



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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By Rabbi Adam Zeff

Spreading Our Light

As we have moved into the winter, we have witnessed our world going through a dark time. Horrific acts of violence have shocked our hearts and minds in Israel, in Paris, in California, and elsewhere. Growing hatred and suspicion of those who have different beliefs or views have unsettled and frightened us here in Philadelphia. Voices of intolerance and distrust have grown louder in politics, drowning out the compassion and reason that guide the best impulses of the human heart. What are we to do? How can we respond?

The ancient rabbis teach in the Midrash that when the first human beings saw the world getting dark at the end of their first night on earth, they were frightened beyond measure. They feared that the growing darkness meant that the world was ending just as they were growing to know and love it. They cried out for God to end the darkness and bring back the light. But that is not what God did. Instead, when the next day waned, God taught the humans how to make light. And using that light, they pushed back the darkness themselves.

In a time of darkness, we can pray to God for relief, but that in itself is not enough. We must also find the resources within ourselves to kindle light. And we must go a step further: we must hold up that light and spread it as far as we can. Then others will see it and be inspired to kindle their own lights. Then we and they will take

courage and begin to hope. Then we will actually begin to push back the darkness with light.

In this community, we have learned a great deal about how to relate to those who have different beliefs and different views from ourselves. We know that we encompass in one community people who pray differently, believe differently, study differently, and act differently. We have learned how to listen compassionately and to cultivate our capacity for tolerance and understanding of those with whom we don't agree. We have learned how to love and trust each other despite our differences. Our community is not perfect, and we still have conflicts and challenges to face. But we have succeeded in building our own *'olam m'at* – our own little version of the world in which we confront those challenges together.

That is a wonderful achievement, but it is a small light in the gathering darkness. We have not done enough to extend its reach. And the world around us is showing us, maybe even shouting to us, that it desperately needs this particular light right now – the light of compassion, the light of tolerance, the light of love, the light of trust. The world needs to learn how to live with its diversity, how to lower the temperature of rhetoric, how to ratchet down the fear, how to reach out across difference. It needs our light. So we need to find ways to spread that light, beyond the walls of GJC, even beyond Mt. Airy, into Philadelphia, into Pennsylvania and beyond.

One way we can do this is by ap-

proaching those we meet outside this community with the same spirit of welcome, curiosity, and acceptance with which we greet each other. The more we spread those patterns of behavior, the more the light spreads through us.

Another way we can do this is by talking about our experience and explaining how it works to those we encounter in the outside world. People need examples to follow, and ours is a powerful one that can be applied to a wide array of situations, beyond religious communities. Neighborhoods, organizations, cities – all of these need to deal in some way with the diversity within their midst, and we can use our experience to help guide them.

Finally, we can spread our light by explaining why we believe that this model of unity in diversity is not just a second-best or alternate plan; it is the plan we prefer and the plan we choose above all others. The Torah's story of Babel and the ancient rabbinic Midrash

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Program Highlights

- JAM Tot Havdallah: Jan. 9
- Women's Club Frida Kahlo Program & Red Cross Blood Drive: Jan. 10
- Hazak Film & Discussion: Jan. 20
- Melaveh Malkah: Jan. 23
- Women's Clothing Exchange: Jan. 31
- Music Café: Feb. 20
- Kid's Stuff Exchange: Feb. 28
- Musical Meditations with Mikael Elsilá: Feb. 28

President's Message

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



The synagogue's "first lady," the lovely born-in-Maine Jessica, is responsible for many things in my life. Among them is my allegiance to L.L. Bean. I don't think I owned many, if any, L.L. Bean products before I met Jessica. Now, I am a semi-regular visitor to the mothership in Freeport, Maine, I have an L.L. Bean credit card, and I have L.L. Bean luggage, a briefcase, backpacks, shoes, sheets, blankets, and clothing. Some days, virtually everything I wear is from L.L. Bean. Some days, virtually everything everyone in my family wears is from L.L. Bean.

Why am I now such a devotee of L.L. Bean? That's easy. L.L. Bean makes high quality goods that last a long time, has excellent customer service, and allows you to return anything, anytime. What could be better? If it doesn't work, or I'm not happy with it, I know I can take it back. Heck, even if I love it, use it every day, and wear it out – I can take it back.

That's why I continue to buy from L.L. Bean.

And I believe most people who buy from L.L. Bean buy for the same reasons: high quality, reasonable prices, legendary customer service, and everything 100% guaranteed. It's easily explained, and easy to understand.

I cannot explain so easily why I choose GJC as my synagogue, let alone explain it in a way I think others would echo – but I wish I could. I wish I could articulate a value proposition for my membership in GJC as easily as I could articulate L.L. Bean's value proposition.

We all recognize Jewish American institutions are changing. We don't know what those institutions will look like in the future, including, promi-

nently, whether they will remain membership-driven organizations or whether funding through dues is sustainable.

It would be beneficial to be able to explain the value proposition that is Germantown Jewish Centre as clearly as L.L. Bean explains the value proposition of its goods.

Having such a value proposition would animate everything that we do. It would be a constant reminder of our goals, a driver of membership and retention, and a theme for fundraising.

So this is my challenge to the congregation: imagine yourself here, feeling happy and connected. Where are you? You may be at services, in any one of the minyanim, on Shabbat or Kol Zimrah, or any other service. You may be on the lawn, laughing with family and friends. You may be baking Challah with Hazak. You may be in the Little Shop, in the Chapel, in ECP, or in the Israel Garden. Wherever you are, whomever you are with... what is it that works. What is the value proposition that connects you to GJC and compels you to maintain your membership in GJC, that makes you choose GJC as a recipient of your charitable dollars, that makes one of our prayer communities spiritually fulfilling to you? Can you express it in a universal way that speaks to the entire congregation and will speak to prospective members? So that unaffiliated Jews will say "I want to join the Germantown Jewish Centre because the Germantown Jewish Centre is..." So that all of our members will say "I want to give a personally meaningful financial gift to the Germantown Jewish Centre because the Germantown Jewish Centre is..." So that prospective leaders will say "I want to be the President of the Germantown Jewish Centre because the Germantown Jewish Centre is..."

I have my own answer – or at least the beginnings of an answer. But I don't

want unduly to influence your collective ideas.

Rather, I want everyone to email their own ideas to me or to Nina. We will be following up with a survey, or some other more formal way to obtain the congregation's feedback. We're going to make this a contest. The winner will receive... attribution, props, and the gratitude of the congregation.

We are very lucky. We are a stable congregation in a time when many conservative congregations are shrinking. Our budget balances in a time when many congregations' budgets do not. And it's not only conservative synagogues facing these problems, it is all faith-based institutions, across the board.

