



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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IYAR 5776

MAY 2016



By Rabbi Annie Lewis

Rejoicing in the Goodness

"And you shall rejoice in all the good which Adonai your God has given to you. . ."

(Deuteronomy 26:11)

In ancient times, the harvest festival of Shavuot marked the start of the season of *bikkurim*, first fruits. Farmers would gather up offerings of ripened wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, dates, and pomegranates and set out for the Temple in Jerusalem. Carrying their fruit in decorative baskets, farmers would dance through the hills of Jerusalem, accompanied by the trills of the flute. Officials would come out to meet them. Craftsmen would pause from their work to greet the parade of gratitude. Upon their arrival, Levites would burst into song. Once at the Temple, each farmer would present the first fruits to the priest, reciting a declaration. Holding the basket, the farmer would tell the story of our people going down to Egypt, of God hearing our cries from bondage, of lifting us out with signs and wonders, and of bringing us to a land flowing with milk and honey. Farmers would give thanks for their first fruits, symbols of Divine generosity, and they would rejoice in all the good that God had bestowed on them together with their households and the Levites and the strangers around them.

Each morsel of fruit is a gift from God. The art of farming carries with it great vulnerability, and abundance in a harvest is cause for thanksgiving and

rejoicing. As with many Jewish celebrations of survival, the festival of *bikkurim* becomes a moment for remembering, for telling our story and lifting up our hearts in gratitude. Later on, the festival of Shavuot takes on an additional meaning as a celebration of the gift of Torah, a tree of life, bearing endless fruit of insight and stories. On Shavuot, we rejoice in all of the abundance that sustains us, materially and spiritually.

As we approach the festival of Shavuot, and as I prepare to transition from my role as Assistant Rabbi at Germantown Jewish Centre this summer, I am filled with gratitude for the abundance of blessing I have received from this phenomenal "community of communities." I am thankful for the delicious Torah you have taught me, for the stories you have shared and for the questions you have asked. I am grateful beyond measure to the Source of Life who brought each one of us into being and led us all to one another and to the task of building this holy community.

Thank you for the enormous privilege of serving as your rabbi these past four years, for allowing me to offer up the first fruits of my journey as a teacher of Torah. It has been a tremendous gift to get to know you, to pray together, to sing together, to study together, to work together for social justice, to share Shabbat meals, to ask juicy questions, to celebrate, to mourn, to breathe, to grow, to play, to pause and to pour out our hearts in gratitude. Thank you for allow-

ing me to be with you in moments of transition and vulnerability in your lives. What an honor to be part of this sacred community that is multi-generational and thriving and always striving for *kedushah*. You have inspired me each day with your hearts and actions, minds and souls, and with your outpourings of generosity. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow here - as a rabbi, as a mother and as a person. Thank you for the love and care you have shown for Yosef, Zohar and me. Thank you for this humbling and breathtaking opportunity to be with you, to vision with you and to work for the flourishing of our synagogue and of our city.

Thank you, God, for all the good.

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, MAY 13th
6:00 PM

Kol Zimrah &
Farewell to

Rabbi Annie Lewis

Details on page 14

President's Message

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



As I begin my last column as President of the Germantown Jewish Centre, I am reflecting on the most enjoyable parts of being President and my favorite moments of the last two years.

First, and foremost, I enjoyed the reverence with which my family treated the position. My kids have made fun of me from day one, calling me “Big Macher” and affectionately shortening the title to its initials . . .

Second, and to allow myself a bit of vanity: I enjoyed seeing my name engraved in the lobby of the Charry. Truth be told, it was not so much seeing my name I enjoyed, as it was seeing my name associated with all the other Presidents of this institution. I have said before and will say again, they are an amazing group and I enjoyed hearing from each of them, and receiving their support. I know with certainty I will soon be a Past President myself; I do not know whether I have anything to add to the collective wisdom and dedication which already exists within that group.

I enjoyed working with the Women's Club, and receiving their check at the Purim Bash. The Women's Club is an incredible asset. It raises extraordinary amounts of money and I will remain happy to encourage everyone to shop at the Little Shop and to patronize all Women's Club events.

I enjoyed hearing from all of you, in so many ways.

I enjoyed the receiving line after services on Kol Nidre. The kind words of so many of you were deeply appreciated.

I enjoyed speaking to you at Kid-dush, at various programs, and even

sometimes during services (don't tell the Rabbi).

I enjoyed hearing from so many of you by email whenever I sent constant contact information about the shul. You frequently asked tough questions, but always in a constructive manner.

And I enjoyed the handful of times someone took the time to email or call me because some issue was sufficiently pressing you felt it necessary.

Collectively, you were supportive and encouraging and I almost always came away energized by my “Presidential” interactions with this community.

I greatly enjoyed being Bimah Officer at countless Shabbatot. I include in this category being Bimah Officer at important institutional days, like Granger and Charry Shabbatot, the day we dedicated Rabbi Hahn's portrait, and the day we dedicated the plaque for Miriam Gafni. But I also enjoyed the process of doing the actual announcements. As people asked me to make announcements, and I tried to figure out which of the countless things in any given week's Bulletin to announce, I gained a renewed appreciation for the scope of activities which regularly occur at GJC.

Perhaps most of all, though, I enjoyed being Bimah Officer during Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. I particularly like the moment when our teens receive the Torah and turn to look at the congregation and recite the Sh'ma, and their parents look up to the Bimah, at their children holding the Torah. I have been privileged, for two years, to see those parents' proud and emotional faces from a unique vantage point. Many of you undoubtedly have heard me say I wish I could video the faces of our parents, at that moment. If I could, I would use those imagined videos in all of our promotional materials.

Finally, I have enjoyed feeling your

collective generosity blow me away. You responded astoundingly to this year's High Holiday appeal. You exceeded our expectations during our inaugural 20 Days of Impact campaign. You became Rosh Pinah. You sponsored events. You gave special gifts to support aspects of the shul which matter to you. The collective generosity of our congregation is amazing.

Relatedly, I have enjoyed all the thought and hard work we have put into our thinking about development. This year, we sent Rabbi Zeff and Kate Lawn on a highly successful development trip to California, for which we prepared in advance and at length, setting a model for thought-out and thoughtful solicitation from specific donors we intend to model going forward (indeed, we must model going forward). We have, each year, thought more cohesively, expansively and holistically about our fundraising. This work must continue – and as difficult and wearying as it sometimes can be to think about money and fundraising, describing our “product,” describing who we are, what we want to be, and why we are a worthy recipient of your charitable dollars, can be highly motivating and inspirational. It is enjoyable to think about why GJC and our Judaism matter in the world. Indeed, if I did not enjoy thinking about those existential questions, I am not sure I could have been President.

