



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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By Rabbinic Intern Becca Richman

The same thing happened every year in my family: Just as the weather started to warm, a box showed up on the doorstep, and I knew exactly what was inside: the perfect mix of the apricot and poppy seed hamantaschen, sent by Grandma. And before my family could even finish our taste of Purim, the house was filled with the smell of brisket. "Now? But it's only Purim!" I would say to my mother, hard at work on her famous Passover feast. The first feeling of spring, that box of hamantaschen, and the lingering scent of my mother's brisket hinted at Pesach. I continue to rely on seasonal shifts and ritual practice to cue me that Pesach is just around the corner; only now, it is the exchange of dishes, the covering of surfaces, and the updating of my own haggadah that signify to me, "Pesach is coming!"

Before we know it, we will be preparing our homes, eating matzah, and telling the story of our ancestors' journey. This year, we will be especially familiar with the words, "remember that you were slaves," which appear repeatedly throughout Torah. In recent months, we have seen these words on protest posters and banners, reminding the world that Jews have seen enslavement before and that we stand for the freedom of all people. Many Jewish communities have been heavily exercising their social change muscle, using

the memory of anti-Jewish oppression as fuel for the fight against the oppression of other minority and immigrant communities. Not surprisingly, many of us are exhausted.

In a time when stories of pain are readily available, I know that my Pesach preparations will change this year to help alleviate my exhaustion. As in years past, I will revise my haggadah to include contemporary plagues and undue injustices. But this year, I will also leave space in my seder for guests to share stories of survival and resistance. I know I need an extra boost of strength.

It is easy to focus on the first part of the often-repeated line, "Once, we were slaves..." This history has, of course, been a useful tool for rallying Jews to stand in solidarity with other people experiencing slavery. But what would be different - both at our seder tables and in our lives - if we told not only the part of the story where our people moved from captivity to freedom, but also the part of the story where the survivors flourished and built new life?

This year, I am challenging us to shift our focus onto the second half of that line, "...Now, we are free." How did we get here? Who is coming to the seder who has survived something? Who might bring a

story - their own, one from their family, or one of a dear friend - that exemplifies resistance? What can we learn from our people's survival? What has been possible because we have survived even enslavement, captivity, and persecution?

The seder itself hinges on *magid*, the retelling of the exodus story. Our story is one of both restriction and release, captivity and freedom, struggle and survival. We retell our ancestors' story to experience the pain of oppression and the liberation of freedom; our story is complete only with both.

As we move into spring, may we feel empowered by the journey we have made, humbled by the pains we have known, and steadied by the survival of our people. Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, the sovereign of all worlds, who gave us life, and kept us strong, and brought us to this time.

Celebrating Survival

Program Highlights

PURIM BASH! The Sounds of Music	March 4
PURIM - Shushan Sings the Blues	March 11
GJC Celebrates! Purim & the Purim Carnival	March 12
Stanley R. Wolfe Memorial Shabbat	March 18
HAZAK Program: Francis Hoeber	March 19
Kids Stuff Exchange	March 26
Women's Club Jewish Disabilities Program	March 26
Nurturing Freedom: A Multi-faith Seder	April 2
Women's Shabbat	April 8
Tot Friday Night JAM (Jewish Arts & Movement)	April 21
Yom ha-Shoah Program	April 23
Champagne Brunch honoring Barb & Dick Menin	April 30



Shabbat & Holiday Chai-Lites

March 4

- Charry Service: 4th Grade reads Ashrei

March 11

- BBMM Shabbat
- Charry Service: Men's Club Shabbat
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

March 17 & 18

- Tot Shabbat
- Charry Service: Stanley R. Wolfe Memorial Shabbat with Theatre Ariel

All are invited to kiddush in the Marcus Auditorium following services

- Kol D'mamah
- Musical Marching Minyan

March 24 & 25

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: 6th Grade reads Torah

April 1

- Charry Service: *Mazal tov to Benjamin Axelrod, son of David Axelrod and Keira Chism Axelrod, on becoming Bar Mitzvah*

February 11

- Beit Midrash
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

April 8

- BBMM Shabbat
 - Charry Service: Women's Shabbat
- All are invited to kiddush in the Marcus Auditorium following services*
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

April 10

- Morning Minyan, Siyyum & Breakfast

April 11

- Kol D'mamah for Pesach
- Dorshei Derekh Pesach Service
- Minyan Masorti & Charry Pesach Service

April 12

- Minyan Masorti & Charry Pesach Service

April 14 & 15

- Erev Shabbat Hol ha-Moed Pesach Service
- Kol D'mamah

April 17

- Dorshei Derekh Pesach Service with Yizkor
- Minyan Masorti & Charry Pesach Service

April 18

- Charry Pesach Service with Yizkor
- Minyan Masorti Pesach Service with Yizkor

April 21 & 22

- Tot Friday Night JAM
- BBMM Shabbat

- Minyan Masorti & Charry Service: *Mazal tov to Caleb Mendelsohn, son of Alan Mendelsohn & Mindy Shapiro, on becoming Bar Mitzvah*

- Musical Marching Minyan

April 23

- Yom ha-Shoah Program

April 29 & 30

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: 5th Grade reads Haftarah

Kabbalat Shabbat / Kol Zimrah / Tot Shabbat
Fridays at 6:00 PM (unless otherwise noted above)

Shabbat Morning
Services at 10:00 AM (unless otherwise noted above)

Kol D'mamah at 10:00 AM

Musical Marching Minyan at 11:00 AM

Parashat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit at 11:00 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.



(December 2016 - January 2017)

IN CELEBRATION...

Rachel Marcus & Eileen Carlin, on the birth of their daughter, Elliott Neshama Marcus-Carlin

Mitch & Sue Marcus, on the birth of their granddaughter, Elliott Neshama Marcus-Carlin

Ed & Dena Lake, on the birth of their first granddaughter, Clara Phillippe Lake-Harrison, daughter of Julie Lake & Michael Harrison

Linda Cherkas & Chaim Dworkin, on the engagement of their daughter, Elisheva, to David Kadosh

Will Galtman, on the birth of his nephew, Nathaniel Morris Fisher, son of Alexa Galtman and Ben Fisher

Lee Galtman, on the birth of his first grandson, Nathaniel Morris Fisher, son of Alexa Galtman

Kenneth J. Weiss, on being appointed the inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine

Shai Ben-Yaacov & Kate Dugan, on the baby naming of their son

Elizabeth & David Ben-Yaacov, on the baby naming of their grandson

Judith Rossman, on her special birthday

Rebecca Ladenheim, on her special birthday

George Stern, on his special birthday

IN MEMORIAM

Raymond Tatarsky, brother of Phyllis Kauffman

Andrew Barcan, brother of David Barcan

Dvora Friedman, mother of Aryeh Friedman

Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni

Steven Weingrod, father of Molly Weingrod

Gisha Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC

Stephen P. Cohen, father of Rabbi Tamara Cohen

Scott Marcus, uncle of Lizanne Berger

Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Carol & Marty Kaplan



ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays (Sept-June) & Wednesdays (July-Aug)
March-April 2017 at 10:00 AM

Taught by our wonderful, experienced dance teacher, Grant Shulman, GJC's Israeli dance group welcomes dancers of all ages and levels. We begin each session with 45 minutes of beginner dances, followed by instruction, review, open dancing and requests with increasing levels of difficulty. GJC's dance group is proud to be friendly and inclusive. For more information, contact Tamar Magdovitz at tamarmagdovitz@gmail.com.

No Class April 16th (Chol HaMoed) or 23rd (Yom HaShoah).

**Join us in welcoming
new member**

Donna Tartasky

President's Message



By Chip Becker, GJC President

German-
town Jew-
ish Centre has
a lot going for
it – a great
rabbi, commit-

ted staff, and rich programmatic offerings. I often appreciate these aspects of the congregation, but right now I want to appreciate your collective generosity to this institution. Our recent High Holiday appeal was by far the most successful in the synagogue's history. Two-thirds of you participated in the appeal – the highest percentage the synagogue has seen, and especially remarkable since all of you already give generously to the congregation simply through your dues. In addition, you donated nearly \$207,000 to the appeal, nearly \$30,000 more than last year. Thank you! Your collective commitment goes a long way toward helping GJC remain financially strong.