So why are we so stable? What works at GJC? What keeps so many congregants returning to GJC? What keeps so many congregants financially invested in GJC?

I believe not only that it is important for us to answer these questions, but also, developing an answer to these questions will help us do a better job at being the best institution we can be.

So tell us what you value at GJC.

Rabbi's Message

Continued from page 1

make clear that if God had wanted to create a world in which everyone was the same, that was within God's power. God chose to make a world filled with unique, precious, diverse human beings because that was the best plan for humanity. We need to honor and raise up that choice.

In this time of darkness, may we use the resources within ourselves and the model of our community to spread light. *Ken y'hi ratzon* – so may this be God's will.



Shabbat Chai-Lites

**Beit Midrash Adult Study 9:30-10 AM,
Children's Beit Midrash 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Saturdays in January & February**

January 1

- Early Kabbalat Shabbat (4:15 PM) January 9

January 9

- Charry Service: *Bat Mitzvah of Zoey Zaslow-Lowe, daughter of Rebecca Zaslow & Tristin Lowe*
 - Kol D'Mamah
 - Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit
 - JAM Tot Havdallah

January 16

- Granger Shabbat & Program

January 22 & 23

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: *Bat Mitzvah of Jemma Mines, daughter of Daniel Mines & Liza Somers*
 - Musical Marching Minyan
 - Melaveh Malkah

January 30

- Dorshei Derekh: Stefan Presser Memorial Shabbat & Program

February 5 & 6

- Kol Ha-Lev Service (Voice of the Heart)
- Charry Service & Minyan Masorti: *Bat Mitzvah of Mei Rosenzweig, daughter of Laurence Rosenzweig & Hideko Secrest*
 - Kol D'mamah

February 13

- Charry Service with JAM Storah Telling
 - Parshat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

February 20

- Musical Marching Minyan

February 26 & 27

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: 3rd Grade Tanakh Ceremony

Kabbalat Shabbat / Kol Zimrah / Kol Ha-Lev
Fridays at 6 PM (unless otherwise noted)

Shabbat Morning Services at 10 AM
(unless otherwise noted)

Musical Marching Minyan at 11 AM
Parshat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit at 11 AM

Shabbat Morning Kids Space - Room 305

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



(November 2015- December 2015)

IN CELEBRATION...

Isaac Becker, son of Chip & Marta Becker, on becoming Bar Mitzvah.

Jared Jackson & Rebekah Robinson Jackson on the birth of their son.

Joanna Charap, daughter of Lawrence & Ellyn Charap, on becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Kenneth J. Weiss on being awarded the 2015 Golden Apple by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law at its annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale. The award is given to a senior member of the organization who has made significant contributions to forensic psychiatry.

Bradley Bridge & Dveera Segal on the birth of their granddaughter, Selah Gigi Bridge, daughter of Rami & Tessa.

Jeremy Brochin & Reena Spicehandler on the birth of their grandchild, Ora Batya Brochin-Meyer, child of Ari Brochin & Sarah Meyer.

Norman & Leah Schwartz on the birth of their grandson, Meir Moshe Schwartz, son of Joel & Sydney Schwartz, in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel.

Denise Scott Brown & Robert Venturi on winning the American Institute of Architects 2016 Gold Medal, the institute's top honor. This marks the first time a woman has won in her lifetime.

Tamar & Sam Magdovitz, on the engagement of their son Joe to Mattie.

Nina Israel on the marriage of her son, Daniel Israel, to Amanda Ross.

Marty Kaplan, on his 86th birthday.

Noah Rudick, son of Paul Rudick & Denise Wolf, on becoming Bar Mitzvah.

Noah Eisenstein, son of Andrew & Ricki Eisenstein, on becoming Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Linda Cherkas and Chaim Dworkin** on the wedding of their son, Akiva, to Tova Glebocki in Jerusalem.

IN MEMORIAM

Marc David Kaplan, son of Marcus & Carol Kaplan

Miriam Erlbaum, mother of Sheila Erlbaum

Mary Weinstein, a long-time member of GJC

Hilda Minkoff, wife of Paul Minkoff

Lloyd Schactner, father of Susan Rome

Dorothea Zucker-Franklin, mother of Deborah Franklin

Harold Barkan, grandfather of Craig Barkan

Hans George Hirsch, father of Naomi Hirsch and grandfather of Shira Kamm Alberts

Join us in welcoming new members

Susan Swartz

William & Akhila Shapiro & family

Pinat Ha-Hinuch (Education Corner)

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

Looking Ahead to 2016... this fall in pictures!



The Humans of THE LITTLE SHOP



Lila Berman and her parents admire a tray featuring a peacock. A family member with the last name of "Pava," which means peacock in Yiddish, may be the lucky recipient.

Special Discounts Upon Request

- 10% off cool travelling Shabbat candleholders that 13 year olds really like!
- In honor of Pava, there is a 10% discount on trays and serving dishes.

Hours

Sun	9 am-12:30
Mon	closed
Tues/Wed	12-7:30 pm
Thurs	12-5 pm
Fri	12-4 pm

Monthly Specials

- 20% off most items in January
- 20% off Jewelry & Ahava products M-F and 20% most items on Sundays in February

Hazak

By Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses

Before we talk about all of the wonderful things happening with Hazak, we want to express our sadness at the loss of Hilda Minkoff, one of our most active and involved members. Her sudden death was a great loss for us and for all of GJC, and her funeral was a beautiful testament to her rich life. We treasure her memory as we offer condolences to Paul, her children, and her extended family. We will miss Hilda.

We have good news - Hazak powers on! On December 6 a small group went to a Sunday matinee performance at the Stagecrafters Theater in Chestnut Hill to see "Of Mice and Men." Stagecrafters is an easy-to-get-to venue, not expensive, and the actors gave an extremely well-done

performance of this classic. (Apparently, *Of Mice and Men* was actually written to be a play; each chapter begins with a scene setting, and then there is all dialogue). Everyone was very pleased they had chosen to attend.

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (gasp!) we will have a movie night at GJC. We'll be viewing "Rashomon," the famous Kurosawa film, having something to eat, and then have time to talk about the film. We're starting early, so look for further information around GJC and in the Weekly.

Our Book Group continues to draw a lively crowd with lots of opinions to discuss. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am, usually in the Charry Lobby. The book for December was *Purity* by Jonathan

Franzen. Please call or email Sonia Dishler if you are interested in knowing more, or just show up!

- January's Discussion: *Trains of Thought: Paris to Omaha Beach, Memories of a Wartime Youth*, by Victor Brombert
- February's Discussion: *Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins
- March's Discussion: *The Rent Collector*, by Camron Wright

We would also like to mention that any person interested in attending any HAZAK event, but has questions or transportation needs, can contact either Coleman Poses (215-510-1750) or Helen Feinberg (267-253-7409).

