



THE CENTRE CALL

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

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MAKING MEANING by Rabbi Adam Zeff

Making meaning is a central human need. As an anthropologist, I learned that far from being something that can only be addressed after the physical needs for food, shelter, and clothing are taken care of, making meaning has been a central activity of humanity from

its earliest origins, even when the struggle for survival has been paramount. In every human society we know of, people have asked: What is the meaning of our lives? What are our highest beliefs and values? And how do we live in such a way as to carry them out?

For Jews, this activity of meaning-making has two poles: text and community. We study the texts of Jewish tradition stretching over thousands of years in order to mine the wisdom of the generations about the essential questions of human life. One of the things we find there, perhaps unsurprisingly, is a multiplicity of voices providing a wide variety of different perspectives. Jewish tradition does not provide us with a dogma or creed but with a rich and diverse set of resources to stimulate our own thinking. We do not passively read these texts but actively engage, challenge, and interrogate them, squeezing out of them as much meaning as we can. This is the process we celebrate and enact on the holiday of Shavuot. The story of the giving of Torah at Mt. Sinai is the symbolic beginning to the process of making meaning through the exploration of text that has become the hallmark of Jewish existence through the ages. When we engage with these texts, we are linking ourselves in a chain of probing and searching for meaning that stretches back to ages long before our own and, G-d willing, will continue in ages far into the future.

Jewish study is not a solitary activity. The ancient rabbis teach us to study in pairs, in *hevruta*, because the answers to the persistent questions with which we struggle are not found only inside our own minds or our own souls. Instead, the ancients teach that each one of us carries a piece of the answer, captured in the metaphor that each of the 600,000 people who came out of Egypt represents one letter

in the Torah. It is impossible for us to find meaning alone. We need each other to be our partners, our guides, our challengers, our comforters, and the checks on our folly. We need others to cheer us on at the darkest times, when the struggle seems pointless, when the world seems meaningless and we lose hope. That is why we gather together in communities, trying to find our way together, knowing that our chances of success only rise when, as in the ancient texts, a multiplicity of voices and points of view are brought to bear. That is particularly true in the Germantown Jewish Centre community, where we make a point of encouraging and celebrating diverse points of view and engaging with those with whom we may disagree in the hope of finding a deeper meaning.

Finally, making meaning in a Jewish community is not complete if it remains theoretical or focused only on the past. The ancient rabbis teach that the highest form of study is learning in order to act. If we are seriously engaged in the process of making our lives meaningful, then we must listen equally to ancient voices and the voices being raised in our own time. We must filter the experiences and insights of past generations through our current sense of ourselves and our concerns in the here and now. At GJC, we are constantly engaged in this process through our study together, through our work for social justice, and through our committees and leadership that are always asking the important questions: Who are we as a community? Who do we want to be? What are our highest values? And how do we instantiate those values through how we live our lives?

As we approach Shavuot, I want to encourage all of us to engage in these questions together, through any and all of the means we have. May we, together, continue to work to make our lives meaningful and our actions significant for our community and our world.

Germantown Jewish Centre is pleased to present a new and exciting look to the Centre Call, which, as always, continues to highlight the connections we make with one another, and wonderful things we are doing in the world.

SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS



MAZAL TOV!

May 5

- Charry Service: 5th grade reads Haftarah & 6th grade reads Torah

May 12

- Dorshei Derekh w/ Charry Service: Mazal Tov to Nami Lieberman, daughter of Rabbi Beth Janus & Seth Lieberman, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
- BBMM Shabbat
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

May 19 (Erev Shavuot):

- Charry Service: Confirmation
- Kol D'mamah Jewish Meditation with Ari Witkin
- Musical Marching Minyan
- Tikkun Leyl Shavuot: "Can We Listen?"

May 20: Shavuot I

- Sunrise Service (4:30 AM)
- Minyan Masorti & Charry Service
- Dorshei Derekh with Yizkor

May 21: Shavuot II

- Charry Service with Yizkor
- Minyan Masorti with Yizkor

May 25 & 26:

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: Mazal Tov to Lia Taylor, daughter of Jessica Baskin Taylor & Thomas Taylor, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

June 1 & 2:

- BBMM Family Dinner
- Charry Service: Mazal Tov to Gabe McLeary, son of Latifa DiPaolo McLeary, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Musical Marching Minyan

June 8 & 9

- Friday Night Tot JAM
- Charry Service: HAZAK Shabbat Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

June 16

- Bat Mitzvah for Margalit Eisenstein—offsite

June 22 & 23

- *Possible Date for Inaugural Pride Shabbat—TBD*
- Kol Zimrah

Kabbalat Shabbat & Kol Zimrah - Fridays, 6 PM
Shabbat Morning Services, 10 AM unless otherwise stated
Shabbat Morning Kids Space: Kids are welcome to play Shabbat-friendly games in Room 305 - BYOG and some will be provided.

IN CELEBRATION OF...

Zivia Avelin, daughter of Alex Volin Avelin & Sheila Avelin, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Matti Hollo, son of Juha and Elana Hollo, on his engagement to Ilana Lauryn Weinstein

Lily Wolnek, daughter of Ivan and Rebecca Wolnek, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

Gabriel Christy, son of Dodi Klimoff and grandson of Sonia Dishler, on his upcoming marriage to Ella Floyd

Becca Miller, daughter of Gavi Miller & Minna Ziskind, on becoming Bat Mitzvah

IN MEMORIAM

Gary Herbert Posner,
father of Michael Posner
and grandfather of Yael, Jonah, and Ari

Phyllis Tabak,
mother of Bob Tabak
and grandmother of Gabe, Aaron, and Nathan

Diane King,
a long-time member of Germantown Jewish Centre

Dr. Irving S. Wiesner,
father of Esther Wiesner,
and grandfather of Mikaela & Liora.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Claxton & Eric Prine

Nan Ides

Amy Trachtenberg

Eric Cohen

President's Message

by Chip Becker, GJC President



will be my last column. I would like to use the opportunity to share three thoughts.

First, as I did in that initial column, let me refer back to Percy Bysshe Shelley's famous poem *Ozymandias*. In this iconic poem, the speaker recalls having met a traveler who tells about the ruins of a statue in his native country. The poem is a commentary on the transience of power, the insignificance of human endeavor when measured against the vastness of time, and the power of art to outlast other legacies of power. The poem addresses weighty issues, but also carries a lesson for synagogues. In short, nothing is guaranteed. Even a powerful institution can dissolve into dust. GJC has thrived for 80 years due to the willpower, generosity, and dedication of its membership and staff. May it continue in strength! But that will happen only as we retain our commitment to the institution and each other. We know that a beautiful garden does not happen spontaneously; it happens because a gardener creates and maintains it. So it is with GJC. It has been caused to thrive by those who care about it. It has been caused to become among the most dynamic, interesting, and successful synagogues in the country. Thank you for doing this. Let's keep up the great work!

