



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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JULY 2014

The Power to Rebuild

By Rabbi Annie Lewis

"Is such the fast I desire, a day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bulrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day when Adonai is favorable? No, this is the fast I desire: To unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke to let the oppressed go free; to break off every yoke. It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin." (Isaiah 58:5-7)



Clergy from across the city sit around a table in the POWER office at St. Malachy Parish in North Philadelphia. As the winter stretches on,

we split sandwiches and clementines and read verses from the prophet Isaiah. The rabbis in the room share with our Christian colleagues how we read these words each Yom Kippur. Isaiah reminds us that as we do the inner work of fasting, pushing our bodies and souls, we must also remember to let the ritual ripple out in repair of the world around us.

Each summer, when we reach the fast of Tish'ah b'Av, as the light lingers and my stomach growls, I remember Isaiah's instructions, calling us back to the true purpose of a fast. On the ninth of Av, we recall the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and other moments of catastrophe and powerlessness in our Jewish past. We shed leather shoes, sit on the floor and dim the lights. On Tish'ah b'Av, we are asked to look closely at the brokenness and chaos in the world and to voice our lament. As we descend into despair, we also search for an opening to begin to piece together what has been shattered.

The sages of the Talmud link the observance of Tish'ah b'Av with the Torah's story of the downfall of the scouts who are sent to scope out the Land of Canaan. Immobilized by fear, they return with tales of the giants that inhabit the land, sparking terror in their fellow Israelites. The scouts see themselves as tiny grasshoppers in the face of the strangers that live on the other side of the Jordan River. As a consequence of their feeling inconsequential, God decrees that the generation of Israelites who left Egypt will never enter the land that has been promised to their people. The ancient rabbis teach that this tragic punishment was wrought on the ninth of Av, a day that would be known as one of weeping for future generations. (Ta'anit 29a).

Tish'ah b'Av takes us to a place of tension between our powerlessness and our power. We see what happens when we are stripped of power. At the same time, we are warned of the danger of forgetting the power we do have to thrive in the face of great adversity. Nearly two thousand years after the destruction of the Second Temple, it is hard to not feel overwhelmed or paralyzed by the "giants" that loom around us - poverty, gun violence, environmental degradation and the crisis in our public education system. Yet as we mourn the losses, the season of Tish'ah b'Av calls us to connect to our agency

to improve the conditions of our society. We have to search for flecks of hope that our world can better resemble our vision and values. One crucial step in connecting with our power is to find kindred spirits in our work. That way, we may remember that we are not alone in our sadness at the state of things or our longing to build a world that looks different.

For nearly two years, a group of lay leaders at GJC has been exploring how our congregation might join with others to take action for the well-being of our city. They have given their energy and passion to an

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Summer Highlights

Sh-BBQ

July 4

Kol D'mamah

Monthly Meditation Service

July 5

Shabbat in Community:

Papercut Mural

July 8

**Israeli Dancing on Wednesday Nights
(through end of August)**

Begins July 23

Kol Zimrah Monthly Musical Service

July 25



**What's
New in the
Mishpoche?**

(April 2014 – June 2014)

IN CELEBRATION...

- Joel Fish**, on his 60th birthday
- Steven J. Peitzman, MD**, on being awarded the Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award for Scholarly Activities in the Humanities and History of Medicine by the American College of Physicians
- Naomi Laver**, daughter of David Laver & Adina Laver, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Anna & Phill Goldberg**, on their 1st wedding anniversary
- Natalie Lyalin**, on the publication of her second collection of poems, "*Blood Makes Me Faint But I Go For It*"
- Marcy and David Fish**, on the birth of their first grandchild
- Alex Avelin**, on winning the Lindback Award for Distinguished High School Teaching
- Elisheva Hollo**, daughter of Juha & Elana Hollo, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Jason & Anna Shurak**, on the birth of their daughter Masden
- Avi Wolnek**, son of Ivan & Becky Wolnek, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Lawrence & Ellyn Charap**, on their 1st wedding anniversary
- Ken Weiss**, on his promotion to Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania & his new leadership positions as President-Elect of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society, Chair of the Section on Medical History at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and Chair of the Committee on History & Psychiatry with the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry
- Ken & Susan Weiss**, on the recent acting roles by their daughter Naomi
- Ken & Susan Weiss**, on the graduation of their son Aaron with an MS in Strategic and Organizational Communication from Temple University
- Sam Webber**, son of Hillel Hoffmann & Sharon Webber, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Aryeh Friedman**, on his 60th birthday
- Kathryn Hellerstein and David Stern**, on the world premiere of their son Jonah's film *Swollen Feet* at the NYC International Film Festival
- Aaron Weber**, on his 93rd birthday
- Elsie Stern**, on her appointment as new vice president for academic affairs, and chief academic officer at RRC
- Dena & Ed Lake**, on graduation of their daughter, Julie, who received a doctorate in Applied Linguistics from Georgetown University
- Joyce & Sheldon Eveloff**, on the graduation of their granddaughter Allison Eveloff Berman, from Germantown Friends School and acceptance to Bates College
- Rachel Marcus and Eileen Carlin**, on their marriage
- Avi Zeff**, son of Rabbi Adam Zeff & Cheryl Bettigole, on his Confirmation
- Ari Trey Masters**, son of Steve Masters & Beulah Trey, on his Confirmation
- Judge Harold Berger and Joan N. Stern**, on each being recipients of the Legal Intelligencer's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Anne Shlay**, on her return home from a year in Israel
- Marcy & Dan Bacine**, on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
- Marcy & Dan Bacine**, on their wedding anniversary

