



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

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JULY 2015

Summertime Way of Life

By Rabbi Annie Lewis



The summer after I graduated high school, I worked as a camp counselor for a group of fourteen-year-old girls at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. We spent a few days backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. We began each day with reciting the prayers of *Shacharit* (the morning service) at our campsite. That summer I had taken on the mitzvah of wearing tefillin and as the sun climbed higher in the sky, I clumsily wound the strap around my arm, layered with sunscreen and bug spray. A hiker we ran into on the trail had never seen tefillin before. "What's inside those boxes?" she asked. "They contain messages about our relationship to God and the commandment to love God with all our heart, soul and strength," I explained. "So it's a little radio! How neat!" the woman remarked.

Each time I take out my tefillin, all these years later, I still think of them as metaphorical radios. Laying tefillin is a ritual that allows me to tune in to the presence of God and the power of mitzvot in my life. This mitzvah and other rituals I first experienced at camp, such as *Havdallah* (the ceremony at the end of Shabbat, separating it from the rest of the week) bound me to Jewish community and instilled in me a thirst for sacred moments.

In the muggy months of June, July and August, memories surface from

decades of summers spent at camp. Buckets of tie-dye, mud puddles, the sunset behind the soccer field, the songs of *Kabbalat Shabbat* (Friday night service) echoing on the lake and the smell of rain-soaked wood come back to me. Ramah provided me with an immersive experience in Jewish community and an opportunity to become attuned to Jewish identity, tradition and the blessings of the natural world.

Initially, Jewish summer camp began as a place for immigrants to escape the heat of city tenements and to connect to nature. According to the Foundation for Jewish Camp, throughout North America, 70,000 campers now attend Jewish summer camps annually. In our GJC community, many children and adults have spent formative years at Jewish summer camp, and we currently have dozens of community members enrolled in camp programs of all different denominations. The world of Jewish camping has provided countless young adults with the opportunity to develop and deepen a love of Judaism and a commitment to community. Experience at Jewish summer camps has inspired the creation of vibrant, imaginative Jewish communities around the world. Life at GJC often reminds me of the best parts of camp, with the strength of our community, our fun-loving culture, and ample opportunities for learning and participation in Jewish life.

When the camp season would come to a close, our counselors would lead us in brainstorming ways to bring camp home with us (in addition to the clothing of our bunkmates we would

inadvertently pack in our trunks and the friendship bracelets wrapped around our wrists). As our daily routines become increasingly tethered to technology, the spirit of summer camp invites us to unplug and to be fully present where we are, with all of our hearts, souls and might. May this summer be one of connection to community, Jewish identity and the gifts of the great outdoors. May the season call us to attention and link us to a sense of meaning beyond ourselves.

Program Highlights

**Independence Day Observed –
Office Closed**

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6 PM
July 3

Hazak Book Group
July 8

Baby & Me
July 10 & July 17

**Women's Club Sharing Our Stories
Sharing Our Lives (offsite)**
July 12

**Weekly Summer Israeli Dancing
on Wednesday nights begins**
July 15

**Shabbat Storytime for Tots
with Rabbi Alanna
at Big Blue Marble**
July 24 & August 14

Erev Tish'ah b'Av Program
July 25

**Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Dinner
Kol Zimrah including farewell to
GJC Program Director, Elana Shaw**
July 31



IN CELEBRATION...

Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on their 70th birthdays

Naomi Walinsky King & Gary King, on the Simchat Bat of their daughter Amira

(March 2015 – May 2015) **Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky**, on the Simchat Bat of their granddaughter Amira

Hannah Spear, daughter of Michael & Shelley Spear, on playing the female lead role in Central High School's production of Oklahoma

Dveera Segal, on her special birthday

William Galtman, on becoming Bar Mitzvah

Elynn Phillips, on the marriage of her daughter, Amy Phillips to Elia Einhorn

Chana Rothman, on the debut & release of her new album, Rainbow Train

Mikael Elsila, on the participation in Chana Rothman's new CD, Rainbow Train

Judy Schwartz, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch

Bev Somerson, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch

Ronit Treatman, Board Member of the Philadelphia Jewish Voice, who was honored at the paper's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Emma Dudnick, daughter of Anna Herman & Robert Dudnick, and granddaughter of Jeanette Dudnick, on her Confirmation

Noah Griffith-Rosenberger, son of Moira Rosenberger & Rodney Griffith, on his Confirmation

Isaac Levy, son of Claire McCusker & Jonathan Levy, and grandson of Judy Levy, on his Confirmation

Isaac Spear, son of Shelley & Michael Spear, on his Confirmation

Reena and Aryeh Friedman, on the engagement of their daughter, Shira, to Glen Romonosky

Reena and Aryeh Friedman, on the graduation of their daughter, Tamar, from the University of Pennsylvania

Miranda Kruger Levingston, daughter of Hillary Kruger & Rabbi Judd Levingston, on her high school graduation

Meira Kavesh, daughter of Bill Kavesh & Karen Levitt, on her high school graduation

Eitana Friedman-Nathan, daughter of Rabbi Marsha Friedman & Rabbi Steve Nathan, on her high school graduation

Ned & Karen Kripke, on the aufruf and wedding of their son Joe Kripke to Stephanie Winheld

Joel Fish, on his induction into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame for the body of his work in sport psychology in the community

Erica Solis, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Alex Shapiro, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Kenneth J. Weiss, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, has been elected President of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society

Leah Garber & Andrea Lankin, on their marriage

Anna & Phill Goldberg, on being honored as GJC's Congregants of the Year

Naomi Hirsch, on receiving an honorary doctorate for the 25th anniversary of her ordination as a cantor

Zivia Avelin, on the collaboration and illustration in the recently published *Spell Shaper*, a middle grades novel targeted towards kids with dyslexia

IN MEMORIAM

Emanuel Burd, father of Nancy and Barbara and long-time member of Germantown Jewish Centre

Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz

Jerold G. Klevit, brother of Linda Hahn

Steve Asher, husband of Louie Elfant Asher, and father of Simma, Aviva, Jacob and Rena

Florence Leichter, mother of Pesha Leichter

Dr. Harold Frank, father of Jon Frank

David Mermelstein, father of Andrew Mermelstein



Shabbat Chai-Lites

July 10

- Tot Shabbat

July 31

- Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Dinner
- Kol Zimrah including farewell to GJC Program Director, Elana Shaw

August 1

- Kol D'mamah

August 28

- Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Dinner
- Kol Zimrah

Kabbalat Shabbat /Kol Zimrah

Fridays at 6 PM (unless otherwise noted above)

Shabbat Morning

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.