The Israel Ride: Jerusalem to Eilat and So Much More



By Joyce Videlock (Israel Ride 2011, 2013, 2015)

If you think you've seen Israel, think again!

This past November, nine members of our GJC community, along with 160 other riders, had the experience of a lifetime as we explored the beauty and breathtaking landscape of Israel from the seat of a bike. As participants on the 2015 Israel Ride, we traveled from Jerusalem to Eilat, and, depending on the route we chose, covered anywhere from 150 to 350 miles

on this journey.

Having participated in this ride three times, I can attest that the Israel Ride is a unique experience. Yes, it is a bike trip, but much, much more than a ride. It is difficult to put into words why I, and so many others, come back to re-live this incredible experience. Each time, as I have become immersed in the landscape and in the community of fellow riders, I have felt renewed and energized. It has been easy to detach from my electronic tethers and focus on the experience, the surroundings and my riding companions. The majority of the ridership and

other aspects of the ride change from year to year. Yet, within the group, the emotional experience is always there: a deep sense of community and optimism. I think this is what keeps riders coming back and what draws new riders to it.

Over the course of the ride we learn about the ride's two supporting agencies, the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Hazon.

The Arava Institute is the premier environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East, preparing

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CONNECT

In advance of GJC Celebrates Hanukah, we had a "pop-up shop" in Manayunk. The Manayunk Business Association gave us the space for free, and we gave out dreidels and chocolate Hanukah gelt, cider and donuts, had a craft activity for the children, and talked to a number of adults who signed up to learn more about GJC and who expressed interest in attending our event on the 9th.

We now have a "feather" banner to announce our presence and to invite people to check us out.

Calling all Introverts (and everyone else)

"You're a total introvert. What are you doing heading up Membership? Isn't that completely outside of your comfort zone?"

Reaching out and welcoming people became the easiest thing that I as an introvert could do.

Years ago, I was asked to be a greeter for High Holidays. My first reaction was to want to run in the opposite direction. At that time, to me, being a greeter meant putting my social awkwardness on the line and making small talk with strangers. That was the last thing I wanted to do. But I didn't feel it

would be right to decline, and I made one of the biggest discoveries of my life. Reaching out and welcoming people became the easiest thing that I as an introvert could do. I had an official role and an official "spiel." It was no longer about me and how I felt, but what I had to offer as a representative of the community – both to visitors and to members. My official role meant that I didn't have to make small talk; I just had to do my job. And that changed everything.

To be experienced as a welcoming community, takes all of us.

I'm still very much an introvert, and I still hate being at social gatherings where I only know a few people. But when I am at kiddush with no one to talk to, I look around the room to find other people standing alone and start welcoming them. As a result, I feel empowered and I feel more like a vital member of the community rather than someone on the margins. I've also made some new friends.

"Hi! I don't think I've met you before. I'm Naomi Klayman; who are you?" As Rabbi Adam suggested one Kol Zimrah, that's all it takes to make someone feel welcome – whether they are a visitor or a longtime member. And if I, an introvert, can do that, anyone can do it. To be perceived as a welcoming community takes all of us.

Outreach & Welcoming by Naomi Klayman

We are meeting people who are new to the community and are looking for a synagogue, but we are also meeting longtime residents who have an outdated image of who we are or who may not have heard of us.

We are meeting people who are new to the community and looking for a synagogue, and we are also meeting longtime residents who have an outdated image of who GJC is or may not have ever heard of us! Through these events, we are creating a stronger presence in our community and helping to build and maintain our membership. But we need your help – whether you are an introvert or not. Please join us as we let our neighborhood know what a diverse and welcoming community we are.



GJC would like to thank Naomi Klayman & Adina Abramowitz for generously sponsoring our eye-catching new banner!

The Israel Ride

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future Arab and Jewish leaders to solve the region's environmental challenges through collaboration and mutual understanding. Through its activities, the Arava Institute encourages, fosters, and supports the advancement of environmental cooperation between Israel and its neighbors. Current students and alumni participate as ride leaders and support crew. They are eager to share their experiences and aspirations to put what they have learned into action.

Hazon works to create healthier and more sustainable communities for all. Through a series of retreats, food educational programs, and a growing network of like-minded organizations, Hazon provides transformative experiences and innovative educational programming within the Jewish community and beyond.

The ride offers something for everyone— for those new to Israel or seasoned travelers, for those coming on their own, with families, or part of

local teams, and for riders of all ages and abilities. There is even a daily itinerary for non-riders.

The ride organizers' careful planning and attention to detail is obvious at every turn. All arrangements are made including bike storage and delivery (for those with our own bikes), transportation, overnight accommodations, meals, and luggage transfers. There are contingencies for any changes in the weather or road conditions. Nothing is left to chance!

There is incredible support along each daily route, with experienced lead riders, mechanics and rest stops stocked with plenty of local foods. We are never hungry! Along some of the more challenging stretches, ride crew cheer and encourage us with singing, tambourines and drums. Tired riders have the option to ride in a bus. Riders can also opt out of challenging climbs or steep downhill according to their comfort level.

On Shabbat in the town of Mitzpah Ramon there are options for worship, rest, socializing, exploration and interacting with ride crew. All of us marvel at the stunning view from the edge of Israel's largest mahktesh (like a crater, only it's not) where a joyful Havdalah service is held. When we reach Eilat, a beach party with refreshments is all set to go!

Each time I have completed the Israel



Nancy Barag, Howard Treatman, Jeremy Treatman, Joel Sweet, Steve Masters and Joyce Videlock. Not pictured: Stuart Bogom, Randall Miller and Erick Videlock.

Ride, I return home with new and renewed personal connections and a deeper understanding of the region, it's ecological challenges and how cooperation and mutual understanding can lead to solutions that will benefit Israel, its neighbors, and, quite possibly, the world community.

The 2016 Israel Ride will be from November 8 to November 15 with a route from Jerusalem to Eilat. Explore the website at www.israelride.org for ride details, an inspiring video, dates for future rides, dates and locations for ride information sessions and registration for 2016, NOW OPEN.

I invite you to contact me personally at jvidelock@gmail.com or 215-219-6327 if you would like to hear more about this amazing ride.

P.O.B.

Join People of the Book
for another year of
great discussions:

January 12th
The Fundamentalist
by Mohsin Hamid

February 9th
*The Catcher Was a Spy: the
Mysterious Life of Moe Berg*
by Nicholas Dawidoff

March 8th
Henna House
by Nomi Eve

Tutoring for Reading and Language Arts Wilson Reading System Certified



Ellen Reese

Tel: 610 668 9865

Cel: 267 971 7970

e-mail: emr@telegraphics.com

Germantown
Jewish Centre
would like to
extend thanks and
gratitude to the
Wolfe Family
Foundation
for generously
supporting and
making our
programming
possible.