Second, the characterization of GJC as a "community of communities" is truly apt. The roughly 520 member households of the synagogue translate into roughly 1,600 people. Those people have organized themselves into a myriad of different groups and sub-groups. We commonly think about different prayer communities. Certainly there are plenty of those. The Charry Service, the Friday-evening service, Dorshei, Masorti, Kol D'mamah, and the morning minyan all come to mind. Even that is not a complete list of the different prayer communities that exist at our synagogue. And beyond prayer, there are dozens of other communities both formal and informal that comprise the synagogue's membership. What becomes clear is that there is no one GJC—no one point of view, frame of reference, or

relationship to the synagogue that we all share in common. We could view this as a source of weakness, but this raw diversity has emerged as a great source of strength. And that will continue—if we have the wisdom to keep embracing that diversity. We live in an America that seems increasingly to struggle with conversation across lines of difference. We must continue to show a better path. That is also the right path for the synagogue.

I will conclude with a thought about welcoming people. We at GJC probably do as well as most people at welcoming those among us—which is say, we do okay, but not that well. We should do better. We live in a society where people often relate to a phone or computer screen of some kind. Genuine connection between real people can seem fleeting. At GJC, that sense of connection is our most precious commodity. It is the reason people join, the reason they stay, the reason they invest time, money, and energy into this institution. So when a new person enters our midst, let us seize the opportunity to help that person because a friend. We should seize opportunity even with people who are not new to our midst. A person familiar with one community may not be familiar with another. Even small gestures can make a huge difference to a person's experience—and our own. The best version of GJC is one where its members consistently reach beyond themselves. I hope we'll embrace this work. We are stronger together.

Finally, let me thank Rabbi Zeff, Nina Peskin, Rabbi Sklover, everyone else who works at the synagogue, everyone on the Executive Committee, and all of you for the support, guidance, and wisdom you have shared with me over the last two years. Thank you for reposing your trust in me. Serving as president has been a tremendous privilege and pleasure. The synagogue is in great hands with Denise Wolf as the incoming president. I look forward to seeing you around the shul!

PLANNED GIVING & NER TAMID



Remembering Germantown Jewish Centre in your will, a trust, or retirement asset is a meaningful way to ensure that your commitment to our community continues to help our synagogue thrive for generations to come. For more information on how you can include GJC in your estate plans, please contact Nina Peskin at 215-844-1507 x12.

TIKKUN OLAM

POWER Update by Andrea Moselle & David Mosenkis

GJC has been a member of POWER since 2014 and it's been a while since we shared an overall update on the organization and what our membership means. POWER's network of congregations and the campaigns it engages in continue to grow and offer an ever-increasing number of ways to get involved. The original Philadelphia network has expanded into the suburbs with the creation of POWER Metro. POWER is also expanding many of its campaigns statewide, and has hired additional organizers working in Central Pennsylvania in areas such as Lancaster, Harrisburg, and York to support those efforts. GJC members have become key leaders in POWER's work.

Members of POWER congregations work together across religious traditions, neighborhoods, race, ethnicity and income levels, engaged on many fronts to make our city and state more just and equitable for all. POWER also allies with like-minded organizations as a member of Our City Our Schools, a coalition of groups working on the transition to local control and governance of Philadelphia's schools, and partners with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), a grassroots action group, on POWER's green jobs/climate justice campaign.

Here is a review of POWER's current campaigns. To learn more, visit www.powerinterfaith.org. Consider clicking the Connect button to sign up to receive POWER's weekly email news update. You are also encouraged to attend monthly Action Team meetings and quarterly Legislative Assemblies (for internal voting on program and policy decisions within POWER). Depending on your availability and interests, you can choose to get involved in POWER actions on a periodic basis or consider joining one of the ongoing teams.

Education Justice

GJC's involvement in POWER has always been motivated in part by GJC members' passion and concern for public education. The Education Strategy Team is currently working on both statewide and local campaigns. Over the last 4 years, POWER's work has focused largely on the inadequate and inequitably distributed funding that Philadelphia and other urban districts receive for public education from the state of Pennsylvania. POWER exposed the systemic racial bias in PA's public school funding, which helped lead to a bipartisan school funding formula that is fair and free of racial bias. Unfortunately, the PA legislature has so far decided to apply the fair formula to only a tiny fraction of public school spending. POWER has engaged in a campaign to get all state funding to be fairly distributed using the formula, by building relationships with elected officials

and key stakeholders across the state. GJC members and other POWER representatives have met with local state senators and representatives, as well as recently with Governor Wolf, to build support for fair funding, which would result in a big increase to the Philadelphia school district, which this year is receiving \$400M less than the formula says is its fair share.

POWER has also played a leading role in returning local control to the Philadelphia school system, following 15 years of control by the state. Working as part of the Our City Our Schools (OCOS) coalition, POWER is advocating for a local school board that puts the interest of students first, and for increasing local sources for school funding that don't unduly burden low income Philadelphians. Recently, OCOS released a report on local school funding that calls for the city to reach out to other sources of funding in addition to the ones that Mayor Kenney has proposed, such as real estate tax abatement and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) from large tax-exempt institutions.

Economic Dignity

Philadelphia remains one of the poorest big cities in the country. Through the Economic Dignity team, POWER is building solutions that can lift people out of poverty and create opportunities. This team has been a key advocate for 21st Century Living Wage legislation at both the city and state level, and has been holding companies receiving tax breaks accountable to deliver the local jobs they promised. They have been successful in helping more workers achieve a livable wage. In 2015, POWER worked with City Council to gain a \$12 minimum wage for all projects subcontracted from the city government and in 2016 worked with City Council to ensure that all projects involving public dollars pay workers a fair and livable wage. Currently, the work for economic dignity is focusing on two campaigns:

The 21st Century Living Wage Campaign, building on the success in raising wages in Philadelphia, the team is now seeking to move the minimum wage to \$15/hour for all city workers and those who work for city contract and subcontractor agencies. They have secured a City Council champion for this policy and are building the necessary support among City Council members and the Mayor. In April the 21st Century Living Wage Legislation bill will be introduced in City Council. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will have passed. The work is now expanding to the state level, seeking to raise the minimum wage to \$15 across the state, which has not raised the minimum wage in more than a decade.

TIKKUN OLAM (continued)

Black Work Matters

Recognizing both the racial inequity in the local job market and the dominance of service sector jobs in Philadelphia, the team has set a goal to end racial disparities in the service sector workforce so that people of color benefit from new job growth. Another goal is to create a pipeline from poor Philadelphia communities into unionized service jobs, including worker-training programs sponsored by major employers.

Climate Justice

This team grew out of the Economic Dignity campaign and addresses the intersection of race and economics as an integral part of the climate conversation. Based on the central concept that people affected by poverty and racism are often those who are most affected by the climate crisis and that poor neighborhoods are frequently located nearby sources of pollution such as oil refineries and chemical plants, the team's work is focused on building a local Green Jobs campaign. The team saw possibilities for creating new opportunities for employment as we transition from the fossil fuel economy to a clean energy economy. They have partnered with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) to call on local energy corporations to address both climate crisis and inequality. Focused on PECO Energy, Power Local Green Jobs has been seeking to increase the purchase of local solar power and to create training and job opportunities in the solar industry for low-income people.

In October 2017, the team held a two-day conference on "Climate Justice and Jobs: Building the Beloved Community," which attracted 125 participants, and has been working to create alliances with other local climate and economic justice groups through speaking at hearings and public meetings and presenting to dozens of houses of worship, union halls and other civic organizations.

