



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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ELUL 5774

SEPTEMBER 2014



By Rabbi Adam Zeff

Looking back, looking ahead

This coming year of 5775 is a sabbatical year, the 7th year of a 7-year cycle mentioned several times in the Torah (e.g. Exodus 23:10). In the Torah, the sabbatical year is a time to refrain from agricultural labor, to allow the land to rest and recharge. I feel very blessed to be able to take a sabbatical myself in this sabbatical year, after 7 years of serving as rabbi of GJC. After the High Holidays, I will be spending nine months in Haifa with my family, and I am very grateful to the GJC community for giving me this opportunity for learning, renewal, and reconnection with the land and people of Israel.

The sabbatical year provides all of us with an opportunity to take a long-term perspective on our lives. Where were we 7 years ago? How have we and those around us changed in the intervening years? Which blessings can we count, and which sorrows do we carry? And where do we see ourselves going in the next 7 years? Do we want to continue on our current course or change it? How can we improve ourselves and the world in the time that lies ahead?

We will have many chances in the upcoming year to examine these questions both personally and as a community. We have an exciting schedule of adult education classes and activities for kids and families that bring us face to face with these issues. A few examples: The Rabbi Charry Memorial Weekend this fall will feature Nati Passow of the Jewish Farm School and Hazon, who will help us think about

our relationship to the land and to labor in many dimensions. We are grateful to the Julius & Ray Charlestein Foundation for their gift to support this program in memory of Malvina and Morton Charlestein. And our new JAM (Jewish Arts and Movement) program for young families will feature singer/songwriter and music educator (and GJC member) Chana Rothman, who will help families enter deeply into holidays and Shabbat together with song, stories, and drama. We are grateful to the Harold and Renee Berger Family Engagement Endowment Fund for sponsoring this program. And Rabbi Lewis, Rabbi Educator Alanna Sklover, and our Visiting Rabbi for the year, Rabbi Reena Spicehandler, will continue our tradition of serious teaching and learning on Shabbat and during the week. I encourage you to take advantage of all of the opportunities we have to learn from and with each other this year.

The High Holidays are a valuable time to come together with a large cross-section of our community to pray and sing and think and talk about how we want to live our lives in the upcoming year. Sign up for the Erev Rosh ha-Shanah dinner at 6:30, preceded by our first JAM (tot family program) at 6:00 and/or our special Kol T'ru'ah singing service at 7:30. Bring your children to one of the range of services for young people on Rosh ha-Shanah and on Yom Kippur. Check out the Kol D'mamah contemplative service or Torah-centered Yoga. Study texts with Rabbi Lewis on Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur afternoons. Participate in our new musical N'ilah service in the Charry Sanctuary to close Yom Kippur, featuring the combined voices of Nina Peskin, Rabbi Lewis, and myself. Or come to our teen activity groups, childcare for our

youngest members, services in the Charry Sanctuary, Minyan Masorti, and Dorshei Derekh, an exciting Bregman program with Rabbi Mordechai Liebling on the sabbatical year, and more! Please come and explore it all, and bring along those who are interested in GJC to see all that we offer!

As we enter the New Year, I encourage you to try something new, to open yourself up to ideas and activities that you may not have encountered before, to stretch and grow in new ways that you may not have previously imagined. The year stretches out before us like a blank canvas, waiting for us to fill it with learning, growing, and engaging with Jewish tradition and with each other, enhancing the meaning of our lives together in new and exciting ways.

My wife Cheryl and our sons, Zeke, Avi, & Mati, join me in wishing you a new year full of the blessings of health, happiness, joy, and peace. L'shanah tovah!

Program Highlights

New Mussar Class begins

September 8

Women's Club

Welcome Back Brunch & Program

September 14

S'lichot

September 20

NEW! JAM Tot Family Program

with Chana Rothman and

Community Dinner

September 24 – Erev Rosh ha-Shanah

(See Page 9 for High Holiday Calendar)

President's Message

New Beginnings

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



I've always enjoyed the rhythm of fall and the High Holidays. Even in those years when Jessica and I were done with school, but didn't yet have kids, the High Holidays provided a sense of new beginnings. I mark time in part by the High Holidays: years I stayed at college with friends, years I made the effort to come home; the year Jessica and I met but celebrated apart, each with our own parents, followed by the years together, splitting time between our parents' respective congregations; the years here, in our own synagogue, when small children left us struggling to figure out how to spend meaningful time in services and, more recently, the years sitting in the Chayr with our children. Lately, I've been able to mark the years by the time slots during which I am the assigned bimah officer, leading up to this, my first year as president of Germantown Jewish Centre.

I feel incredibly privileged to be President of this remarkable community. Our collective energy, commitment, and generosity never cease to amaze me. We are blessed with an extraordinarily talented, dedicated and skilled staff. Indeed, were we simply to maintain the status quo over the next two years, we would be in good shape in the fall of 2016 – when I would begin the transition to not sitting on the bimah during the High Holidays!

Of course, I hope to accomplish more than maintaining the status quo during the time you have granted me as President. My principal goals are to convince people more willingly to take on leadership positions and to continue building a development strategy.