Women's Club News

By Marcy Fish and Yona Diamond Dansky, Co-Presidents

As was shared at the High Holidays, Women's Club is embarking on the process of replacing the Torah mantles in the Centre as our Building Beautiful project. The beloved woven ones being used currently have served the community for many, many years. Unfortunately, despite attempts at repair, some have become threadbare and beyond restoration. The project has two components: 1.) display and honor the value and significance of the current mantles, and 2.) replace the current everyday mantles in a way that continues GJC aesthetics and traditions. After much research, we have located several highly talented and skilled textile artists who can produce beautiful and long-lasting new mantles for us. Very shortly, one of these artists will begin working with us to create designs that will evoke all the beauty that exists in the Torahs they will cover, matching the physical spaces in the Charry Sanctuary and Magil Chapel, and meeting the expectations of the congregants who will use them for many years to come. While we continue to work out the details, please consider ded-



Repairs were completed; this is what some of our Torah mantles looked like before being restored.

icating a mantle or other piece of this project to honor, or in memory of, someone special to you. Those details have not yet been finalized, as we have not yet entered into a contract with the chosen artist at the time of writing this article. We appreciate your patience as we make certain to get all the details right. We hope to present options very soon. A huge thank-you to all who have already made a donation to this very important Building Beautiful project, providing a significant base.

Be part of *Sharing our Stories, Sharing our Lives, An Intergenerational Gathering of the Women of GJC*. Our next intergenerational gathering



Hand embroidered dedications like this one are in most of our older mantles.



is January 17th, 10 AM - Noon. The topic is: Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community." Come and share how you create, contribute to, feel part of and receive from the community. RSVP to Sue Sussman to get location details: susan@fasttrackcoachacademy.com



Entertainment at Women's Club and Men's Club Paid Up Membership Brunch on October 18.



Eli Lake

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2016 GJC Young Families Retreat will be held the afternoon of May 6 through the afternoon of May 8. The retreat is a wonderful way for families with young children (infants through tweens) to connect, celebrate Shabbat, and have a lot of fun. Registration will begin in February. Please keep an eye out; the retreat fills up quickly! Contact Maria Pulzetti with any questions: maria.pulzetti@gmail.com.

**Dedication of the Portrait of Rabbi Sanford Hahn z"l
& 32nd Annual Ralph Granger Memorial Shabbat
"Working for Racial Justice Then and Now: What can we do?"
Saturday, January 16th**

Germantown Jewish Centre has a long history of social activism. GJC's members, lay leaders, staff, and clergy have been prominent in the struggle for religious tolerance and racial justice for decades. This precious legacy is the ground on which we now stand as these same issues face us in the present. On January 16th, join us as we come together to reflect on our past, recognize the challenges of our present, and find ways in which we can make a difference in the future.

All are invited to a very special Shabbat service in the Charry Sanctuary where we will honor the memory and legacy of Rabbi Sanford Hahn, who served as the Rabbi of GJC from 1978-1994. In addition to his work at GJC, Rabbi Hahn was a leader in communal, interfaith and city-wide efforts to improve life in the city, and he formed deep and abiding partnerships with clergy of many faiths and races in his work, relationships that are well remembered in many parts of the city today. Speakers will include the Reverend William Moore, Pastor of 10th Memorial Baptist Church in North Philadelphia, with whom Rabbi Hahn served as co-chair of the Black-Jewish Clergy, and the Reverend Richard Fernandez, a minister in the United Church of Christ who served for 22 years as the Executive Director of the Northwest Interfaith Movement (NIM). Please join us to honor Rabbi Hahn's legacy and to recognize its relevance for us today as we dedicate a portrait of Rabbi Hahn that will hang in the Charry Lobby.

Following services, the entire community is invited to join together for Kiddush in the Marcus Auditorium. We will then remain in the Marcus Auditorium for the 32nd Annual Ralph Granger Memorial program at 1:30 PM, remembering Ralph, beloved custodian of GJC and role model to our community for valuing and respecting differences in others. Our program, which will include Rev. Moore and Rev. Fernandez as well as clergy from the next generation of leaders in the struggle for racial justice, will focus on how we can best work for and support racial justice in our present moment.

Germantown Jewish Centre's



In Rabbi Zeff's Kol Nidrei sermon this year, he said that what it means to be a Jew or to be a member of a Jewish community is to use the Jewish "toolbox" of mitzvot and practices to perfect ourselves and to perfect the world. To help us realize the second part of that vision, we are starting a series called "Mitzvah of the Month." Each month we will highlight a mitzvah that moves us along the road toward making the world a more perfect place, and we will provide an easy opportunity for each member of our community - from youngest to oldest - to fulfill that mitzvah. Together, we will both learn about the mitzvot and realize our capacity to use them to change the world.

January

Rofei Holim - Healing the Sick

First Aid Supplies Drive

in coordination with Naranj Tree Foundation

Band-aids, bandages, alcohol pads, thermometers, tape and more. Look for further details to come on exactly which supplies we are collecting. All supplies should be new or in their original packaging.



February

Somech Noflim -

Supporting Those in Transition

Infant Care Drive

**in coordination with Philadelphia
women's shelters**

We will be collecting items such as diapers, formula, bottles, blankets and more. Look for further details to come.



Collection bins will be in the Magil Chapel lobby & Charry Sanctuary lobby
Sundays 9 AM-2 PM Mondays-Thursdays 8 AM-8PM Friday 8 AM-4 PM



Denise Wolf & Paul Rudick

Denise Wolf and Paul Rudick have tons of energy for their marriage, their three children and their challenging work, as well as the Germantown Jewish Centre. Denise, as well as being a federal prosecutor, is a member of the GJC Executive Committee.

Denise, 45, didn't take a direct route to GJC. Raised in Bergen County, NJ, she attended a Folkshul, a secular humanist form of Judaism. During her senior year of college, she decided to study for and have a bat mitzvah.

She discovered her Judaism during those years, but in a roundabout way. A political science major, she brought the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to campus in 1989 before graduating in 1992. She wrote her senior thesis on the Palestinian Intifada. Her advisor was Dr. Ian Lustick, whose left-wing Middle East politics have made him a controversial figure for the mainstream Jewish community. After graduating from college, she lived among Palestinians in Arab villages in Israel and in the West Bank.

"I was really drawn to Israel but also to Arab culture," she explained. At the end of the summer, she was admitted to law school, but told her parents that she would defer. Instead, she decided to "see my thesis with my own eyes" and embarked on an experience in the Middle East. "I was conversant in Arabic, but not Hebrew," she said. During a previous summer, she had worked on a kibbutz near Haifa and studied at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. At times, when exploring the West Bank, Cairo

and Jordan, she wore a hijab, which let her walk around "so no one knew who I was."