- Camilla Barcan**, daughter of David Barcan, on her high school graduation
- Barbara Lissy**, on the graduation of her daughter Ruth Lissy Rosenberg, from John Hopkins with an MPH & MBA
- Ari Miller**, daughter of Gavi Miller & Minna Ziskind, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Jerry Kutnick & Wendy Weingarten**, on the birth of their grandson, Ami Zane, son of Uri & Gali
- Scott Goldshaw**, on his firm Salmanson Goldshaw being named the 2014 PA Labor & Employment Litigation Firm of the Year by the Legal Intelligencer
- Jared Taylor**, son of Thomas Taylor & Jessica Baskin Taylor, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Jeremy Brochin & Reena Spicehandler**, on the marriage of their son Ari to Sarah Meyer
- Abigail Levy**, daughter of Jonathan Levy & Claire McCusker, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- Kathryn Hellerstein and David Stern**, on the marriage of their daughter Rebecca Stern to Jesse Wenger
- Ari Feinberg**, son of Helen & Michael Feinberg, on his college graduation
- Ari & Talia Fish**, children of Debbie Aron & Joel Fish, on their college graduations
- Eliana Actor**, daughter of Nini Engel & Neil Actor, on her high school graduation
- Gabriel Wolf Cohen Spiller**, son of Amy Cohen & Mark Spiller, on his college graduation
- Sam Pettinati**, son of Lisa & Nick Pettinati, on his high school graduation
- Zeke Zeff**, son of Rabbi Adam Zeff & Cheryl Bettigole, on his high school graduation from Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy

IN MEMORIAM

- Sylvia Brockman**, mother of, **Andi Brockman**
- Dora Jacobs**, mother of, **Lynne Jacobs**
- Don Secrest**, father of **Hideko Secrest** & grandfather of **Shigeo and Mei**
- Elinor Finkelstein**, sister of **Gisha Berkowitz**
- Caroline Easley**, mother of, **ECP teacher Tina Easley**
- Helen Gertner**, grandmother of **Mathieu Shapiro & great-grandmother of Jake & Alex**
- Richard A. Neff**, *Aharon Chesed ben Sarah Freyda*, brother of **Max Minkoff**, father of Stephen & Martha Neff & fiancée of **Aviva Perlo**



Rabbi's Article *cont'd from page 1*

organization called POWER, whose mission statement reads:

*We are **Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild (POWER)**. We are congregations from all across the city, intentionally bringing people together across the lines of race, faith, income level and neighborhood -- lines which have historically kept Philadelphians divided. We are people of faith committed to the work of bringing about justice here and now, in our city and our region. By strengthening and mobilizing our networks of relationships, we seek to exercise power in the public arena so that the needs and priorities of all Philadelphians are reflected in the systems and policies that shape our city.*

POWER represents forty-one congregations across the city and 30,000 constituents. Working with POWER, our GJC members have engaged Philadelphians in public life and civic action, striving for a city of opportunity for all. GJC members have marched at City Hall and in Harrisburg, calling for fair funding for Pennsylvania's schools. We have stood in solidarity with low wage workers at the airport. We have turned out voters, encouraging people to make their voices heard in

local elections. Along the way, we have forged relationships with people of different races, faiths, income levels and neighborhoods, leading to an ongoing commitment to stand by one another in times of struggle and celebration.

In a historic moment for our shul, our Executive Committee and Board have voted for Germantown Jewish Centre to officially become a member of POWER. Joining six other synagogues who are currently involved, we will be the first Conservative synagogue in the city of Philadelphia to do so. The social action committee has raised the funds so that we might demonstrate our commitment to partnering with neighboring congregations. Additionally, our community will continue to benefit from the expertise and mentorship of POWER's organizers as we work to strengthen ourselves internally and to build our capacity to make a difference in our city and state.

Hashivenu Adonai elecha v'nashuva. Hadesh yameinu k'kedem. Return us, Adonai, to you and we will return. Renew our days as of old. This summer, help us to remember our power to restore and rebuild. Grant us the resilience to create a world of dignity, opportunity and deep connection for all.



Shabbat Chai-Lites

July 4 & 5

- Sh-BBQ
- Kol D'mamah

July 25

- Kol Zimrah

August 2

- Kol D'mamah

Kabbalat Shabbat /Kol Zimrah

Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning

Services at 10 AM

Kol D'mamah
at 10 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.