Mitch Marcus led an ambitious process of revamping the bylaws to match a re-imagined model of leadership. Without reciting too many details, we've tried to eliminate what I've affectionately referred to as "standing committees in search of agendas." The handful of remaining standing committees have on-going tasks that are essential to shul governance, so that they are never in search of an agenda. The committees that are really advisory committees to staff professionals have been designated as such, and develop their agendas in conjunction with staff. And, we hope to have much more meaningful work done by ad hoc committees, with which we've had great success in the past (for instance, rabbinic transition and search committees, and the Religious School curriculum committee). The ad hoc committees will have agendas driven by the specific task and timeline assigned to them, so that people willing to volunteer will be assured that the precious time they give to the shul is valued, effective, and manageable in the context of their otherwise busy lives.

All of this is designed to draw more people into committee work, and in turn lead more people into leadership. This is terribly important because we simply cannot function without our volunteer leaders. To that end, I invite anyone interested in serving on a committee or in leadership, in any capacity, to let me know. And, more importantly, to let me know how we can do a better job of making that service both feasible and engaging.

We are also trying to improve our development efforts. The long-term reasons for working on development should be self-evident. As a non-profit organization, we can do almost anything within our collective imagination – so

long as the price tag is within our ability to fundraise.

The short-term reasons for increasing our development efforts may be less widely known. We put an extraordinary amount of our resources and our identity into our staff. During my term, we have important contracts to negotiate with many of those beloved individuals. Negotiating those contracts will require a substantial increase in our revenue. So we are thinking about ways to raise that money. In fact, I'll go out on a limb and predict that you will hear a little bit more about this from me on Kol Nidrei, during the High Holiday appeal. For now, suffice it to say that you should expect to hear regularly from me about the money we will need to raise to maintain the staffing level to which we've become accustomed.

Of course, we have other goals. We are creating an inclusion committee, reaching out to young families, continuing the momentum Rabbi Sklover is building in our Religious School, moving forward with POWER, and, let's not forget, providing countless services, programs and other ways for our congregants to engage with their Judaism.

So, there is plenty going on, plenty for me to do, and plenty for all of us to do, together. And I really do mean together. I invite you to call me, to email me, or to send me an old-fashioned letter. Tell me what we are doing well; tell me what we could do better. Tell me how to engage you in leadership. Tell me whatever you think I need to know to do this job.

In the meantime, enjoy the fall, and the High Holidays. Alex, Jake, Jessica and I wish you all a happy and healthy new year. L'shanah tovah.



(June 2014 – August 2014)

IN CELEBRATION...

Mitch & Sue Marcus on the marriage of their son Ben to Betsy Liekar

Zeke Zeff, son of Rabbi Adam Zeff & Cheryl Bettigole, on his graduation from Barrack Hebrew Academy

Gert & Myra Jacobsohn on their 55th wedding anniversary

Jane & Allan Greenspan on the naming ceremony of their grand daughter Cecelia, daughter of Emily Greenspan & Peter Light

Leah & Norman Schwartz on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Esther Bryna Schwartz, daughter of Joel & Sydney Schwartz, in Jerusalem

Leah & Norman Schwartz on their 55th wedding anniversary

John & Miriam Von Essen on the birth of their son, Jacob Dov Von Essen

Lyndall and Charlie Miller on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Nadav Leber, son of Kelilah Miller and Sean Leber

Jeff & Linda Needleman on the birth of their grandson, Jamie Matthew Needleman

Abigail Horn & Maria Pulzetti on the birth of their son Simon Horn Pulzetti, grandson of **Burton & Joan Stern**

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Robert Joseph husband of **Rosaline Joseph**

Gordon Kutler

Paul Shane husband of **Dr. Ana Marjanovic-Shane**

Ya'acov Berdugo brother of **Albert Berdugo**

Anthony Arce

Norton J. Cohen father of **Rabbi Debrah Cohen** and grandfather of **Levanah**

Dr. Joseph Rotenberg



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Sundays in September-October
at 10 AM beginning September 7 (*not 9/28*)

\$5 per session

For more info call Tamar Magdovitz
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Shabbat Chai-Lites

September 6

- Kol D'mamah
- Musical Marching Minyan

September 13

- Chary Service – *Mazal tov to Hannah Treatman, daughter of Ronit & Howard Treatman, on becoming Bat Mitzvah*
- Torah Yoga for Kids
- Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

September 20

- Dorshei Derekh – Stefan Presser Memorial Shabbat
- Torah Yoga for Kids

September 26 & 27

- Erev Shabbat Service at 6:30 PM
- Torah Yoga for Kids

October 3 & 4

- Kol Nidrei at 5:30 PM
- Chary Service & Minyan Masorti each begin at 9 AM
- Dorshei Derekh begins at 9:30 AM
- See Pg 9 for Yom Kippur Schedule

October 11

- Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit
- Sukkah Walk

October 25

- Torah Yoga for Kids

October 31-November 1

- Rabbi Elias Chary Memorial Weekend
- Kol Zimrah
- Shabbat Potluck & Program at 7:30 PM
- Shabbat Afternoon Program

Kabbalat Shabbat /Kol Zimrah

Fridays at 6 PM (*unless otherwise noted above*)

Shabbat Morning

Services at 10 AM (*unless otherwise noted above*)

Kol D'mamah at 10 AM

Torah Yoga for Kids at 10 AM

Musical Marching Minyan at 10:15 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.