I close with a small confession: I did not particularly enjoy writing these columns. As I finish this one, I am putting the realization I have no more Centre Call column to finish (or to start!) high on the list of enjoyable moments of my Presidency!

I thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve this community.



Shabbat Chai-Lites

May 7

- BBMM Shabbat
- Kol D'mamah
- Pirke Avot

May 13 & 14

- ECP: Grandparents & Special Friends Shabbat
- Kol Zimrah: Farewell to Rabbi Annie Lewis
 - Charry Service: *Hazak Shabbat*
 - Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit
 - Pirke Avot

May 20 & 21

- BBMM Shabbat
- Charry Service: Bat Mitzvah of Lucy Frank
 - Musical Marching Minyan
 - Pirke Avot

May 28

- Pirke Avot

June 4

- Kol D'mamah
- Pirke Avot
- Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Wray (offsite)

June 10 & 11

- Friday Night J.A.M.
- Charry Service: Confirmation
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit
- Tikun Leyl Shavuot

June 18

- Charry Service: Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Wade
- Musical Marching Minyan

June 24

- Kol Zimrah

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.

What's New in the Mishpoche?

(April 2016 – May 2016)

IN CELEBRATION...

Norman & Leah Schwartz, on the birth of their great-grandson, Benjamin Schwartz, son of Yehuda Leib & Rivka Schwartz, and the grandson of Raphael & Tanya Schwartz of Telz-Stone, Israel

Michael & Marta Sivitz, on the birth of their granddaughters, Madeline & Isabelle Bieber, daughters of Julia & Matt Bieber

Sam & Connie Katz, on the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Katz, to Micah Kaplan

David & Betsy Teutsch, on the engagement of their daughter, Nomi Teutsch, to Micah Weiss

Marcy Bacine, on being honored by Jewish Learning Venture at their Celebration of Jewish Life and Learning dinner

Lucy Frank, daughter of Jeremy Frank & Jennifer Zarro, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

IN MEMORIAM

Morris Ockman, grandfather of **David Axelrod**

Melvin Horwitz, father of **Wendy Horwitz**

Join us in welcoming new members

Carolyn Pecchia

Jonathan & Aviva Reinfeld

Welcome back to

Stephen Schwartz

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays (Sept.-June) & Wednesdays (July-Aug.)

May through June, 2016 at 10:00 AM
(excluding May 1, May 29 and June 16)

**June 5th Israeli Dancing will be at our Spring Concert,
4:00 PM – Please purchase tickets (see ad for details).**

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.



Program Highlights

May 1

Yom HaShoah Program

May 8

Red Cross Blood Drive

May 11

Israel Program:
Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration

May 13

Kol Zimrah:
Farewell to Rabbi Annie Lewis

May 15

Women's Club: Torah Fund Brunch

May 22

Israeli Shopping & Dining

May 29

Memorial Day & Lag b'Omer
Potluck Picnic & Music Jam Session

June 5

Spring Concert

June 11

Tikun Leyl Shavuot

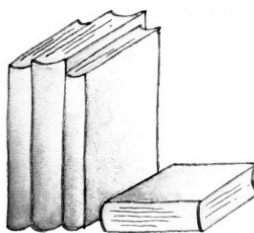


Join the Ner Tamid Society by Making a Planned Gift to GJC

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

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

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e-mail: emr@telegraphics.com

The Humans of THE LITTLE SHOP

Hours

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



Ned Kripke often checks out the greeting cards.



Jessica Shapiro purchases a "Shema" bracelet for her daughter, Alex!

Monthly Specials

- May – 10% off challah boards, knives and covers
- Summer – 10% off all items
- Wine – 10% off Gilgal Cabernet Sauvignon
- Book – 10% off award-winning cookbook *Olive Trees and Honey*

Early Childhood Program (ECP)

By Anna Goldberg

In honor of Purim and in keeping with the mitzvah that everyone have enough food for the Purim holiday, the children in Germantown Jewish Centre's Early Childhood Program collected, sorted and packed over 60 mishloach manot baskets for the seniors at KleinLife Center City Senior Program. The KleinLife Center has 65 seniors who come and celebrate Purim each year. Many of the seniors struggle financially and love the Purim bags/baskets

made by the children. This is the third year Germantown Jewish Centre's Early Childhood Program has taken part in performing this beautiful mitzvah.

A note from Lynne Ellis, Program Director for KleinLife: Center City:

"What a delightful and scrumptious way it was to begin our Purim celebration here at KleinLife: Center City on Friday! The mishloach manot were so beautifully decorated, with yummy goodies inside. Our participants were thrilled to receive

such a lovingly assembled hand-crafted gift from their young friends at GJC.

Please send bunches of thank you hugs and kisses from all of us here to you, your esteemed teachers, all of the children, and I'm sure family members too who helped to make this incredible mitzvah opportunity possible again this year. I have attached a few photos to give you a glimpse of who are seniors are and how much they appreciated your kindness."



EVERYONE CAN SUPPORT OUR GJC COMMUNITY THROUGH WOMEN'S CLUB!

In 3 easy steps



Once you register with Amazon Smile it will link your Amazon account to Smile Amazon and .5% of every purchase will go to GJC Women's Club. No additional cost to your purchase or limits to purchases.

Here's how:

1. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Search for Germantown Jewish Centre
3. Select charity: Germantown Jewish Centre

Ready to shop: Go to smile.amazon.com....shop away!

ALL DONE! Every purchase you make on smile.amazon.com is now linked to GJC.

.5% will go to Women's Club, who will continue to do wonderful things for all our GJC community.

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.

May 11th



Mazal Tov to Marcy Bacine!

Mazel tov to our own Marcy Bacine who will be honored at GJC on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, by Jewish Learning Venture during their 6th Annual Celebration. Hershel and Betsy Richman are serving as Chairs, and Harold Berger is serving as an Honorary Chair.

Since her high school days, Marcy has been passionate about improving the lives of young children, both personally and professionally. Her involvement with Jewish Learning Venture began at the behest of Joseph Levine, z"l, and flourished when Hersh, a past president of that agency, asked her to join their Board of Directors.