Religious School

Pinat Hinuch (Education Corner) ReJEWvinating your Child's Screen-time

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

One of the most common questions I am asked by parents is for assistance in finding Apps that can help reinforce their child's learning (especially Hebrew fluency) in fun and engaging ways.

But, briefly, before I continue with my answer to this question, I want to give a brief disclaimer: I am **not** trying to endorse additional screen time for kids or in any way weigh in on the conversation about the correct age and time-limits for screens, or about educational gaming in general. Apps are but one of many forms of media that are available to our children for learning and enrichment.

I am also happy to speak with all of you about (or maybe even dedicate my next Centre Call article to) my top picks for picture books, novels, comics, and workbooks, that can enhance Jewish learning and living. I am, however, an advocate for envisioning, creating, and holding open spaces for Jewish learning (and living!) that are in harmony with the way that we live our lives today.

For many of our children, these lives are filled with story books, graphic novels, and works of creative fiction that transport them to new worlds of wonder and adventure, for others card and board games like Magic the Gathering, Settlers of Catan, and Pokeman, build logical thinking and strategy skills, and for others, games and Apps on screens leverage the tools of social media and gaming to build immersive experiences for learning everything from foreign languages to new STEM skills. In a world where our students are learning through many different analog and digital

modalities, I wanted to write up some of my favorite Apps (for iOS – sorry, I am not as familiar with the GooglePlay store...) with Jewish content.

Alef-Bet and Primers

- **Hebrew Land of Shenanigans** (*Hebrew alef-bet ~ \$2.99*) - Plays (reads?) like an interactive eBook for iPad. Really fun, silly, engaging intro to the Alef Bet letters

- **AlephBetApp HD** (*Hebrew alef-bet ~ Free, no in-app purchases*)- This is an engaging app for beginning learners to start working on their Hebrew letters. The big plus of this letter-learning primer app is that it has a function in which kids actually trace the letters with their fingers for a bit of tactile/writing learning.

- **Alef-Bet Schoolhouse by Dafka** (*Hebrew alef-bet~ \$3.99*) - 4 different activities to reinforce letter recognition. Alef-Bet Schoolhouse is quite engaging and some of the activities really play like games, including picture unscramble, which students who are more puzzle-minded will really enjoy.

Hebrew (Modern and Prayer)

- **Gus on the Go: Hebrew language ~ \$3.99** Gus on the Go is a really solid App for building modern Hebrew vocabulary. It really emphasizes aural learning of vocabulary, and not Hebrew reading/ decoding (which is not a bad thing, but just wanted to make sure to put it on your radar screen). Gus on the Go: Hebrew is part of a larger family of Gus on the Go Apps that are available in many languages, and as such, while not being heavy in Jewish content, it feels like a very well-made learning game. Learners (players?) earn points and trophies that enable them to unlock new lessons (levels?). It is very playable and teaches good Hebrew vocabulary,

comfort in hearing and using Hebrew as a language, and not as only a means for *t'fillah*.

- **Kol Yisrael: Batya's Bubbles and Blessings** (*Hebrew prayer ~ Free & no in-app purchases*) On the opposite side from "Gus on the Go" is "Batya's Bubbles." It focuses **exclusively** on reading prayers to build *t'fillah* fluency and reinforces (through its game-component) each prayer's key vocabulary.

- **Pashut Likroh** (*Hebrew Language ~ \$4.99*) Pashut Likroh is an Israeli app - **so you'll have to search in the App Store in Hebrew for פשוט לקרוא**. This is a very useful app, but there are some real pluses and minuses: **Pluses:** It is a really strong and interactive app and does NOT feel like it is made for K-1st graders (which many Hebrew learning Apps do, a bit) and it goes WAAAY above the level of just learning Alef-Bet (also a HUGE plus, as most Hebrew Apps out there seem to make the unfortunate assumption that children learn letters and vowels, and then have maxed out of religious school Hebrew). It is available in two levels. Level 1 focuses on letters (their shapes, sounds, and building simple words – i.e.: opening and closing sounds). Level 2 drills grammar, comprehension and other more advanced skills. **Minuses:** It is an Israeli app made for Israeli children. This is a BIG minus, because the instructions (given aurally at the beginning of each game) are read in Hebrew VERY QUICKLY and assumes that the player is a fluent speaker, even though s/he is only now beginning to learn to read and be introduced to grammar. (I had to listen to the directions and play

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Hazak

NEWS FROM HAZAK

By Helen Feinberg, Hazak Co-Chair

Our Hazak group has been very active this spring, and we have several events planned for the summer and fall. Our book group continues to meet the second Wednesday of each month (even over the summer!). All are welcome; contact Sonia Dishler (soniadishler@comcast.net) if you are interested so you can find out what to read for the next meeting.

On Wednesday, May 27, Dr. Kathryn Hellerstein discussed her new book, *Women Poets in Yiddish 1586 - 1987*, in a talk at GJC co-sponsored by Hazak, Minyan Masorti, and Women's Club. Kathryn read several poems, in Yiddish and English, by some of her favorite writers, inviting the audi-

ence into a world of depth and conflict that many were not aware of. Books were available for purchase and signing by the author.