Rebecca Kirzner & Alanna Sklover

When you spot Alanna Sklover walking down a synagogue corridor or hanging out at the High Point Café, you will find her emanating high energy and a broad smile. As rabbi-educator at GJC, Alanna has led the religious school for more than a year, injecting it with innovative approaches to Jewish education. She was a student rabbi here in 2012-13 when she was studying at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) and has lived in Mt. Airy more than seven years, so she has been enfolded into the community for quite some time.

Alanna, 31, is a city person. She was born in Washington DC and her cell phone still carries a 202 area code to remind her of her original home. (She is so oriented to the city that she notes that she calls herself “Mt. Airy inward” meaning that when she’s not in Mt. Airy, she heads for Center City rather than the suburbs).

She attended public school until the eighth grade when her parents sent her to the elite Madeira School, where she was a commuter student. “What I came to appreciate most after graduating from Madeira is how to interact with groups of people who are very different from myself,” she reflected. She connected with students from the Deep South, the Northeast, the Midwest, and countries in the Middle East like Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which taught her “how to walk in a lot of circles.”

In her Reform synagogue, Alanna was the only 15 year old who attended weekly parsha study sessions on Shabbat, sitting in a circle with

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger

people in their 50s and 60s. “I think they embraced me because they thought of me as their mascot,” she said, reflecting on her teenage years. During her senior year of high school, Alanna, who had always been active in her synagogue’s youth group, attended an international conference of NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) in Los Angeles. “I was listening to rabbinical students sharing their journey,” she said. “Something clicked.” It was there she decided that she would continue exploring Judaism and become a rabbi.

She attended Goucher College near Baltimore, where she majored in theater and religion and immediately became very involved with Jewish leadership at the college. “I made sure Hillel leadership was part of my routine from freshman year onward,” she said. She was president of Hillel during her junior and senior years while she was also the student lighting designer for the theater department.

Just before her junior year at Goucher, Alanna met Rebecca Kirzner at a Schusterman Hillel Leaders Assembly. Rebecca was then a student at the University of Delaware. They married in 2009 and again this July as soon as gay marriage became legal in Pennsylvania. In fact, they jumped on the paperwork so quickly, they were featured in an NBC News 10 piece about gay marriage in Philadelphia.

After Goucher, Alanna worked as the full time youth activities director at Beth Emeth in Wilmington DE. Moving her way up the Amtrak line, she lived in Wilmington for a year and then moved to Philadelphia when Rebecca began Teach for America.

She applied her passion for experiential education by working for three summers at the Reconstructionist Camp JRF in northeastern Pennsylvania during rabbinical school, as Rosh T’Fillah at Ramah day camp for two other summers during rabbinical school and at a Reform Jewish camp, the Henry S. Jacobs

camp in Utica, Mississippi before rabbinical school.

Alanna began to study at RRC in 2007, and became a member of GJC, attending minyan Dorshei Derekh. The community felt familiar to her at the outset. “I’d already been working at JRF and knew people in the Mt. Airy orbit from my work with camp,” she said. Besides her stint at GJC as a student rabbi, she served in the same capacity at Or Haneshamah in Ottawa, Canada.

Reflecting on the philosophy that governs her stewardship of GJC’s religious school, Alanna explained, “We have a 5 ½ hour a week program, the standard in the Conservative movement. But whether it’s 8 or 3 hours, the same governing principle is important: in order for Jewish education to be effective, it needs to resonate with the kids. It has to somehow fit, be in sync, with the way they see themselves operating in the world.

“For me there are three categories we really have to hit for Jewish education to be meaningful,” she continued. “We need to create programs that promote competency, confidence and identity. Kids need to be confident in themselves as Jews and learn how to operate in the world as a Jew and as a person.” So the religious school puts an emphasis on competency, learning siddur skills, Jewish holidays, life cycle events, Jewish history, culture, music and literature. Some years the school goes deeper into these topics, some years it’s more Torah focused and some years more history focused, she explained.

However, competency alone, she contended, can’t build confidence. Jewish confidence, a feeling that celebrating holidays, putting on a tallit, living a life informed by Jewish values – is an authentic part of who you are as a person, is crucial, she observed. “Jewish confidence is what propels

continued on page 5

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 4

our students into experimenting with Jewish practice in their adulthood, expressing pride in their Jewish identities to non-Jewish peers, and feeling comfortable in their own Jewish skin. Lastly, without exploring and building a strong Jewish identity, neither competence nor confidence can take you very far," she said. "Without knowing who you are as a Jewish person, without knowing how you feel when you shake a lulav, you're missing this crucial piece of Jewish identity." Rabbi Sklover encourages students to ask, "Who am I as a Jew in the world? How do I fit into Jewish community? Do I love to cook maztah ball soup? Do I love to chant Torah? Am I really turned on to Jewish values that lead me to social justice?"

To promote her vision, Alanna and her staff introduced an element of choice on Wednesdays afternoons: b'reirot, or electives. Every five weeks, the religious school studies a different topic in Jewish tradition. Next year, they will study the concept of the three legs on which Judaism and the world stands, as laid out in Pirke Avot: Torah, Avodah (holy service), and Gmilit Chasadim (acts of kindness). "In each of those five week blocks,

kids from second through sixth grade have a choice of one of four electives to take, in the visual arts, drama, reading or writing, or something that's a social action project, or something connected to sports or movement, all while learning Jewish content.