Live Free

POWER's work to end police violence and mass incarceration is organized as a local chapter of the national Live Free Campaign of PICO, the national network of faith-based community organizations which POWER is part of. This campaign has a primary focus on ensuring accountability and creating alliances with prosecutors, police chiefs, mayors, city council members and other elected officials,

POWER's Philadelphia Live Free strategy is focused on the following goals, with particular attention to their impact on people of color:

- End cash bail
- Eliminate "stop and frisk" police practices

- Create greater police accountability
- Dramatically reduce mass incarceration practices

Cash bail reform has been a focus of the team's work and they were impactful in the 2018 City Council resolution to limit the state's reliance on cash bail. The work continues as they call on the District Attorney's office, state legislature, and state Supreme Court to overhaul bail practices in Philadelphia and across the Commonwealth. Live Free has also successfully advocated for Governor Wolf to veto the 2016 state Police Anonymity bill.

Health Care for All

POWER views health care as a moral issue and believes that it is our societal obligation to guarantee health care as a human right. The health care campaign advocates on behalf of those people for whom health care coverage is still unaffordable and inadequate. To that end, it focuses on protecting Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and the ACA (Affordable Care Act). The work includes educating and mobilizing faith communities in the movement for health care justice, including letters, lobby visits and rallies, holding federal representatives accountable and working with state and national partners to communicate the implications of cuts to the health care safety net for vulnerable people and communities.

To get involved in POWER's work, contact Andi Moselle or David Mosenkis. To get on POWER's email list, go to <https://powerinterfaith.org/connect/>.



NATALIE LYALIN, REBECCA PAQUET, TEENA ROBINSON and KATE LAWN

As a member of GJC, you've probably interacted at some point with members of the office staff. But who are they and where did they come from?

Natalie Lyalin, 37, Rabbi Zeff's assistant, came from very far away. She was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and emigrated in the late '80s at age nine with her parents as part of the wave of Jewish immigrants, just before the Soviet Union collapsed. They settled in Atlanta, near family. "My upbringing was very secular but deeply connected to Jewish culture," she said. "I had no understanding of being Jewish until I came to the U.S."

She attended Jewish day school for a few years, then went to public school and on to the University of Georgia, Athens. She received an MFA in poetry at UMass Amherst where she met Josh Bolton, who was getting the same degree. "Then he surprised me by saying he wanted to be a rabbi," she said, smiling. "Judaism was a big part of his life, and he provided a big piece in my life." They married in 2007 and moved to Philadelphia so Josh could attend The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Natalie taught freshman creative writing at Temple as an adjunct professor for 10 years. "By the time we had our second son, I felt it wasn't sustainable anymore," she said. "Financially, it didn't make sense. You're doing the same work as a professor but you're not getting paid for it."

They have two sons: ages 3 (in ECP) and 6 (ECP graduate). Josh works at UPenn Hillel and is director of the Jewish Renaissance Project there.

Natalie's job at GJC, she explained, "involves keeping track of (the rabbi's) schedule, making sure the people who want to get in touch with him are able to do so, and helping him with organizational tasks so he can do his job."

Her other portfolio is membership outreach. "I'm the membership go-to person," she said. "I follow up with and reach out to those interested in joining GJC. I walk people through the paperwork process, dues, and also make sure they're situated within the community. This process is a team effort, and I'm lucky to have supportive and dedicated co-workers and lay leaders to help in this process. I love working



here," she said. "My favorite part of the job is the people with whom I work and the current and prospective members I assist."

Rebecca Paquet, 34, on the other hand, was born around the corner in Chestnut Hill and now lives in Springfield Township. She went to Springfield Township High School and the University of the Arts where she studied screenwriting. Rebecca worked for an investment company in Philadelphia for two years and then went to graduate school in England for creative writing. Unfortunately, it's not easy to "decide to be creative, especially right when the recession hit, but I kept writing," she said. She worked at Target for five years before coming to GJC.

"After working for a big corporation for so long, I wanted to give a non-profit a try," she said. "I saw the posting on Indeed. I interviewed and here I am." Rebecca started as an administrative assistant in 2015 and now works as a finance assistant and development assistant, helping Executive Director Nina Peskin and Finance Director Gloria Geissler.

"I'm really happy here," Rebecca said. "GJC's values are in line with my own values." In her spare time, Rebecca loves "to run and rock climb. I still like to write short stories and I'm working on a screenplay. I knit. I love traveling when I can. My last trip was to the UK and France, and I'm already planning my next one."

Teena Robinson, 32, administrative assistant, was born in Philadelphia and lives in Mayfair with her partner of 13 years and their three children. She attended Catholic school, Girls High, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and received an Associate's degree in criminal justice at Kaplan University.

"I worked with teenagers as an addiction specialist for three years," she said. "It was stressful. You can't get emotional when a client comes in and tells their story." She switched to a job as program director for the Germantown branch of

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued)

the Boys and Girls Clubs of Philadelphia. "I hung with kids and they were great," she recalled, "but managing staff and parents became difficult for me."

Teena came to GJC May 2017. "I love it here," she said with a broad smile. "This is my forever home. I love administrative work and I look to grow at GJC. I assist all GJC staff with anything they request, from printing to ordering. I do the weekly Shabbat bulletin, the ad book for the name directory, and assist with all B'nai Mitzvah planning." She also plays a large role in coordinating the myriad details for the High Holidays. She's advanced her learning curve about Judaism. You can also catch her and Rabbi Zeff on GJC's YouTube channel for their weekly "Ask the Rabbi" session.

"I love the staff and the congregants," she concluded. "I'm a naturally happy, bubbly, outgoing person. There's nothing like coming to work and feeling like you belong. I can be myself here."

Kate Lawn, 41, Program Director, was born in Pottstown, went to public school, and spent her senior year of high school at the Kimberton Waldorf school, which was unusual because Waldorf schools don't usually accept students in the final school year.

"I decided to switch schools for my final year because for years I had felt that I was among a minority of students who chose to pay attention and respect the teachers," Kate explained. "The Waldorf School saved me. I continued at Franklin & Marshall College to study theater and Russian Literature. Had I known that Franklin & Marshall was ranked seventh in the nation for student workload, I might have made a different choice," she said, smiling.

She studied abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre and returned the following summer to study the language in St. Petersburg. Kate relishes her memories of attending theater, opera, and dance performances in Moscow, taking the midnight train to St. Petersburg, and wandering the birch forests and meadows throughout Russia.

She moved to Philadelphia in 1999, where she survived for several years working as an actor with smaller theater companies. "When my last gig was ending, I applied for a job in a creative daycare," she said. Her interview was on 9/11/01. "Working with children was the right thing to do at that time," she said. "I felt I needed to give my love and impart good values."

Kate worked as the director of the daycare for eight years, but was laid off when a large company bought it. As it happened, Nina Peskin was her neighbor and let her know of a potential job opening at GJC as an administrative assistant. "I'm not Jewish, so it was a bit intimidating," she recalled. "But I love learning and being challenged, so not knowing much about Judaism was something that made the job interesting." She came to GJC in 2010.

"Nina is excellent at seeing people's strengths," Kate observed. "She's always offered me the opportunity to grow, both professionally and personally." Kate advanced from administrative assistant to office manager and rabbinic coordinator. A few years later, when Elana Shaw announced she was leaving, Kate applied for the job as GJC's Program Director.