Jewish Connections 2014-15

The Myer P. and Myra B. Jacobs Adult Education Institute

For more information contact Elana Shaw at program@germantownjewishcentre.org

Stay tuned later in the summer for details regarding our upcoming course offerings, including:

- Tough Social Issues in Israel with Rabbi Lewis
- Mussar with Mindy Shapiro
- Reading the Bible Through Women's Eyes with Ellen Frankel
- Bizarre Talmudic Passages with Rabbi Joshua Gutoff
- Biblical Myth & End of Life Wisdom with Simcha Raphael
- Six Cities & Jewish History with Rabbi Bob Tabak
- Parshat ha-Shavua (Weekly Torah Study) with Rabbi Lewis
- High Holiday Torah Trope with Eve Pinkenson

Hazak

Programming for Adults 55+

By Hazak Co-Chairs,
Cherie Goren & Sonia Dishler

As our season comes to an end, it is time to reflect on our 2013-14 Hazak programming year. We are pleased with better turn outs. Was it the move to more Sunday morning events and/or our outstanding programs, or something else all together? We appreciate your input, do let us know what brought you out this year! We closed the season on a high, welcoming Rabbi Lewis for our June program. August kicks off our new year with Sam Feinberg, who always draws a crowd with his night at the opera. We are still waiting to hear what treat he has planned for us this time around, but look forward to seeing you on August 27. Thank you all for your support and donations, they keep us going and pay for our programs. Have a great summer!

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.

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

Hazon Bike Ride



Mazal tov to all of the GJC community members that participated in the first ever Philadelphia Environmental Bike Tour sponsored by and raising money for Hazon. Picture here are: Matt Utterback, Carol Tinkelman, David Mosenkis, Robert Dudnick, Nathan Martin, Jake Kriger, Rachel Kriger, Mindy Shapiro, Joel Sweet & Steve Masters. Other GJC riders included: Barb Pearson, Dove Rosenberg & David Teutsch.

Shabbat in Community: Papercut Mural with Mindy Shapiro Tuesday, July 8 9 AM – 1 PM

(drop in for all or part of the time, best to consider staying for at least 2 hours)

\$10 for GJC members and \$15 for non-members

We started this communal art project in May, but need some additional hands to complete it. Please join us! Those that already participated are welcome to come back at no additional charge.

Paper cutting is an ancient art dating back to the creation of paper during the 1st Century in China. Since that time, artisans have used paper, scissors and knives to create objects both ornamental and functional.



Perhaps you made a snow flake in grade school or have seen silhouettes. These are forms of paper cutting. In this workshop, you will learn the basics of paper cutting and work together on a mural depicting a Shabbat scene, that we plan to hang at GJC. All materials included.

Thanks to GJC Men's Club
for sponsoring this event

GJC's July 4th Sh-BBQ

REGISTER by JUNE 16

\$20 per adult

\$10 per child

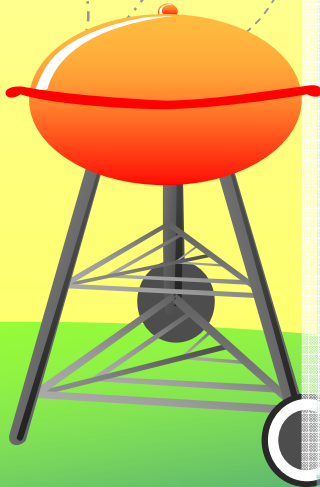
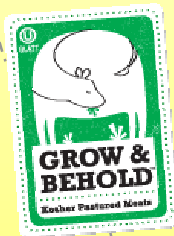
215.844.1507 X19

or email Elana Shaw

PLEASE INDICATE

IF VEGETARIAN

Menu includes: Burgers,
Hotdogs, Vegetarian Options,
Beverages, Sides & Dessert



Register
by
June 16
Please
indicate if
Vegetarian

Join us for a
pre-Shabbat BBQ
followed by
Kabbalat Shabbat
Under the Stars
along with
Kids activities
& a Family
Service too

Friday, July 4

5:30 PM BBQ & Kid Activities

6:30 PM Family Service

7:00 PM Shabbat Under the Stars

BBQ, Activities & Services are

RAIN or SHINE!

We will move indoors if necessary


Germantown Jewish Centre
A community of communities

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

Member Spotlight

by Linda Kriger



Lisa Pettinati and Family

Lisa Pettinati has a soul connection with the loving act of preparing food for others. She associated preparing food with love from her family growing up and the way she expresses love for her own family, friends and the wider community served by the Chesed Committee she co-chairs at GJC.

Lisa's mother became ill when Lisa was a young girl. Her extended family enveloped her and her sister. Her grandparents, aunts and uncles were very involved in their upbringing. They spent summer vacations and every holiday with their extended family. "My grandmothers were great cooks," Lisa recalled. "They showed us love with food. That's one of the things you do when you love people. You feed them."

Lisa attended elementary school a block away from her grandmother, who would give her soup for lunch every day. "That's why the idea of cooking soup as part of the Chesed committee appeals to me," said Lisa, who produces a large pot of soup for her family most every week in the winter. "Soup equals love to me."