"Week six, we have a concluding ceremony or performance, our B'reirah Siyyum, and each b'reirah group presents for parents what they've been working on. This kind of a program models for our students the nature of synagogues, that there isn't just one entry point for being Jewish. You may belong to a synagogue because you get to do social justice work, or you're a member of the choir. We're teaching kids that Torah isn't just accessed from one angle. We can approach God and spirituality from many different angles. It is also our hope that the kids, who have been sitting in school all day, experience these b'reirot as a fun, Jewish after school program with choices for them to explore."

Off hours, Alanna likes self-described "geeky" activities. "I love watching and reading sci-fi and fantasy novels and I'm a big Star Trek fan," she said. She also loves playing board games, something she began doing on Shabbat during her year in Israel while in rabbinical school. Now she plays a lot of board games not

only on Shabbat, including Settlers of Catan, Dominion and Pandemic. She plays with Rebecca and other members of the community.

She also loves to cook and rollerblade, (though not at the same time.) "Recently, my newest interest is making my own pasta. I love to experiment. And I can be found often on Monday mornings, my day off, rollerblading on Kelly Drive. I'm not a biker. I just have never been a bike rider. I decided in 4th or 5th grade I felt unstable on a bike and I wanted contact with the ground. That's my deep, dark Mt. Airy secret."

One of Alanna's gratifying moments in the past year was when a religious school student corrected the rabbis when they were about to pray mincha, the afternoon prayer. It was at 5:15. It's dark outside, said a fifth grader. Don't you think we should do ma'ariv, the evening prayer? "We voted," Alanna said. "That was a magical learning moment. The kids were internalizing the rhythm of Jewish prayer. It's not the afternoon anymore." It turns out that Rabbi Zeff and Alanna planned to switch to the evening prayer the following week. "The kids said no, it looks like night time," Alanna said proudly, "so we switched a week early."



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S' LICHOT

At Germantown Jewish Centre

Preparing for the New Year

Saturday evening

September 20, 2014

8:00 pm

Singing Before the Gates: Devotional Music & Prayer

**With Rabbi Zeff, Rabbi Lewis, Nina Peskin,
Elliott Seif, Jonathan Singer, and Gary King**

Musical Service at 8:00 pm

Refreshments at 10:15 pm

Late Night Service at 11:00 pm

The High Holidays offer us the opportunity to take stock, let go of grudges, and commit to grow in the coming year. The month of *Elul* (the Hebrew month before the High Holidays) is a time to prepare ourselves for the spiritual work of *t'shuvah* (repentance). As Elul comes to a close, the tradition of S'lichot (reciting penitential prayers) invites us to return to ourselves and awaken our spirits. Join us for an evening of devotional music, spiritual *kavanot* (intentions) and inspiring melodies for the S'lichot prayers. We will create a comfortable space to learn, and enjoy time to worship and prepare for the High Holidays in the warmth of community.



Germantown Jewish Centre
A community of communities

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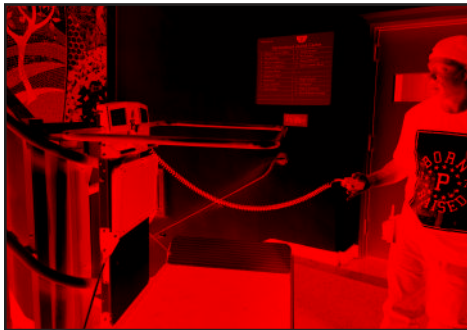
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Women's Club News

By Co-Presidents, Yona Diamond Dansky and Dena Lake

Best wishes to all for a healthy, happy and peaceful year ahead. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and appreciation. After two years of dedicated work by GJC's staff, we can now say the platform lift is complete and operational. A special thanks goes to Eric Word, who wisely and passionately shepherded this project from quotes to completion.

The lift provides increased accessibility to the second floor of the education building for those who



Eric Word demonstrates operation of the platform lift. Complete instructions will be shared with the congregation in the near future.

cannot use the stairs. As with many older buildings, ours was not built with wheelchair use in mind, and over the years some of our members have been prevented from activities, programs and services that take place throughout our building. Having this lift was an important project and one that so many of you found dear to your hearts, as you recalled the obstacles loved ones with disabilities or illness faced. Women's Club is proud to help provide increased access to GJC, and we couldn't have done it



Some Women's Club Members took a trip to Fabric Row in Philadelphia to search for trims and materials to use to replace linings and repair the fraying edges of our Torah mantles, yet another important project spearheaded by the Women's Club this year.

without the support of the entire congregation. Thank you all for coming forward so generously. We are in the process of choosing the next Building Beautiful project. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Women's Club also invites you to our many other programs and activities throughout the year. On September 14, there will be a Welcome Back Brunch featuring Rivvy Neshama who grew up at GJC and is the author of *RECIPES FOR A SACRED LIFE: True Stories and a Few Miracles*. Save the date - Oct. 26 is our Paid-Up Membership Brunch. Pay Women's Club (or Men's Club dues) and enjoy great food and entertainment (details to follow).