"I lived in Tira, a village that was part of the Arab Triangle located an hour north of Tel Aviv. I met the mayor and proposed teaching English to the children of the village. I lived with an Arab family for two months." While there and making her future plans, she concluded that fear is relative. My American Christian friends said, 'How can you go to Israel? It's so dangerous.' In Israel, my Jewish friends said, 'Don't live with the Arabs, it's dangerous.' The Arabs in Tira said, 'Don't visit the West Bank. You will get hurt.'" Ironically, the Palestinians in Nablus (West Bank) where she also lived thought the United States was a dangerous place to live.

Denise openly identified herself as a Jew in the Israeli Arab village of Tira. "Nobody had a problem," she recalled. However, she never told anyone she was Jewish while living in the West Bank due to safety concerns. "Still, in Nablus, which was traditionally a hotbed for Palestinian nationalism, I felt safer than in West Philadelphia," she said. In Nablus, she was hired to teach English at the British Consulate and lived in Nablus for one year. "The Intifada was still active," she recalled. "I saw rock throwing, tire burning, strikes, curfews. I visited refugee camps, dozens of Palestinian villages and the homes of wealthy educated Palestinians. I biked through military checkpoints, hitchhiked, and shopped in the suk/shuk. I sipped mint tea with everybody."

An incident ended her first living situation. Denise spoke with local Palestinian youths she knew had thrown rocks at Israeli jeeps and were chased by soldiers. She approached them and asked if they were okay. "A couple of days later," she recalled, "I was asked to move. They liked me, but as a foreigner, I should not have talked openly about incidents like this." Someone had gone

to the family she was living with and said 'Denise needs to leave the neighborhood. I had a friend in the PLO whom I went to for advice. I asked 'Am I in trouble? He said, 'Just move to another part of the city.'"

So she did. She moved in with three girls who were studying at An-Najah University in Nablus. At the same time, Denise spent Shabbat in Jerusalem with her Israeli boyfriend and his family as well as with American friends attending the Pardes Institute of Jewish studies. "I sometimes felt schizophrenic leading a double life. It was intensely exciting." For the eid marking the end of Ramadan, she wore a hijab and attended prayer on the Temple Mount. In one week, she stayed with a family in a refugee camp outside of Nablus and partied at a discotheque in Tel Aviv. Only once, one of her American Jewish friends visited her in Nablus, Fred Dobb, (now the rabbi at Adat Shalom, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Bethesda, MD.) She told Fred, "You can't tell them you're Jewish and you can't tell them I'm Jewish."

Unexpectedly, "My Jewish identity grew stronger when I was there," said Denise. "In Israel, I saw boys my own age who were soldiers. I was concerned for them. I felt connected to them. While most Palestinians with whom I conversed yearned for peace with Israel, I often found myself defending Israel's right to exist as well as correcting falsehoods about Jewish people."

She instructed her Palestinian students to write a letter to President Clinton about obtaining peace. "I taught them songs from 'Free to Be You and Me.' I'm teaching all this feminist stuff. We held mock elections where female students ran for mayor of Nablus. When I think about it now, I was trying to rub my culture off on

continued on next page

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 9

them. I immersed myself in their culture but I also shared my beliefs. I recall one time when I lectured about animal rights. One student raised her hand and said, 'We don't have human rights. Why should we care about animal rights?'"

In 1993, Denise returned to the U.S. and began studying law at American University at night, while she worked for the Jewish Peace Lobby in Washington during the day. She was among the crowd at the White House to witness the Oslo agreements in 1995.

Her life took a sharp turn when she met Paul, a second year Wharton student, during her second year of law school. They married three years later in 1998. "I was utterly mesmerized by her," Paul said, beaming a smile at his wife. "It was love at first sight." They visited the West Bank on their two-month honeymoon to Israel, Nepal and Thailand where they trekked and backpacked everywhere.

Now 47, Paul, who was born in Potomac, MD, was an entrepreneur from his earliest days. He started a ski business at age 12, in which he polished and fixed skis for the neighborhood kids before the school ski trips. "As the bus came, I'd deliver the skis for \$5 a pair." Business was all he ever wanted to do. "I was always trying to solve problems in an entrepreneurial way," he said.

At Cornell, Paul was, naturally, on the ski team and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He worked for two years in a training program for AT&T, which offered to pay for his Wharton MBA in exchange for working for AT&T after graduation. "Three weeks into it, I gave the money back. I always intended to start my own business. I'd already started a company, the Washington Entrepreneurial Group. It was the beginnings of a venture capital firm. Of course, I had no funding, but I was going to advise my

friends and start these crazy businesses. A woman went to Bali and started importing Batik clothing, and I owned 25% of her business. Another guy was a bike mechanic. I didn't know how to spell failure."

Graduating Wharton in 1995, Paul joined a global consulting firm, A.T. Kearney. "We were putting together the business processes that would ultimately create a wireless telephone network," he said. He worked with Fed Ex designing their system and worked with a big publishing company. "When you're traveling you can work until midnight. It was exhilarating," he said. "The problems were intricate and difficult." He worked at Kearney for three years.

But he became restless and left to become an entrepreneur again. He met up with three Wharton alums at a party in Philadelphia who had started a company called Foster Chamberlain. "The business was to take ideas that companies had turned down and to turn them into businesses," Paul said. "They asked companies what they had on the back shelf. We'll take an equity stake and develop them for you. I did a lot of telecomm. We had a lot of interesting projects and a pretty nice business. We had everything but venture capital to invest."

After three years, Paul decided to go with an established venture capital firm. "I worked for two firms for four or five years. I did 15 different investments. That ran its course. Our company didn't so much as bust as fizzle." He joined Wyeth – now Pfizer - in 2002. "I just wanted a job at that point. I was done with the entrepreneurial thing." After 14 years with the company, his job at Pfizer is to design new drugs and advance the immunology pipeline. He works with scientists and clinicians to tease out the elements of a new drug that will excite the scientific community and works on advancing it from discovery through phase three clinical trials (on human beings), until it's ready to be commercialized.

Part of his decision to take on a cor-

porate job was having a family to support. Denise and Paul have three sons, Caleb, 14; Noah, 13; and Levi, 10 all of whom attend Germantown Friends School. They went to GJC's Early Childhood Program and religious school, and the two older boys are part of the Teen program. Caleb is a madrich, or leader, in the religious school. Levi goes to Camp Galil during the summers and Noah goes to Camp Ramah. Caleb does bike trips during the summers.