"Both Nina and Rabbi Zeff keep inspiring me to be the best person I can be. I love the community and the relationships I've built here over the years. GJC is an amazing place to work, both with the staff and the strong team we've built."

Kate lives in Glenside with her two sons (ages 11 and 8), whom she adores.

The GJC office staff's warmth and companionship is demonstrated by their lunchtime practices. "We used to eat at our desks," Natalie explained. "Now we eat together as much as we can. We tend to work through out lunches, so gathering together in friendship helps us to take a small break in the middle of the day and connect with each other."

THANK YOU

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

WOMEN OF GJC

by Sandy Meyer and Vilma Lieberman, Co-Presidents WGJC



Purim Bash was a smash! We all had fun and made a good deal of money for GJC in the process. Thanks to all who participated, from the many volunteers who ran the event, to the choir who presented the Spiel, to all who came to dine, dance and bid on restaurants and other wonderful items. A special thanks to our Purim Bash Chair, Marilyn Kraut, for an expertly planned and run event.



The Women's Balcony movie in early March proved to be a very engaging program which highlighted women's power to assert their needs for the betterment of their community. The program was expertly facilitated by Rabbi Freddie Cooper. We hope to have more thought provoking discussions around women's issues in the future.



The 41st Women's Shabbat brought together women throughout GJC to lead and participate in Shabbat services. Through texts and discussion Minna Ziskind helped us to explore the legends and myths behind our beliefs and stories we tell about our past. It was another wonderful Shabbat of camaraderie, study and, of course, food, for all who attended.



Red Cross Babysitting Certification took place in April. GJC now has an extended list of certified young people who have passed this course. This course provided them with the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. This training helped participants develop skill in leadership and professionalism, basic care, safety, safe play, and first aid.

Women of GJC became theater entrepreneurs in April for the Old Academy Players in Chestnut Hill. Theater-goers enjoyed the musical **25th Annual Putnam Valley Spelling Bee** along with a wine and cheese reception. A lovely spring afternoon event was enjoyed by all.



AMAZON SMILE

EVERYONE CAN SUPPORT OUR GJC COMMUNITY THROUGH WOMEN OF GJC IN JUST 3 EASY STEPS!

Register with Amazon smile and .5% of every purchase in the **Little Shop** will go to GJC Women's Club, which in turn goes directly to GJC!

1. Go to Smile.Amazon.com:
2. Search for Germantown Jewish Centre
3. Select charity:
4. Germantown Jewish Centre

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

NEWS FROM HAZAK (55+ programming)

by Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses (HAZAK co-chairs)

Long before Lucille Ball and *I Love Lucy*, there was another female comedienne who wrote her own scripts, first for radio, and then for television. Gertrude Berg, the sometimes-forgotten and often dismissed star of *Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg* is the subject of an excellent documentary (also called *Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*), which HAZAK showed to a very respectable crowd on Sunday morning, March 25. Maura Sostack, who has been advocating for two years to show the film for HAZAK, led the discussion following the movie. She asked the provocative questions, given that Berg was such an important force in shaping radio and early television, "why don't people know about Gertrude Berg? Why don't current big-shot Hollywood producers know her name?" The discussion revolved around changing attitudes toward Jews and changing societal values that Jews have held, the forces toward assimilation and their impact on Jewish identity, and the devastating impact of Joe McCarthy's witch hunt for "Communists" in the world of entertainment.

Then came Pesach and a hiatus in HAZAK activities. In May, we had a "fundraiser" courtesy of Jake and Linda Kriger, who held an indoor "yard sale" of some of their Judaica, the proceeds of which went to HAZAK. Thank you, Jake and Linda, for this great idea and your generous support.

Our book group continues to meet on the second Wednesday morning of each month, now at a new time, 10:30 am. In

DID YOU KNOW?

HAZAK programs are planned for those age 55+, and are geared to reflect both common interests and get us to "stretch" to try new activities as well. Our well-attended book group meets monthly all year long. HAZAK also sponsors book talks by local authors, as well as speakers on topics of particular importance to our interests. We host Sam Feinberg each August to discuss opera, and we show great films! We also take day trips to cultural and natural sites in the area, often to places members have never been. HAZAK is for all of us to stay connected to GJC and to each other: to venture out and experience parts of our city we haven't seen before, to read, learn and talk together, to keep us strong. We hope you will join us. Membership is \$10/year.

April, we read *Waking Lion* by Ayelet Gunder-Goshen; for May, the book was Jonathan D. Sarna's *When Grant Expelled the Jews*; and the book for June is Daniel Mendelsohn's *The Lost*. Please consider joining these excellent book discussions!

On Saturday, June 9 we will hold our annual HAZAK Shabbat, where our members will be honored by participating in all parts of the service and enjoying a delicious Kiddush lunch.

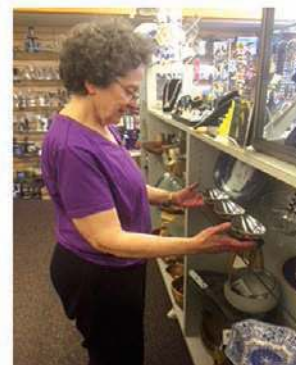
THE LITTLE SHOP

Winter Hours (through May)

Monday and Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	12-7:30
Thursday	12-5
Friday	12-4
Sunday	9-12:30

Summer Hours

beginning June 6th:
Wednesday and Friday 12-5



Sylvia Lifschitz shops for a shower gift for her son and his fiancée

DON'T FORGET:

ALL profits go directly to GJC
GIFT REGISTRY at The Little Shop
MANY Fair Trade Judaica products

Thank you for shopping at THE LITTLE SHOP!!

Special Discounts

- May-10% off challah boards, plates, knives and covers
- June-August-10% off everything*!!
- EARLY BIRD EVERY WED-FRI 12-3, 10% off everything*
- *except books, wine, tefillin, and mezuzah parchment

GJC's EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM (ECP)

by Jodi Gordon, ECP Director

The ECP was bustling with activity and excitement preparing for the Passover Chag. Each class explored the beautiful holiday of Passover by using the multi-sensory approach. Some of the various activities included Gan Katan attempting to prepare matzo in under 18 minutes and they were successful!

Most of our younger classes made delicious vegetarian matzo ball soup along with other delicious items for their Seders. The Dubonim class even made their very own pillows for reclining at their Seder.

The Preschool Seder was truly special with Rabbi Adam and Rabbi Alanna leading a joyous interactive Seder for both the children and parents of ECP. After the Seder concluded the children enjoyed sampling the items on the Seder plate. The favorite seemed to be the sweet charoset prepared by the children and teachers.



Mmmmm. Yummy. Vegetarian Matzo Ball Soup.



Pre-school seder with
Rabbi Alanna and Rabbi Adam

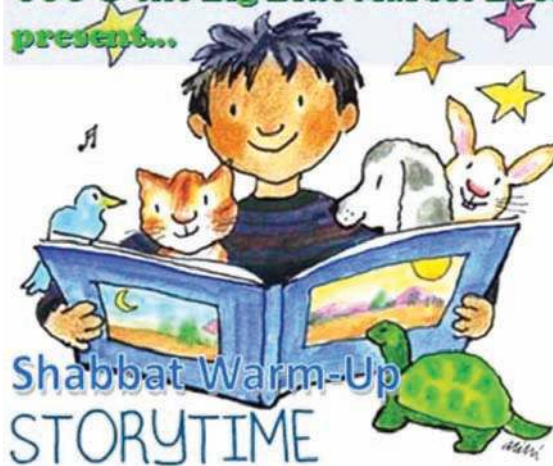


Gan Katan works to make matzo in
under 18 minutes!