As a new grandparent, she wanted

a Jewish way to connect grandchildren and grandparents in the context of their work – innovating programs to help people live connected Jewish lives. Her idea blossomed into Jewish Learning Venture's *jkidphilly Grandparents' Celebration*, a community-wide, multi-generational fundraiser that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, founders of PJ Library, embraces and promotes as a model to be emulated throughout North America.

"Marcy is a leader par excellence whose dedication to Jewish Learning Venture's mission is heartfelt and inspiring," explained Hersh. "She is skillfully and enthusiastically helping to build a network of our peers who are invested in

providing Jewish enrichment for our young grandchildren," added Betsy. "Actively engaging grandparents with grandchildren in these hands-on Jewish activities has an outstanding, positive impact on our families and the community at large."

Hersh continued, "We appreciate the guidance that Jewish Learning Venture staff has provided to GJC over the years, and we admire Marcy who has long been a major force in the growth and success of GJC. Betsy and I encourage the members of GJC to join us in honoring her."

To purchase tickets and to learn more about Jewish Learning Venture, go to www.jewishlearningventure.org.

HOW DO PEOPLE PAY FOR LONG TERM CARE?

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- Very Rich (Self-funded)
- Very Poor (Medicaid)
- Insured (We can help with that)

LEVERAGE YOUR CASH - PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS



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Join us for our 6th Annual

celebration

May 17, 2016 / 9 Iyyar 5776

6 o'clock in the evening

Germantown Jewish Centre

400 West Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119

Cocktails and buffet reception



HONORING

Marcy Bacine

for her inspirational leadership
and to celebrate our accomplishments

RSVP by April 29, 2016

\$180 per person

To make reservations or purchase space in the Digital Tribute Journal visit:

jewishlearningventure.org/celebration-journal-form

For more information, contact Robin Minkoff:

celebration@jewishlearningventure.org

215.320.0380

CELEBRATION LEADERSHIP

Honory Chairs

Harold Berger
Constance Smukler

Chairs

Hershel & Elizabeth Richman

Co-Chairs

Adam D. Levine
Brian M. Levine
Jonathan D. Levine
Lindsey B. Levine



Jewish Learning Venture™

7607 Old York Road
Melrose Park, PA 19027
215.320.0380
jewishlearningventure.org

Hazak

By Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses

Spring is here, and our Hazak group is greatly enjoying the season. On March 13, about twenty-five people got together to watch "Radio Days," the Woody Allen movie based on his memories of growing up in Far Rockaway, when radio was the medium and all messages about life and love came from the shows he and his extended family listened to. The inimitable Ken Weiss led us in a deep and interesting discussion about the nature of memories and their importance in shaping our current lives. He was impressive, and so was the audience, with its deep intelligence and incredible collection of memories.



On Wednesday, April 6, Rabbi Lewis offered a morning of "Poetry and Passover." We have always been excited by Rabbi Lewis' poetry readings and discussions, both for Hazak programs and at services, and this event was even better than ever. Rabbi Lewis brought a thoughtful collection of poems that she used to draw out a wonderful discussion from the group. We will miss her!

The Hazak book group meets every second Wednesday of the month at 10 AM in the Charry lobby. The expanding daylight of the approaching summer months will allow us to try a new format – an early evening gathering of the group. We are hoping that a different starting time will allow our members who work or who might otherwise have scheduling conflicts to participate. In March we had read *The Rent Collector*, by Cameron Wright, a story based upon real people from Cambodia's recent past who pay rent for the privilege of living close to a garbage dump. Our April book was Lev

Golinkin's *A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka*, depicting a young man's pilgrimage in search of insights into his family's emigration from the Soviet Union to America. May's selection is *Catch the Jew*, by Tuvia Tenenbom, based upon a series of interviews that he had conducted in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

COMING UP: Hazak Shabbat is Saturday, May 14. Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman will be our speaker; the title and topic of her discussion is "Highlights of Philadelphia Jewish History". We will be honoring our members and celebrating as we always do, with good food! Please be there!

And then, on June 15, Hazak will be taking a tour of the Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne. The tour, costing \$20 per person, will include the gardens and the house, which is not often open for visitors. We expect a large crowd! And thank you to Martha Schleifer for arranging the tour.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

May 10th

*Thirteen Days in September:
the Dramatic Story of the
Struggle for Peace*
by Lawrence Wright

June 14th

All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM
in the Quitman Library



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

Member Spotlight

By Linda Kriger



Joey Weisenberg, Molly Weingrod and their children

Joey Weisenberg and Molly Weingrod met in fourth grade at the Milwaukee Jewish Day School, became a couple in eighth grade and married at 22. Four children later and a move from Brooklyn to Mt. Airy, they are now deeply entrenched in the Germantown Jewish Centre.

Joey has achieved the nearly impossible: He earns a living as a musician in the Jewish community, bringing people together through music. Born in Milwaukee, Joey, 34, didn't even notice music until he was 11 and heard a drummer on a local radio station. He pursued his musical education pretty much on his own.

"I learned to juggle from a book called *Juggling for the Complete Klutz*," he said, with a lopsided, engaging smile, "learned how to play hacky sack from a book called *Hacky Sack for Dummies* and worked my way into a book called *Harmonica for the Musically Hopeless*. My mother was a piano prodigy as a child. She loved music but didn't like to perform. She said I didn't have to play music. My dad is a flamenco guitarist but also never pressured me to play music. So, of course, my brother and I are both musicians. My brother lives in Brooklyn and in addition to being a drummer he's a vice president of fairly large alternative energy company." Joey, on the other hand, directed his career solely into music.

Joey attended Jewish day school through the eighth grade and then went to public high school. He grew up in a traditional household. Joey's

grandfather, he said, "was a classic Reform Jew whose family had been in Milwaukee since before the Civil War, but he'd become a chasid of the Twerskis, (a prominent Chasidic family). At one time or another, he belonged to all nine shuls in Milwaukee and the main thing I learned from my grandfather is there's a lot to learn from everyone. He had a great big smile that I adopted. I saw that it worked for him."

Joey attended Columbia University, with the intention of becoming a doctor. But he realized he was making a living as a musician and loving it and dropped his pre-med courses. In contemplating a career in music, he got the same reaction from a music teacher at Columbia that he'd gotten from his parents when he was a child. "I remember asking my mandolin teacher, 'I'm thinking of playing the mandolin professionally. 'Don't do it,' his teacher boomed at him.