Let me also thank you for what I hope your generosity represents – an engagement between you, the synagogue, and our various communities that encourages us to realize the best version of ourselves. I am routinely amazed and humbled by this congregation's extraordinary membership. Thank you for your collaboration in GJC's spiritual mission as well.

The High Holiday appeal requires the involvement of many different people, especially those who helped with solicitations for the appeal. I will not try to name all of you, but the success of the appeal owes much to your efforts. I want also to acknowledge Mikael Elsila, who has expertly coordinated the appeal for the last several years, and also Nina Peskin and the office staff, who support

all of our efforts in ways large and small. Thank you for your service to the congregation.

I have a little more appreciating to do in this letter. As I write, our country is embroiled in controversy and consternation over the President's Executive Order barring travel into the United States for people from seven predominantly Muslim countries. The matter is now weaving its way through the courts. But last Shabbat, I was in the Charry sanctuary while Rabbi Zeff spoke to the congregation about the impact of the Executive Order on Philadelphia's Muslim community and his personal efforts to engage that community. As Rabbi Zeff spoke powerfully and eloquently, I was reminded that it was just recently that the Rabbi chose to spend his sabbatical in Haifa because of its rich combination of Arab and Jewish population. For many years, he has been committed to promoting Jewish-Muslim relations. We are fortunate to have a Rabbi who is knowledgeable and deeply engaged in this critical issue, and who can so clearly explain what is at stake. For those who have not had an opportunity to speak with Rabbi

Zeff about these matters, I urge you to do so.

I also urge you to reach out to David Mosenkis or Andi Moselle if recent events have sparked an interest in social justice work. As you know, David and Andi are leading the Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team, which is helping to organize, facilitate, and promote the social justice energies of the congregation. The entire team is brimming with ideas and projects. I thank everyone involved in this work for all the good you are doing.

Finally, let me tell you that GJC's Annual Concert this year will celebrate Barbara and Dick Menin. One can scarcely imagine two people more thoughtful and kind. Over the years, they have been deeply committed to GJC and have been wonderful friends to so many in this community. We look forward to the occasion, which will occur on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. and feature Israeli dancing and a champagne brunch. Please note this on your calendars. Come share each other's company in celebration of Dick and Barb.

Save the Date

**Women's Shabbat
40th Anniversary
April 8, 2017**

Scholars in Residence:
Rabbi Dayle Friedman
Rabbi Danielle Stillman

Program:
What's Next: Feminist Visions
for the Future of Judaism

Join us for services, Kiddush luncheon
and afternoon program

Services begin at 9:30 AM

Sponsored by Women's Club

Refuat HaNefesh Jewish Healing Service

**7-8 PM in the Charry Sanctuary
on the 1st Tuesday of the month**

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



**2017 Spring
schedule**

**March 7
April 4
May 2**

SILLY
SUSHAN
MORDECHAI
SPIEL
MEGILLAH
HAMANTASCHEN

PURIM 2017



Shushan Sings the Blues

Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 PM in the Marcus Auditorium

Get your soul on with Jake *"Soul Man"* Kriger, Rabbi Adam *"Aint No Sunshine When She's Gone"* Zeff, and the GJC Soul Choir, along with blues masters from G'vanim and a host of all your friends for a **WILD** Purim like no other!

Prayers will be said. The Megillah will be read. Songs will be sung. Bells will be rung. There will be laughter and tears and a whole lotta blues with the King, Esther, Vashti and everyone's favorite villain...



Food & beverages will be provided !

Morning Minyan & Megillah Reading: Sunday, March 12 at 8:30 AM

GJC Celebrates! Purim & the Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 12 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Come in costume & join in the fun at GJC's annual family-friendly Purim extravaganza! Fun for children of all ages; bring your friends! Creative Megillat Esther Reading, Purim Spiels, Costume Parade, Lots and lots and **LOTS** of hamantaschen, Moonbounce, Mini Golf, Super-Hoops, a clown, games, prizes, Food & More! **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Entry to the Carnival is Free – Pay per game!

CARNIVAL
PARADE
GROGGERS
CHILDREN
HAPPY

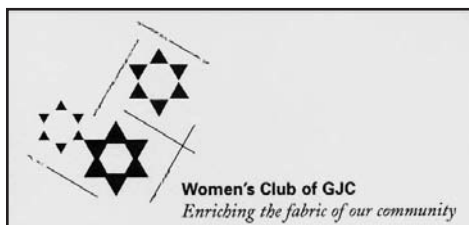
Many thanks to the GJC Women's Club for providing the hamantaschen!



Germantown Jewish Centre
 400 West Ellet Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19119
germantownjewishcentre.org

Germantown Jewish Centre extends thanks and gratitude to the Wolfe Family Foundation for their support in all GJC programming.

Women's Club News



By Marcy Fish and Sandy Meyer (co-presidents)

We want to thank the many people throughout GJC who helped to make the **Purim Bash** a big success. We especially want to thank all of the Patrons and Sponsors whose contributions made up more than half of the profits for this event. A special thank you to the ECP parents for their participation and donation of ECP special items, as well as a thank you to all in the GJC community who supported the annual Purim Bash in so many ways. Women's Club depends on our entire community to participate in this huge fundraising endeavor and to thoroughly enjoy themselves in the process!

Our health related topics theme this year will continue on **Sunday, March 26th at 10 AM in Temin Canteen Room with Lawrence Berger, Esq., speaking about Jewish Disabilities Awareness.** Larry represents people with disabilities in claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) including cases relating to special education, higher education, high stakes testing, professional licensing, and the right of people with disabilities to live in a non-institutional community setting. Larry is a member of the Disability Rights Bar Association, and New Jersey Special Education Practitioners, and has participated in the Mentoring Program sponsored by the ABA Commission on Disability Rights. Larry will share information about Jewish texts and current views on disability awareness. Also joining in the discussion will be David Ferleger who will join Larry in the discussion.

Through last year's Building Beautiful project, Yona Dansky produced a beautiful and informative photobook for the contributors who dedicated Torah mantles and the refurbishing of the display cases. Many people asked if they could purchase copies of this lovely photo journey, **The History of Our Torah Mantles 1954 – 2016.** Women's Club ordered additional copies, and these are on sale for \$36 each in the Little Shop. There is also a copy on view in the library. Take a photo excursion from the inception of our woven Torah mantles by Bet Ari-gah, the company that wove the original Torah mantles, to the newly dedicated Torah mantles which are now in the Charry Sanctuary and the two Torah mantles in the Magill Chapel which were dedicated in February. Also included in this pictorial history are the Torah mantles made by members of Minyan Masorti and members of Minyan Dorshei Derekh for their respective prayer spaces.

Purim Treats will be distributed throughout GJC to the religious school and ECP by Women's Club Youth Outreach. Vice Presidents Amy Cohen and Ilene Blitzstein Poses report that treats and packages sent to college students have been very well received throughout the year, as noted by comments from a few of the recipients:

Nisa Raz: *I just wanted to say thank you so much for the gifts from the Women's Club!! Really brightened up my day. If you could pass that on to them that would be great!*

Naomi Hollo: *Thanks in advance for the holiday gift!*

Ben Steinlauf: *Hi Amy! So nice of you to reach out to me. Can't wait!*

Alaina Silverman: *Hi Amy. Thanks for reaching out!*

Ivan Levingston: *Thank you in advance!*

Ari Bogom-Shanon: *Thank you!! I love getting these packages!!!*

Rachel Sacks: *Wow, thank you!*

Hannah Spear: *I loved getting those last year, I hope you all got my thank you note!*

Women's Club continues to provide **Coffee for ECP parents** on the first Wednesday of the month. GJC sets up the coffee, and a volunteer brings some Entenmann's goodies for parents as they drop their children off in the morning. People who have participated have commented that it is a very nice opportunity for people throughout our GJC community to get a quick chance to say hello and get to know each other by name. Anyone who would like to volunteer to be a greeter from 8 AM to 9:30 AM on any of the following dates (April 5, May 3, June 7) please contact Sandy Meyer at sms@meyeroneagle.com.