DID YOU KNOW?

ECP is a special place for young children from 6 months of age through 5 years of age and for their families. Through the lens of Jewish culture and tradition, our children learn about themselves, and the world around them in a program which emphasizes learning through doing. The Early Childhood Program nurtures and respects individuality, while encouraging the children to develop a sense of community and friendship. The preschool follows the yearly cycle of the Jewish holidays. Jewish culture, traditions, and values are woven into our curriculum. Through Mitzvot (commandments), Tzedakah (charity), and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), the children learn to respect themselves, others and the world they live in. We are committed to teaching and promoting respect and understanding of all persons. GJC's Early Childhood Program is open to all!

GJC & the Big Blue Marble Bookstore
present...



**Join Rabbi Alanna for a pre-Shabbat story,
singing, and an engaging kid-craft.**

**Perfect for jKids and their grown-ups,
ages 5 and under - All families are welcome!**

Friday Mornings:

Oct 20th Nov 17th

Dec 15th

(with special Hanukkah goodies)

Jan 19th Feb 23rd

March 23rd

(Passover themed)

April 13th May 18th



Germantown Jewish Centre
A community of communities

PINAT HA-HINUCH ~ EDUCATION CORNER

by Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Director of Lifelong Learning

Making Learning (and Judaism) Come Alive... "Lifecycle Rocks!"

There is no lesson or program that more screams "Hebrew School" than the *Mock Wedding*. Be honest – your Hebrew School (or day school) had one too. You can probably see it in your mind's eye: during the unit on Jewish lifecycle, two parents (or, perhaps even two kids?!) got "married" by the rabbi, education director or teacher in a ceremony that was meant to demonstrate a Jewish wedding to the students. The students watch... and often they lose focus on the wedding itself as they giggle about the couple (typically a bride and a groom) getting married (and especially in anticipation of whether or not they will "mock-kiss"). In some schools, students have a hand in planning the wedding; perhaps they write or select the ketubah, help to design the huppah, or play a role in the ceremony. In my school growing up, different students played different roles in the ceremony (I believe that I somehow got selected as "mother of the groom!"), and in others, they sit and watch as the ceremony unfolds around them. Most of us can picture this program in action, but really... what is the *goal* of the *Mock Wedding*? Does this really make Jewish wedding real? How do we do this in a way that invites students to *connect* to the ritual – and to all of the rituals of the Jewish lifecycle?

In the fourth grade (this year, the third-fourth combined class) at Germantown Jewish Centre, our students learn about Jewish Lifecycle – but we do things a little bit differently! In September our students create pet rocks. They are not told the purpose – only that they will be finding and decorating pet rocks that will accompany them through the year. They search, clean their rocks, decorate them with

fabric and paint, stick on googly eyes, and make them into characters that each reflect the individual student's personality. One week later, they are told that these pet rocks are in for the "journey of a lifetime," literally!

As the students study about Simchat Bat, welcoming adopted children with naming ceremonies and mikvah, B'rit Milah, and other Jewish welcome rituals, they plan a "Rock Naming" ceremony for their new Rock Children. These ceremonies include blessings, poetry, song – and the announcement of each pet rock's Hebrew name, selected by the student. These names are beautiful and meaningful. They come out of a study of the student's own Hebrew name and how they received it, and most importantly, they reflect the creativity and inquiry of each child.

As the year progresses, our students celebrate as their rocks become *Rock Mitzvah*, innovate and celebrate new milestones of childhood and adulthood (i.e., lost teeth, new schools, going to college, first apartment, drivers' license). They plan a wedding for their rocks (students self-select whether or not their rock would like to get married – and in some years we have celebrated both heterosexual and same-sex *Rock Weddings*), and prepare together for the moment of the end of life for their pet rocks. (We, of course, talk about the tradition of leaving a stone on the grave of a loved one as a memorial when visiting a cemetery – the place in the Jewish lifecycle into which rocks most naturally fit.)



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (continued)

In a few short weeks, our class will gather for their *Rock Funeral*, and though their rocks will return to the ground, the lessons they helped their creators learn will be carried forward. Two years ago, as I met with the fourth grade class for our "funeral intake," in addition to sharing the biological details of their rocks, the students asked me if I could play "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?" from Hamilton at the funeral, during the burial. As I listened to the mingling sounds of the song and shoveled earth covering our rocks, I realized that something very special was happening – as our students began to see Jewish tradition as something that they could both observe and innovate and make their own.



NEWS FROM THE MEN'S CLUB by Dick Menin

A few years ago, friends took a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. Toward the end of their visit, their guide, a Vietnamese gentleman, asked if they were Jewish. Now, they have a recognizably "Jewish" last name but it would be highly unlikely that someone from so different a culture and background would use a name to make this connection. Indeed it wasn't. When asked what lead him to this correct assumption, he responded that his Jewish clients always asked a lot of questions.

Is it innate? Probably not. But it's difficult to put on an interesting program at GJC without lots of hands going up. On March 18, our guest speaker, Dr. Andrew Newberg, a neuroscientist at Jefferson University, spoke on "Neurotheology: the Biology of Spirituality." He had to hang around a long time to satisfy the questioners. Using sophisticated imaging techniques he and his colleagues study brain activity during prayer, meditation and other non-spiritual experiences. Believers say this validates their experiences as having a profound effect on who they are. Skeptics say it's all only neurochemistry! Our acquisition of knowledge is in its infancy with lots more studying being done. Hopefully, Dr. Newberg will join us again in the fall to discuss his soon to be released book specifically related to Judaism entitled "The Rabbi's Brain."

Other programs beginning in the fall will be one on men's relationships with Dr. Rob Garfield, and the film "Rockin' in the Red Zone" looking at Israeli and Arab adolescents and young adults coming together through music.

We continue our monthly work with the Jewish Relief Agency, readying and delivering food packages to those in need. Look to the Shabbat Bulletin or web site for dates and times.

As always, everyone is welcome at Men's Club events.



NEDIVOT LEV

by Linda Kriger

How much do you value GJC? How could you help insure the financial health of our synagogue for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren?

Dan Bacine, Joan N. Stern and many others at GJC have responded by arranging different ways to enhance GJC's endowment.

In the early 90s, Dan Bacine, then outgoing synagogue president, realized there was a chronic deficit at GJC, leaving the shul short by \$40,000 a year. "Every year, the leadership would talk to individual congregants with means and ask them to fill the gap. It occurred to me we should adopt a program to increase our modest endowment, so that over time the income from it would meet the needs of the deficit," Dan said.

Dan and Joan N. Stern, both longtime members of GJC, decided to establish Ner Tamid and launched a committee to promote legacy giving.

Today, GJC more often runs a surplus than a chronic deficit. The endowment has reached close to \$3 million. Nevertheless, Ner Tamid still serves to expand the endowment and ensure the future of GJC.