Then, on Thursday, May 28, Hazak co-chair Coleman Poses led a visit to the Wyck House and Garden, one of the oldest homes in Germantown. Its original structure dates back to 1690, and famed Philadelphia architect William Strickland renovated the home in the 19th century. The home is noteworthy for its stunning garden, featuring varieties of old roses sprawling over a quarter acre of land. The timing of the visit was perfect, catching the roses at the height of their short season. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch together at the Goat Hollow

restaurant in Mt. Airy.

Hazak, along with Men's Club, Women's Club, Social Action, and the Israel Affairs Committee co-sponsored a talk and discussion of Center member Anne Shlay's new book, *Jerusalem: The Spatial Politics of a Divided Metropolis on Sunday*, June 14. This was Anne's "swan song" at GJC; as she has been offered an academic position at Georgia State University in Atlanta. We wish her all the best in her move, and we will miss her!

On Wednesday, August 26, Sam Feinberg will once again offer his popular "Opera Under the Stars." More details to follow!

And for all you long-range plan-

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A Tribute to Cherie Goren – Life with Cherie at the Wheel

By Leah Mandelblatt

Cherie Goren recently celebrated her 90th birthday with the GJC community and "retired" from her stint as Hazak Chair. These milestones inspired Cherie's long-time friend Leah Mandelblatt, to write the following piece about her . . .

Cherie's life is so multi-dimensional that one could write a book about her. But she has already done that. Fifty years ago, my family and I moved to the suburbs to a new development in Lafayette Hill. There were no paved streets, or sidewalks, nor sewers or lawns, but what we did discover was a group of wonderful people who shared similar values. As we all know, any group needs a leader. Cherie became ours by

mutual consent.

After the children left for school, when the beds were made and the breakfast dishes done, the phones began to ring. What shall we do today? Where shall we go? As long as we were home by 3:00 pm, the world was our oyster. Off we went. Sometimes it was to Buck's County to do a little antiquing. We could not resist a sale at the local department store. Loehman's was a schlep but was worth it. To Center City we drove with Cherie at the wheel of her big black car, off to the art museum to see an exhibit, or to an out of the way store that sold some exotic item. Life was an adventure. We had no time to become desperate housewives.

When the subject of synagogue came up, Cherie arranged a meet-

ing with several of the Rabbis in the area. Of course, Germantown Jewish Centre and Rabbi Charry was the choice, as she had a personal relationship with him in Indianapolis. She became involved in Women's Club and and the now defunct Sukkah Committee. Under her direction, the sukkah was a structure filled with beauty and abundance. She worked in the little shop, not only selling, but polishing the silver and rearranging the jewelry and glassware to show the merchandise in the most artistic way. Nothing was ever too difficult for her to accomplish and she always was able to find a solution to any problem that arose. She continues to be a leader in so many ways and she is my lifelong friend.

Religious School *cont'd from page 3*

around a bit before I totally got each activity.) Students using both levels – especially Level 2 will definitely need a Hebrew speaker. Though this is not insurmountable, it does make this app less accessible for families who do not have Hebrew speaking/comprehending parents.

Jewish Content

- *Leviticus, Shticker & other*

Hazak *cont'd from page 4*

ners, save the morning of Sunday, September 20, for a “Welcome Back” event co-sponsored by Hazak, Women’s Club and Men’s Club and the Social Action Committee featuring Betsy Teutsch discussing her new book, *100 Under \$100*, an amazing compilation of projects and products from around the world (especially the “third world”) that make life healthier, safer and more liveable.

And one more event to mark on your calendars now: on Sunday, October 25, Rabbi Dayle Friedman will be discussing her new book,

Apps by G-dCast (Judaics and culture ~ Most of them are free)

for more information see: <http://www.g-dcast.com/apps/>

- **Daily Blessings by CCAR Press (Blessings/ berachot ~ \$1.99):** Not at all a game, but this is a great reference App to have. It lists (and will read to you or have the Hebrew for students to practice reading!) for many

common blessings for daily life, food, nature, etc.

- **Bedtime Shema for Jewish Children** (by Rusty Brick ~ Free, no in-app purchases) – This is a very cute App for younger children (1st grade and under) to learn with Jewish bedtime rituals. It has an Orthodox/ traditional feel to it, but it is very, very cute.

Growing Older – Wisdom + Spirit Beyond Midlife, in a morning event co-sponsored by Hazak, and Women’s Club. Those who attended Hazak Shabbat in April were fortunate to experience Dayle’s extensive knowledge about aging and her amazing ability to make it all right. In October we will have the opportunity to hear more, as well as to purchase her book to gain further insights.

One more thing: sometime this summer, if you are over the magic age of 55, you should be receiving a questionnaire from Hazak (via email

and/or regular mail). Please take the time to complete and return it; your responses will enable us to plan events and activities YOU WANT! Thanks!

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.

Membership Corner

By Naomi Klayman

Attracting prospective members and welcoming visitors to our community contribute to the growth and survival of our synagogue. This monthly column will be letting you know what the Membership Committee is doing and what you can do to help build and sustain our community.

Sunday, August 2nd, GJC member Rabbi Fredi Cooper will be doing a challah-making demonstration outside in Chestnut Hill (exact location TBD). The objective will be to invite prospective members to attend the Summer Sampler being held at GJC on Sunday afternoon, August 9th. **Please let Nina Peskin or me know if you are available to invite or greet people on either of those dates.**

Tips for Welcoming Others

- Say hello to people you meet in the hall ways, even if you don’t know them.
- Offer directions around the building to any one who may seem lost or confused.
- Give a siddur open to the proper page to a guest who enters a service.
- Be aware of anyone standing alone during kiddush and talk to them; then connect them with someone else when you are done.