Lisa grew up in Overbrook Park and attended the nearest public Junior High School after graduating from Lamberton Elementary. The Junior High was not a good fit, and Lisa's parents hoped she could trans-

fer to Akiba Hebrew Academy (now Barrack), but her lack of Hebrew background prevented her from being accepted. (Today, lateral entries by students without Hebrew background are common).

So, Lisa attended the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart on City Line Avenue, where the Kaiserman campus resides today. "I spent six years there," Lisa said. The school created Jewish education classes for the three Jewish students who attended. Lisa found it to be a wonderful experience with lasting positive memories. It also helped her to understand how important it was to learn more about the history of her own people.

Lisa's mother passed away when Lisa was in high school. Shortly thereafter, Lisa and her sister visited Israel. "As soon as I arrived, I fell in love with it," she said. The summer Lisa turned 17, she volunteered on Kibbutz Heftzi-Bah in the Galilee, next to Mt. Gilboa. She said it was a once in a lifetime experience.

Thus, although Lisa had received a full scholarship to Temple University, she applied to the program for English speaking students at Tel Aviv University. At Tel Aviv University and later in a Temple University graduate school program in Israel, Lisa immersed herself in Jewish history and literature classes and the Hebrew language.

Lisa earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Temple and returned to Israel for a graduate studies program in Arad, a development town in the Negev where she met her first husband, the father of Irene (who goes by Renee). They moved back to the States and when the marriage ended, Lisa found a social work position at Horizon House, a behavioral

health organization. She has worked there since, while earning a Master's Degree from Chestnut Hill College in 2005. She is now director of case management, the department she has been in since it was established in 1989.

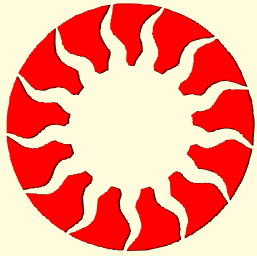
As a single working mother, Lisa found a nursery school for her two-year-old daughter. "Her best friend in nursery school happened to be the daughter of my current husband," Lisa said, smiling. "That's how Nick and I became friends. His wife had passed away suddenly the previous year. He was left to raise his two little girls on his own. I used to watch him interact with them at the center and thought, he's such a sweet guy. We became friends and married a few years later."

Their wedding unwittingly turned into a public event. They planned to get married at the Valley Green Inn, but Lisa's grandmother had just been placed in a nursing home and would have been unable to attend the ceremony. So, at the last minute, they changed their plans and asked permission to be married in the chapel of the nursing home.

"The administrator asked if we wouldn't mind having a 'little publicity' on the day of the wedding," Lisa laughed. "We ended up being in 17 newspapers and on television. One of the articles said the groom was five minutes late for the wedding, but the reason was that he couldn't find a parking space because of all the press vans parked in the lot. We had wedding cake for the entire nursing home and it was a very memorable experience."

Lisa and her husband Nick have been married for 23 years and have raised their five children together.

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Germantown Jewish Centre's Summer Sampler

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



**Wednesday, August 6
7-9:30 PM**

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

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

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

Member Spotlight *cont'd from page 6*

Nick had two daughters, Breanna, now 33 and Adriana, 29 and Lisa had one, Renee, 29. They had two more children together, Isabella, 21 and Sam, 18, an assistant teacher in the GJC religious school. Breanna is a caretaker for an elderly woman and has a daughter, Karen; Adriana is a lead teacher at Federation Day Care; Renee is married to Jim and has her own law practice and is also the mother to Julianna, 16 months; Isabella is a rising junior at West Chester University and plans to study pediatric nursing and Sam (18) will be a freshman there in the fall.

Lisa lives in an interfaith household. When she would come home late from work on a Friday, her husband Nick would have bought challah and lit Shabbat candles with their children.

"Being part of an intermarriage, we celebrate everything. He respects my culture and we agreed that even though he's Catholic, we'd raise the children we had together in the Jewish faith," Lisa said. "We have three religions in our house: Breanna and Adriana are Lutheran because their mother, Karen, was, my kids are Jewish and Nick is Catholic."

How do you integrate all this culture and still maintain it? Her answer: To host a big celebration the second night of Rosh Ha Shana and during Pesach for 20-30 people, including many friends and neighbors who are also in interfaith families.

"And I cook a lot," Lisa said, stating the obvious. "People make fun me because I cook for 100 people. My table groans with the weight of food. I'm known for my brisket and Israeli dishes. I try to make everything from scratch for the holidays. I will go to work all day and then cook until 2 am and get up and start

cooking again."

Cooking, Lisa said, is "not just an expression of love, it's an artistic expression." While in Israel Lisa learned the art of Sephardic cooking. Some of her favorites are bourekas and Moroccan carrot salad that tend to show up at the Petinatti holiday table.