Women's Club joined Men's Club for its Tikkun Olam project of packing and delivering food through the **Jewish Relief Agency** at their northeast Philly warehouse. Watch for future dates to join with Men's Club in this project again. Bring the family; it was great to see children learning to help others by packing grocery boxes in the assembly line.

Save the Date:

40th Annual Women's Shabbat and Scholar in Residence will take place Saturday, April 8th. Scholars in Residence will be Rabbi Dayle Friedman and Rabbi Danielle Stillman. Look for information in the GJC Centre Bulletin and website.

Early Childhood Program (ECP)

By Jodi Gordon, ECP Director



The Bonim class culminated a month long unit studying China by creating their own dragon for a parade in the ECP Hallway!



Bonim is busy building the Great Wall of China this month!



We had a very special visitor from The Philly Pops! The children first worked on composing their own music using manuscript paper and then Mark played the music for us with his flute and his saxophone!



Gan Katan gets a little messy making some letters with shaving cream!



I love creating my own music!!!

Making our music!



The Humans of THE LITTLE SHOP

Hours

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



Lucy Kroll, Henry Charap and Judah Barnett shaking groggers in the days leading to Purim!



Risa Horn Pulzetti purchases a cool toy with money that she had been carefully saving, and with mom Maria Pulzetti's approval

Special Discounts

- March: 10% off seder and matzah plates, matzah covers, Elijah and Miriam cups items
- April: 10% off Kiddush cups

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

March 14
The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

April 4
My Grandfather's Gallery
by Anne Sinclair

May 9
Lineup
by Liad Shoham

June 13
The Paris Architect
by Charles Belfoure

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM
in the Quitman Library



Men's Club News

By David Fish and Dick Menin (co-presidents)

A few months ago, the GJC Men's Club began a relationship with the Jewish Relief Agency. The JRA began more than 8 years ago in Philadelphia to provide food supplements to needy individuals. Currently it delivers kosher food packages monthly to about 3000 people living below the poverty line in the greater metropolitan area. The concept has branched out to Chicago, New Jersey, Pittsburgh and Connecticut.

JRA works out of a dedicated warehouse near the Northeast Airport. On the second Sunday of each month, volunteers build boxes, open large containers of non-perishable food and fruit and, using a human conveyer system, fill the boxes. The system has evolved over time and is very efficient. Volunteers then drive the packages to the recipient's apart-



ments or homes. The work is moderately taxing and takes the whole morning to complete.

We've taken this on as a service project and hope to enlist as many GJC participants as we can. This is also a good opportunity to start our kids in important volunteer work. The task is appropriate for selected pre-teens and

beyond. Our first venture was on the Sunday before the MLK day of service Monday and that may have led to a considerable outpouring of volunteers. Often however, the summer months aren't as well staffed.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jim Meyer or Dick Menin for details.



Women's Club Honors DENA LAKE

at the Annual Torah Fund Brunch on May 7, 2017

The Torah Fund Campaign is a national effort by Women's Clubs throughout the country to raise money and support for the Jewish Theological Seminary, the training institution for Conservative Judaism, for rabbis, cantors and Jewish educators.

Each year the women of GJC's Women's Club prepare a delicious brunch feast, held at the spacious home of a congregant. Over 100 Centre friends come to nosh and schmooze and honor our honoree. There is no charge, but we do look forward to donations for the Seminary from those who attend. Most people donate \$18 or more.

Through the support of the Jewish Theological Seminary we involve ourselves in the work of preserving Conservative Judaism, participating in an effort that is shared by women of hundreds of congregations. As a bonus, on display at the brunch will be a lovely assortment of cards for any occasion. You are welcomed to take some.

Each year a lovely Torah Fund pin is offered to those who make a pledge of \$180 or more. This year the theme is *P'ri yadehah*, 'the fruit of her hands', a phrase from *Eishet Chayil*, in the Book of Proverbs (31:31). The pin has a wheat branch for the sustenance we wish for all our family and friends, and an olive branch for prayers for peace.

As part of the brunch we honor a dedicated woman from within our own congregation, there is an invited speaker who is always interesting and topical. This year we honor Dena Lake. Our speaker is Rabbi Annie Lewis.

Dena, a life-long gifted educator, is a past president of Women's Club, and a devoted attendee of Friday night services. She volunteers for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, in The Little Shop, coordinated the Book Group and is involved in many other activities.

Please join us for this lovely event on May 7th at the home of Kathy & George Amrom. The brunch begins at 11:00 AM.

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GJC Alumni



GJC Alumni in Israel: Shulamit Smith

This is the second article about the lives and work of young people who grew up in our congregation and are now living in Israel. Our author this issue is Shulamit Smith, who is the daughter of long-time GJC members, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith and Mark Smith.

I, along with twelve other young Olim, live in the heart of Haifa and we work together in creating an educators collective aimed towards building a just and peaceful Israeli society. The thirteen of us, ranging in age from 22-26, grew up in the youth movement Habonim Dror around the world, and due to our Zionist education, decided to make aliyah and become educators. The work focuses on a diverse scope of youth; the students we work with are from

both the diaspora and Israel, a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, and geographically living all over the country. I specifically work in the town of Afula with high school students in an after-school program. The students are in tenth grade, and turn to our programming because it is a space to discuss real issues and dilemmas in their lives, to have older mentors who want to engage with their thoughts, and of course, to find a positive social environment. Each night of the week we

provide a different type of meeting in order to fulfill these needs – whether that is a discussion group about economic gaps in Israeli society, a fun get to know you activity, or even a breakdance class. Deciding to work in Israel within the field of education has not been an easy process, but the small moments of joy and the commitment to pushing Israel towards a brighter future has made every moment truly count.

HAZAK News

By Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses

HAZAK has had an interesting winter – with programs to warm the body, and challenge the mind. In January, the HAZAK book group tackled Meir Shalev's *Two She-Bears*. People generally loved this book, which centered on some of the most memorable characters in Israeli literature, and everyone was excited about the prospect of convening again to read our next book, the *Marriage of Opposites*, by Alice Hoffman.

It seems like our winter film series over the past two years has been about how different people perceive the same criminal act. Last year we showed "Roshomon", which presented four such perspectives. On Sunday, January 15, we showed the great jury drama, "Twelve Angry Men." This film focused on the anguished deliberations of a murder jury and how these twelve people

with different perspectives came to a decision. With attorney and professor Dveera Segal leading a discussion after the film, a number of fresh ideas were tossed around about leadership, determination, and the impact of the historical period in which films such as "Rashomon" and "Twelve Angry Men" were produced.

While books and films provided us with ample mental stimulation in January, GJC's Josh Peskin supplied us with an entirely different type of stimulation in February. Josh gave HAZAK members a demonstration of his coffee-roasting prowess, and with all the other foods adorning the table, participants were provided with the perfect Jewish Sunday breakfast.

Look for our upcoming events. On Sunday, March 19, Francis Hoerber will discuss his book, *Against Time: Letters from Nazi Germany, 1938-1939*. A good deal of the book concerns the in-

consistent manner in which his family was treated while immigrating to the United States from a war-torn Europe. The subject matter of this book is very timely, given the current arguments over immigration in the country.

On April 25, we will visit the well-curated and under-appreciated collection of the LaSalle University Museum. Stay tuned for further details.

The upcoming schedule for the HAZAK book group is:

Wednesday, March 8 @ 10 AM
Moonglow
by Michael Chabon

Wednesday, April 12 @ 10AM
The Pumpkin Flower
by Matti Friedman

Member Spotlight

By Linda Kriger



**Mikael Elsila and Dina Pinsky
and their sons, Sol and Ilan**

Dina Pinsky and Mikael Elsila, both 44, have found in GJC their spiritual home and a center of their community life. Every Shabbat, they can be found at Dorshei Derekh and in the playground or hallways, where their two sons, Sol, 11 and Ilan, 7, play with their friends and attend junior congregation.