Women's Club members recently began volunteering with ECP as storytellers and Challah helpers. If you are interested in participating, please contact Anna Goldberg at annalgoldberg1@gmail.com.

Our Intergenerational Women's Gatherings, "Sharing Our Stories, Shar-

ing Our Lives," continue to draw women from our various GJC communities for meaningful conversations and connections. Women's Club brings together women representing every area of GJC—every Minyan, every age group—to take care of our synagogue in a unique and vital way.

When you join WOMEN'S CLUB by paying \$45 annual dues you help sponsor enriching programs and important projects. You can also contribute your talents by volunteering with the Women's Club in a myriad of ways. By being part of WOMEN'S CLUB you help strengthen the institution of GJC and the community that



Sheila Erlbaum and Anna Goldberg are signing the word for "Hunt," as they read *Going on a Bear Hunt* with the children. Women's Club members are participating as Readers and Challah Helpers in ECP.

comprises and relies on it.

You become part of a very special, very caring community. For more information, email Peninah Berdugo at peninahberdugo@gmail.com or Vilma Lieberman at vilmablux@yahoo.com.

Thank you again, Shana Tova!

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

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

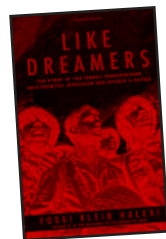
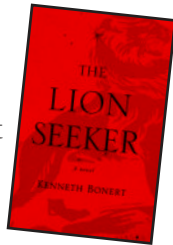
GJC's Jewish Book Reading Group

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.

September 9

The Lion Seeker

by Kenneth Bonert



October 14 and November 11

Like Dreamers

by Yossi Klein Halevi

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chairs,
Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

Our 2013-14 season ended on a high note when Rabbi Lewis enlightening us with legends of the Israelites' journey in the wilderness. It was well attended and we hope our Sunday mornings will continue to grow. In August we started our new season with "Opera Under the Stars" with our own "maestro" Sam Feinberg. We are especially proud of this annual summer tradition that attracts participants from near and far, both members and guests. We wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

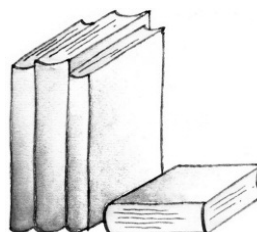
Hazak is the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's organization for Jewish men and women, 55 years and older. The name HAZAK is an acronym. The het stands for Hokhma (wisdom), that zayan for Ziknah (maturity) and the kuph for Kadima (looking ahead). The Rhea Shils Chapter of Hazak at Germantown Jewish Centre has offered programs that appeal to a wide audience since 2003.

**Adult Education 2014/5775:
Courses at a Glance**

Take the plunge into adult Jewish learning! The listings below represent our course schedule as of 8/1/14. We often add courses along the way. So check back in the next issue, on our website and with the office, for additional updates. 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
Mussar	Mindy Shapiro	Mondays 7-9 pm	Sep 8 Year-Long Course (2 Semesters)	\$300/325 (per semester)
More Tough Social Issues in Israel	Rabbi Lewis	Sundays 10 am-12 Noon	Nov 2, 9, 16, 23	\$60/80
Reading the Bible through a Woman's Eyes: CSI Meets Gloria Steinem	Ellen Frankel	Wednesdays 7:30-9 pm	Oct 29; Nov 5, 12, 19; Dec 3	\$50/65
Coaching for Caregivers Workshop	Yosaif August & Rabbi Phyllis Berman	One Day Only Sunday, December 7 2-4 pm	Dec 7	\$15/25
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