Naomi Klayman,
Executive Vic President for Membership
research@naomiklayman.com

WELCOME



David and Brenda Laigaie

Brenda Laigaie, who went through a devastating illness, is extremely grateful that the Germantown Jewish Centre community helped her to cope.

Her mother was a breast and uterine cancer survivor, so Brenda stayed on top of her own health. Beginning at age 40, she had annual mammograms and did self-exams, so she was taken aback when she received a breast cancer diagnosis in 2007. "I was surprised about how serious the cancer became so quickly," she said.

"I remember saying to the doctors, 'Give it your best shot. I have young kids. I have to survive this,'" she recalled. Her daughter was eight and her son was two. Now, Grace, 15, is at the Springside Chestnut Hill Academy and Jake, 9, is at Glenside Elementary School.

"I didn't know what their best shot meant," she said with a wry smile. "It meant two rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. It was quite a year. At the time, (Rabbi) Lenny Gordon said 'Let the community in.' I didn't. I was not used to receiving."

Ultimately, Brenda felt so physically compromised that she realized she couldn't get by with the support of her family alone. She called GJC and asked for help. "GJC was phenomenal," she said. "I had all kinds of complications and when it got really bad, they showed up. They showed up with meals and rides and

did it in a way that I didn't feel helpless. They did it so kindly. They were so supportive."

One of the unexpected elements of being treated successfully for breast cancer was the difficulty she encountered when she was ready to pick up the life she had lived pre-cancer. "Coming back to life after something like cancer is very hard," she observed. "Physically and mentally you can't initially do what you were used to doing." You can't juggle what you used to do at work. You're exhausted. Picking up the kids is an issue. When you come home, you used to make dinner but now you're tired. Everybody said, 'Give it a year,' but at the end of a year, you're still not up to yourself. You look terrible and you have a feeling that you're failing some kind of test."

It took Brenda five years – that magic number for cancer patients – to feel whole again.

One of the positive experiences she had during this period was entering GJC for the first time since her illness. "I remember walking in there and nobody was whispering, 'She had cancer,' she said. "You show up at the Purim bash and people were just like, 'Oh my God, we're glad to see you. Is there a committee you want to be on? We're doing this or that. Why don't you and Dave show up?'" The message Brenda said she took away was, "'You're here. Come back. We need you.' It made me feel good."

Brenda, 56, was born in East Oak Lane and attended Girl's High. "My parents kept kosher and we walked to Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel," she said. She went to Hebrew school, was confirmed, and went to Gratz high school. While working at her first job post college, she also taught

Sunday school at the neighborhood synagogue. Judaism "makes me who I am," she said, smiling. "I don't think about it on a daily basis, but I like my Jewish connection."

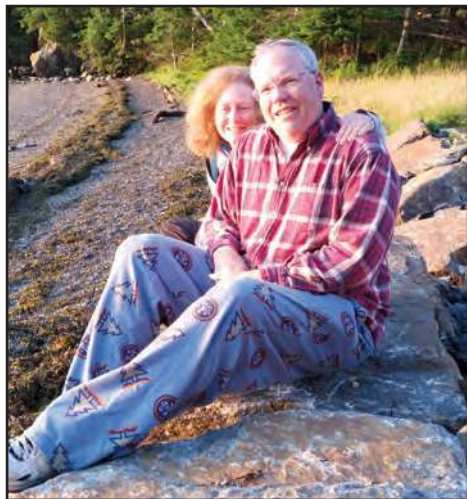
She went to Penn State and transferred to Drexel to become a clinical dietician, attracted by a program that accepted ten students to work on a hospital nutrition support team. Graduating as a clinical hospital dietician, Brenda worked in a children's hospital in Norfolk, VA providing tube feeding and IV nutrition for children that were too sick to be able to eat, yet needed nutrition to help them heal.

That is where Brenda's career took an unexpected turn. Her children's hospital took all their surgical cases to a neighboring adult hospital's operating rooms. "When kids needed surgery, they had to go through a long tunnel. It was dark and scary. The operating rooms and family waiting area rooms were sterile looking." The children's hospital applied to build their own operating rooms, but the adult hospital fought it, since they would lose considerable revenue. "We were lobbying the state legislature, working with the press, fundraising, and working with architects to get this project done," Brenda said. "I'll never forget the groundbreaking. It can make me cry today. It took three years. A year and a half later, the operating rooms and adjacent rooms were kid friendly and brightly decorated. As I was working with this nurse-lawyer I thought, this is what I want to do. I want to be a lawyer. Our efforts changed things in a positive way."

Brenda went to Temple Law School and now represents physicians on transactional issues includ-

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Member Spotlight *cont'd from page 6*



ing contracts, payor audits, payor contracts, employment issues, shareholder buy-ins and payouts, compliance and regulatory analysis, structuring care coordination arrangements, and other corporate and business matters. She also teaches courses on her specialty. She is a partner in the law firm of Wade, Goldstein, Landau and Abruzzo.

"I love what I do," she said. Other firms have approached her to work for them, but she prefers to continue working for doctors. "They have a harder time," she explained. "Reimbursements are being cut and there are additional demands on the practice related to electronic health records, regulatory compliance, and increased payor audits. That means the practice is hiring more staff to do it, and I'm helping them to legally navigate all of that."

At Temple, she met her husband, David, who is a partner at Eckert, Seamans, a 350-lawyer firm based in Pittsburgh. He specializes in white-collar criminal defense work, including bank fraud, Medicare and Medicaid fraud and bribery cases.

David, 52, was born in Olney and graduated from Emory University and Temple Law School. His paternal family came to America in the 18th century. Although most of David's ancestors moved to New

Orleans, his own family ended up in New Jersey.