Mikael was born in Washington, D.C. and moved to Grosse Pointe Park, MI, when he was three years old. He attended public schools and the University of Michigan, majoring in comparative literature and music. When he took a Masters in ethnomusicology at Michigan, he wrote a thesis about teaching songwriting in prison. "I volunteered at two prisons and helped incarcerated people write songs and tell their stories," he said. "I called it *liberatory musicology*, a way to combine music with social change, which has always been interesting to me."

Mikael is the son of a non-Jewish father who "is a humanist, an activist and a role model" he said. His paternal grandparents were Lutheran of Finnish heritage. "They were founders and volunteers of the Finnish Center Association of Farmington Hills MI, which is like a JCC for the strong Finnish community there," he continued. "My mom is Jewish and her parents at the end of their lives went to the founding synagogue of the Jewish humanist movement, led by Rabbi Sherwin Wine. I would describe both my parents as spiritual people, but free thinkers."

Mikael received no formal religious education. His family celebrated both Christmas and Chanukah, attended Passover Seders and celebrated Easter in what Mikael describes as "a non-religious American format."

Then, at age 16, Mikael one day realized that he believed in God. "I became more religious on my own in a free format – not in a Jewish or Christian way, but as a spiritual seeker. When I got to New York City, I wanted to put that religion into a framework and I made a conscious choice to embrace the Jewish side of my heritage and started studying as an adult. I can't explain it. In some ways it seems like a miracle."

In New York, Mikael got a job working for the New York City Musicians Union, first as a union organizer, helping musicians win better pay and working conditions. He has stayed with the union ever since and is coming up on his 19th year working there. He is now the editor and graphic designer of the union's print magazine and digital newsletter. He also contributes to its social media, and sells advertising for the union.

His publication regularly wins prizes from the International Labor Communications Association. It's won first place more than once and usually ranks in the top three.

"I grew up as the son of an activist family and was on picket lines before I can remember," Mikael said. "Not crossing a picket line was our one commandment. My father was a labor journalist, and I still consult with him. Unionism and activism are both big parts of my life. In myself, I see a spiritual side, an activist side and a musician side."

Dina was born and raised in Atlanta, where she attended a Solomon Schechter elementary school and an Orthodox Yeshiva high school. In between, she went to secular private and public schools. She graduated from Barnard and received her PhD. in sociology at the City University of New York. Her dissertation and book focused on the role of Jewish activists in social movements, particularly the women's liberation movement.

Mikael and Dina met in New York at an alternative Tashlich service during Rosh Hashanah in 2000, sponsored by Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ). "We wrote down social injustices instead of our sins and tossed them away in a room," she

said, smiling. Dina was living on the Upper West Side, Mikael in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn. "We exchanged pleasantries and that was it."

Several months later, each of them signed up for the same online dating Web site. Dina recognized Mikael's face from their one brief encounter. "That's that cute guy from Tashlich," she remembers saying to friends. "I'm definitely writing him back."

In April 2001, Mikael suggested they get together for a concert he was performing in, but Dina decided that wasn't a good first date, so they compromised on bowling and Ethiopian food. (Later dates included a hookah lounge and the Coney Island freak show, where they kissed while standing on top of a bed of nails and a tattooed man.)

After dating for a few months, their relationship was sealed on 9/11. Mikael happened to be walking across the Brooklyn Bridge just after the planes hit. "I didn't go back to my apartment for two weeks; it kind of cemented our relationship."

Dina observed that Mikael's family "is remarkable, which is why Mikael was able to decide which religion to choose. His Jewish grandparents came to his family's Christmas celebrations and his Christian grandparents attended their Passover Seders. His father calls every Friday to say good Shabbos and has enjoyed the d'var Torah discussions at Dorshei Derekh."

After completing her doctorate, Dina was offered a tenure track position as a sociology professor at Arcadia University in 2002, where she still works. Now the program director for the department of sociology and coordinator of gender studies, she teaches sociology of gender, research methods and social movements, among other courses. Her latest research focuses on how young people use digital technologies in the formation of romantic relationships.

Before she arrived in Philadelphia, a number of people who knew her well told her that Germantown Jewish Centre

was the place for her. She visited during the week, but had not gone to a Shabbat service when she rented an apartment in Mt. Airy so she could walk to synagogue on Shabbat. "If I didn't like it, I was stuck," she said, smiling. She loved it. She and Mikael had a long distance relationship for a year. "At some point we decided we'd rather be here for weekends because of GJC. Mikael, too, fell in love with GJC."

Mikael moved to Mt. Airy and negotiated with his employer to telecommute. They bought a house together and became engaged; they married in 2004. Mikael threw himself into GJC activity, serving on the Nominating Committee, and then the Executive Committee for four years, where he became the shul's vice president for development. He's also been coordinator of the High Holiday Appeal for the past three years and has twice served as minyan coordinator of Dorshei Derekh. In 2012, he was selected as GJC's congregant of the year. Dina regularly reads Torah at Dorshei Derekh where she also leads serv-

ices. She has also served on several synagogue committees.

Dorshei Derekh resonated with Mikael partly because he didn't have a Hebrew language background. "I really fell in love with the Reconstructionist siddur, Kol Haneshamah," he said. Dina was used to a more conservative service, but tried out Dorshei Derekh with Mikael. It became their home community, although they are comfortable in all the various services. One thing they love about GJC is the community of families with school-aged children. Their whole family has enjoyed being part of the GJC family retreat since its inception.

Many people in the congregation know Mikael from his role as a pianist in various GJC settings, including the shul's flagship ensemble G'vanim. "What I like to do most, which I've done since I was two, is sit down at the piano and do free improvisation, like what Keith Jarrett does," he said, sitting at the dining room table of their home in East Mt. Airy. "He's my model. What thrills me the most about music is improvisation." After the interview for this ar-

ticle, Mikael grabbed a dulcimer and began to play. "I took lessons in Detroit from a bebop-era jazz pianist, Bess Bonnier. I later studied more classical and jazz piano at the Uni-versity of Michigan, where I also played a whole bunch of world instruments including gamelan and Japanese taiko drumming. I spent many months in Cuba between 1995 and 2004 studying conga drumming, salsa piano and a little dancing."

"Germantown has been a great place to raise kids," Dina said. "It's a really strong community. Our kids were in preschool with children whose parents are our close friends, and we have multi-generational friendships."

As for their children's education, "I wanted to send my children to a Jewish day school, so they'd get the Jewish education I didn't," said Mikael. "This was also important to Dina. That decision was easy to make together."

"God is very important to me," Mikael concluded, "and GJC is our spiritual home."

GREAT MEALS START WITH GREAT MEAT

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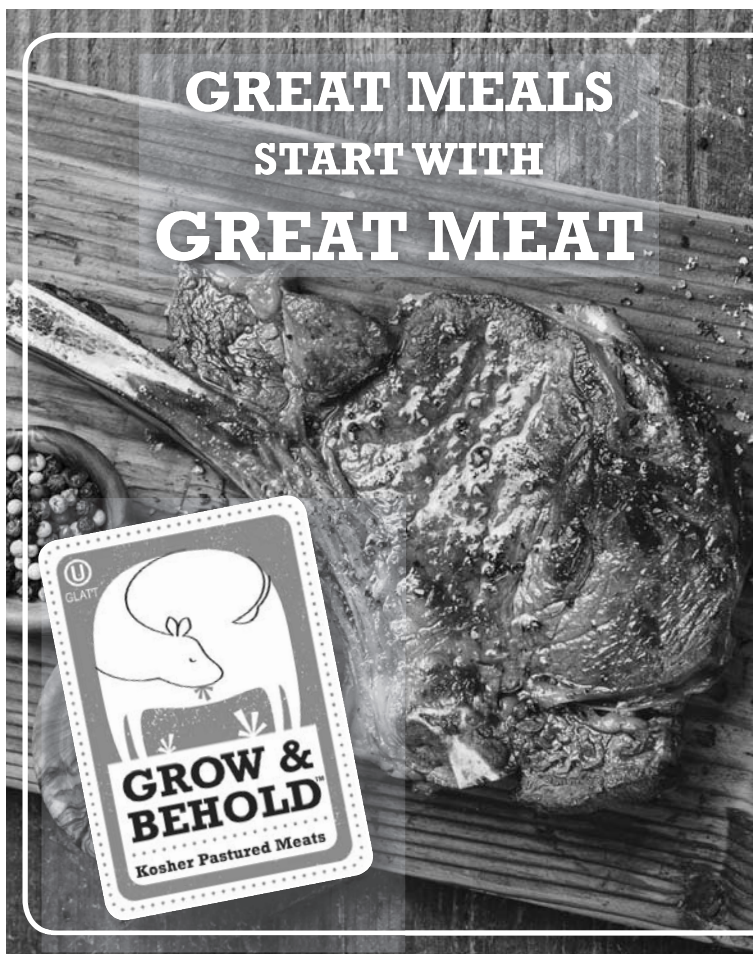
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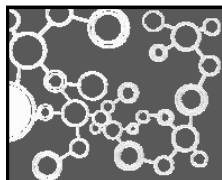


