team 1.5 years ago. He strives to help out in all ways possible and aims to make setups just right. He enjoys getting to know all of the GJC members and staff. In the past Dennis has worked for a tour bus company and also in silk-screening. He is married and has 3 children. When not working hard at GJC, he mostly enjoys relaxing and watching television.



Bill Jenkins joined the maintenance team 1.5 years ago, however, he has been making delicious food with Centre Catering for about 5 years. He continues to enjoy both jobs. Working outside of the kitchen has better enabled Bill to get to know the members and staff of GJC, and he is grateful for the people in our community. Bill, a good person and a hard worker, was born in

Philadelphia in 1960 and has lived in the city his entire life. He graduated from cooking school in 1978 and has held many sous chef positions, including in several center city hotels over the last three decades.



Hakim Fisher, GJC's newest maintenance staff hire, joined the team in September 2014. He was born and raised in Philadelphia, and has lived in the city his entire life. Hakim attended Randolph Career and Technical High School. He describes himself as a homebody, and when not at work he enjoys spending time with his 3 sons. He also dabbles in the music industry as a sound engineer. Hakim has enjoyed getting to know the staff at GJC, as well as synagogue members, and likes working in a place where we all are grateful and appreciative of what the maintenance staff accomplishes.

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Contributions For the period of December, 2014 through January, 2015

Todah Rabbah!

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

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Leah & Norman Schwartz

Marta Sivitz

in memory of Marc Barag, husband of Nancy Barag
in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
in memory of Miriam Kavesh, mother of Bill Kavesh
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in memory of Myrtle Manheimer, mother
in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister of Rabbi Dayle Friedman
in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney
in memory of Gabriella "Gabi" Fellner, mother of David Fellner
in memory of Miriam Kavesh, mother of Bill Kavesh
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in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
refuah shleimah to Linda Needleman
refuah shleimah to Jay Seitchik
in honor of Jim Meyer, on his 70th birthday
in memory of Edward Sostack, father
in memory of Esther Narrow, great-aunt
in memory of Gertrude Spear, grandmother
in memory of Jacob Sterling, father
in memory of Henry M Walton, husband
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in memory of Irving Warhaftig, father of Caren
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in memory of Eleanor Barchonowitz, sister of Corinne Baker
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in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in memory of Phillip Applebaum, father
in memory of Fanny Seligman, mother
in honor of Esther Raphael
in memory of Isaac Kopstein, father
in memory of Solomon Goldenberg, father
in memory of Milton Sanders, husband
in memory of Jack Sanders, father-in-law
in memory of Ray Wasserberg, aunt
in memory of Fredric Raichlen, uncle
in memory of Norma Kulberg, mother
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bat Mitzvah of their
granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan
refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
in memory of Michael Rosenman, brother
in honor of on the marriage of her grandson, Eric Rosen,
son of Sharon & Jordon Rosen, to Hilary Jacobs
in honor of on the birth, in Israel, of her great grandson,
son of Shiri & Brian Rosen, grandson of Sharon & Jordon Rosen
refuah shleimah to Linda Needleman
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in honor of Connie & Sam Katz, on the birth of their grandsons,
Asa Prentiss Smith & James Aaron Katz
in honor of David & Betsy Teutsch, on the birth of their
granddaughter
in memory of Gabriella "Gabi" Fellner, mother of David Fellner
in memory of Freda Denniberg, grandmother
in memory of Dorothy Jean Walton, mother
in memory of Samuel Needleman, grandfather
in memory of Barbara Buyum, aunt
in memory of Rose Feinberg, mother
in memory of samuel Pinn, father

in memory of Willian R. Ladenheim, father
in memory of Benjamin Menin, uncle
refuah shleimah to Marty Kaplan
in memory of Israel Akselrod, grandfather
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah
of their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of
Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein
in memory of Clemens Brand, father

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in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein

Joan Stern

in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan in memory of David Winderman, father in memory of Lillian Winderman, aunt

Library Fund Men's Club

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in memory of David Segal, father
in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday

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in honor of Denis & Annalena Lattanzi
in memory of Nancy Traub, mother
in memory of Eda Kaufman, grandmother
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Mira HaLevi in honor of Nina Peskin

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Mindelle Goldstein
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in memory of Marc Barag, husband of Nancy Barag in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter in memory of Nancy Isaac Kuriloff, sister in memory of Warren Lane, father in memory of Ronald Lance, father in memory of Elinor Menin, mother

Myra & Isador Kranzel
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in memory of Nathan Wolfman, father in memory of Sanford Hahn, husband in memory of Sidney L. Quitman, father in memory of Belle F. Quitman, mother

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Joan Silver
Charlie, Sonnie & Neil Wise
Mikael Elsila & Dina Pinsky
Carol & Marty Kaplan