The endowment, Dan explained, "provides money for whatever the institution needs. Don't you want GJC to be here for the next generation? Wouldn't you like to leave a legacy? When people leave money in their will, it doesn't require any immediate out-of-pocket expense."

There are several ways to create a legacy:

1. A provision in your will: A number of people in the shul have signed commitments to include the synagogue in their will.
2. Through the creation of a trust where the synagogue is a beneficiary: Money is invested and the income is paid to the synagogue until, at the death of the person who set up the trust, the balance goes to the heirs.
3. The reverse: A trust's income goes to the heirs and after death, whatever is left goes to the synagogue.

"GJC's finances today are far different than when we started," Dan said. "The chronic deficit issue has been handled. But we have major professional contracts coming up that require funds. There's a huge value in having a large endowment. Legacy gifts provide a large endowment. Four percent of our endowment throws off \$120,000 a year. Imagine if the endowment were \$10 million and it generated \$400,000. The difference is huge."

Joan N. Stern, who has belonged to GJC since she was two years old, put a bequest to GJC in her will, because, she explained, "I believe in the principles on which the synagogue was founded and operates and I would like it to continue after I'm gone."

Another member of the synagogue, who joined about 12 years ago and who prefers to remain anonymous, said she is leaving money to the synagogue in her will. "For me, it's been a lovely community to be part of," she said. "I think it's important to support organizations that promote tolerance and community and keep Judaism alive."

ROSH PINAH

"The humblest of stones has become the chief cornerstone." ['Rosh Pinah'] (Psalm 118:22)

GJC expresses its deep gratitude for the generous support of its congregants who have chosen the Rosh Pinah (Cornerstone) level of membership. Their contribution provides crucial support, enabling us to serve the entire GJC community. We cannot adequately thank the following members for their commitment to Germantown Jewish Centre:

Marcy & Dan Bacine
Jane & Richard Baron
Marta & Chip Becker
Michael Beer
Peninah & Albert Berdugo
Harold Berger
Dveera Segal & Brad Bridge
Helen & Michael Feinberg
Dayle Friedman & David Ferleger
Sarah Braun & Shai Gluskin
Myra & Gert Jacobsohn
Linda & Jake Kriger
Barbara Jaffe & Howard Langer
Chris & Steve Levin
Evelyn Eskin & David Major
Rachel Falkove & Michael Masch
Barbara & Dick Menin
Cyrilla Rosen
Allyson & David Schwartz
Denise Scott Brown & Robert Venturi
Patty & Steve Segal
Stefanie & Alex Seldin
Jessica & Mathieu Shapiro
Beth Stearman

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Don't miss the last two books
of the 2017-2018 book list!

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM
in the
Quitman Library

May 8
Pastrami on Rye
by Ted Merwin

June 12
All Who Go Do Not Return
by Shulem Deen

For more information, please
contact Nan Myers at
nanbmyers2@gmail.com.

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays at 10:00 AM:
May 6, 13 and June 3, 10, 17

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, please contact Tamar Magdovitz at
tamarmagdovitz@gmail.com

MEMBER MEMORIES

"Pesach" by Eve Pinkenson

We are starting a new feature in this issue....

one in which GJC members tell some of their favorite holiday or GJC-related stories.

**If you have a favorite story you're willing to share, write it down, send it to epinkenson@comcast.net,
and as the calendar year progresses, the Centre Call will try to include some in each issue.**

I have wonderful memories of Pesach with my father. He led a great seder, giving everyone a chance to participate, regardless of age. Each year, one seder was dedicated to his side of the family, aunts, uncles, cousins. There were probably about 20 of us, and being a musical family, there was lots of singing all night long, with lots of harmonies, showing off, lots of bad puns and general fun. When the time came for welcoming Elijah, one of us children would open the front door for Elijah, and go back to the table to join in the noisy singing. The prophet received a warm and boisterous welcome.

Our house had a many-windowed porch at the front. As our guests entered the house, they would drop their coats and stuff on the furniture in the porch, and seat themselves at the seder table that stretched from the dining room into the living room.

One year, we opened the door for Elijah, sang ourselves silly, and closed the door when we finished singing Eliyahu HaNavee. At the end of the seder, aunts & uncles & cousins rose to find their coats out on the porch for the long ride home. Immediately there was a hubbub. The women's pocketbooks were missing! We called the police, only to find out there was a smart crook out there that night: he hit several Jewish homes that night, stealing pocket books while Elijah came and went!

GJC ALUMNI IN ISRAEL

We have 2 contributors to GJC Alumni this issue. Nomi Teutsch and Ari Brochin are both in Israel on a temporary basis. We wanted to share their stories before they leave Israel...

NOMI TEUTSCH



I am currently in Jerusalem for the spring semester with my husband, Micah, as part of his studies at RRC. This is my third time living in Jerusalem for an extended period, and it has been a really interesting opportunity to witness a city evolve over time. The first time I lived here was on a gap year program called Kivunim in 2006-2007. I then returned as a Social Justice Fellow of the New Israel Fund/Shatil in 2012-13 and worked in the nonprofit sector. This time around, I am studying Talmud, Chasidut and Theology with Micah at the Conservative Yeshiva.

I have observed two major changes in Jerusalem from 2012 to now. The first is that there has been a real renaissance of secular culture here. The city is retaining far more of its Hebrew University and Bezalel graduates, and the impact is strong. There is way more music, art, and nightlife here than there used to be. The other change I have been delighted to notice is that there are **way** more egalitarian prayer options now than there were when I last lived here. We particularly love Kehilat Tzion, a congregation here headed by Raba Tamar Elad Appelbaum, that combines Ashkenazi and Sephardi nusachim and has wonderful teaching and singing.

I have spent the last few years working as a trauma-focused Social Worker in Philadelphia, and it has been a really special treat to take a break from the intensity of that work, and spend time here learning Jewish text. Micah and I are also finding some opportunities to participate in much-needed activism here, including protesting the deportation of refugees and facilitating a trip for Encounter.

ARI BROCHIN

My family took a somewhat unusual route to this time in Jerusalem. My wife, Sarah, and I lived in Uganda through the middle of last year, where our daughter Ora was born. Sarah started working for the World Health Organization last year, and we thought we were going to move to Geneva, until we realized that we couldn't get visas for me or for Ora. We decided to spend a few months in Israel. I recently started working for the UN refugee



Ari & daughter, Ora Batya

agency in Tel Aviv, doing the same job I had in Uganda. We will be in Israel at least through the end of this year.

We have been living in Nayot, Jerusalem, which is the neighborhood that my grandparents moved to when they came to Israel in 1966, we walk past their old apartment every day on the way to Ora's gan. I grew up on my saba's stories of Jerusalem, from his first visit in 1929, at the age of 8 through his Labor Zionist youth, his service in the Haganah, and then in the leadership of Israel's Reform movement during the years before and after the Six-Day War.

I have come back to this city for more than thirty years now. I spent first grade in Jerusalem in 1985-86, visited frequently as a high school student in 1995-1996 and as a college student in 2000-2001, and lived here for two years while studying at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies from 2005-2007.

This has been a challenging time to be in Israel as a Jew with deep connections to Africa. Members of our Jewish community in Uganda have been denied full recognition of their Jewishness by the Israeli government, and Israel's treatment of its refugees has fallen far below international standards. Nonetheless, it has been a pleasure to see my daughter get to know this city and this neighborhood to which my family has felt connected for so long.