"I'm still not convinced that I can make a living, but thankfully, it is working," Joey said, with that smile. How did he do it? "In New York, you played every single instrument. If somebody asked me if I played the banjo, I'd ask 'When's the gig?' and if it was a month away, I'd say, 'Yes, I do.' You plant a lot of seeds. Some bear fruit and some don't work out. You just keep coming up with ideas."

Molly, also 34, added that it's not just his musical versatility, but professional versatility as well. "Joey's very good at a lot of other things; he has business sense, and is really good at coming up with original ideas that other people can get excited about. There are a lot of musicians who don't tend to make it because they only do music, period. He does music in a lot of different ways."

Joey keeps his focus on people. "It's not about being a genius artist, which I'm not," he said, "but about the process of building community, empowering

people to create music, and being a teacher and working with everybody to make a more musical world."

He focused on the Jewish community because, he said, "there are people getting together every single week to sing together in shul, in thousands of shuls around the country, usually well below their potential. And there is a tremendous opportunity, because people really desire to make something beautiful. Sometimes they just need to be reminded of what they're capable of."

During his New York years, Joey did klezmer gigs, Balkan brass bands, rock bands, sessions with jazz and bluegrass musicians, played in film recording sessions, and collaborated on several dozen albums with all kinds of bands. "I even did a few Bach pieces on the mandolin as part of an ensemble," he said. "We had a bunch of young Jewish musicians who decided they'd become a gypsy band. We called ourselves Romashka, and we had hundreds of people coming to dance."

Molly's story also originates in Milwaukee, where her family and Joey's family intersected. "Joey's mother was a piano player, my mother was a piano tuner. They knew each other. Our grandparents knew each other. They were liberal machers," Molly said, as she sat folded up on her living room couch. After middle school, Molly attended "a really tiny Orthodox girls' high school with six girls in my grade and 11 girls in the whole school." Although Molly grew up in an Orthodox neighborhood, her family was not ultra-observant. "A lot of people like us went to the Twerskis' shul not because they were frum but because the Twerskis are amazing people," Molly recalled.

Molly's great grandmother was a

friend of the late Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, who originally came from Milwaukee. "She'd come back and stay with my great aunt," Molly said.

Molly dropped out of high school after junior year, since she'd finished all her requirements and didn't want to continue. Although she never graduated from high school, she was admitted to Sarah Lawrence College outside New York City.

Molly spent what would have been her senior year of high school working at a shelter for runaway teenagers, and studying with her parents' friends. "I thought I'd go to social work school," she said. "I was working on a study with social workers and living in Milwaukee. I felt very fulfilled in that work and figured I'd just continue it. I had to be convinced to go to college."

After graduation, she and Joey married in 2004 and Molly got a job at Beit Rabban, a progressive elementary Jewish day school on the Upper West Side. She was a teacher for two years, and then director of admissions for three years, a job she enjoyed because, "I enjoy talking to people about things I'm excited about." After Beit Rabban, Molly studied food and health and worked for three years as a professional cook, as well as teaching cooking and nutrition classes in public schools.

Molly became a birth doula after their second son was born, then a childbirth educator, and birth coun-

selor. Recently, she has been studying mindfulness-based childbirth and parenting, which she began teaching in April.

Their first child Lev, was born in 2008; Mozi in 2010, Bina, in 2013 and Emanuel in 2015. Molly and Joey are home-schooling their children. When their cramped apartment in Brooklyn was closing in on them, their rent was raised \$1,000. Rabbi Marcia Prager told Joey about Mt. Airy, as did their friends Rabbis Annie Lewis and Yosef Goldman. "Everyone our age who has children thinks of leaving New York," Molly said. "It was getting to be less fun and more work to live there."

It happened that Joey was a scholar in residence at GJC in October 2013 and "it went really well." He thought, "I can see this working."

Visiting Mt. Airy with Molly, they went to Weavers Way co-op and they walked into GJC. Joey wondered, "What does it feel like on an off moment when no one is putting on a show? We ran into Mitch Marcus, who was president of the shul and he was his adorable, welcoming self for a solid 40 minutes, and then Rabbi Zeff was on his way out the door. He says, 'I'd love to talk with you.' An hour and a half later he's still talking. Nina runs up the stairs and says, 'It's awesome here.' We felt this has definite potential. We met some teenagers on the street who were really nice and proud of their neighborhood. That's how we want our kids to be."

In addition, Mt. Airy was close enough to New York where Joey still worked part-time. Joey had started the Center for Communal Jewish Music at Mechon Hadar, a unique yeshiva in New York. "It's a virtual position on the national level," he said. "I teach around the country and make CDs, books and resources and do music education for the only yeshiva in America where men and women of all ages can study text together, not for a rabbinical degree but to learn." Molly had been the cook at the yeshiva.

Now, at GJC, Molly and Joey may be found anywhere in the building each Shabbat. "We're in the hallway and playground minyans. We show up at Dorshei Derekh, the Charry and occasionally Masorti," he said. "We've found great people everywhere in the shul. I feel comfortable walking into every room."

"We're pretty blown away by this community," Molly says. "We were excited about it when we came, and it's been continually impressive. It's full of amazing people and people are doing just what they say they're doing. People say they're interested in social justice, and they are. They say it's a diverse community and it actually is. People make meals for others when they have no idea who they are. We'd been in New York for twelve years and miss a lot of people there, but we didn't feel part of a community like we do here."

We're giving our annual Spring Concert & Fundraiser a brand new feel!

Germantown Jewish Centre presents

Tof u'Mahol!

A Celebration in Israeli Music & Dance
honoring David & Marilyn Kraut
with Sally Mitlas & the 747 Band

Sunday, June 5th at 4:00 PM

Good friends. Great music.
Fun memories. Honoring
two amazing people and
helping your synagogue
to thrive. It's an event
to remember!



[www.germantownjewishcentre.org/
secure-spring-concert-2016](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-spring-concert-2016)

Pinat Ha-Hinuch (Education Corner)

May We Go From Strength to Strength

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

How do we know when Jewish learning (or any learning, for that matter!) is working? When we see our students begin to take ownership of the process. This is the both the measure of our success as an educational institution, and the truest return on our investments- whether of time, energy, or capital. Over the course of this spring, I, and indeed many of us, have had the opportunity to watch as children and teens at Germantown Jewish Centre really shone both in their learning itself and in offering up that learning in service of our community. As we are still riding high from the success of the 20 Days of Impact campaign I would like to use this month's Centre Call article to highlight some of these wonderful and inspiring moments:

In January, I witnessed two 4th grade students engage in a conversation about *halacha l'ma'asei* (practical Jewish law) as they prepared their pre-class hot cocoa. As they were poised to open their cocoa pouches, one turned and said, "Oh! You should be careful not to tear through the letters, you know; because it is Shabbat school now."