Lisa's leadership at GJC began when she served for many years as co-chair of the religious school committee. With then head of school, Felicia Rosen, they ushered in Shabbat School during the winter to encourage families to attend services during the months when Saturday sports hibernate. Lisa recalls serving as bagel-delivery mom, rising early on Sunday mornings to pick up bagels to be sold to religious school families.

And that brings us to her involvement with the Chesed Committee, co-chaired by Lisa and Rabbi Fredi Cooper. Lisa was immediately interested in the committee upon hearing about it several years ago. Because she showed up, she was instantly made co-chair and has worked prodigiously ever since.

The committee bakes challot for people in need, inspired by something that happened to Rabbi Fredi years earlier. She had been ill, in a Baltimore hospital, when a group of women brought her a challah on a Friday. It meant so much to her, she decided to do the same for others and while in her last pulpit, instituted a challah delivery service for people in hospitals in Philadelphia.

The same experience touched Lisa when her aunt, with whom she was very close, was in the hospital. Lisa visited her on a Friday when women came in and brought her a challah and a little bottle of grape juice. "It touched me so deeply that there was some humanity in that sterile environment," Lisa said, tearing up a little.

Under Rabbi Fredi and Lisa, two functions were joined under one committee and one name, Chesed: food preparation, which had been performed by the Keshet committee and the Chesed committee's responsibility to visit the sick and elderly. Lisa said that Rabbi Fredi teaches during the cooking sessions and transforms them into learning sessions. "We bake challot about four times a year and freeze them in our own freezer. We also make soup. For Rosh Hashana, we'll make applesauce and round challot and we've made kugels that freeze well too. The bnei mitzvah kids and their families make cards and have learned to bake challot with us." The whole operation is overseen by Barbara and Dov Learner, Mashgichim who certify the kashrut through Traditional Kosher Supervision (TKS).

Lisa stressed that people who want soup, challah or a visit should contact the front office. "If they're seriously ill, or somebody passes away, or there's a new birth," Lisa said, families can receive bounty from the Chesed Committee. Lisa's dedication to serving others shines through when she describes the way she wants "all the people who need visitors, whose families may not live locally, to have someone to hold their hand and to be present in their lives.

Rabbi Fredi and Lisa welcome all the GJC community to participate in all Chesed activities. With the Chesed Committee, "the camaraderie of cooking with people is a holy experience," Lisa said, her face glowing. "Being in the kitchen is reminiscent of the heartfelt, loving and warm experience with my family. Your feet hurt and your back hurts at the end of it, but you're happy and satisfied that you did it."

Pinah Hinuch – Education Corner

On Teaching and on Learning

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

I have spent much time over the past few weeks reflecting on my first year as Rabbi Educator at Germantown Jewish Centre and on the many things I have learned from this wonderful community. In the Talmud (TB Ta’anit 7a), we read that Rabbi Chanina taught, “I have



One of our rising 1st graders working on a project with a rising 7th grader.

learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and the most from my students.” This text rings true of my time in the Religious School this year, and I want to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful students for all of the learning I have gained from you and taken to heart:

- From the *Gan*, I learned that creative play in and exploration of one’s surroundings is an important key to integrated Jewish learning.

- From *Kitah Alef*, I learned that Torah comes in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes, when we pick up paint brushes, put on costumes, or lobby for multiple Queen Esthers, we break free of the constraints of old interpretations, and are able to put our own new spin on our ancient tradition.

- *Kitah Bet* taught me that no one is too young to find a *chevruta* (study partner). Watching you learning in pairs this year, partnering so well as peer-learners and peer-teachers has been such a gift.

- *Kitah Gimel-Daled* showed me that in a *k’vutza* (a collaborative

group), not all of us have the same strengths, and that is what makes teams work!

- Without *Kitah Hei*, I might not know that questions are the beginning of finding the words to craft our own answers, and that sometimes it’s crucial to push back on authority in order learn that the boundaries are there, and that they are strong enough to hold us.

- From *Kitah Vav*, I learned that you can never play enough “Trashketball,” and that being a *mensch* starts by learning to trust and love ourselves and building on the powerful examples of those who came before us.

- *Kitah Zion’s* incredible ability to show up for one another – whether at the Bar or Bat Mitzvah of a classmate on a day filled with multiple conflicts, or by texting a friend who has missed a day of class to make sure they are ok – inspires me to expect great things from the future of the Jewish community.

- And our *Teens* taught me week by week that when you are your authentic self, and stop trying to be someone else, your real potential shines through. Goofiness, and extra pizza and snacks are important, but so are



All of our students had fun at Lag b’Omer tug of war!

trusting friendships, being challenged in your learning, and the freedom to bring your whole self to solving problems.



Religious School ended on a high note this Spring. Here are some of the students from our Hebrew resource room receiving their moving up certificates.