Update: Ari is now working full time for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) in Tel Aviv.

UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Turn, Turn, Turn: Marking Passages of Our Adult Lives with Rabbi Dayle Friedman

Tuesdays at 7 PM, May 8, 15 & 22 | \$60/GJC members, \$75/non-members

The transitions of our early lives are heralded with great fanfare. Once we reach adulthood, however, there is little ritual acknowledgment of our passages. Between marriage (for those who marry) and death, there are few Jewish ceremonies to mark the peak and valley moments in our lives. This class will investigate what happens to us in life transitions, and the impact of ritual, drawing upon the work of the late anthropologist, Barbara Meyerhoff. We will analyze the components of rituals of transition, and we will work together to create new rituals for selected passages of the adult lifespan. The class will provide participants with tools to create rituals for themselves or others for any life transition.

Rabbi Dayle Friedman, MSW, BCC, is a spiritual director, pastoral care giver, and liturgist. Her work with people beyond midlife has taught her the power of rituals to shape and ennoble life's passages. Through Growing Older (www.growingolder.net), she offers spiritual direction and pastoral care. Her latest publication is Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older: Finding Our Grit and Grace Beyond Midlife.

Know Your Worth: Salary Negotiation with JEVS Career Strategies

Wednesday, May 2 at 7 PM, FREE

Establish trust and confidence, accurately value your talents and experience, and solidify post-interview success! Great for those in all stages of the job search process. *This workshop is offered free of charge.

Searching for a job is never easy. For 75 years, JEVS Career Strategies has been providing a guided approach to career change for those in all stages of career transition. We help individuals of all ages find meaningful, satisfying employment through tools and processes to unlock and present their own skills, abilities and interests. In addition, we have many employer connections and can assist with job placement for qualified jobseekers.

Register online at www.germantownjewishcentre.org/jewish-connections-workshops



LOTS FOR TOTS at GJC

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

ECP Grandparents & Special Friends Shabbat	Friday, May 11 (times vary for classrooms)
Tot Storytime at Big Blue Marble Bookstore	Friday, May 18 (10:30 AM)
Musical Marching Minyan	Saturday, May 19 (11:00 AM)

Come explore the Torah through a StoryWalk!

Friday, June 8 at 6:00 PM

Have you ever explored the Torah through a StoryWalk? Especially a Parashah as juicy as Sh'lach L'cha? Germantown Jewish Centre's JAM (Jewish Arts & Movement) programming is transforming the Centre's playground into a walk through Israel. Come explore the land: play in giant blades of grass, seek and find mini landscapes, dig through the desert, and taste the abundant harvest that the land provides! In a highly interactive, engaging, and imaginative program, children and adults alike will engage with the Torah using their hearts, minds, and whole beings. A kid-friendly, summer dinner follows the program; nosh, relax, and converse with other families while the kids play! Program is free | Dinner is \$8/adult, \$4/child

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/Friday-Night-JAM-2018

Germantown Jewish Centre extends thanks and gratitude to the Harold & Renee Berger Family Engagement Endowment Fund for generously sponsoring this program, and to the Wolfe Family Foundation for their support in all GJC programming.

Kol Zimrah	Friday, May 25 (6:00 PM)
Friday Night Tot JAM	Friday, June 8 (6:00 PM)
GJC's Inaugural Pride Shabbat (family fun!)	TBD June 15-16 or June 22-23



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK AT GJC

**Next housing of homeless families runs from
June 17-July 1**

**New volunteers – please contact Debbie Stern at
debstern502@msn.com or 215-848-9503 to sign up.**

Our sage Maimonides posits 8 levels of giving charity, each one higher than the preceding one. The highest form is helping to sustain people before they become impoverished by offering a gift or loan or helping them find employment or establish themselves in business. This is the philosophy of the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, and GJC is pleased to be able to assist this organization in its work. We do this by housing temporarily-homeless families in our shul twice a year for two weeks at a time, while PIHN helps them find permanent housing, jobs, and educational and recreational opportunities for their children.

GJC's twice-yearly rotations employ the efforts of many, many congregants and community friends as we insure that there are volunteers to help move the families in and out, sleep over at the shul every night, provide dinners and dinner hosts every evening and some weekend hours, purchase breakfast and snack food for the families, and even take them out to dinner once or twice during their time with us. **We are always in need of new volunteers to make this project work. Young children are welcome to accompany their parent(s) as dinner hosts and teens can certainly join their parents as overnight hosts.**

We are fortunate to have many long-time volunteers and new volunteers every year. Following you will find some words from these wonderful people about their participation. We will highlight additional volunteers in the next edition of Centre Call as well.



Mia Blitstein: I started to participate in hosting a few years ago for three reasons. One, as a way to help my now 10 year old son, Judah, participate in community service beyond MLK Day, and two, to help him get outside of his own bubble. Helping out with preparing dinner and playing with kids (his age and younger) has been easier than he thought and also effective in accomplishing our goal of helping him relate to those who come from different backgrounds. The third reason I participate is because I feel that in this tumultuous time, I am responsible for putting whatever small bits of positivity into the world that I can. Helping out with this project is one small bit I can do, so I do it. I'm so grateful that GJC provides the opportunity for me to support families going through a rough time.



Yona Dansky: I remember hosting dinners at GJC with my 12-year-old son, Eli, who is now 36 and lives too far away to participate anymore. Now I volunteer to host with my daughter Mia and my grandson, Judah, aged 10. It's a good feeling not only to be able to give back, but to watch how this experience has impacted my children and grandchildren as they grow, and as they learn how much we are all in this together.



Linda Cherkas: I have been volunteering for the Hospitality Network since its inception at GJC. At first, I was a cook and sometimes a host. Then 12 years ago, I became the cooking coordinator. I also do sleepovers. Even though I work with homeless clients in my work as a social worker, I feel that our synagogue housing homeless individuals and families is critical. Our Jewish tradition from the Torah stresses helping the downtrodden and poor. GJC makes this possible.



Connie Katz: I'm a recent/old-time hospitality host. It's been many years since I've volunteered for this Network. I have such fond memories of being a dinner host with my girls when they were very young and would tag along with me to play with the children. Continuity of this program is important and it's so much bigger than just us at GJC. The few hours a year I give seems small compared to the big needs this program serves. I'm happy to be a part of a Network of such caring, loyal and dedicated organizers and worker bees.



David Nerenberg: My Jewish values compel me to address issues of social and economic justice. But given the challenges of balancing work, family, home, community, and Jewish living, time limitations can make direct action difficult. The structure of the Hospitality Network makes it remarkably easy for me to plug into opportunities to provide direct service. And participating plugs me into the wider GJC community as well. As a past volunteer coordinator for the program here at GJC, I believe strongly in the organization's personal approach to helping people where they are. Homelessness is not just a statistic. It has complicated economic and social causes. It affects individuals and their families in profound ways. Even a small commitment of time, food, or money goes a long way toward helping our fellow citizens at a time of need. And I appreciate the ability to do it in the context of our Jewish community.