In February, our 2nd-6th graders studied the theme of disability and inclusion, and engaged with the Jewish values that connect to this important societal and communal issue through a number of modalities including art, creating a fundraising project, literature, and film-making. The group that created the fundraising project partnered with GJC member Phill Goldberg to raise money for the Jewish Institute for the Blind and learn about its important work in Jerusalem to support individuals with visual impairments. Their sale and raffle was not only a success because

of the dollars and cents raised for this important Jewish organization, but also because of the way the students in this class became spokespeople, advocates, and peer-educators for this issue – really making it their own.

In March, we celebrated Purim. In collaboration with GJC teens, Eli Eisenstein, Nayan Klur and Alex Shapiro, I guided our students in producing our first ever video Purim Schpiel and in-house music video. As we rehearsed, filmed, edited, and reviewed our work, I watched something truly remarkable happen. In each group of students, deep and probing questions and insights began to emerge about the text of Megillat Esther and the holiday of Purim. As the students became more and more interested in the "activity" we were doing (in this case, making a movie), they were able to go deeper into the Jewish text at the project's core, and make a real connection with the material and their relationship to it.

And, just a few weeks ago, in April, while their 6th grade classmates and their families were volunteering at the JRA (Jewish Relief Agency) packing and delivering food to the most needy in our Philadelphia Jewish community, our 5th grade students created a very special map of Israel. Following up on a study of the geography and topography of our Jewish homeland, their teacher had the class go outdoors and, using found objects in nature, collaborate to create a map of Israel being sure to include and indicate borders, major cities, and geographical landmarks. He then had the

occasion to watch as the students discussed what materials would be best suited to the task and respectfully debated everything from border placement and demarcation to color scheme, to how to represent topography. On this seemingly typical sunny spring afternoon, these students not only applied their factual learning, but also integrated their values as young Jews and connection to Israel into their task.

None of these moments would be possible with out teachers, parents, and community members to shape the space for these explorations and meaningful, creative expressions of Jewish learning and living. I am so grateful to be a part of a community that both supports and invests in the learning and growth of its students, and understands that this is, indeed, the way that we ensure and secure A Jewish future. May we create and hold open the spaces for our children, tweens, and teens to find real and meaningful entry-points into Jewish community, may we find the opportunities to walk with them, to support them, and to enrich them on their Jewish journeys, and may we – as a whole community – go from strength to strength.



20 Days of Impact

The Intersection of
Jewish Learning & Living



TODAH RABBAH!

Together we achieved our goal and raised \$22,180.
Germantown Jewish Centre gratefully acknowledges the
donors who supported the 20 Days of Impact campaign.

Adina Abramowitz & Naomi Klayman

Neil Actor & Nini Engel

Sherman Aronson & Joyce Lieberman

Sheila Avelin & Alex Volin Avelin

Karey Bacon

Josh Barash & Devorah Lissek

Craig Barkan & Amy Schrager

Joel & Jackie Barras

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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 community are bringing their offerings of the heart to build and enrich the sacred space of our community.

The Stanley R. Wolfe Foundation: A Cornerstone for Community Connection

Germantown Jewish Centre is thrilled to announce the renewal of a generous grant of \$180,000 over ten years from the Stanley R. Wolfe Foundation. We originally received a grant of \$180,000 from the Foundation in 2008 to support our Program Director position over the next ten years. 2015-16 represents the eighth of ten years of funding under this original grant, which provides \$18,000 per year to support our Program Director position. With this renewal of an additional \$180,000 over ten years, we will be privileged to receive this funding for an additional 10 years, through 2028. We are deeply grateful to the Wolfe Foundation for renewing its gift, and we are delighted to share here a few of the ways that, with the support of the Foundation, our programming has been able to touch so many different parts of our community of communities. Through study, social action, dance, music, art, and more, we have been enriched by our connections both to the Centre and to each other that were fostered by the Foundation's gift over these last eight years, and we look forward to building on those connections for many years into the future.

The Stanley R. Wolfe Foundation was established by Stan's children as a way of remembering their father and furthering his vision of creating opportunities for Jewish engagement and education. Stan was a longtime, active member of GJC who deeply valued belonging to this community. Over the many years he was a member and until the end of his life, he contributed his time and resources to help GJC grow. He valued the diversity of prayer services here, beginning with the Chavurah and continuing with the minyanim, and the quality of our adult education and programs. Stan believed in the Centre and saw it as a fertile ground for creating dynamic ways for people to connect, and he understood that this connection, which out of necessity changes with the times, was necessary for a synagogue to thrive.

At the time of Stan's death, GJC was producing many outstanding programs, but we were struggling to organize and publicize them effectively. When the Stanley R. Wolfe Foundation gave us the grant which would partially fund the Program Director position here at GJC, it enabled us to produce programming with a higher level of professionalism, organization, and marketing. Rabbi Adam Zeff notes that, over the years of this grant, "GJC has become known in Philadelphia and around the country for the breadth and depth of our programming. With the generous support of the Wolfe Foundation, we have the chance in the coming years to take our programming to the next level by focusing on reaching members across the generations, diversifying our offerings to engage people more deeply, and publicizing what we do more widely and effectively to increase its impact on Jewish life in Philadelphia and beyond." This grant has allowed GJC to become a dynamic hub of Jewish programming for our community of communities with Kate Lawn, our full-time Program Director, at the helm.

Kate hit the ground running when she moved into the Program Director role at GJC in June 2015. She brings each program to life with her vibrant imagination and creativity, from creating promotional materials to orchestrating the events themselves, starting with the 2015 Summer Sampler. To Kate, "a program is successful if its vision aligns with the synagogue's mission, and if we've reached beyond our walls into the wider community." To this end, Kate revamped GJC's annual Summer Sampler into a family-friendly carnival, drawing many new participants from the neighborhood who had never been to a program at the Centre. Historically and still today, GJC has had a strong volunteer culture, with volunteers generating many of our programs, and bringing diverse ideas and perspectives to the planning table. To Kate, working with the "immense creativity, passion, and intelligence" of those volunteers is one of the most rewarding aspects of serving as the Program Director.