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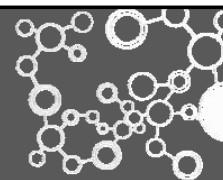




THE CONNECTION.

Myer P. and Myra B. Jacobs Adult Education Institute

Winter 2016



At GJC, it's all about **The Connection**. Whether you are looking for a "Sacred Spark" to kindle your curiosity or are interested in taking a "Deeper Dive" into the wellspring of Jewish tradition, there is something for you! We are proud to announce a wide range of workshops, courses, and immersive experiences that present opportunities for engagement with the wellspring of Jewish text, creative expression, history and culture in a way that is relevant to our lives in the 21st century. May we continue to grow both as individuals and as a community through our learning, through our journeys and through our connection to one another.

SACRED SPARKS ~ Workshops & Immersive Experiences

Tough Social Issues in Israel with Rabbi Zeff (Sundays, March 5 & 19)

In the sixth year of this class, we will examine more of the complex social issues Israeli society faces each day. Over two sessions, primary source materials, films, and guest speakers will help us gain insight into current issues that don't often make the news in the U.S. Prepare to rethink assumptions and engage with these difficult issues together. Both those who have taken the previous years' classes and new students are welcome!

Sundays 10AM-12:00PM • March 5, 19
GJC Members \$40 / Non-Members \$55

You Can Lead a Seder! Sunday, March 26

Maybe you have fond memories of your grandparents leading the Passover Seder, but you have never led one, or perhaps some in your family are not familiar with the tradition. This workshop is designed to help you identify what is meaningful to you and to discover how you can make Passover relevant to your unique family.

Workshop, \$10
Sunday 10AM-12PM • March 26

Taking Your Seder to the Next Level Sunday, March 26

We love our family traditions, but sometimes they feel stale; we are challenged to make it meaningful and fresh each year. Some might want to find ways to connect the seder to current events (either within your changing family or in the wider world), while others seek to go deeper into the meanings and traditions of our Passover ritual. In this workshop, participants will take an active role, sharing innovative seder activities and traditions from their own families, swapping melodies to holiday songs, and trading tasty recipes. BYO-Hagaddah or family seder supplement. Get ready to dust off your family's Passover Seder for a new year!

Workshop, \$10: Sunday 10AM-12PM • March 26

DEEPER DIVES ~ Multi-Session Courses that Delve Deeper into Study

Mind and Deed in Rabbinic Texts

with Rabbi Josh Gutoff (begins Wednesday, March 1)

This is a six-session class looking at classic Jewish texts on *kavanah*, or intention, and its role in prayer and in the performance of *mitzvot*. As we'll see, *kavanah* becomes a lens for looking at much broader issues, like the purpose of ritual, the meaning of prayer, and the relationship between the human and the Divine. It should be very exciting. All the texts will be studied in English, and no previous background, or level of belief, is required.

6 Sessions: Wednesdays 7-8:30PM • Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr 5
GJC Members \$120 / Non-Members \$135

An Expressive Omer Offering

with D'vorah Horn (begins Sunday, April 2)

For eight years D'vorah Horn has worked with the Counting of the Omer as an intentional and transformative practice. In this class, she offers the opportunity to guide us in this journey. We begin together by constructing an individual practice, one that may include study and contemplation, visual guides, and non-verbal as well as verbal expression. As a group we will be able to share what has emerged, receive teachings and guidance and fine-tune each of our individual journeys. (www.dvorahhorn.com)

4 sessions: Sundays 10-11:30AM • Apr 2, 16; May 7, 21
GJC Members \$80 / Non-Members \$95

Hebrew Revealed!

with Hazzan Naomi Hirsch (begins Tuesday, April 25)

As we approach Shavuot, the holiday when we celebrate receiving the Torah, learn to decode its letters. This is your chance to learn basic Hebrew reading skills beginning with the Aleph-Bet. Whether you don't know one letter from the next, whether you have previously studied and not succeeded, or if you need a brush-up, THIS is the class for you. Naomi's foolproof teaching methodology, combined with her capacity to connect with all types of learners, will have you joyfully decoding and reading prayers. NO STUDENT LEFT BEHIND! If you already know the letters and vowels, please consider joining us. We can accommodate multi-level learning.

Class attendees will be using the text Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults Book 1 by Linda Motzkin & Hara Person, Editor. Copies will be available (\$18.95) at the first class, or you may find the book on your own and bring it to the first class.

8 sessions: Tuesdays 7:30-9 PM / Apr 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23; Jun 6, 13, 20 / **GJC Members \$120 / Non-Members \$135**

Lifelong Learning at Germantown Jewish Centre • Register by emailing program@germantownjewishcentre.org

Tikkun Olam Update

The Fair Trade Initiative at GJC

By Elliott Seif and Betsy Teutsch

What is Fair Trade? Fair Trade is an important and relatively easy way to help people around the world improve their lives and support themselves and their

children. Through Tikkun Olam's new Fair Trade GJC initiative, we hope that synagogue members and the synagogue itself can become more conscious of how to purchase Fair Trade items and help to create a better world based on Jewish values.

Fair Trade is about economic and social fairness to workers, farmers and craftspeople around the world. It provides workers who live in developing countries with higher earnings and living wages, expanding their economic opportunity. It prevents exploitation and assures that child labor has not been used and that children are given the opportunity to go to school and get an education. It gives the poor around the world a helping hand in building sustainable communities. Other benefits of Fair Trade include the high environmental standards, greater gender equity (less exploitation of women), worker education, and better health care access. Communities involved in fair trade are significantly improved; the poor are empowered.

Fair Trade organizations certify that those around the world who grow and produce items, such as coffee, chocolate, gift items, housewares, and clothing, follow Fair Trade rules. Cooperatives are often at the heart of fair traded goods, linking farmers and craftsmen directly to the global marketplace.

Fair Trade models Jewish values by



Fair Trade items sold at the GJC Gift Shop.

providing fair and timely wages, prohibiting child labor and promoting gender equity, supporting healthy and safe working conditions, and preserving and respecting cultural identities. Through the efforts of Betsy Teutsch, Mindy Shapiro, and other GJCers, the Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team (TOCT) has endorsed Fair Trade as a GJC Tikkun Olam initiative. We are making an effort to educate synagogue members about Fair Trade and promoting the purchase of Fair Trade items in our local community. We are also encouraging Germantown Jewish Centre to become much more involved in the Fair Trade movement. Here's how we are doing all three:

1. We will schedule a number of educational activities that raise awareness about Fair Trade and all the good that it does. For starters, on Sunday, March 26, there will be a Fair Trade educational program in Religious school classrooms, with parents included.
2. We are working with the synagogue to extend the use and sale of Fair Trade items at synagogue functions and in The Little Shop. We hope that Fair Trade coffee will become the norm at GJC, and we have met with the caterer and asked him to offer Fair Trade coffee as an option for simchahs. We hope to have more Fair Trade items available for sale in the gift shop. We are also meeting with the Hebrew School to ex-



amine ways for our students to learn more about Fair Trade, to incorporate Fair Trade as a potential service project for our children, and to use Fair Trade items more frequently.