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Germantown Jewish Centre

High Holiday & Sukkot Services 2014/5775



Day/Date	Service	Charry Service	Minyan Masorti	Dorshei Derekh	Children's Services	Child Care
Sat., Sep. 20	S'lichot	10:00am S'lichot D'var in the Charry Service/Stefan Presser Memorial Shabbat in Dorshei Derekh [CS] 8:00pm Musical Service followed by Oneg [CS] 11:00pm Late Night S'lichot Service				
Wed., Sep. 24	Erev Rosh ha-Shanah	6:30pm Community Dinner (advanced reg. nec.) [MAR] 7:30pm Kol T'ru'ah (a musical Erev Rosh ha-Shanah service in the style of Kol Zimrah but without instruments, led by Rabbi Zeff, Rabbi Lewis & Nina Peskin) [CS]			6:00pm Rosh ha-Shanah JAM with Chana Rothman [MAR]	
Thu., Sep. 25	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00am [CS]	9:00am [MAR]	9:30am [CAN]	11:00am	9:00am-2:00pm
	Tashlich	Meet at the Synagogue at 4:00pm				
	Minha/Ma'ariv	6:30pm [MC]				
Fri., Sep. 26	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00am [CS]	9:00am [MAR]	9:30am [CAN]	11:00am	9:00am-2:00pm
	Erev Shabbat	6:30pm [MC]				
Sat., Sep. 27	Shabbat Shuvah	10:00am [CS]	10:00am [CAN]	10:00am [MAS]	Regular Children's Shabbat Offerings	
Fri., Oct. 3	Kol Nidrei	5:30pm [CS]	5:30pm [MAR]	5:30pm [CAN]	6:00pm Family Service, Kids Service & Teen Service	5:15-8:30pm
Sat., Oct. 4	Yom Kippur	9:00am [CS]	9:00am [MAR]	9:30am [CAN]	11:00am	9:00am - 2:00pm
	Yizkor	Apprx. 11:30am	Apprx. 11:30am	Apprx. Noon		
	Oscar Bregman Prog.	2:45pm [CS]				
	Services Resume	4:15pm [CS]	4:15pm [MAR]	4:45pm [CAN]		
	N'ilah	5:45pm [CS]	5:45pm [MAR]	6:00pm [CAN]		5:30-7:30pm
	Blow Shofar	7:21pm [CS]	7:21pm [MAR]	7:21pm [CAN]		
Thu., Oct. 9	Sukkot Day 1	10:00am [CAN]			10:00am [MAS]	
Fri. Oct. 10	Sukkot Day 2	10:00am [CAN]				
	Erev Shabbat	6:30pm [Sukkah]				
Sat., Oct. 11	Shabbat/Sukkot Day 3	10:00am All Shabbat services begin as usual 11:00am Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit 1:15pm Sukkah Walk				Regular Children's Shabbat Offerings
Sun. Oct. 12	Sukkot Day 4	9:00am Morning Minyan [MC]			11:00am GJC Celebrates! Sukkot [CS]	
Wed., Oct. 15	Sukkot Day 7	6:00am Hoshana Rabah [CS]				
	Dorshei Derekh Simhat Torah	6:30pm [CAN]				
Thu., Oct. 16	Sh'mini Atzeret/Yizkor	10:00am [CS] <i>Yizkor</i>	10:00am [CAN] <i>Yizkor</i>	10:00am [MAS] <i>(Simhat Torah Service, Yizkor)</i>		
	Simhat Torah	6:30pm [CS] GJC Celebrates!	7:30pm [CAN]		6:30pm [CS] GJC Celebrates!	
Fri. Oct. 17	Simhat Torah	10:00am [MAR]				
	Erev Shabbat	6:00pm [MC]				

CS: Charry Sanctuary MAR: Marcus Auditorium MAS: Maslow Auditorium CAN: Temin Canteen Room MC: Magil Chapel

Parents must pre-register for Childcare, Children's Services & Children's Lunch.
Forms are available in the main office & religious school office.
See separate flyers for details on supplemental programs for teens & adults.

Social Action Update

An Introduction to POWER for GJC Members

By David Mosenkis and Andrea Moselle

By now you've likely heard of GJC's joining POWER, an interfaith coalition of local congregations working on justice issues in our region. Why is joining POWER good for GJC? It connects GJC with the larger interfaith community working for justice in Philadelphia. It invigorates justice work within GJC, nurturing one of our core values as a community and helping to engage members and attract new members. And it provides a framework and concrete activities for communal and individual engagement in ongoing, sustainable justice work. GJC members work together with members of other congregations, including people of different religions, races and classes.

With strong support from GJC members, POWER has scored a number of achievements in recent months. POWER's spring Voter Engagement Campaign culminated in an overwhelming victory for the May 20 ballot measure guaranteeing a living wage

for city subcontracted workers. (The Summer 2014 issue of the Centre Call, available on-line only, has an article on GJC's participation in this great success.) POWER was credited as a major factor in Mayor Nutter's signing an executive order on May 6 to mandate a minimum wage of \$12/hour for first-tier subcontractors for the city. POWER was granted one of 7 seats on City Council's Living Wage and Benefits Review Committee. And by mobilizing massive grass roots support for school funding, POWER has helped propel that issue to the top of the agenda in the gubernatorial race and among state legislators.

Member congregations work together to determine the organization's priorities and strategies. Currently, POWER has chosen three areas of focus: education, economic justice, and immigration reform. GJC members are leaders on POWER's Education Strategy team and have participated in meetings with gubernatorial candidates, PA legislators, and School Superintendent Hite in

Philadelphia and Harrisburg to discuss school funding. 33 GJC members knocked on doors and phoned voters in East and West Mt. Airy garnering commitments to vote in May's primary election and support full fair funding for public schools.

POWER comprises over 40 congregations across Philadelphia, and is now extending into Montgomery county. It also collaborates with similar faith-based coalitions in other parts of the state to achieve greater impact in statewide work around education and other issues. POWER intentionally brings people together across the lines of race, faith, income level and neighborhood -- lines which have historically kept Philadelphians divided. POWER engages people of faith committed to the work of bringing about justice here and now, in our city and our region. For more information or to get involved, contact David Mosenkis (dmosenkis@gmail.com) or Andrea Moselle (amoselle@comcast.net).