On our page of Talmud, Rabbi Chanina’s teaching is the final word in a brief discussion about why the Torah is likened to a tree, since it is taught “*Etz hayim hee l’machzikim*



Some of our 2nd graders learning in the Israel Garden with Corri Gottesman.

ba: [Torah] is a tree of life to all who hold fast to it” (liturgy which we still chant today at the end of the Torah service). “It is to teach you,” says Rabbi Nachman bar Yitzhak, “that just as a small tree can set a larger tree ablaze, so too with scholars: the younger sharpen the minds of the older.” As we move from this year into the next, may we all take notice of the smaller trees in our forests that ignite the passion for our work and our love of learning – and through them, may we find new hand-holds on Torah allowing us to hold it fast.

What a wonderful year it has been, I can’t wait to see all of you again in the fall!

Women's Club News

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

Torah Fund 2014

This year's Torah Fund Brunch was a huge success! Sixty-five men and women were there to celebrate this year's honoree, Kathy Amrom. Elizabeth Bloch-Smith's presentation on *Ancient Balabustas: Women's Lives in Biblical Israel* was informative and entertaining.



Our speaker, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith; our honoree, Kathy Amrom; and friend and guest Sarah Braun

Kudos to this year's Torah Fund co-chairs, Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson,

A huge thank you to Stephen and Chris Levin for their gracious hospitality.

Women's Intergenerational Gatherings

The next gathering will be June 29th at Adina Silberstein's house.

Breaking news

The Platform Lift has been installed!

As soon as the state inspects and approves the installation, GJC members and guests who have difficulty using stairs will have easy access to second floor classrooms, The Little Shop, and the library.



This was a colossal accomplishment for Women's Club. The total cost for the project was \$47,332.15. We could not have done this without a great deal of help.

So now it's time for some equally colossal words of appreciation—Let's start with you, the members. Your generous donations to Building Beautiful for two years made this wish a reality.

Second, Eric Word, our Maintenance Supervisor, has been amazing! We want to acknowledge Eric for his tireless efforts on our behalf, his ability to problem solve and his dedication.

Finally, our thanks to GJC's professional and lay leadership for



their enthusiastic support for the project.

Women's Club wishes our entire community a summer of fun and a renewal of the spirit.



נר תמיד

Join the Ner Tamid Society by Making a Planned Gift to GJC

Please consider making a planned gift to the Germantown Jewish Centre's endowment fund. Planned gifts come in many forms, including for example – charitable gift annuities, life insurance, trusts, or even a bequest in your will.

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

ISRAELI DANCING

Summer Schedule

Wednesdays at 7pm

July 23 – August 27

Sunday schedule begins again on September 7

\$5 per session



For more info call Tamar Magdovitz at 215.247.9614

Social Action Update

GJC Engages Voters for Fair Wages and School Funding

by David Mosenkis

GJC participated in a highly successful voter engagement campaign leading up to the May 20 primary election. It was part of an interfaith city-wide effort organized by POWER to engage with infrequent voters around fair wages and school funding, culminating in a landslide victory for the living wage ballot question, which will help lift thousands of Philadelphia families out of poverty. A total of 33 GJC volunteers shared evenings and Sunday afternoons to knock on doors and phone voters in East and West Mt. Airy. GJC members contacted nearly 1,100 voters, speaking with 142 of them, and getting 136 of them to commit to vote on May 20 and support full fair funding for public schools.

A highlight of our campaign was April 27, when 18 GJC members knocked on doors on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, including 4 parent-child teams (see photo) who had a great time canvassing, and stopping for ice cream at Trolley Car Ice Cream Shoppe when they completed their rounds.

This voter engagement campaign was POWER's first and highly successful effort to engage infrequent voters across Philadelphia. GJC recently became an official member of POWER, an interfaith non-partisan coalition of congregations working to build a more just city. In the fall, POWER's efforts will focus largely on advocating for a full and fair funding formula for Pennsylvania schools, an issue that was a top priority for a majority of the GJC members who participated in last fall's one-on-one conversations about



GJC's youngest crusaders for justice, setting out to canvass voters on April 27

social justice concerns. There will be many opportunities for GJC members to join members of POWER congregations across Philadelphia to push for fair school funding. If you care about public schools, watch for opportuni-

ties to get involved, or email dmosenkis@gmail.com.

GJC's Voter Engagement team was led by "Canvassing Leads" Ilene Poses and Rona Pietrzak, "Phone Bank Leads" Barbara Bloom and George Stern, "Data Leads" Howard Bilofsky and Coleman Poses, and overall "Team Leads" Andrea Moselle and David Mosenkis. Additional phone bankers and door canvassers included: Dena Lake, Linda Cherkas, Marc Newman, Jonathan Moselle, Kathy Amrom, Elayne Blender, Helen Feinberg, Alex Avelin, Abby Weinberg, Hadassah Weinmartin, Lila Berman, Simon Berman, Beth Janus, Zeke Janus Lieberman, Elisa Goldberg, Jesse Wein-Gold, Deb White, Dan Piser, Debbie Stern, Maxine Margolies, and Margaret Shapiro.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Henry School Story Hour *Still* Going Strong!