"GJC was a big part of the fabric of our lives growing up," Jennifer Wolfe, Stan's eldest and the president of the Foundation, says. "Part of the mandate of the Foundation is continuity of Jewish life, and [my siblings and I] still feel a connection to GJC." Stan had instilled the values of Jewish learning and Jewish living in his children from an early age. Jennifer has carried these into her adult life and into her Jewish community in the California Bay Area, where she currently resides. She explains that the grant is in honor of her father and in support of "the institution that was such an important part of his life for so many years." Stan was very open to change, such as with the formation of the minyanim. Jennifer says her father would "dismiss the idea that because something had always been that way, that it had to stay that way. He thought Judaism had to evolve with the times, and thought the minyan was meaningful and spiritual, and different than the traditional service." Jennifer admires the way Rabbi Zeff and GJC's leadership "are thinking of innovative ways for people to connect." Her confidence in GJC's leadership, coupled with the fact that GJC is flourishing when other conservative synagogues are not, led her to make such a meaningful commitment through the Foundation.

Next year, GJC will have a special program to honor Stan's memory and legacy on the occasion of his 10th yahrzeit, and in 2027 on his 20th yahrzeit. We are so grateful to the Stanley R. Wolfe Foundation for supporting Germantown Jewish Centre and helping us to thrive now and into the future!

Behind the Scenes...

These snapshots give insight as to why our members choose to give their volunteer energy to planning programs at GJC, the role programming serves in the synagogue community and beyond, and what can draw someone into both planning and attending programs at Germantown Jewish Centre.



Women's Club Programming

Nan Myers, VP Women's Club Programming

I enjoy the camaraderie of Women's Club, and I'm happy to do anything for Women's Club to help educate and share its mission. I enjoy using my creativity and organizational skills to plan programming for our congregation, which exposes people to new ideas. My favorite program is Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch. It's wonderful to see women from GJC recognized for their contributions, and the speakers for Torah Fund are always high level.

Israel Programming

Rabbi Fredi Cooper, chair

My involvement in the Jewish community is central to my identity. GJC is my Jewish home and the place where I go first when I choose to give of my time or funds. I volunteer on the Israel committee because I am often occupied by thoughts of Israel. I know how difficult it is for me, a person who spends minimally six weeks every year in Israel, to understand all of the intricacies of Israeli society. It helps to have an address for this in our synagogue community. I believe that our community is uniquely able to hold the intricacy and respect each other in our connections and in our questions about Israel.



Hazak Programming

Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses, co-chairs

We believe that is increasingly important for people to keep doing new things, getting to know people, and deepening friendships. Hazak's programming is diversified to offer programs that meet the individual needs of people in this multiple generational cohort (Hazak is for people 55 and older). Our monthly book group, film series, outings, and other types of programs provide ample opportunity to connect with friends, meet new people, and be sparked by new ideas. To us, these are the kinds of things that make getting older exciting.

Women's Clothing Exchange & the GJC Family Retreat

Genie Ravital & Betsy Teutsch

Genie: Amee and I chose the GJC community to establish our roots because of its overall warmth, diversity in generational participation, and pluralistic approach to Jewish expression. There is an incredible richness of talents, gifts, expertise, and knowledge in our community. I like to provide opportunities for people to get together and have fun while learning from each other and doing something positive for our community and for the world. Our community is receptive to many types of expression of service. Some of my memories of the family retreat include: joyously chanting prayers outside, morning runs through the woods, playing two truths and a lie with the other parents, parents performing silly improvisational theatre, a formal discussion on the challenges of parenting in a digital age, singing and making music together for hours on Saturday night, watching our children have non-stop play time with great friends.....

Betsy: I am continually amazed by the brains trust that exists here. We have a diverse, talented, and committed community. I love when our programs feature members talking about their work- it gives you a sense of a person with whom you've been in community but might not know well. I loved when Barb Menin spoke so passionately about her work as a nurse during the Bregman

Program. Learning about nursing in a spiritual context was amazing. One of my favorite days of the year is the Women's Clothing Exchange. There are a lot of people in the neighborhood, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who wouldn't miss it. It's really caught on and become a part of the Mt. Airy community calendar!



Inspired by what you've just read?

Get involved with GJC programming! Contact Kate Lawn, Program Director:

215-844-1507 x19

program@germantown-jewishcentre.org

Social Action Update

SAC Hias

By Anna Herman

Many of us have been heartsick at the news of refugees fleeing Syria, Sudan, the Congo and elsewhere in the world. We try to imagine circumstances where our best option was to leave behind home for uncertainty and to travel across continents to feel safe. All of us have witnessed – even if only through photos in the news – the desperation on the faces of families simply trying to survive.

Over the past few months GJC Social Action Committee members and others in the wider NW community have been actively exploring ways to make a meaningful difference to the lives of some of these people as they move through the arduous process of becoming a refugee and ending up – often a decade after leaving home – arriving in Philadelphia.

Close to 30 people from NW Phil-

adelphia attended an information session at GJC in February to learn about the work of HIAS Pennsylvania and how we can become involved. Driven by the Jewish value of “welcoming the stranger,” National HIAS refers refugees approved for resettlement to HIAS PA, which then sponsors them and arranges for their housing and basic needs. HIAS PA also has a large immigration legal service program for low-income immigrants, including representing unaccompanied immigrant children, victims of interpersonal violence and trafficking, asylum applicants, and those seeking family unification and citizenship. HIAS PA is a separate non-profit from national HIAS, but is affiliated with national HIAS with respect to the refugee program.

HIAS resettled my relatives when they fled Eastern Europe at the turn of the last century, and surely helped resettle many

of your bubbes and zeydas. Both national HIAS and HIAS PA have been helping Jewish refugees for nearly 130 years. More recently HIAS has worked to resettle refugees from Bhutan, Burma, Eritrea, Sudan, Congo, the Former Soviet Union, Nepal, Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

HIAS PA helps families a safe and secure place to live, furnished with donated household goods and furniture, provides a hot, home-cooked welcome meal, and greets newly arrived refugees at the airport. Case managers work intensively with refugee families in their first three months here to access public benefits, and to receive a thorough medical screening. Self-sufficiency is promoted by connecting refugees to employment-focused ESL classes. HIAS PA staff facilitates job placement and job counseling.