David is a non-practicing Catholic and supports Brenda's Jewish practice. Grace's Bat Mitzvah was two years ago and Jacob will have his Bar Mitzvah in four years. "I go to Germantown Jewish Center for the (high) holidays and support Brenda in different ways," David said. "The aspects of Judaism that attract me are that a whole lot of rituals are observed in the house. We do Passover Seders, a Chanukah party, High Holiday dinners. That's really a nice thing. The other thing is the big tent notion, having different people with different views or ways of celebrating, especially at the Germantown Jewish Centre. I kind of like the fact that with Judaism, you don't get an answer. You get fifteen answers. Everyone at the Germantown Jewish Centre has always made me feel welcome there," David said. "We feel at home."

Before they had children, Brenda attended adult education classes at GJC and occasionally went to services. "I just like the diversity here," she said. "There is a menu of different minyanim and twenty things going on. It felt chaotic and yet comfortable. It felt like home," she said, echoing her

husband's sentiment. Brenda served on the Religious School committee. Jake went to the Early Childhood Program and Grace attended Religious School, where Brenda was class representative one year. She then joined the membership committee, and co-chaired it with Della Lazarus. Now, she has re-joined the religious school committee. "I love Rabbi Alanna's (our Religious School Director) energy."

Brenda is a new board member of the Women's Club. Five years ago, when a dinner was canceled at the last minute, they still had the babysitter and Brenda suggested they go to the Purim Bash. They put together some costumes and loved it. "We've gone every year since," she said, laughing.

"Because Dave is Catholic, it was important for me to be respectful and supportive of his family's religion," Brenda said. "He provides me with the perfect opportunity to do Judaism however I want to. Dave is the one cooking and supporting. I could not do those dinners without him. Sometimes I'd say the kids didn't have to go to Hebrew school but Dave says, 'No, you have to go.' He's so supportive of our being Jewish."

Annual Family Retreat 2015!



Twenty-four GJC families gathered on Mother's Day weekend for the 5th annual GJC family retreat in Malvern, PA. Highlights included exuberant davvening and singing, water play, hours of biking, more water play, and a comedy improv performance by many of the parents. We can't wait for next year!

Women's Club News

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



Women's Club/Men's Club Installation of officers and boards was held June 7, 2015. Nina Peskin and Rabbi Lewis added their beautiful voices at the brunch.

Building Beautiful Update

*Hiney ma tov u'ma-nayim shevet
ach-im gam ya-chad
How good and pleasant it is for
brothers and sisters to sit together
(Psalm 133)*



The 2014 Building Beautiful Project to install benches on GJC's grounds is complete. We invite all to come and enjoy a place to sit with your friends and family or rest comfortably on our beautiful GJC lawn. We'd like to thank the many mem-

bers who have made donations. We are very grateful for your continued support. We would like particularly to thank Eric Word, Maintenance Supervisor and his staff. Eric and his crew worked tirelessly on this project. This could not have been completed without their assistance to problem solve and commitment to see this project through to its end. Finally, our thanks to GJC's professional and lay leadership for their support.

The Building Beautiful Project of bench installations is just one of the many services Women's Club offers GJC. We are committed to provide and facilitate continued care and support to our community and are always on the search for ways in which we can fund projects that come as suggestions from you, the GJC members.

Seriously, This Really is a Laughing Matter!

GJC women of all ages met Sunday, May 31st for another Women's Intergenerational Gather-ing and the topic was Health and Humor: Laughing Ourselves Healthy.

Do You Shop On Amazon? If So, Read On.

Amazon Smile is a program through Amazon.com that allows you to select a charity or organization (tax exempt entity) that you would like to support. Once you register, select GJC as your designated organization, every purchase you make on **smile.amazon.com** will be linked to GJC and .5% will go to GJC through a Women's Club account so that we can continue to do wonderful things for the entire GJC community. There is no additional cost to your purchase or limits to purchases.

Here's how:

- Go to Smile.Amazon.com
- Search for Germantown Jewish Centre
- Select charity:
Germantown Jewish Centre

You are ready to shop: Go to smile.amazon.com....shop away!



This is a Win Win for all. You get your purchases and we continue to get funded.

So, next time you go to Amazon to buy your dog food, books, plants, paper supplies.... STOP..... be sure you have registered with Smile.amazon.com first.

This is a new way of supporting GJC and Women's Club, and you don't even have to be a woman or a member of Women's Club to support the effort (though we of course welcome all women to join)!

If you have any technical difficulty with enrolling please call Susan Weiss at 610-909-8127 and she will walk you through the process.



GJC's Women's Club is seeking information about the origins of our beautiful Torah mantles. If you have stories or information on their history, please contact **office@germantownjewishcentre.org** or call 215-844-1507, extension 10, and ask to speak with Renee, our new Office Manager.

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Women's Club News *cont'd from page 8*

GJC Fashionistas Unite in Support of Israel

By Denise Wolf

On a warm Sunday evening in May, women from the Germantown Jewish Centre ventured downtown for a "support Israel" themed shopping and dining event in Olde City. The first stop was a visit to a stylish and colorful clothing boutique on Third Street called My Little Redemption. Israeli owner, Galit Carmely, peppers her shop with exclusive Israeli designers. GJC women sipped wine as Galit gave an insider's view into the fashion industry in Tel Aviv and her visits to the studios of these design-

ers. Galit generously donated 10% of all sales to the GJC Women's Club and Israel Programming Committee. The group raised several hundreds of dollars for the synagogue! After shopping, next on the agenda was a nosh at Café Ole, also Israeli owned. The group chatted over delicious hummus and pita, shakshouka and tobouleh salad. Join us for this fun event next year!



Torah Fund 2015



Guest speaker Chancellor Arnold Eisen, JTS



Some members of the captivated audience



Honorees, Bev Somerson and Judy Schwartz with Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, Torah Fund Executive Director



Leslie Pontz, Joyce Eveloff and Maxine Margolies enjoying brunch outdoors

This year's Torah Fund Brunch was a huge success! Eighty-five men and women were there to celebrate this year's honorees, Judy Schwartz and Bev Somerson. Our guest speaker, Chancellor Arnold Eisen, of the Jewish Theological Seminary, was enthusiastic about the future of Conservative Judaism. We raised over \$12,000 for JTS. Enjoy this video montage of GJC Torah Fund Brunch 2015 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0wpNz_K6GU

Kudos to this year's Torah Fund Co-Chairs, Maxine Feldman, Connie Katz and Barb Menin.