TODAH RABBAH

CONTRIBUTIONS from FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Adult Education Fund	Elise Bromberg GJC Israeli Dancers Margie Green & Family	in memory of Fortunee Bromberg, mother in appreciation of Marc Rauer refuah shleimah to Dan Bacine, for a speedy recovery
Bess Schick Fund	Ed & Dena Lake	in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter
Chesed Fund	Lizanne Berger Abby Pozefsky & Dan Hoffman	in memory of Dorothy Walton, mother in memory of Karen Pozefsky, mother
Children's Services Fund	Beth Stearman Shellie Holl Jeffrey Needleman	in memory of Lillian Stearman, grandmother in memory of Brenda Laigaie, wife of David Laigaie in memory of Alan Needleman, brother
Early Childhood Program Fund	Richard Bazelon Tamar Jacobson Maria Pulzetti & Abby Horn	in memory of David Bazelon, father in memory of Beryl Liberman, mother in honor of Benyamin Goldberg, on his first birthday
Floral Fund	Rochelle Fellman Ellen Sinett	in memory of Arthur Abrams, father in memory of Marc David Kaplan, son of Marty & Carol Kaplan in memory of Bette Sinett, sister of Carol Kaplan in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
General Fund	Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter in honor of Norm Newberg, on the 70th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah in honor of Mitch Hirsch & Sylvia Lifschitz, on the marriage of their son, Josh, to Stacey Snyder in honor of Sherry & Bob Pomerantz, on the birth of their new granddaughter in honor of Betsy & Hersh Richman, on their 50th wedding anniversary in honor of Berel Sternthal, on his special birthday in honor of the Tuesday morning Kol D'mamah group in memory of Myra A. Sterns, mother in honor of Betsy & Hersh Richman, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Meredith Barber Ellen Brown Henry & Katherine Donner	refuah shleimah to Sylvia Lifschitz, for a speedy recovery in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter in honor of Maurice & Maxine Feldman, on their new home in memory of Phyllis Tabak, mother of Rabbi Robert Tabak in memory of Ted Tausig, father in memory of Sydney Lawrence, father-in-law in memory of Rebecca Tobias, wife and mother in memory of Pearl Axelrod, mother in memory of William Axelrod, father in memory of Henry Feinberg, brother in memory of Joseph Goren, husband in memory of Leo Fleischman, father in memory of David Zerkowitz, father in memory of Werner & Gabi Fellner, parents in honor of Maurice & Maxine Feldman, on their beautiful new home refuah shleimah to Ron Feldman, may he continue on a path of wellness
	David & Betty Ann Fellner	
	Ed & Dena Lake Allan Oster & Izhar Naveh Jane Tausig Stephen Tobias Stephen, Jake, and Zack Tobias Ellen Ufberg	
Hazak Fund	Sonia Dishler Cherie Goren	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	Hyman Zerkowitz	
Israel Affairs Fund	David Fellner Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik	
Israel Garden Fund	Marcy Bacine David Picker Pearl Raz	in memory of Samuel Kobran, father in memory of Morris Picker, father in memory of Estelle Admonit, mother
Kiddush Fund	Louie Asher Andrea Brockman	in memory of Sylvia Elfant, mother in memory of Samuel Brockman, father in memory of Sylvia Brockman, mother

Contributions *continued*

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Kiddush Fund	Maxine & Maurice Feldman Marilyn Silberstein Joan W. Stern	refuah shleimah to Dan Bacine, for a speedy recovery in memory of Seymour Meyers, significant other in memory of Sarah Winderman, grandmother
Library Fund	Linda Dzuba	in memory of Rose Pinkenson, mother
Men's Club	Ed Lake	in memory of Morris Lakernick, father
Minyan Masorti	Wendy Weingarten	in memory of Nancy Traub, mother
Memorial Shabbat Fund		in memory of Ernest Weingarten, father-in-law in memory of Rose Weingarten, mother-in-law
Music Fund	Evelyn Caplin Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik	in memory of Herman Barash, uncle in memory of Louis Kohn, cousin of Ira Somerson
Playground Fund	Deborah Stern	in memory of Myron Schoen, father
Program Fund	Maxine Field	in memory of Howard Field, husband
Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund	Daniel Bacine Nan Daniels Yona Diamond Dansky Joyce Eveloff Lynne Furman Rose Lifschitz Barbara Lissy Abby Pozefsky & Dan Hoffman Betsy Richman Alex & Stefanie Seldin Beverly Somerson Michael Steinlauf Joan Stern Kenneth Weiss Shirley White Alex & Sheila Avelin	in memory of Jeanette Bacine, mother in memory of Timothy Daniels, husband in memory of William Diamond, father in memory of Miriam Blumenthal, mother in memory of Nathan Klieman, father in honor of Josh Hirsch & Stacey Snyder, on their wedding in memory of Lee Miller, mother of Ellen Mazow in memory of Karen Pozefsky, mother in memory of Mae Rosner, mother in memory of Gary Herbert Posner, father of Michael Posner in memory of Edward W. Lavine, loved one in memory of William Steinlauf, father in memory of Clarence Stern, father in memory of Bernice Weiss, mother in memory of Milton White, husband of Shirley White in gratitude to the rabbis, teachers, and staff who enabled Zivia to become a Bat Mitzvah
Religious School Fund	Linda Hahn Chuck Schleifer Rennie Cohen David & Betty Ann Fellner	in memory of Jerold Kleivit, brother in memory of Betty Schleifer, mother refuah shleimah to Ronnie Feldman, for a speedy recovery refuah shleimah to Rivkah Walton, for a speedy recover in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter in memory of Haia Frida Saadoun, mother of Brigitte Thalheimer refuah shleimah to Barbara Bloom, for a speedy recovery
Tikkun Olam Fund	Joan Silver	in honor of Betsy & Hersh Richman, on their 50th wedding anniversary
Torah Restoration Fund	Kathy & George Amrom Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser Marilyn Barr Chana Bonn Samuel Feinberg Maxine & Maurice Feldman Judah Labovitz Eve Pinkenson Yale & Eve Pinkenson Joan Silver	in celebration of Mitch Hirsch & Sylvia Lifschitz, on the marriage of their son, Josh, to Stacey Snyder in celebration of Ned Kripke, on his birthday and good health in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter in honor of Betsy & Hersh Richman, on their 50th wedding anniversary in honor of Berel Sternthal, on his special birthday in memory of Edward I. Greenstone, father in memory of David Simcha Greenwald, father in memory of Gitel Feinberg, mother in honor of Berel Sternthal, on his special birthday in memory of Rabbi Jerome Labovitz, father in memory of Regina Spitzer, grandmother in memory of Anne Pinkenson, mother refuah shleimah to Dan Bacine, for a speedy recovery in honor of Berel Sternthal, on his special birthday in memory of Sylvia Bynum, grandmother in memory of Naomi Decter, wife of Avi Decter in memory of Sylvia Volin Nash, grandmother in memory of Eric Berger, brother in memory of Gary Herbert Posner, father of Michael Posner in memory of Selma Goodman, aunt
Women of GJC	Bonnie Buyum Minyan Masorti	
Young Families Retreat Fund	Alexandra Volin Avelin	
Youth Activities Fund	Lizanne Berger Curtis & Leslie Pontz Curtis Pontz	

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If you are interested in writing for The Centre Call, we would love to hear your ideas! Please contact Kate Lawn at program@germantownjewishcentre.org. The deadline for every issue is the 1st of the previous month.



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A community of communities

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