After law school, Denise joined a large law firm, but left because she wasn't getting into the courtroom. She then joined the city solicitor's office, where she had over ten federal jury trials in less than two years. She became a federal prosecutor in 2003. She has had some high profile cases, including prosecuting numerous Philadelphia Traffic Court judges. She also handles white-collar corruption, and child exploitation matters. "I love my job," she said. "I enjoy working with the FBI and Secret Service and DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration). They are dedicated and talented civil servants. It's never a dull moment."

Their home is full of Paul's strong artistic aesthetic. He designed their living room with soaring wooden beams. "He was in charge of registering us for our wedding," Denise said. "He picked out our pottery and our furniture." Paul added, "I could have been an architect like my dad. I go about my work as a designer. I pull in all the disparate pieces, create a master plan in an architectural way." The living room took on an added meaning and symbolism. "My dad was dying. We were going to design it together. He was diagnosed cancer and died quickly. It became more than a room for me."

Paul found the beams, designed the timber-frame structure, and loves art and pottery. A soft painting of Jerusalem and a sculpture created by his grandmother decorates their din-

continued on next page

Member Spotlight

Continued from page 9

ing room. "I have very deep passions that exist inside me. I'm really into sailing in the Chesapeake Bay and into skiing." When Paul has time one day, he wants to take art classes, or stained glass making or woodworking.

Paul grew up in the Reform movement. "Judaism is a work in progress for me," he said. "I'm mystified by how much work it's going to take for me to understand Judaism to the level that I want one day to understand it, from the repetitive prayers I don't know to the customs and traditions. I can't yet get to the point I want to get with it, and I'm so busy with other things. We took our whole family to Israel in 2013. We've both been to Israel several times. I'd like to think we have some success in creating Jewish identities."

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Adult Education at GJC 2015-16/5776: Courses at a Glance

Take the plunge into adult Jewish learning! The listings below represent our fall course schedule as of 8/1/15. We often add courses along the way. So check back in the next issue, on our website and with the office, for additional updates. Advanced registration is requested for all courses.

Contact the office if you have questions or to register.

Title	Instructor(s)	Timing	Dates	Cost Members/ Non Members
Lomir Ale Zingen! Yiddish Culture through Song	Hazzan Naomi Hirsch	Sunday 10:00-11:30 AM	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb 7, 21	\$75/\$100
Talmud Class: Great Sugyot	Rabbi Josh Gut-off	Wednesday 7:30-9:00 PM	Feb 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar 2, 9	\$75/\$100
Jewish Theology: Spinoza to Kaplan and Beyond...	Rabbi Zeff & Rabbi Lewis	Sunday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27	\$50/\$65
Six More Cities and Jewish History	Rabbi Robert Tabak & special guest Lila Berman	Wednesday 7:30-9:00 AM	Mar 2, 9, 16, 30; Apr 6, 13	\$75/\$100
Torah & Technology	David Zvi Kalman	Sunday 10:00-11:30 AM	Apr 3, 10, 17; May 8, 15, 22	\$75/\$100
Bible & Archaeology: Two Witnesses to Ancient Israel	Elizabeth Bloch-Smith	Wednesday 7:00-9:00 PM	Apr 27; May 4, 11	\$50/\$65

Early Childhood Program (ECP)

ECP's Hanukiah was a collaborative effort by the ECP Teachers. It started with the idea that we wanted to make a huge Hanukiah that we could "light" every day, saying the blessings, and singing Hanukah songs. We wanted each class to contribute one or two candles. We wanted it to reflect the mitzvah, *"t'zar b'alay chayim,"* kindness to animals. The Hanukiah itself is constructed with foam, and decorated with cloth. The candles are cardboard tubes, and each class decorated them with a different animal. The children exclaim, "I made that!" as they pass by it in the morning. Hanukah-all-week-long was a huge treat!



Kenny Kunz making sufganiyot (jelly donuts) with the Gan Katan class.



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LOTS FOR TOTS at GJC

SING • DANCE • LAUGH • LEARN • Explore and connect with other families.

JAM Tot Havdallah with Cookie Lab Philly

Saturday, January 9 (6:00 PM)

Pizza Bagel & Pasta Dinner (perfect for families!)
Kol Zimrah Musical Service

Friday, January 22 & February 26
(5:15 PM/6:00 PM)

JAM StorahTelling in the Charry Service
with Chana Rothman

Saturday, February 13 (11:00 AM)

Spotlight on JAM StorahTelling (February 13)

Join Rabbi Annie and Chana Rothman as we bring the stories of the Torah to life with theater, song and puppets. We'll move and dance, imagine and ask juicy questions as we celebrate Shabbat together in the Charry Sanctuary. The program is geared toward those ages 2-4 and all are welcome! The Charry Service begins at 10 AM; we will start the tot StorahTelling at approximately 11 AM.

This delightful service is followed by a delicious, tot-friendly kiddush catered by our marvelous in-house caterer, Frank Krafchik & Centre Catering.

Tot Storytime at the Big Blue Marble

Fridays, January 8 and February 5, 10:30 AM

Baby & Me at GJC (0-9mths)

Every Friday at 11:00 AM in the Maslow Auditorium

Musical Marching Minyan (0-preK)

Every third Saturday of the month, 11:00 AM

Ginat Shabbat (through age 7)

Saturdays, 11:00 AM (10AM on third Sat. of month)

Shabbat Childcare (ages 2-5)

Saturdays, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM)

Annual Women's Clothing Exchange to Benefit Refugees

The Women's Clothing Exchange at Germantown Jewish Centre is an annual community and charitable event that serves many functions. This year it will be held on Sunday, January 31 from 11am till 1pm. Some participants have said that this event is a win-win-win!

Every year women in the community are asked to donate any clothing and accessories that are in good condition, but which they no longer use. These donations are collected at GJC during the week before the event. (This year that will be January 24-January 29) A large group of volunteers then sorts all these donations into categories, including:

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

After the room is all set up like a giant bazaar, women from all over the city come and pay \$20 to "shop" through all these things and take home whatever they like. All enjoy the festive atmosphere that is created with music, friends and a private place for trying on clothes.

The event typically raises thousands of dollars to donate to different important social justice work. This year the proceeds will be divided between HIAS and the GJC Women's Club. HIAS Pennsylvania provides resettlement, citizenship, and supportive services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society.

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

It is a win! win! win!



For more information on the event or volunteering, please contact Genie Ravital at geniebud@gmail.com.