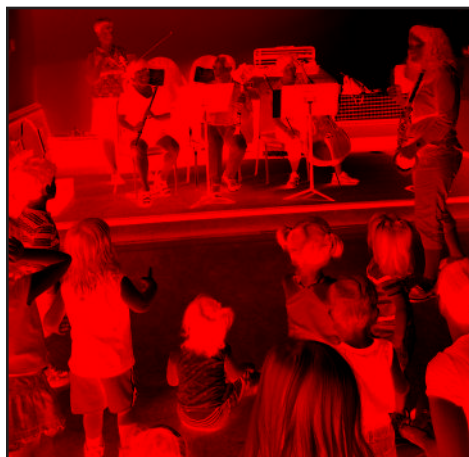
Early Childhood Program (ECP)



"The Summer of the Arts" at Camp Keshet

By Jodi Gordon, ECP Director

Here are a few pictures capturing some beautiful moments during "The Summer of the Arts" at Camp Keshet. The children explored the



arts each day by using different mediums such as clay, chalk, water colors, music and dance. They were treated to two concerts over the summer which included beautiful Hebrew music that made us all get up and dance! The camp keshet community, children and

teachers alike, also learned a bit of sign language through storytelling. The children of ECP truly experienced an enriching summer at Camp Keshet thanks to Anna Goldberg and our fabulous team of teachers and volunteers.



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- **Saturday, November 8 @ 11am** Shabbat Morning JAM
- **Friday, January 16 @ 6pm** Friday Night JAM
Followed by Dinner - \$5 per person - Advanced registration please
- **Saturday, February 7 @ 6pm** Havdallah JAM
Followed by Dinner - \$5 per person - Advanced registration please
- **Sunday, March 22 time TBD** Passover JAM
- **Saturday, April 25 @ 11am** Shabbat Morning JAM

To register or for more information contact Elana Shaw at 215.844.1507 x19 or program@germantownjewishcentre.org



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Religious School

The Power of Summer

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

The summer that I turned sixteen, I travelled to Israel for the first time. It was not with my parents or my brothers, but rather with 36 other Jewish teens whom I had never met. We rafted on the Jordan, davened



Camp Pinemere

(prayed) at the Kotel (Western Wall), camped in the Negev (desert), and floated in the Dead Sea. We traveled to kibbutzim, stayed with host families in Netanya, and participated in an archeological dig. More important and powerful than all of these experiences, though, was something I would not have experienced had I not chosen to go to Israel in a group of my peers. I reflected upon this moment in my journal,

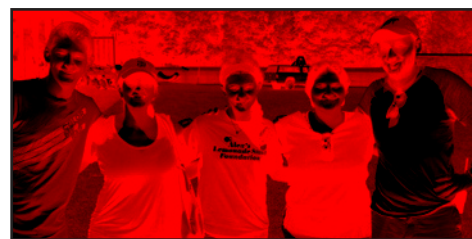
"A few days before our sunrise hike up Masada, one of the group leaders came up to me and asked if I wanted to lead services that morning when we reached the top. I told her that I had never led a service, but I would try. At this point, the trip was nearly over and the members of our group had bonded into a cohesive whole. I decided to ask each member of the group if they had written any poetry on the trip that they would like to share, and incorporate them into the service. When we reached the top of the mountain, I handed out different poems to each participant for them to read aloud between certain prayers. As the yellow-orange sun began to creep over the horizon and light the desert all around us, the air was filled with prayer and the heartfelt words of thirty-seven American, Canadian, and Belgian teenagers, all experiencing Israel for the first time."

This summer, more than two-dozen kids and teens from Germantown Jewish Centre attended Jewish Summer Camp or participated in a trip to Israel or other Jewish immersive experience. They spent their summers hiking and singing Jewish songs at Ramah Day Camp, Camp Ramah in the Poconos and in Wisconsin, they swam in the lake and welcomed in Shabbat at Camp JRF and Galil, and they forged lifelong friendships and integrated Jewish values into daily life Pinemere Camp, BIMA @ Brandeis, and URJ Six Points Sports Academy. Our teens traveled to Israel with B'nai Brith Camp, Ramah Seminar, the No'ar Hadash Israel Experience, and Habonim D'ror, and explored the rich Jewish and African American history of the Deep South with Operation Understanding.

The power of these immersive experiences is the opportunity to live, explore, and grow in a 24/7 Jewish community that is at once made up of their peers and crafted and facilitated



Camp JRF



Camp JRF

by young Jewish adults from whom they learn informally as they serve as *dugma'ot* (rolemodels and examples). Whether at the top of Masada, around the campfire, or on a bus, I hope that each of our campers and travelers had a transformative moment like the one I shared, that they will carry with them from the summer into their Jewish lives. I know I speak for all of us when I say that we can't wait for them to bring back their stories to our community and share what they have learned with all of us! Please join us on Saturday, September 6 as we celebrate "Camp Shabbat" in the Charry Sanctuary, and hear some of those stories and invite campers to participate in the service.

Are you thinking about sending your child Jewish summer camp or looking for a trip that might be appropriate for your teen? I am happy to help you explore options and connect you with resources that fit with the needs of your family!