Celebrating & Saying Farewell to Rabbi Annie Lewis Friday, May 13th at 6:00 PM



Please join us in bidding Rabbi Annie Lewis farewell during the May 13th Kol Zimrah service. The musicians of GJC's G'vanim will be playing in the service until Ma'ariv begins. In between Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv, Mathieu Shapiro and Rabbi Zeff will offer appreciations of Rabbi Lewis and blessings for the journey ahead. The service will be followed by a special oneg Shabbat offered in appreciation of the many ways Rabbi Lewis has served the Germantown Jewish Centre community during her time here.

Please join us in offering our blessings to Rabbi Lewis and her family in this next chapter!

HIAS PA needs help, and a group of Northwest Philadelphians are working together to heed this call. Resettling these individuals and families is a huge undertaking. In order to provide services and support to people who mostly don't speak English, have not had a home of their own for years, and may not have education or job skills requires contacts, resources, ingenuity and community. Our community has a lot to offer.

GJC, through our Social Action Committee, will be a congregational "American Friend," sponsoring a newly arrived refugee family. This support will entail helping them orient to life in

Philadelphia. If the family has children, they may need some tutoring from GJC teens or adults, or help advocating for ESL support in their school. If a family needs mental health services, we may be able to refer them to a congregant. We can help navigate the grocery store, the public transit system, the logistics of paying gas and electric bills. There are roles large and small that can be filled in our group effort to help a family arriving from far away to settle here in our hometown. We are assembling a Welcome Team, comprised of around 10 people prepared to offer hands-on support.

In addition, Howard Bilofsky and Margaret Shapiro, GJC members, are becoming

American Friends to a refugee family they met through HIAS PA.

A Leadership Team is coordinating GJC efforts on behalf of refugees helped through HIAS PA. Members include Maxine Margolies, Dayle Friedman, Sarah Braun and me (Anna Herman). We will keep the whole GJC community informed of opportunities big and small to help. If you have a particular talent you could bring to this effort or want to be on the smaller Welcome Team, we would welcome you. Please contact Dayle Friedman (daylefriedman@gmail.com) or Maxine Margolies (mmargx@aol.com).

1881- Letter to the American Jewish Community from Russian Jews

"We ask you, we pray, we implore, we beseech you to come to our rescue, to take us out of our bondage, out of our misery; to give us a chance in your great and glorious land of liberty, whose broad and trackless acres offer an asylum and a place for weary hearts and courageous souls willing to toil and by the sweat of their brow earn their daily bread..."

- Read by Representative Samuel Cox in the U.S. Congress

Social Action at GJC: the Interfaith Hospitality Network Program Supporting Homeless Families in our Community

By Debbie Stern

This past fall, as in many previous years, dozens of GJC members volunteered to host homeless families in our synagogue. For two weeks, the four families sponsored by the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network lived in our classrooms. Wonderful GJC volunteers helped move their belongings in and out of the building, shopped for food for them, prepared dinners for them, hosted and served them the dinners in the Canteen Room (occasionally taking them out to eat), played with their children, and slept overnight each of the fourteen nights the families were in residence. Our GJC religious school students welcomed the families to share their classrooms by posting signs and preparing small pillows for them. It was my privilege to coordinate this undertaking for the first time, taking

over from the dedicated Milt Cohen who had performed this duty so ably over many years. In this effort four very able sub-coordinators, who continued to orient and schedule all of the volunteers necessary to host the families, backed me up: Karen Rothschild, Karen Kripke, Louie Asher, and Linda Cherkas.

Working with the Interfaith Hospitality Network enables us at GJC to live out the tenets of our faith, welcoming guests into our midst and assisting those less fortunate than many of us. But there are many other benefits to this program, more personal ones, that have resulted in over 100 GJC members stepping up to have their names on the volunteer list. Here are some examples of why our members and volunteers do this work:

Louie Asher: "In the 25 years since I have been assisting with the coordination

of volunteers, the ongoing support for this program by GJC members has been remarkable. For 4 weeks each year, up to 100 or more dedicated volunteers assist, feed, or sleep overnight with families going through the unimaginable hardship of being homeless with young children. The dedication of our volunteers has been so extraordinary that, in all of these years, I can think of less than a handful of GJC members who found the experience too overwhelming to continue. In fact, despite the inconvenience of hosting strangers who are living under stress, many of our members THANK ME for assigning them to this important mitzvah. While not all of our member hosts have rewarding or meaningful interactions with our guests, they understand the

continued on next page

Interfaith Hospitality Network Program

Continued from page 15

importance of offering this critical service of safe housing for a short period of time to women and families who might not otherwise receive the many services that our network can offer. We are grateful for this program that allows us to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and help people get back on their feet."

Pesa Leichter: "I am happy to do sleep overs when the Interfaith Hospitality guests stay at GJC. I get to meet some of the guests and some of their children and I get to hang with another GJC member who I may or may not have had an opportunity to get to know before. It's fun. It's easy. An added bonus is that I choose to sleepover on Wednesday nights so I can make it to Thursday morning minyan easily."

Milt Cohen: "I generally do a couple of overnight shifts from about 8:30 to 7:00 the next morning. Although I do usually miss out on much contact with the guests, on the other hand I really enjoy spending a couple hours conversing with my partner, who is generally a synagogue member with whom I don't generally have any contact."

Ameet Ravital: "My teenage son and I helped the guest families bring their belongings in from the moving truck into the shul. I was glad to be able to welcome some of the guests directly, to see how they set up their temporary "homes" in the synagogue. It was good for my son to see and feel close-up what it is like not to have a permanent home and to be moving one's possessions from place to place."

Sharon Strauss: "I started volunteering to give back to the community in a way I could fit in along with working full time and parenting young children. It was easy because my children joined me hosting dinners. I quickly realized that it was fun for all of us. I enjoyed meeting the guests and my various co-hosts. My kids had a fantastic time play-



Moving Day

ing with the younger guests on the play equipment GJC always has set up in the Canteen Room. Now my kids are older and rarely join me during my volunteer stints. However, I still enjoy meeting the guests and co-hosts. It takes little time or effort on my part, but I feel useful and appreciated during the couple of three-hour shifts I do each year."

Joey Weisenberg: "My sons and I have now had the chance to help with two move-ins with the IHN. Our job has been to lift beds and living items from the moving truck into temporary rooms that were set up at GJC and at Lutheran Seminary. It's a simple task that's made much easier when a number of people are involved. We have recently moved into a comfortable living situation in Mount Airy, and yet we know that so many people in Philadelphia have no place to sleep at night. We're looking forward to continuing to work with IHN."