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in memory of Alan Needleman, brother
in memory of William Manheimer, father
in honor of the marriage of her grandson Eric Rosen, son of Sharon & Jordon Rosen, to Hilary Jacobs
in honor of on the birth, in Israel, of her great grandson, Gavriel Yichiam, son of Shiri & Brian Rosen, grandson of Sharon & Jordon Rosen
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in appreciation of Cheryl Bettigole & Rabbi Zeff, for hosting a lovely luncheon during the GJC Israel Trip
in appreciation of Rabbi Zeff, for organizing & leading the recent GJC Israel Trip
in memory of Doris Wald Steinlauf, mother
in memory of Miriam Leah Gafni, sister
in memory of Samuel Gross, father
in memory of Dr. Robert Sultar, father
in memory of Myrtle Lester Bell, mother
in memory of Adele Ajl, mother of Diane Ajl
in memory of Adele Ajl, mother of Diane Ajl
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister of Rabbi Dayle Friedman
in honor of Denis & Annalena Lattanzi
in appreciation of Rabbi Sklover, for her interesting & informative message and program
in memory of Max Routtenberg, grandfather
in appreciation of Rabbi Sklover
in honor of their daughter, Rabbi Sklover
in memory of Annette Dansky, mother
in memory of Newlin Booth, step-father
in memory of Adele Ajl, mother of Diane Ajl
in honor of Ameet & Genie Ravital, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Micah
in honor of David Mosenkis, for all of his work for social justice
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in memory of Adele Ajl, mother of Diane Ajl
in honor of Judd Levingston & Hillary Kruger, on the Bat mitzvah of their daughter, Serena
in memory of Leonore Piser, mother
in memory of Milton Seldin, father
in memory of Edwin Stern, father
in honor of Rona Pietrzak
in memory of Henry M Walton, father
in memory of Anne Kalcheim Zaslow, mother
in memory of Esther Reitman Tatarsky, mother
in memory of Leon Amrom, father
in memory of Ida Amrom, mother
in memory of Adele Ajl, mother of Diane Ajl
in memory of Miriam Kavesh, mother of Bill Kavesh
in honor of Judd Levingston & Hillary Kruger, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Serena
in honor of Kathryn Hellerstein, on winning the Jewish Book Council's 2014 Women's Studies Barbara Dobkin Award for her book "A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586-1987"
in memory of Elizabeth McCain, sister
in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, daughter of Elon & Beth Kaplan
in memory of Ignaz Spitzer, grandfather
in memory of Alexander Rodin, grandfather
in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister of Rabbi Dayle Friedman
in appreciation of Rabbi Fredi Cooper
in honor of Connie & Sam Katz, on the birth of their grandson, Asa Prentiss Smith, son of Lauren Katz & Prentiss Smith
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on the Bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Lauren Mermelstein, daughter of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein
refuah shleimah to Linda Needleman

Women's Club

Carol & Marty Kaplan

in honor of Connie Katz, on her special birthday
in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
in honor of Dena Lake, on her 70th birthday

Marc Newman
Genie & Ameet Ravital

in honor of David & Keira Axelrod, on the birth of their son, Max
in honor of Tamara Cohen & Gwynn Kessler, on the birth of their son, Kliel

Young Families Retreat Fund

Beth Janus
Nathan Martin
Barbara Lissy
Leslie & Curt Pontz

in memory of Murray Janus, father
in memory of George & Faye Berman, grandparents
in memory of Hannah Shaines, mother
in memory of Sawyer Pontz, grandson
in memory of Marc Barag, husband of Nancy Barag
in memory of Irvin J. Borowsky, father of Ned Borowsky
in memory of Judge Murray Goldman, husband of Rosemary Goldman

Youth Activities Fund

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in memory of Irving Warhaftig, father of Caren Borowsky
in memory of Roslyn Nissen, wife of Arthur Nissen & mother of Jill Nissen

Bunny Stein

in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
in memory of Gabriella "Gabi" Fellner, mother of David Fellner
in honor of Andrew & Ellen Mermelstein, on the Bat mitzvah of their daughter, Lauren Mermelstein
in memory of Jacob Weinstein, father
in memory of Charles Stein, brother

GJC Family Retreat For ALL GJC Families with Kids 10 and under! May 8-10, 2015



Join your peers for a fabulous Shabbat in the country!
We promise fun for the ENTIRE family.
This retreat is organized by GJC parents for GJC families!

Please contact **Genie Ravital** at **geniebud@gmail.com** with questions or suggestions.
We look forward to spending Shabbat with you and your family!

THE DETAILS:

Date of retreat: **May 8-10, 2015**

Place: Malvern Retreat House (315 S. Warren Avenue, Malvern, PA, 19355)

Who is invited: All families with at least one child 10 or under.

Registration deadline is April 10. After April 10, add a \$15 late fee. Early bird deadline is April 1.

Costs*:

# Adults	EARLY BIRD (by 4/1/15)	Regular Fee (by 4/1/0/15)
Cost for 2 adult family:	\$410	\$445
Cost for single adult family:	\$225	\$250

- Limited subsidies are available to families to reduce costs. Please *register by March 20* and
- indicate that you would like to be contacted regarding receiving financial aid.

TO REGISTER:

Fill out the on-line form located at **<http://tinyurl.com/GJC-FR2015>**

Click on (or go to) the link above to fill out the on-line registration form.

Send your check payable to GJC (with "Families Retreat" in the memo) to:

GJC (400 W. Ellet. St. Phila, PA 19119).

YOUR SPACE WILL BE RESERVED ONCE YOUR CHECK IS RECEIVED.

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*Please submit all articles via email to
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Save the Dates

Pesach Begins – 1st Seder

April 3

Civil Discourse: Money & Politics Part I

(offsite at Beth Sholom)

April 8

Yom ha-Shoah Commemoration

April 12

Learning from the Shmita Year with Rabbi Arthur Waskow

Adult Ed class begins

April 14

The Samaritans: True Keepers of the Torah or

Strangers in the Land?

Katz Center Public Program at GJC

April 15

Hazak Shabbat

April 18

High Holiday Trope with Eve Pinkenson

Adult Ed class begins

April 22

Civil Discourse: Money & Politics Part II (at GJC)

April 29