A huge thank you to George and Kathy Amrom for their gracious hospitality.

Women's Club wishes our entire community a summer of fun and a renewal of the spirit.
And remember SHOP..... at Smile.Amazon.com and the Little Shop too!

Social Action Update

By Coleman Poses & Andrea Moselle

The impact of our Earth Day Event: While the flutter of a butterfly's wings can set off a series of events culminating in the formation of cataclysmic winds, a single half hour speech at GJC in April may have initiated a process to harness those winds to provide power to our city.

The speech was a part of an event focused on the environmental risks of transporting oil and liquefied natural gas, and solutions to the problem. Philadelphia is a prime example of an urban area that faces these risks daily, as long oil trains make their way along the Schuylkill toward refineries south of the city. The program was hosted by the Social Action Committee, and was co-sponsored by a number of groups, including GJC's Men's Club, Women's Club and Hazak, along with the Weavers Way Food Coop,



Director of the PennFuture Energy Center, + Joy Bergey, Federal Policy Director for PennFuture, + Jay Andrews, Director of Outreach PennFuture

Interfaith Power and Light, the Shalom Center, and PennFuture.

The program began with "Boom," a ten minute film that recounted the devastation of Lac Megantic – a town in Quebec – on July 6, 2013, by the derailment and explosion of a train

carrying crude oil. The film segued into a presentation from Robert Altenburg, JD, director of the PennFuture Energy Center, who questioned our continued reliance on fossil fuels when renewable

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POWER Update

As we go to press, we don't yet know the status of the Pennsylvania budget, which comes to a vote on June 30, nor has the Basic Education Funding Commission submitted its proposal for a new statewide school funding formula. POWER member congregations have been fighting hard for a Full Fair Funding Formula which will allow schools in Philadelphia and across the state to open in September with adequate budgets to meet the needs of children and families.

What follows is a quick look at some of the activities GJC members have been part of. In the September Centre Call, we will cover these issues more completely.

- This spring, each POWER congregation has met with an assigned legislator to encourage them to become a champion for Full Fair Funding and for eliminating racial bias in state education funding. GJC members have talked with State Representative Dwight Evans. GJC members joined representatives of POWER congregations across the northwest area of the city at MLK

High School to hear from Pennsylvania State Education Secretary, Pedro Rivera, at an "Education Matters Forum – A Conversation with the Secretary," sponsored by State Representative Steve Kinsey (Germantown) and our Philadelphia City Councilwoman, Cindy Bass. POWER members spoke during a Q&A session.

- GJC POWER Co-Chair, David Mosenkis, was invited to meet with Governor Wolf's cabinet members, including Education Secretary Pedro Rivera, Policy Director John Hanger and Budget Secretary Randy Albright to discuss his findings on racial inequities in state education funding and how these inequities can be eliminated.

- In the ten days leading up to the budget vote on June 30, POWER joined congregations across the state for a Fast for Family Values. Each congregation was encouraged to take part for a day. Rabbi Lewis and a group of GJC members spent the day in Harrisburg along with rabbis and members of the Jewish community from across the state of Pennsylvania.

Social Action Update *cont'd from page 10*

energy seems to be a more economical and earth friendly alternative.

Mr. Altenburg's talk was followed by GJC's Ken Lande, a physics professor at the University of Pennsylvania, who tied the Lac Megantic tragedy to the proposed energy hub for Philadelphia, which would convert fossil fuels into refined energy, manufactured goods, etc. While warning of the increased dangers of such an energy hub, Dr. Lande proposed an alternative renewable energy hub, one which would manufacture the massive wind turbine components such as blades and

towers, assemble these components into wind turbines as well as serve as a center for off shore deployment and installation of these wind turbines. Philadelphia's unique geography makes it an ideal location for such a manufacturing complex, one that would be both economically as well as environmentally sustainable, and employ a large number of people far into the foreseeable future.

Lynne Iser, a board member of the Shalom Center, was in the audience in April, and, impressed by Dr. Lande's presentation, contacted Meenal Raval, a Mt. Airy environmental activist who

has been in close contact with the Jim Kenney mayoral campaign. Ms. Raval agreed that Dr. Lande should be a part of the Kenney transition team. Jonathan Leibovic, a member of 350 Philadelphia – a group that staged a successful sit-in for fossil fuel divestment at Swarthmore College – was also at the April event. He has asked Dr. Lande to present his proposal to 350, possibly this summer. With enthusiasm at both the governmental and grass-roots levels, the possibility of transforming Philadelphia into a green energy hub is becoming much more of a reality.

Early Childhood Program (ECP)



This Spring ECP celebrated Yom ha-Atz'maut with a "Pretend Trip to Israel." Children made their own passports and boarded a "plane," once they arrived in Israel they visited several cities (each classroom was transformed into a different location): a Tel Aviv Café, Fishing in Eilat, Safed, they left notes in the Kotel in Jerusalem and also visited the Dead Sea, amongst other cities and sites.



ECP teacher Anna Goldberg created an amazing program, complete with a "tent," to help our older students explore the Shavuot themes of God and revelation. She told the story of Moses receiving Torah on Sinai in a "tent of meeting," and invited the children to play with figurines, play dough, and gravel that was used in the telling of the story. This is a special method of teaching bible stories, which invites the children to really reflect on the story.