Tamar Magdovitz: "From the early days of IHN, I enjoyed doing overnight duty with my sons. It was a special time for us together, it fulfilled some of their school's volunteer hour requirements, and we all felt like we were making a contribution to the Hospitality Network. Sometimes we'd also cook a meal together to bring to GJC during our cycle. When my sons went off to college, it was easier for



GJC Coordinators 2013

me to schedule cooking for our guests. I find that it's easy to pick an evening that works with my calendar and fun to try to come up with a vegetarian meal that will hopefully appeal to adults and children alike. With less time, some cycles, I've done part of a meal, and felt that even that was helping."

"I just moved to Mt. Airy with my husband, having lived here as a young child, attending the ECP program. I was eager to help out with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The best part of volunteering was the families in the program. I met amazing, resilient women, who despite everything else going on in their lives, showed so much joy, openness, caring for others and optimism for the future. I met their sweet, funny and lively children, and had a great time talking to them and playing with them. And my husband got involved too – helping the families on move out day." Hope Eisdorfer Levin

We host families twice a year at GJC. **The next rotation runs from Sun, June 19 – Sun, July 3.** If you are not yet involved in this important project, I hope that you will want to volunteer in one of the many ways it's possible to participate. Contact me! Debbie Stern, Debster502@msn.com, 215-848-9503

Women's Club News

By Marcy Fish and Yona Diamond Dansky, Co-Presidents

Update on New Torah Mantles (Covers)

Women's Club is excited to update you about our Building Beautiful efforts to create new Torah mantles (covers) for the Charry Sanctuary and the Magil Chapel. We expect the new items--mantles, table and lectern covers, made by artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren, to be placed in the Charry Sanctuary just after the High Holidays. Deborah Schwartzman will complete the mantles and table cover for the Magil Chapel later in the fall.

We have offered everyone in the congregation the opportunity to dedicate one of the items, not only as a beautiful tribute to a loved one, but also as a way to fund the much needed covers. Several generous families have generously decided to make dedications that will be embroidered inside the mantles or covers. We will also display some of the covers that are being replaced,

honoring the generosity and craftsmanship of our members who created those mantles for the Centre.

Women's Club will dedicate one of the new lectern covers in the Charry Sanctuary. The inscription on the lining will read:

Dedicated by
Women's Club 2016

Enriching the Fabric of our Community

If you are interested in making a dedication, there are **still items available** as of this writing:

- 3 Torah mantles (covers) in Charry (\$4,000 each)



Women's Club committee working on new Torah mantle designs

- 1 Lectern cover in Charry (\$1,800)
- 1 Torah mantle (cover) in Magil (\$3,600)
- 1 table cover in Magil (\$3,600)

You can find more information in the flyers around the building, or by contacting Marcy Fish (mshgna@verizon.net) or Yona Diamond Dansky (ydansky@gmail.com).

Intergenerational Gatherings--Conversations and Connections: Sharing our Stories ~ Sharing our Lives

By Dena Lake

An old Hassidic proverb says, "Give people a fact and you enlighten their minds; tell them a story and you touch their souls."

We have touched each other's souls through our stories. Three years ago we began meeting and sharing our stories. We listened to one another. We laughed and sometimes, we cried. The topics ran the gamut

from growing older to telling jokes to gratitude. And no meeting would be complete without sharing food. We have a chance to schmooze and nosh before and after the storytelling.

Sheila Erlbaum wrote, "The Intergenerational Women's Group is a vibrant and meaningful way to meet and get to know the incredible women of GJC. Each meeting offers an opportunity

for each person to share and to learn about and from each other. I've met and become friendly with women of all ages and I look forward to each meeting and the opportunity to grow as a community."

All those who identify as women are welcome. For more information, contact Leah Wald at rabchap@verizon.net

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Women's Club News

Continued from page 17

Scenes from around Women's Club



Cake Decorating



Purim Bash 2016

SHIRAH B'KEHILAH

A series of music in community at GJC

Memorial Day & Lag b'Omer Potluck Picnic & Music Jam Session

This month, we're bringing Music Café outdoors!

Sunday, May 29 at 12 PM

Come and relax with your friends and family, let the children play together, and enjoy an afternoon of picnic fare and fun, music and good conversation. \$5/adult (pay at "door" - drinks & beer included). RSVP to let us know you're coming, provide your potluck dish (and instrument if you're planning on playing), and the type of music you'd like to hear and/or play!

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/memorial-day-2016

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Contributions For the period of March, 2016 through April, 2016

Todah Rabbah!

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in honor of Hideko Secrest & Laurance Rosenzweig, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Mei
in honor of Hideko Secrest & Laurance Rosenzweig, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Mei Rosenzweig
in honor of Rabbi Sklover, for being Gabbai Rishon at Noah Rudick's Bar Mitzvah
in honor of Gavi Miller & Minna Ziskind, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah Miller
in honor of Hideko Secrest & Laurance Rosenzweig, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Mei Rosenzweig
in memory of Morris Spiller, father
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in memory of Lib Conner, mother of Chris Levin
in memory of Amiel Braverman, spouse of Rona Pietrzak
in honor of Sharon Webber, for reading Torah at Noah Rudick's Bar Mitzvah
in honor of Gabe Gluskin-Braun, for tutoring Noah Rudick for his Bar Mitzvah
in memory of Melvin Horwitz, father of Wendy Horwitz
in appreciation of Josh Barash, for his thoughtfulness and kindness.
in memory of Myron Schoen, father
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*Please submit all articles via email to
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Save the Date

May

Morning Minyan & Yom HaShoah

May 1

Red Cross Blood Drive

May 8

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration

May 11

Celebrating & Saying Farewell to

Rabbi Annie Lewis

May 13

Women's Club Torah Fund Brunch

May 15

An Evening of Israeli

Shopping & Dining

May 22

Memorial Day & Lag b'Omer
Potluck Picnic & Music Jam Session

May 29

Save the Date

June

Israel Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat

Rabbi Haviva Ner-David

June 4

Tof u'Mahol! A Celebration
in Israel Music & Dancing
Honoring David & Marilyn Kraut
with Sally Mitlas & the 747 Band

June 5

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

June 11

Hazak Trip to Chanticleer Gardens

June 15