Refuat HaNefesh Jewish Healing Service

7-8 pm in the Charry Sanctuary
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

*A contemplative evening service that draws
on elements of Ma'ariv and will provide
mourners the opportunity to say Kaddish.
All are welcome.*



**Jan-May 2016
schedule**

January 13th
February 10th
March 9th
April 13th
May 11th

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MELAVEH MALKAH JANUARY 23 AT 7 PM

Just as we greet Shabbat, the "Queen of the Days", on Friday night with our Kabbalat Shabbat service, there is a tradition of ushering out the Shabbat Queen on Saturday night with music, singing and dancing. Join us as we renew this tradition with joyful Jewish music from around the world, featuring our in-house band G'vanim with Nina Peskin & Rabbi Lewis (vocals), Rabbi Zeff (vocals, oud & percussion), Mikael Elsila (piano), Elliott Seif (accordion), Justin Fink (bass) and Hoagy Wing (percussion).

\$18/ticket (children 0-12 free)

Please consider supporting future GJC music events by becoming a Sponsor (\$118, incl. 2 tickets) or Patron (\$360, incl. 4 tickets)

We encourage you to ask for a ticket sponsorship if you need it, or anonymously sponsor a ticket for someone in need.

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-melaveh-malkah

Musical Meditations

Let the improvised, meditative music of Mikael Elsila guide you on a journey of relaxation in a soothing, blissful musical experience. Look for detail to come.

February 28

SHIRAH B'KEHILAH

*A series of music in
community at GJC*

Saturday, January 16 at 7 PM: Melaveh Malkah

Just as we greet Shabbat, the "Queen of the Days", on Friday night with our Kabbalat Shabbat service, there is a tradition of ushering out the Shabbat Queen on Saturday night with music, singing and dancing. Join us as we renew this tradition with joyful Jewish music from around the world, featuring our in-house band G'vanim with Nina Peskin & Rabbi Lewis (vocals), Rabbi Zeff (vocals, oud & percussion), Cheryl Bettigole (clarinet), Mikael Elsila (piano), Elliott Seif (accordion), Justin Fink (bass) and Hoagy Wing (percussion).

\$18/ticket (children 12 & under free). Feel free to ask for a ticket sponsorship, or anonymously sponsor the ticket of someone in need.

Please consider supporting future music events at GJC by becoming a Music Sponsor for \$118 (includes 2 tickets) or Music Patron for \$360 (includes 4 tickets). www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-melaveh-malkah

Saturday, February 20 at 7 PM: Music Café

Join your friends & neighbors to make music together improv-style, or come to enjoy an evening of music. \$5 (nosh & beer included)

March 2016: Jaffna (with Raji Malik) - more details coming soon!

Saturday, April 9 at 8:15 PM: G'vanim (GJC's in-house band)

Join us for an evening of compelling rhythms, exotic melodies and timeless messages featuring Jewish music from Europe, Osrael and the Sephardic world with songs celebrating the richness and diversity of Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic and Ladino-speaking cultures.

\$18/ticket (children 12 & under free)

Sunday, May 29 at 12 PM: Memorial Day & Lag b'Omer Potluck Picnic & Jam Session

Sunday, June 5 at 7 PM: Spring Concert honoring Marilyn & David Kraut

Nedivot Lev (Offerings of the Heart)



Ex. 25:1-2 ~ Adonai spoke to Moses saying: Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for me from every person whose heart so moves him

To build the sacred space of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, each of the Israelites brought an offering of their heart. Each issue, we will highlight how members of our community are bringing their offerings of the heart to build and enrich the sacred space of our community.

Cookie decorating? Check. Puppetry? Check. Dancing? Check. Learning about Judaism while having tons of fun? Check. Teaching Jewish beliefs and values to the youngest members of the community at Germantown Jewish Centre is an exciting process, involving not only the child's parents, but the rabbis, the religious school teachers, and the electrifying programs offered through the synagogue. Thanks to the generous support of the Harold and Renee Berger Family Engagement Endowment Fund, GJC is able to bring the Jewish Arts and Movement program series – JAM – to the community. JAM combines art, theater, music, and movement as tools for teaching about Jewish tradition, culture and values.

Children have long been a strong value to Judge Harold Berger and his late wife, Renee, which led to the creation of the JAM program series in 2014. Renee's interest in providing programming for children stretches back many years, when she would lead a Passover Seder with all of the school children at GJC. She had a steadfast interest in attracting young families to the synagogue. Judge Berger says, "I thought if GJC had a program that would benefit young families with children, it would help with membership at the hottest synagogue in town."

Melissa Livney, a "JAMbassador" from the beginning, works to ensure everyone, children and adults alike, feels invited and included. She noticed that when she and her family came to the synagogue, they "were really aware of a very strong community of young families that [they] weren't really hooked in to." She believes "JAM's intentional outreach to all families creates such a warm and welcoming experience." Melissa describes her own young children as having "grown more comfortable with the arts and movement activities and are much more likely to jump in" after attending several JAM events meeting new friends there. Maya Peskin, a four-year-old JAM regular, likes "to see [her] friends and their mommies and daddies. JAM feels fun because we're celebrating together."

Though the focus is on children, there is something for everyone. As Melissa says, "sitting around a kitchen table, drinking tea and discussing the programming has helped me to foster some of my own grown-up friendships and connections." Which is just what Judge Berger envisioned with JAM: bringing families to the GJC community through children's programs.

For Rabbi Adam Zeff, the great value of JAM is that "it allows us to welcome people in of all backgrounds and helps them to engage with each other, and that's what helps us to build a vibrant community for the future." Rabbi Annie

Lewis sees JAM as a group of families and children "thinking intentionally about creating community and being a welcoming presence" to newcomers. JAM features guest artists such as ZoomDance! and music-educator Chana Rothman, collaborating with the Germantown Jewish Centre rabbis to lead Shabbat services and programs to engage children and their families. Rabbi Lewis works with the guest artists to integrate JAM's programs into GJC's community as a whole.

As just one of the communities within a community at GJC, JAM has served as a cornerstone for other groups at the synagogue. Synagogue president Mathieu Shapiro praises the JAM series for giving GJC "a great model for all our sub-community groups to follow, and kick-started on-going conversations at many levels of the shul about how we can be a more effusively welcoming community." Mathieu strongly believes GJC flourishes because the congregants, lay leaders, and staff are willing to volunteer their time and energy for the shul, to "constantly and collectively strive to make our community stronger. We thank Judge Berger very much for making this possible."

If you're interested in volunteering as a JAMbassador, or would like more information about the program series, please contact Melissa Livney at mgartenber@yahoo.com.



Impact (noun) - influence, effect

Hashpa'ah (noun) - the relationship with a spiritual director or *mashpia* who offers guidance and teaching on matters of Jewish faith and practice

Stay tuned for a special series of messages in the month of February, during which we will enumerate the impact that our Rabbi Educator has on our lives at Germantown Jewish Centre!

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Social Action Update

GJC Workshop Gives Skills to Fight Racism

By Rabbi Tamara Cohen

Soon after I came to GJC in search of a family friendly place to daven, I began to hear about the legacy of Rabbi Elias Charry. The pride that GJC took in that legacy of keeping Mt. Airy a racially and religiously diverse neighborhood was clearly very strong but what did it mean today?