3. We will share information as to how to purchase Fair Trade items in our community. Two of our local shops sell many Fair Trade items – Weaver's Way Coop, located in both Mt Airy and Chestnut Hill, and Ten Thousand Villages.

Another initiative is the Slave-Free Fair Trade Chocolate for Passover sale. Fair Trade chocolates are available for gifts and to serve at Seders, and the sale of Fair Trade chocolates will also be used as a fundraiser for the Religious School. Pre-order forms will be sent out soon. You can find a number of resources to help explain the connection between the Fair Trade movement, Judaic values, and the Passover Seder at <http://shop.equalexchange.coop/pesach>

The Haggadah reminds us that we were once freed from slavery and bondage. Today we have a chance to reach out to those around the world who are enslaved through economic and social injustice, and give them an opportunity to improve their lives. Fair Trade is one way that GJC members can help make this happen.

7TH ANNUAL GJC YOUNG FAMILIES RETREAT

Friday, May 12 - Sunday, May 14

The GJC Young Families Retreat is an annual event held at a retreat center in Malvern, PA. For one lovely weekend, dozens of families have a chance to play, laugh, pray, study, and unwind. Last year 84 GJC members—the kids ranged in age from infants to tweens—spent Shabbat together. As parent Craig Barkan explains, “I love the retreat, because I watch kids growing into people, and parents growing into friends.” It is an opportunity for all of us to build and deepen our connections.

At the retreat center, families stay in suites with private baths, and vegetarian meals are provided. There is programming for all ages, and babysitting for the youngest ones. We join together for Kabbalat Shabbat, and the kids and parents have separate Shabbat morning services.

The kids love riding bikes on the trails, playing sports, making playdough, and splashing in sprinklers. Adult programs include a book group, yoga, text study, and parenting discussions. In the evenings we enjoy our own improv comedy show and music. After the kids go to sleep, parents have a chance to hang out and get to know one another. We are honored that one of GJC’s rabbis joins us each year.

New families are encouraged to join us! Registration for the retreat will open at the end of February, and will be publicized in the GJC Weekly. We offer financial aid, and we want to make the weekend accessible for all. Please contact Maria Pulzetti, maria.pulzetti@gmail.com, with any questions.

Photos from last year’s Young Families Retreat



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

Religious School

Religious School... and the Larger Lessons

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Director of Lifelong Learning



Kindergarten: *I <3 being Jewish*. 1st grade: *Concentric Circles of Being Jewish: Me, my Family, and my Community*. 2nd grade: *Jewish Rhythms of my Life*. 3rd grade: *Mitzvot and Middot*. 4th grade: *Judaism: Past, Present & Future*. 5th grade: *Experiencing the Sacred: In Every Time and Place*. 6th grade: *Finding my Voice in the Sea of Jewish Tradition*. 7th grade: *Stepping Up: Becoming a Jewish Adult*. Each year in our Religious School program has a particular theme and curricular focus. Within these themes, each grade has topics they cover: prayer goals, benchmarks in their study of Torah, Jewish history and culture, and the study of Jewish rituals and holidays through a variety of lenses and approaches. I am proud of our new curriculum at GJC Religious School, and believe that we have a strong program that both builds Jewish literacy and creates a container for students to explore and develop their own unique Jewish identity.

On January 21, 2017 more than 3 million Women and allies marched on Washington, Philadelphia and 150 cities around the world. Following the march, thousands posted photos to share their experiences of this pivotal American moment, many featuring signs and posters bearing a wide range of messages. One such photo caught my eye: a picture of a poster, a simple poster – black permanent marker on white poster board, no images or colorful illustration – just a woman holding up a hand-written sign, “THIS IS THE MOMENT I TRAINED FOR IN HEBREW SCHOOL.”

“Whoa!” I thought to myself. I was overcome by a whirlwind of thoughts. Who is this woman? How old is she? Where is she from? Which Hebrew school did she attend? Which moment did Hebrew School prepare her for – post-inauguration? Standing for women’s rights? Marching on Shabbat a la Rabbi Heschel in Selma, AL? Mostly, though, I wondered what was it in this woman’s experience in Jewish education – in Hebrew School – that stirred her *neshama* (soul), fueled her passion, and inspired her to raise her voice in such a proud, patriotic, and Jewish way. What was it that her teachers had taught her? Was it in the content delivered, the discussions fostered, or the community built? Was it in formal moments in the classroom or informal ones in the hallways? What made her equate this moment of marching for Women’s Rights on the eve of the new presidential administration with the lessons she learned in Hebrew School? And, above all of this, I wondered: How can I help GJC Religious School to be the kind of place where all of our students carry such signs at pivotal moments in their lives as they emerge into Jewish Adulthood?

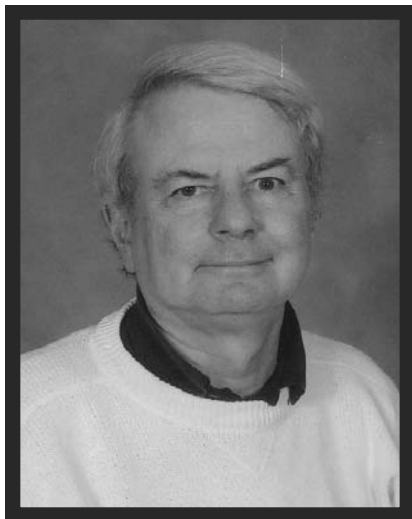
I do not have answers to these important questions, but perhaps I can offer us two guiding principles. First, as teachers (both formal and informal in the lives of our GJC Religious School students), we must all teach authentically, live authentically, and model authentically our full Jewish selves in and out of the classroom. To be clear, we should not “preach” about our political positions and opinions to our students or use the classroom as a soapbox, but neither should we turn our “selves” off in order to teach merely the facts of the material. When we teach about the history, culture and ritual of our people without the richness of how it can enhance and bring meaning to *our own lives*, we fail to bring it alive in the imagination of the next generation. Second, we must listen deeply to our students and give them opportunities to raise their voices.

In early February, something small but beautiful happened that highlights for me the importance of doing this. In the three weeks immediately following

the presidential inauguration, dozens of our students participated in marches, rallies and other political actions with their families. Many of these events conflicted with Religious School, and I found myself torn between supporting our parents’ choice to take their students out of class and being concerned about the academic ramifications of those missed class hours. On February 8th, a Wednesday afternoon (during Religious School hours), several of our students (including all of our 6th graders) elected to attend the Muslim & Jewish Youth Solidarity Rally. At this rally, something remarkable happened. At a certain point, the organizers opened the microphone up to any student to speak. Purely motivated by her own passion and the urgency of this moment, one of our students, 6th grader Lia Taylor, approached the bullhorn and began to speak. “The good thing about this election is that we can all come together, congregate, and fight back,” Lia shared. “This whole rally has made me think about how much a group of people can do.”

Sure, Lia and her classmates could have spent the afternoon learning Torah trope -- I was scheduled to teach them the katon clause that afternoon -- and then engage in a text study about Tu Bishvat, but what she did instead was so much more profound, so much more impactful. Walking hand-in-hand with her Muslim and Jewish peers, and raising her voice in a message of optimism and unity was so much more than any of us could have written into any lesson plan. THIS was the moment that **she** trained for in Hebrew School. God-willing, one of many, many moments.





Stanley Wolfe

Stanley Wolfe was a long-time member of GJC who worked hard to help carry out the vision of a diverse and innovative Jewish community. Stan realized that education and engagement could and should take place in a variety of modes and settings. He understood the barriers that sometimes kept people from learning and from engagement in Jewish life, and he worked in his lifetime to break down those barriers and to push beyond the boundaries to build an innovative, creative, exciting Jewish life for all.