This school year we had a wonderful group of volunteers. Pictured here are: Ellen Frankel, Mindelle Goldstein, Nina Gordon, Pesha Leichter, Leah Corsover, and Helen Feinberg. Thank you to Sandy Meyer who helped organize our volunteers, to Eugene Okamoto of Harvest Book Company for his donation of books, and to Leah Corsover for distributing those books. Thank you to Dena Lake for her ongoing support, and to Renee Levine for helping us get the Story Hour up and running again this year!!



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 March, 2014 through June, 2014

Todah Rabbah!

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Adult Education Fund	Catherine E. Niallon	in memory of George G. Niallon, husband
Bess Schick Memorial Fund	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Gittel Labovitz, mother
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	Gwynne Sigel	in appreciation of all of the wonderful office staff
	Julie Slavet	in appreciation of GJC, for their hospitality
Camp Scholarship Fund	Lawrence Sternthal	in memory of Jacob Sternthal, father
	Lynne & Art Ellis	in honor of Rebecca & Ivan Wolnek, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Avi
Chesed Fund	Barbara Lissy	in memory of Frank M. Lissy, father
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Children's Services Fund	Naomi Young	in memory of Katherine Wieselmann, mother
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Early Childhood Program Fund	Myrna Snyder	in memory of Samuel Litten, father
	Richard Bazelon	in memory of Miriam Bazelon Knox, mother
	Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
	Louise Leibowitz	in memory of Jack Leibowitz, father
	Robin Minkoff	in memory of Arlene Ostrow Smolar, mother
	Tamara & Earl Norman	in honor of Teddy Mylo Norman
	Joan Silver	in honor of Judy Schwartz, on the birth of her great granddaughter
		in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in honor of Judy Schwartz, on the birth of her great granddaughter
General Fund	Anthony Arce	in memory of Malvene Arce, wife
	Lawrence Charap	in memory of Stanley Charap, father
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		in memory of Richard Neff, fiance of Aviva Perlo
	David Fish	in memory of Richard Fish, father
	Lynne Furman	in memory of Reba Klieman, mother
	Linda Hahn	in memory of Sylvia Kleivit, mother
	Juha & Elana Hollo	in honor of Elisheva's Bat Mitzvah
	Rose Lifschitz	refuah shleimah to Ella Mikolajewicz
	Abigail Weinberg & Nathan Martin	
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
		in memory of Ruth Feinberg, mother of Michael Feinberg
		in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on the birth of their grandson, Levi Jacob Bacine
		in honor of Marcy & Dan Bacine on their anniversary
	Linda Millison	in memory of Ethel Raichlen, mother
		in memory of Vivian Rabineau, aunt
	Ernest Mukamal	in memory of lost loved ones
	Ellyn Phillips	in memory of Morton Charlestein, father

Contributions *Continued*

General Fund	Rona Pietrzak	in memory of Sophie Pietrzak, mother in memory of William Pietrzak, father
	Ameet & Genie Ravital	
	Bev & Ira Somerson	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
	Beth Stearman	in memory of Al Denniberg, grandfather
	Ted & Marcia Wasserman	in honor of Paul Minkoff, on his 86th birthday in honor of Ned Borowsky, on his 60th birthday
	Arthur Weinrach	in memory of Benjamin Weinrach, father in memory of Stephen Weinrach, brother
Hazak Fund	Pam & Joe Yohlin	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
	Cyrus Cohen	in memory of Sonia Cohen, mother
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	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Charles Wasserberg, uncle in memory of Abraham Goldenberg, brother
	Geanne Zelkowitz	in memory of Edward Kulberg, father
	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Jerome Labovitz, father
Israel Affairs Fund	Marcia Landesberg	in honor of Joyce & Sheldon Eveloff, on their 50th wedding anniversary in memory of Eva Katz, mother of Myra Kranzel in memory of Florence Mahon, sister of Rose Beck in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover, for her interesting teaching of the four sons at their Passover meeting
	Chai Chapter Jewish Women International	
	The Rosen Family	in memory of Irving Rosen, husband, father & grandfather
	Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik	in honor of Hilda & Paul Minkoff, on the college graduation of their grandson, Lee
Israel Garden Fund	Leah Schwartz	in memory of Esther Sharlin, mother
	Marcy Bacine	in memory of Samuel Kobran, father
	Sheila Erlbaum	in memory of Nathan Erlbaum, brother
	Helen Feinberg	in memory of Ethel Ross, mother
	Juha & Elana Hollo	in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elisheva Hollo
Kiddush Fund	Marcy Bacine	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
	Andrea Brockman	in memory of Samuel Brockman, father
	Michael Rodin	in memory of Esther Akselrod, grandmother
	Leah & Norm Schwartz	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
	Patty Segal	in memory of Benjamin Bateman, father
	Marilyn Silberstein	in memory of Eli Israel Jacobs, father
	Joan W. Stern	in memory of Frances Winderman, aunt
Minyan Masorti	Bob & Sarah Wenger	in honor of the marriage of their son Jesse Wenger, to Rebecca Stern, daughter of David Stern & Kathryn Hellerstein
Music Fund	Meryl Bonderow	in memory of Ida Rosenbloom, grandmother
	Sandra Donover, Linda Corsover, Leah Corsover, Deanna Hernid, Erin Jackson & Pier Derrickson	in honor of Steve Corsover, on his 70th birthday
	Ruth Rosenthal	in memory of Isidor Rosenthal, father-in-law
	Charles & Martha Schleifer	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover in honor of Anna & Phill Goldberg, on their first wedding anniversary
	Martha Schleifer	in memory of Esther Myers, mother