What was so exciting about the recent series of workshops I participated in with twenty-one other members of GJC, “Understanding & Confronting Racism”, was the active commitment I felt of this group to asking this question in a real and personal way. Participants, who included members of each of the minyanim of GJC, each expressed in their own way a desire to ensure that the history of GJC in Mt. Airy as a place that resisted racist practices and overcame fears with resolve and a vision of a different way of living with difference was not just a thing of the past. For six hours, with the guidance of skilled facilitator Sarah Halley, we sat together and we learned and we shared and we challenged ourselves and each other. We talked as white Jews about our privilege, about microaggressions, about systemic racism, about the ways to move from collusion in a racist system to active resistance to that system. We practiced interrupting racism in role plays

and we brainstormed together priorities for making GJC a synagogue truly committed to being a spiritual community for Jews of color and white Jews and truly committed to being part of city wide and nationwide struggles for racial justice. I made connections with members of the synagogue I have said hello to at a kid-dush but never before had the chance to dive deep into real and difficult conversation. I left the workshops inspired and excited by the many ideas and plans for the coming activities and goals of the GJC Understanding and Confronting Racism group. I also left more committed and engaged and more grateful for GJC as a spiritual community where I can not only sing and pray with others in various ways, but also where I can connect to others as partners in the very personal and also political ongoing struggle for racial justice both within the Jewish community and beyond it. Even more specifically I felt grateful to connect with others in this community who are taking challenging but valuable steps towards understanding our roles and responsibilities as anti-racist white Jews.

It was a strong beginning but it was just a beginning. I look forward to being part of the next steps of this work at GJC. There is room in that work for you. Join us.



November’s “Understanding and Confronting Racism” workshop offered GJC members the opportunity for an in-depth exploration of racism and its impact on our community and ourselves. The workshop was part of a series of programs the GJC social action committee is organizing, sparked in part by the call to member congregations of the POWER interfaith network to expand our awareness of and work to oppose racism. While this workshop was focused on giving white members of the congregation an opportunity to recognize and understand racism through the lens of white privilege and learning new skills in order to be better allies to people of color, we actively welcome all members of GJC in planning and participating in upcoming programs, and look forward to engaging white Jews, Jews of color and Jews of various heritages and backgrounds. Among the goals of this work for GJC members is to strengthen our relationships and increase our effectiveness in the Tikkun Olam work we do both within GJC and in the larger community. To get involved, contact Andrea Moselle (andrea.moselle@gmail.com) or David Mosenkis (dmosenkis@gmail.com).

Volunteer Opportunities to help Immigrants and Refugees Resettling in Philadelphia

During High Holiday services this fall, synagogues across our area voiced an out-flowing of concern about the growing global refugee crisis. The GJC Social Action Committee turned to HIAS Pennsylvania—the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society—for guidance in how to get involved.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society—HIAS—was originally founded in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. A group of American Jews organized to provide

much-needed comfort and aid to thousands of Jews fleeing waves of anti-Semitic riots. They set up a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. A group of distinguished members of Philadelphia’s Jewish community, led by Louis Levy, formed the Association for the Protection of Jewish Immigrant – Today, known as HIAS Pennsylvania.

After WW II, HIAS was instrumental in evacuating the displaced persons camps in Europe and aiding in the resettlement of some 150,000 people to 330

communities in the U.S., as well as Canada, Australia, and South America.

Today, HIAS Pennsylvania is a Jewish identified organization that is deeply committed to diversity, and is working with diverse refugee and immigrant populations.

On Oct. 21, the GJC Social Action Committee invited guest speakers Carrie Fox-Kline, MSW, HIAS Director of Refugee Programming & Planning, and Justin Mixon, HIAS Staff Attorney to

continued on next page

Social Action Update

Continued from page 17

speak at our meeting. We were amazed as they delineated the many volunteer opportunities to help families with the many daily hurdles of resettling in a new country.

Most new immigrant families will live in apartments. They will need assistance in navigating the logistics of daily life in the U.S., such as shopping at a store, enrolling children in school, using the bus etc. As volunteers, we can greatly assist and increase the work that staff at HIAS PA can accomplish, as they serve refugees, asylees, and local immigrant communities in the Philadelphia area.

Carry Fox-Kline prepared a list of the multiplicity of volunteer opportunities that would make a tremendous difference in the lives of immigrant and refugee families.

On Monday November 30, SAC met again and sifted through the list of vol-

unteer opportunities that HIAS had prepared for us! Take a look! There is something for everyone!

Home Set-Up. Help set up new apartment for new refugees! If you like organizing and making things nice, this is for you! Heavy lifting, and/or lighter work such as organizing kitchens, making beds, etc.

Appointment Accompaniment. Go with new refugees to a doctor, dentist or other appointment to help it go more smoothly. If you like helping people work through systems or making people comfortable, our refugees need you! You will be accompanying refugees on public transportation to appointments.

American Friend. Work directly with one newly arrived family. Whatever you put into this orientation effort, you will get back tenfold! This mitzvah requires a 4-hour orientation and training is required. HIAS is **now** accepting applications for a training opportunity in late January.

Administrative/office tasks at the HIAS office, Federation Building, 2100 Arch Street, Center City. Get to know HIAS Pennsylvania "in-house"! Computer knowledge essential.

Opportunities for attorneys, mental health professionals, ESL teachers, translators/interpreters, etc. Use your professional skills to help immigrants and refugees in areas where they need guidance.

Public Relations. Experienced in professional writing? social media? Help get the HIAS Pennsylvania story out!

Opportunities for teens including Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

After-School Program in the Northeast. Get to know the kids who have come to Philadelphia! Gilbert Spruance Elementary School, where HIAS Pennsylvania has programs (3-5 pm/M-Th, choose one two-hour slot).

Contact Maxine Margolies
mmargx@aol.com.



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Contributions For the period of October, 2015 through November, 2015

Today Rabbah!

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in memory of Hilda Minkoff, wife of Paul Minkoff
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of their daughter, Joanna
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JAM Tot Havdallah
January 9

Women's Club Frida Kahlo Program
January 10

Refuat HaNefesh Healing Service
January 13

**Dedication of the Portrait of Rabbi
Sanford Hahn z"l & Granger Shabbat**
January 16

Hazak Film & Discussion
January 20

Melaveh Malkah (Concert)
January 23

Women's Clothing Giveaway
January 31

Save the Date February

Refuat HaNefesh Healing Service
February 10

Music Cafe
February 20

Women's Club Cake Decorating
February 28

Musical Meditations
February 28

Kids Stuff Exchange
February 28