Stan believed in the power of innovative, quality Jewish programming to create intensive Jewish experiences in the liberal Jewish world, and he contributed his time, energy, and resources toward helping GJC produce such programming during his lifetime. After his death, the Stanley Wolfe Foundation made a transformative gift of \$180,000 over ten years to support the position of Program Director, a gift that the Foundation has just generously renewed for another ten years. We are extremely grateful to Stan's children and the Foundation they administer for continuing to push forward the vision of what our community could be that Stan worked so hard to realize during his life.

To remember Stan on his 10th yahrtzeit, GJC is holding a commemoration on March 18th, with an innovative Shabbat program that reflects Stan's values. This presentation with Theatre Ariel will engage everyone in acting out and thinking out these issues, issues that are always relevant for us at GJC but are perhaps even more relevant in our current times. Stan would be proud.

Germantown Jewish Centre
A community of communities

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

Stanley R. Wolfe Memorial Shabbat

Saturday, March 18
in the Charry Service

Ki Tisa,
the Golden
Calf,
and how we
break through
boundaries

in partnership with
**Theatre
Ariel**



For more on Stan's impact,
see the back of this flyer!

Partnering with Theatre Ariel, to commemorate the 10th yarhtzeit of a remarkable man, Germantown Jewish Centre's Charry Service presents a new way of engaging with Parashat Ki Tisa, the story of the Golden Calf, which is the ultimate expression of breaking through boundaries. The children of Israel are trying to worship God in the absence of their leader Moses, and they innovate by coming up with a ritual that was not prescribed in their zeal to serve. This service aims to engage us in thinking about deep questions of what it means to depart from established traditions and practices. How can breaking through boundaries serve us, serve our community, and serve God, and when do we go too far? How do we recognize lines that we should not cross without stifling the creativity and energy that can inspire us? Come find out!

10 am: Charry Service with Theatre Ariel

*All are invited to kiddush in the
Marcus Auditorium following services.*

Kiddush Program: Remembering Stan Wolfe

Remembering
and celebrating
an innovator
who passionately
engaged in
Jewish life,
challenged
stereotypes, and
believed in
spreading GJC's
mission for
generations
to come.

GJC extends thanks and gratitude to the Wolfe Family Foundation for their support in all GJC programming.

Women's Clothing Exchange on January 29th was a success again this year!

In January, the Women's Clothing GiveAway, under the very capable leadership of Genie Ravital, and Co-Sponsored by Women's Club and Tikkun Olam at GJC raised money for the 11th year in a row. This year's recipients are HIAS refugee settlement programs and POWER, Philadelphia interfaith organization for justice.



Todah Rabah to all the volunteers who worked so hard for the Women's Clothing Exchange.

Wendy Smith
Betsy Teutsch
Mindy Shapiro
Eve Pinkenson
Jaci Tusman
Sue Sussman

Karey Bacon
Danielle Wilson
Betty Ann Fellner
Martha Millison
Della Lazarus
Elayne Blender

Shira Alberts
Sharon Strauss
Gwynne Sigel
Connie Katz
Leah Corsover
Debbie Fishman

Tina Easley
Michelle Friedman
Helen Seitz
Nan Myers
Linda Cherkas
Naomi Hirsch

Elaine Stewart
Lynne Jacobs
Judith Miller
Ellen Ufberg
Carol Tinkleman
Helen Feinberg

...and special thanks to Genie Ravital who led the effort!

Nurturing Freedom: a Multi-Faith Seder at Germantown Jewish Centre

featuring a performance and discussion of "Mothers of Moses", with music by René Orth
and libretto by Ellen Frankel, commissioned by the Women's Sacred Music Project

Just prior to Passover, Easter, and Ramadan, we invite you to come together to explore the ways in which different faith traditions imagine the genesis, development, and spread of freedom. "Mothers of Moses" is an extraordinary tale of female heroism and cooperation, of the maternal spirit triumphing, and, at a time when the world struggles to live side by side in peace, reminds us of how much we share in common. The performance will be followed by a Seder, a structured meal-and-conversation, during which participants will discuss and eat foods that symbolize both oppression and freedom. We will end by taking on new commitments to act for freedom in our own lives and the life of our communities.

Sunday, April 2nd at 3pm
\$5/www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-nurturing-freedom

Nedivot Lev (Offerings of the Heart)

By Rebecca Paquet

Todah rabbah to everyone who generously gave to the Tikkun Olam High Holiday Appeal! Below are more gift dedications, representing the many ways each of us connects to Judaism and to this beautiful community.

Tamara Cohen & Gwynn Kessler, in honor of the dedicated staff and volunteers who make the community all that it is for them and their family

* **Justin Fink & Sandra Masako**

* **Bill Kavesh**, in memory of his parents, Max & Miriam Kavesh

* **Rebecca Ladenheim**, in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. William R. Ladenheim

@ **Jonathan Levy & Claire McCusker**, in memory of Margaret McCusker

Steven Peitzman, in honor of the Friday night regulars and leaders

Joan Stern, in memory of her parents, Clarence J. Stern & Diana D. Stern, and her sister, Miriam L. Gafni

* **Chava Weissler & Nancy Fredland**, in honor of Minyan Masorti
Dan & Debbie Werlin

Thank you also to our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

@ Thank you for your new pledge!

* Thank you for your increased pledge!

Israeli Champagne Brunch

GJC's Annual Spring Fundraiser

honoring
Barb & Dick Menin

Sunday, April 30
11:00 am

Join us in supporting the synagogue and raising a glass as we celebrate and honor two amazing congregants!

Save the date for a truly special event!

featuring a performance by
G'vanim

& Israeli breakfast by Centre Catering
(under Traditional Kosher Supervision)

Come for the laughter and friendship! Come for the champagne! Come to support the synagogue in a brand new way!

\$36/individual tickets

\$150/Friend & \$250/Donor

2 tickets, preferred seating & program acknowledgement

\$500/Patron

2 tickets, preferred seating & program acknowledgement

\$1,800/Benefactor & \$3,600/Pillar

4 tickets, preferred seating & program acknowledgement

Thank you for helping to honor Barb and Dick Menin, who have had such an impact on the strength of Germantown Jewish Centre! All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards GJC's operating budget.

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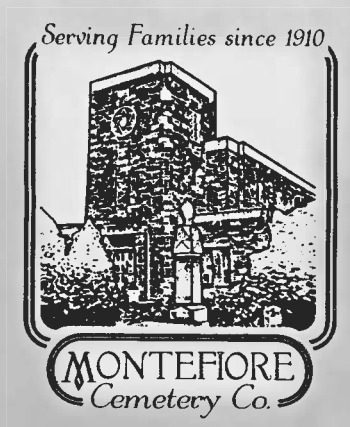
Montefiore Cemetery is proud of upholding Jewish traditions☆ The cemetery offers Jewish families a beautiful resting place with character and a wide variety of options.

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(Interest-Free Financing offered, in accordance with Jewish Law)
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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 December, 2016 through January, 2017

Todah Rabbah!