Camp Ramah

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 June, 2014 through August, 2014

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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Adult Education Fund	Gisha Berkowitz Joan Gollub Martin Itzkowitz Jonathan Moselle Leah & Norman Schwartz	in memory of Susan Finkelstein Meltzer, niece in memory of Gordon & Joyce Kutler in memory of Simon Itzkowitz, father in memory of Phillip Moselle, father in memory of Richard Neff, fiance of Aviva Perlo
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Camp Scholarship Fund	Judge Edward E. & Ruth R. Russell Judy Shanefield Hannah Shaw Lawrence Sternthal Lynne & Art Ellis	in memory of Gordon Kutler, a long time member of GJC in appreciation of the office candy fairy in memory of Jacob Sternthal, father in honor of Rebecca & Ivan Wolnek, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Avi
Chesed Fund	Lynne & Art Ellis Dveera Segal Deborah Stern	in memory of Richard Neff, fiance of Aviva Perlo in memory of Esther Cogan, grandmother in memory of Eva & Paul Klepper, grandparents
Dorshei Derekh	Allan Oster	in appreciation of being such a warm & inviting community
Early Childhood Program Fund	Linda Dzuba Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in memory of Nathan Routhinsein, father in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
	Gail Loeb Kunreuther Louise Leibowitz Henrietta Kotlus Rosenberg & Harry Rosenberg Joan Silver	in memory of Lillian Blender, mother in memory of Jack Leibowitz, father in honor of Anna Goldberg & P'nut Brown, for all of their hard work with the Dubonim class in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
General Fund	Beth Stearman & Mitchell Berk Barbara Bloom Carol Daniels	in memory of Ya'acov Berdugo, brother of Albert Berdugo in appreciation of Josh Goldblum in honor of Linda Kriger, on the 50th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah in honor of Jake & Linda Kriger, on the college graduation of their son Daniel
	Dina Pinsky & Mikael Elsila Lynne Furman Abigail Horn & Maria Pulzetti	in honor of Genie Ravital in memory of Reba Kilieman, mother in honor of Burton & Joan Horn, on the bris of their grandson, Simon Horn Pulzetti
	Roberta Kaneff Abigail Weinberg & Nathan Martin Jim & Sandy Meyer	in memory of Ida Kaneff, mother
	Elliot Miller	in honor of Gert & Myra Jacobsohn, on their 55th wedding anniversary in honor of Mathieu Shapiro, on assuming the presidency in honor of Mitch Marcus, for his outstanding service as president in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on their wedding anniversary in honor of Steve & Louie Asher, on their 35th wedding anniversary

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Playground Fund	Karen Glaser	
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Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund

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Religious School Fund

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Young Families Retreat Fund

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in memory of David Israel Weinberg, grandfather

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in honor of Gabriel Miller & Minna Ziskind, on the Bat Mitzvah of
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in honor of Helen & Michael Feinberg, on the college graduation of
their son, Ari

in honor of Joel Fish & Debbie Aron, on the college graduation of
their children, Ari & Talia

in honor of Neil Actor & Nini Engel, on the high school graduation
of their daughter, Eliana

in honor of Mark Spiller & Amy Cohen, on the college graduation
of their son, Gabe

Curt & Leslie Pontz

in memory of Jake Taylor Pontz, grandson

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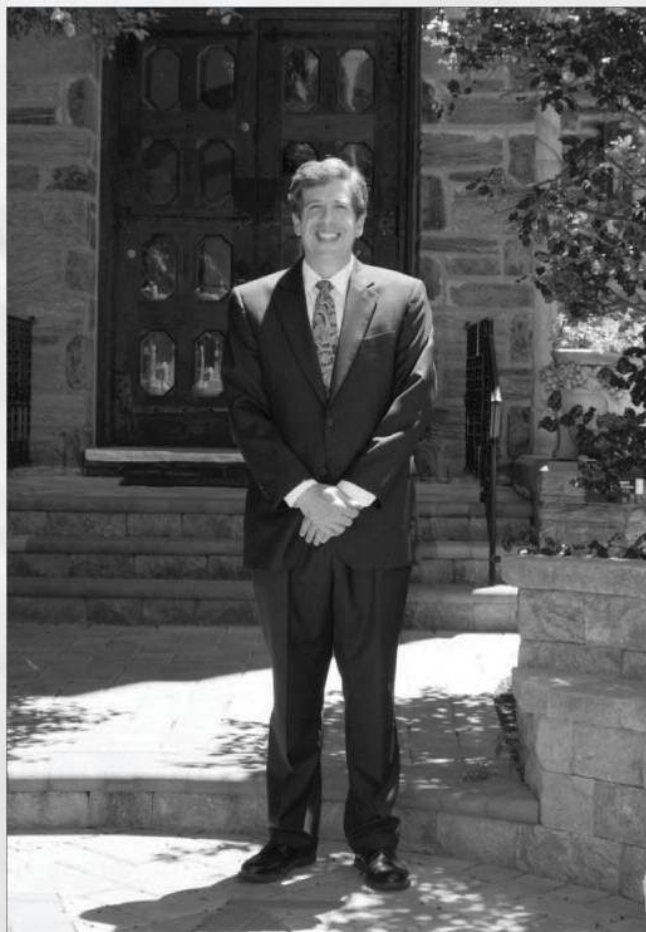
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Deadline for the November Issue is October 1.*



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Save the Dates

Yom Kippur Bregman Memorial Program
featuring Rabbi Mordechai Liebling
October 4

Sukkah Walk
October 11

GJC Celebrates! Sukkot
October 12

Tot Sukkot Potluck
October 14

GJC Celebrates! Simchat Torah
October 16

(See Page 9 for Sukkot & Simchat Torah Calendar)

Women's Club & Men's Club Paid Up Brunch
October 26

Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial Weekend
October 31-November 2