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 April 2015 through May 2015

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	Debbie Fishman	in memory of Minna Fishman, mother
Bess Schick Memorial Fund	Peshe & Peter Kuriloff	in memory of Jerold G. Kleivit, brother of Linda Hahn
	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Gittel Labovitz, mother
Camp Scholarships Fund	Howard Girsh	in memory of Betty R. Werner, friend
Chesed Fund	Liz Bloch-Smith & Mark Smith	in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz
	Meryl Bonderow, Togo Travalia and Noa & Emi Travalia	in memory of Helene Bonderow, mother of Meryl Bonderow
	Naomi Young	in memory of Katherine Wieselmann, mother
Early Childhood Program Fund	Mitchell Berk & Beth Stearman	in honor of Anna & Phill Goldberg, on being honored as GJC's Congregants of the Year
	Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Beatrice Kitrosser, mother
	Louise Leibowitz	in memory of Jack Leibowitz, father
	Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in honor of Dveera Segal, on her birthday
	Robin Minkoff	in memory of Aryeh Stein-Azen, son of Rabbi Margot Stein
	Sherry & Bob Pomerantz	in memory of Arlene Ostrow Smolar, mother
	Brian & Elana Shaw	in memory of Jean Cohen, mother of Amy Cohen
	Elana Shaw	in honor of Debbie & George, for being incredible mensches in appreciation of Tamar Magdovitz, for her help when Elana broke her wrist
Floral Fund	Evelyn Caplin	in memory of Dora Nierenberg, mother
General Fund	Jerry & Helene Feldman	in memory of David Mermelstein, father of Andrew Mermelstein
	Shellie Holl & Famly	in memory of Aryeh Stein-Azen, son of Rabbi Margot Stein
	Tracy King	in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz
	Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in honor of Ned & Karen Kripke, on the marriage of their son, Joe Kripke, to Stephanie Winheld
	Ken & Kathy Laskey	in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in honor of Dveera Segal, on her birthday
	Ernest Mukamal	
	Martha & Chuck Schleifer	in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
	Patricia Segal	in memory of Benjamin Bateman, father
	Gwynne Sigel	
Hazak Fund	Helen Feinberg	in memory of Ethel Ross, mother
	Samuel Feinberg	in memory of Abraham Feinberg, father
	Samuel & Helene Feinberg	in memory of Howard Rosen
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in honor of Aaron Weber, on his birthday
	Aaron Weber	in honor of Paul Minkoff, on his birthday
	Lucille Weber	in memory of Abraham Weber, father
	Betty Ann & David Fellner	in memory of Rose Applebaum, mother
Interfaith Hospitality Network	Nancy Fredland	in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
	Cecile Merion	in memory of Beth Wiener, mother
	Deborah White & Dan Piser	in memory of T'ai Merion, grandson
	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz
		in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
		in memory of Abraham Goldenberg, brother
		in memory of Charles Wasserberg, uncle
		in memory of Lena Goldenberg, mother
	Geanne Zerkowitz	in memory of Edward Kulberg, father

Contributions *Continued*

Israel Affairs Fund	Liz Bloch-Smith & Mark Smith	in honor of Dveera Segal, on her birthday
	Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in honor of Ronit Treatman, for her recognition by the Philadelphia Jewish Voice
	Judy Schwartz	in memory of Ida G. Prager, mother
	Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik	refuah shleimah to Nan Daniels refuah shleimah to Linda Needleman
Israel Garden Fund	Evelyn Caplin	in memory of Sophie Barash, aunt
	Sheila Erlbaum	in memory of Nathan Erlbaum, brother
Kiddush Fund	Marcia Landesberg	in memory of Emanuel Burd
	Barbara Menin	in memory of Mildred Lance, mother
	Hilda & Paul Minkoff	in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein in memory of Gabriella "Gabi" Fellner, mother of David Fellner
		in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
		in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his 85th birthday
		in memory of Bette Sinett, sister of Carol Kaplan
		in honor of Cherie Goren, on her 90th birthday
		in honor of Reena & Aryeh Friedman, on the birth of their grandson
		in honor of Leah & Norman Schwartz, on the birth of their three new great-grandsons
		in appreciation of Rabbi Reena Spicehandler, for her service to GJC
		in honor of Judy Schwartz, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch
		in honor of Bev Somerson, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch
	Betsy & Hershel Richman	in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
Minyan Masorti Memorial Shabbat Fund	Joan Stern	in memory of Ruth Winderman, mother
	Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
	Chuck & Martha Schleifer	in honor of Erica Solis, on becoming Bat Mitzvah in honor of Ned & Karen Kripke, on the aufruf & marriage of their son, Joe Kripke, to Stephanie Winheld
Music Fund	Dena & Ed Lake	in honor of Lou Walinsky's 70th birthday
	Jonathan Moselle	in memory of Claire Moselle, mother
	Martha & Chuck Schleifer	in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
Prayerbook & Ritual Items Fund	Martha Schleifer	in memory of Esther Myers, aunt
	Richard Mandel	in memory of Henry S. Mandel, father
Program Fund	Joan Silver & Ellen Kopeland	in memory of Marjorie Kopeland, mother
	Alice & Joe Antonelli	in memory of Emanuel Burd
	Monte & Linda Block	in memory of Emanuel Burd
	Donna & Michael Cutler	in memory of Bertha "Bunny" Stein, wife of Sidney Stein
	Betty Ann & David Fellner	in honor of Ronit Treatman, for her recognition by the Philadelphia Jewish Voice
	Ann Marie Healy & Bruce Hudman	in memory of Emanuel Burd
	Susan Kavesh	in memory of Miriam Kavesh, mother
Stephanie Klein & David Landau	in memory of Emanuel Burd	
Jane & Kenneth Lieberthal	in memory of Emanuel Burd	