Contributions *Continued*

Prayerbook & Ritual Item Fund	Joan Silver	in memory of Marjorie Kopeland, mother
Program Fund	Art & Lynne Ellis	in honor of Joel Fish, on his 60th birthday
	Allen Gottlieb & Ellen Fleishman	in honor of Joel Fish, on his 60th birthday
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	Evelyn Caplin	in memory of Louis A. Burd, father
	Nan Daniels	in memory of Katherine Burd, mother
	Ellen Fleishman & Allen Gottlieb	in memory of Herbert Caplin, husband
	Jane Greenspan	in memory of Timothy Daniels
	Neil Kitrosser	in honor of Steve & Louie Asher, on their 35th wedding anniversary
	Richard Menin	in memory of Lois Cutler, mother
	Roslyn Nissen	in memory of Beatrice Kitrosser, mother
	Barbara Pearson	in memory of Irvin Menin, uncle
	Ameet Ravital	in memory of Lena Hoffman, mother
	Jack & Susan Rome	in memory of Frank Wundohl, father
	Ruth Seltzer & Family	in memory of Kishore Raval, father
	Gwynne Sigel	in appreciation of Rabbis Zeff, Lewis & Sklover for all of their help with Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah
Religious School Fund	Melanie Berman	refuah shleimah to Gail Tunick
	Mindy Brown	in appreciation of the Tuesday night healing service
	Nancy Fredland	in memory of Leon & Elinor Sherry, parents
	Ben Greberman	in memory of Leiser Brown, father
	Marilyn Kraut	in memory of Samuel Berkowitz, father
	Nan Myers & Mark Lipshutz	in memory of Betty R. Werner, sister
	Stefanie & Alex Seldin	in memory of Rhonda Klepper, sister
Social Action Fund	Gisha Berkowitz	refuah shleimah to Linda Cherkas
	Barbara Bloom	in memory of Ezra Spicehandler, father of Reena Spicehandler
	Yona & Howard Dansky	in memory of Dora Jacobs, mother of Lynne Jacobs
	Helen & Michael Feinberg	in memory of David Striar, grandfather of Jessica Shapiro
	Nancy Fredland	in memory of Raymond Berkowitz, husband
Torah Restoration Fund	Barbara Menin	in memory of David Berkowitz, son
	Joan Silver	in memory of Dora Jacobs, mother of Lynne Jacobs
	Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
	Kathy Amrom	in honor of Alex Volin Avelin, for her award as a Distinguished Teacher by the School District of Philadelphia
	Evelyn Caplin	in honor of Mitch Marcus, as he completes his term as GJC President
		in memory of Beth Wirner, mother
		in memory of Mildred Lance, mother
		in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman
		in honor of Joel Fish, on his 60th birthday
		refuah shleimah to Ellen Frankel
		refuah shleimah to Linda Cherkas
		in honor of Juha & Elana Hollo, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Elisheva
		in honor of David Stern & Kathryn Hellerstein, on Rebecca's engagement & marriage
		in memory of Dora Nierenberg, mother
		in memory of Sophie Barash, aunt

Contributions *Continued*

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	Eve Pinkenson Joan Silver	in memory of Regina Spitzer, grandmother in honor of Kenn Weiss on his promotion as Clinical Professor of Psychiatry of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and becoming President Elect of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society
Women's Club	Kathy Amrom	in honor of Chris & Steve Levin, for hosting the Torah Fund Brunch in honor of Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, for the wonderful talk she presented at the Torah Fund Brunch in honor of Women's Club, for honoring her at the Torah Fund Brunch
	Frances Gold	in memory of Gertrude Meloff, sister in memory of Max Gold, husband
	Charles & Lyndall Miller Jeffrey & Linda Needleman	in honor of Kathy Amrom in honor of Judy Schwartz, on the birth of her great granddaughter
Young Families Retreat Fund Youth Activities Fund	Women's Club Sheldon & Joyce Eveloff	in honor of Leslie & Curt Pontz, for their years of service to GJC
	David Hahn & Barbara Weiss	in memory of Don Secrest, father of Hideko Secrest & grandfather of Shigeo & Mei in honor of Gabriel Miller & Minna Ziskind, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Ari
	Tamar, Sam, Joe & Zach Magdovitz	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
	Richard Mandel	in memory of Lucille B. Mandel, mother in memory of Henry S. Mandel, father
	Curt & Leslie Pontz Curt Pontz Bunny Stein	in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother of Andi Brockman in memory of Harry Pontz, father in memory of Nathan Weinstein, brother



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