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

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Adult Education Fund	Linda Dzuba Jill Nissen David Picker	in memory of Samuel L. Pinkenson, father in memory of Roslyn Nissen, mother in memory of Doris Picker, mother
Bess Schick Memorial Fund	Michael Robinson Mariann Schick	in memory of Julius Robinson, father in memory of Melvin Kadane, father of Cathy Dratman
Chesed Fund	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Rohama Siegel Lee, aunt
Children's Services Fund	Mitchell Berk	in memory of Samuel Needleman, grandfather
Early Childhood Program Fund	Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in honor of Connie & Sam Katz, on the marriage of their daughter, Liz, to Micah
	Marcy & Dan Bacine	in memory of Dvora Friedman, mother of Aryeh Friedman in honor of Rachel Marcus & Eileen Carlin, on the birth of their daughter, Elliott
	Ellen Brown Sherry & Bob Pomerantz Joan Silver	in memory of Herbert D. Stearns, father in memory of Edward Fleishman, father of Ellen Fleishman in honor of Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on the birth of their grandsons
	Bev & Ira Somerson Paula & Jordan Spivack Richard Rosenbaum	in honor of Ed & Dena Lake, grandparents of Clara Phillipe in honor of Ed & Dena Lake, grandparents of Clara Phillipe in memory of Irving Spivack and Irwin Manheim
Floral Fund	Martha Schleifer	in memory of Rose Rosenbaum, mother
Furman Scholarship Fund	Maurice & Maxine Feldman	in memory of John M. Furman, father
General Fund	Ann Itzkowitz Peter & Lillian Kinnebrew Susan Klein Doug Lerner Alan Mendelsohn & Mindy Shapiro	in honor of Ed & Dena Lake, grandparents of Clara Phillipe in memory of Therese Posnansky, mother in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC in honor of Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein, daughter of Susan Klein in memory of Mildred Katz, mother in memory of Steven Weingrod, father of Molly Weingrod in memory of Stephen P. Cohen, father of Tamara Cohen in honor of Ed & Dena Lake, grandparents of Clara Phillipe in memory of Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni in memory of Myrtle Manheimer, mother in honor of the Thursday Morning Minyan in appreciation of Dina Pinsky & Mikael Elsila in memory of Ida Levy, mother in memory of Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni in honor of Chaim Dworkin, on his special birthday in honor of Rosalie August, on her special birthday in memory of Anne Rosenberg, mother in memory of Neil Goren, son in memory of Aaron Weber, husband of Lucille Weber in memory of Phillip Applebaum, father in honor of Deborah Stern, for her work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in memory of Albert Dzuba, father in memory of Isaac Kopstein, father in memory of Leonore Piser, mother and grandmother
	Joyce Norden Maria Pulzetti Maria Pulzetti & Molly Weingrod Marge Richman Robin Skolnik & Family Ilana Trachtman & Jonathan Friedan	in memory of Milton Sanders, husband in memory of Jack Sanders, father-in-law in memory of Irving Spivack and Irwin Manheim in memory of Ruth Pinn, mother in memory of Marc David Kaplan, son in memory of Michael Rosenman in memory of Raymond Tatarsky, brother of Phyllis Kauffman in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, with great appreciation in memory of Jonathan Marshall, father in memory of Seymour Richman, husband in memory of Freda Denniberg, grandmother in memory of Dvora Friedman, mother of Aryeh Friedman
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Interfaith Hospitality Network Fund	Elaine & Lee Dushoff Michael Dzuba Cecile Merion Daniel Piser & Deborah White, Becca & Gabe Frieda Sanders	
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Israel Garden Fund	Laura Marshall Marge Richman Beth Stearman	
Kiddush Fund	Marcy & Dan Bacine	

Contributions *Continued*

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Religious School Fund Social Action Fund

Dayle Friedman
Linda Hahn
Susan Rome
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in honor of Michael Beer, on his special birthday
in memory of Gabriel DiLorenzo, father
in memory of Samuel Pinn, father
in memory of Bette Sinett, sister
in memory of Ronald Lance, father
in memory of Benjamin Menin, uncle
in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC
in memory of Dvora Friedman, mother of Aryeh Friedman
in memory of Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni
in memory of Marcus Bressler, brother-in-law
in memory of Sondra Bressler, sister-in-law
in memory of Scott Marcus, uncle of Lizanne Berger
in honor of Ed & Dena Lake, grandparents of Clara Phillipe
in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical
Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
in memory of Albert Myers, father
in honor of Jessie Singer, daughter of Leah Lande & Marc Singer,
and granddaughter of Ken & Gabriella Lande, on her Bat Mitzvah
in memory of Clemens Brand, father
in memory of David Winderman, father
in memory of Lillian Winderman, aunt
in memory of Nancy Jacobs Traub, mother

in memory of Eda Kaufman, grandmother
in memory of Barbara Buyum, aunt
in memory of Andrew Barcan, brother of David Barcan
in memory of Matthew Wainer, father
in memory of Eva Smilowitz, mother
in memory of William Posnansky, father
in memory of Nathan Wolfman, father
in memory of Newlin Booth, husband
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in memory of Rabbi Elias Charry, father
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in memory of Marvin Flisser, father
in memory of John M. Furman, father
in memory of Dvora Friedman, mother of Aryeh Friedman
in memory of William R. Ladenheim, father

in memory of Lola Lefkowitz, mother
in memory of Sarah Ostrow, grandmother
in honor of Aryeh & Reena Friedman, on the wedding of their
daughter Shira Friedman to Glen Romonosky
in honor of Connie & Sam Katz, on the marriage of their daughter,
Liz, to Micah
in honor of Nina Gordon & Lou Walinsky, on the birth of
their grandsons
in honor of Marty Kaplan, on his special birthday
in honor of Maurice & Maxine Feldman, on their
60th wedding anniversary
in memory of Rose Rosenbaum, grandmother
in memory of Newlin Booth, step-father
in honor of Michael Beer, on his special birthday
in memory of Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni
in memory of Irving Spivack and Irwin Manheim
in memory of Doris Wald Steinlauf, mother
in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover
in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC
in honor of David Mosenkis, on his special birthday
in memory of Stephen P. Cohen, father of Tamara Cohen
in memory of Jill Friedman Fixler, sister
in memory of Sanford Hahn, husband
in memory of Lloyd Schachtner, father
in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC
in memory of Charles Schnall, father

Contributions *Continued*

Social Action Fund

Ellen Soffer & Lorraine Soffer
George Stern
Rivkah Walton

Special Education Fund

Torah Restoration Fund

Wheeler Clinic
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Martin & Ann Itzkowitz
Kate Margo
Mikael Elsil & Dina Pinsky

Young Families Retreat

Maria Pulzetti, Abby Horn
& Simon Horn Pulzetti
Curtis & Leslie Pontz

Youth Activities Fund

in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC
in memory of Edwin Stern, father
in memory of Henry Miller Walton, father
in memory of Norma L. Walton, mother
in memory of Gisha L. Berkowitz, a long-time member of GJC
in memory of Norma Kulberg, mother
in memory of Tillie Zerkowitz, mother
in memory of Beatrice Needleman, mother
in memory of Ida Garfinkle Amrom, mother
in memory of Elizabeth McCain, sister
in honor of Josh Goldblum, for his caring, kindness, and generosity
to members of the GJC community
in honor of Maxine & Maurice Feldman, on their
60th wedding anniversary
in honor of Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser, on the marriage of their son,
Jeffrey, to Lauren Berger
in memory of Raymond Tatarsky, brother of Phyllis Kauffman
in memory of Raymond Tatarsky, brother of Phyllis Kauffman
in memory of Milton White, father and grandfather

in memory of Frederick Brozer, uncle of Mindy Shapiro
in memory of Edward Fleishman, father of Ellen Fleishman
in memory of Andrew Barcan, brother of David Barcan
in memory of Ruth Meilachowitz, mother
in honor of Bev Somerson, friend
in memory of Bertha Pepp, friend
in memory of Warren Lane, father
in honor of Karey Bacon, on her graduation from nursing school
in memory of Steven Weingrod, father of Molly Weingrod
in honor of Risa Horn Pulzetti, on her birthday

in memory of Sawyer Pontz, grandson
in memory of Ruth Adler, mother of Sandra Gafni



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*Please submit all articles via email to
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of Conservative Judaism

Save the Date: March

Women's Club Purim Bash
March 4

Israel Programming & Lifelong Learning
Tough Social Issues in Israel
March 5 & 19

Men's Club Shabbat
March 11

GJC Joint Purim Celebration
March 11

GJC Celebrates! Purim & Purim Carnival
March 12

Stanley R. Wolfe Memorial Shabbat
March 18

Hazak Program: Francis Hoeber
March 19

Kids Stuff Exchange
March 26

Women's Club Jewish Disabilities Program
March 26

Save the Date: April

Nurturing Freedom:
A Multi-Faith Seder
April 2

Women's Shabbat
April 8

Tot Friday Night JAM
April 21

Yom ha-Shoah Program
April 23

GJC's annual spring fundraiser
Israeli Champagne Brunch
Honoring Barb & Dick Menin
April 30