Contributions *Continued*

Program Fund	Hon. Shelley Robins New & Hon. Arnold L. New Hal & Sandy Rosenberg Beth Stearman Stephen Tobias Arthur Weinrach	in memory of Emanuel Burd in memory of Emanuel Burd in memory of Al Denniberg, grandfather in memory of Rebecca Tobias, wife in memory of Stephen Weinrach, brother in memory of Benjamin Weinrach, father in memory of Emanuel Burd
Rabbi Lewis' Discretionary Fund	Anita Zippert Amy Cohen Mindelle Goldstein Ellen Fleishman & Allen Gottlieb Barbara Lissy Sherry & Bob Pomerantz Cyrilla Rosen	in memory of Jean Cohen, mother in memory of Emanuel Burd in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz in memory of Frank M. Lissy, father in memory of Mark J. Rosenberg, husband in memory of Theodore "Ted" Charles Bloch, father of Elizabeth Bloch-Smith in honor of Anna & Phill Goldberg, on being honored as GJC's Congregants of the Year in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher in honor of Betsy Teutsch, on the publication of her new book in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund	Mona & Marc Yudoff Dan Bacine Charles Becker Lawrence Charap Ellen Fleishman & Allen Gottlieb Vilma Lieberman Sherry & Bob Pomerantz Mitchell Berk & Beth Stearman Melanie Berman	in memory of Jules Bacine, father in memory of Edward Becker, father in memory of Stanley Charap, father in honor of Dveera Segal, on her birthday in memory of Kenneth A Lieberman, husband in honor of Dveera Segal, on her birthday
Religious School Fund	Ben Greberman Linda Millison Betty Ann & David Fellner	in memory of Leon Sherry, father in memory of Ellinor Sherry, mother in memory of Betty R. Werner, sister in memory of Ethel Raichlen, mother in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman, for being honored at this year's Spring Concert
Social Action Fund	Richard Mandel Kate Margo Charlotte Peitzman Joan Silver Michael Rodin Stefanie & Alex Seldin	in memory of Lucille B. Mandel, mother in memory of Virginia Lane, mother in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher in memory of Esther Akselrod, grandmother in memory of Jean Cohen, mother of Amy Cohen in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman
Special Education Fund	Adina Abramowitz & Naomi Klayman Barbara Bloom Amy Cohen & Mark Spiller Linda & Richard Feder Shellie Holl & Famly Ned & Marian Levine Maxine Margolies Abby & Dan Pozefsky Marcy & Greg Rost Denise Wolf & Paul Rudick Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik Joan Silver	in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman in honor of Josh Goldblum & Debbie Fishman
Spring Concert Fund		

Contributions *Continued*

Torah Restoration Fund

Diane Ajl
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in memory of Samuel Ajl, father
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in memory of Bette Sinett, sister of Carol Kaplan
in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz
in honor of Ned & Karen Kripke, on the wedding of their son Joe Kripke to Stephanie Winheld
in memory of Aaron Blumenthal, father
in memory of Jerold G. Klevit, brother of Linda Hahn
in memory of David Mermelstein, father of Andrew Mermelstein

Women's Club

Frances Gold
Sandi Goldstein

Marcy Landesberg

Bev & Ira Somerson

in memory of Max Gold, husband
in honor of Bev Somerson, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch
in honor of Bev Somerson, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch
in honor of Judy Schwartz, on being honored at the Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch

Youth Activities Fund

Bob Epstein

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Lawrence Sternthal

refuah shleimah to Nan Daniels
refuah shleimah to Linda Needleman
in honor of Rabbis Lewis & Goldman, on the birth of their daughter
in honor of Erica Solis, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Vivian Rabineau, aunt
in memory of Jerold G. Klevit, brother of Linda Hahn
in memory of Lorna Carroll, mother of Sherry Pomerantz
in honor of Ellyn Phillips, on the marriage of her daughter, Amy Phillips to Elia Einhorn
in memory of Steve Asher, husband of Louie Asher
in memory of Jacob Sternthal, father

Goodbye.
We'll miss you!

Save the Date!
Kol Zimrah & Farewell to Elana Shaw
Friday, July 31 at 6 PM

Please join us in bidding our wonderful Elana Shaw farewell at the July Kol Zimrah service, followed by a special oneg Shabbat offered in appreciation of the many ways she has enhanced Germantown Jewish Centre through the work she has done. Elana has served our community in the role of Program Director, and beyond that, Elana, Brian, and their children are active members of the GJC community. We will miss seeing them here almost every Shabbat, and wish herfamily all the best in this next chapter. Join us at 6pm on Friday, July 31 to give Elana a hug, wish her well, and let her know how much you appreciate all she has done for the Centre.

ISRAELI DANCING

Summer Schedule
Wednesdays in July & August
at 7 PM
We will meet beginning July 15 through the end of August
\$5 per session

For more info call Tamar Magdovitz at 215.247.9614

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



So why go anyplace else for the presents you need for the weddings, for that visit down the shore, teacher's gifts, Father's Day, and the graduations?

From June through August everything will be **10% off** our already low prices

(EXCEPT books, teffilin, mezuzah scrolls and wines)

Remember our Hours for June, July and August
Wednesday 12:00 - 6:00 Friday 12:00 - 6:00

(Or by Appointment if you contact Marcy Bacine at marcy49@me.com or 215-247-8118, or Connie Katz at katz.connie@gmail.com or 215-248-0309)

And come September, we'll be here with everything you need for the High Holidays!

Did you know that 100 percent of the profit from the sales at the Little Shop goes to support GJC and its many programs and community outreach efforts?!



(215) 844-1507 fax: (215) 844-8309

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Please submit all articles via email to
Program@GermantownJewishCentre.org.
Deadline for the September issue is July 31
For advertising information call (215) 844-1507 ext 19

Save the Date

Kol D'mamah
August 1

Summer Sampler
August 9

Hazak Book Group
August 12

Shabbat Storytime for Tots with Rabbi Alanna at Big Blue Marble
August 14

Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Men's Club
August 19

Hazak's Opera Under the Stars with Sam Feinberg
August 26

Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Dinner & Kol Zimrah
August 28

Women's Club Sharing Our Stories Sharing Our Lives (offsite)
August 30