



# The Centre Call

## GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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By Rabbi Annie Lewis

## Face-to-Face in Community

May God bless you and watch over you.

May God shine the light of Her face upon you and may She be gracious to you.

May God lift Her face towards you and grant you peace.

-Numbers 6:24-26, translation from Kolot

This year in our community we will rejoice as many of our teens reach the age of Bar and Bat Mitzvah. At this moment of transition in their lives, we have a custom of offering them the priestly blessing. As we give voice to this most ancient blessing in our tradition, we pray for God's light and countenance to shine on them as they grow. There is a custom for parents to recite these words of blessing softly to children on Shabbat evening as the meal begins. These verses from the Torah are also included in our daily liturgy. We express a yearning for God to shower peace and grace on God's children of all ages. The turning of God's face toward us is a metaphor for blessing.

The Torah also teaches how the act of human beings turning their faces toward one another can be a vehicle for connecting to the presence of God. Each autumn, we revisit the stories of the founding families of our Jewish tradition. Once again we meet our namesake, Israel, known first as Jacob. On the heels of stealing his brother Esau's birthright and blessing, Jacob becomes estranged from his brother for many years. When they are about to encounter each other again, Jacob fears for his life. He divides his household and possessions, pushes on alone through the darkness and wrestles an angel in the night. Finally, Jacob finds

himself face to face with his brother and he is overcome with emotion. The brothers embrace and Jacob says to Esau, "Seeing your face is like seeing the face of God."

As agents of God's work in this world and in our community, the gesture of turning our faces toward one another carries tremendous power. In the Mishnah, Shammai teaches, "Receive every person with a cheerful countenance." (Pirkei Avot 1:15). We are tasked by our ancient rabbis with greeting one another with kindness and generosity. The simple act of smiling at another person can bring joy and put others at ease, and it can also elevate our own spirits. According to social psychologist, Robert Zajonc, changing our facial expression into a smile can have a positive impact on our mood.

We are incredibly blessed to be part of such a diverse, talented, interesting and beautiful community at Germantown Jewish Centre. We strive to be a vibrant and welcoming home for our members and for all those who are seeking to connect with Jewish community, to delve into the riches of our tradition and culture, to pray together, to learn together, to sing together and to take action together for a better world. With great enthusiasm, I have recently stepped into a new role at GJC focusing on outreach and engagement. As I have been meeting with individuals who are interested in learning more about GJC and in becoming members, I have been moved by their stories and most of all by their desire to

form meaningful relationships with others in our community.

In order to grow and sustain our community, we need your help in serving as ambassadors, in taking on the holy work of greeting and welcoming those who come through our doors, those who we know and those who we are meeting for the first time. A smile, an introduction and a few moments of intentional outreach and connection can make a difference in someone's life and in the life of our community. Additionally, I would love to hear from you if you would be interested in welcoming a new, prospective or fellow GJC member to your shabbat or holiday table or in meeting up for coffee or at a GJC event with someone who is interested in our community. May this be a year of nourishing relationships, growth for our community, and of turning our faces toward those near and far.

### Program Highlights

Women's Club Flower Arranging Class:  
Nov. 15

Music Café: Nov. 14

Scholar-in-Residence Maharat  
Rori Picker Neiss: Dec. 4-5

Israel Speed Sharing Program: Dec. 6

GJC Celebrates! Hanukah: Dec. 9

Women's Club Program with Eli Lake: Dec. 13

Of Mice & Men Hazak Trip: Dec. 13

Klezmas Eve with the Ken Ulansey Band:  
Dec. 24

## President's Message

By Mathieu Shapiro, GJC President



Having gotten through Labor Day, the High Holidays, the other holidays, the Papal visit – indeed, pretty much all of September, my family is finally settling into the no-longer-so-new academic year. And so are GJC and the Religious School.

My own kids have been through the Wednesday/Sunday program, and are now madrichim, as well as participants in Teen Tuesdays and Confirmation. So, over the years, Jessica and I have spent a lot of time thinking about what we want and expect in a religious school. (I always say we don't want all that much – just a full day school education in 5 or 6 hours a week!).

From that perspective, I am pleased to share all of the exciting things currently going on in the GJC Religious School.

- Implementation of the curriculum so carefully and thoughtfully developed by the ad hoc religious school committee, is currently well underway. The new curriculum was created by a committee of GJC parents, teachers, and clergy, and reflects our community's values and educational goals. It also includes tangible and measurable outcomes and goals for each grade. If you are interested in learning about the curriculum, there will be opportunities in the coming months. Just please keep an eye out for them.
- Our school's enrollment, unlike the enrollment at many other synagogues, is quite stable! We have 88 students enrolled in our Religious School program in grades K-10.
- Our 10th grade confirmation class

is larger than it has been in years - 9 students will be confirmed this spring. Look for their picture in the *Exponent*!

- Our theme for the 2015-16 academic year is Diversity & Inclusion: Creating a Kehillah Kedoshah (holy community)
- Last spring, GJC teacher and member Lee Silverman organized a speaker series on Israel for students in our teen program. Speakers and topics included:
  - \* Deputy Consul General Elad Strohmeier - Israel as Start-up Nation
  - \* Ronit Treatman - Lone Soldiers serving in the IDF and how we can support them as American teens
  - \* Steve Masters - Building your own relationship with Israel and living into it throughout your life (using his own experiences beginning in high school as a case-study)
- We are beginning our 3rd year of the B'reirot (electives) program on Wednesday afternoons - every 5 weeks, the entire school studies a particular subject, and students select an elective (typically incorporating the arts or another creative medium) to study in a way that interests them.
- We have instituted the "Yadayim - Big Hands, Little Hands" program with the ECP. Here, students in the Religious School work as big buddies for ECP aftercare students during their b'reira (elective) time on Wednesdays. This program is possible largely due to the creativity and hard work of Anna Goldberg, and creates wonderful opportunities for our youngest congregants to interact with older Religious School role models.

- Our students will again this year create bowls for the PIHN Empty Bowl dinner fundraiser. This is a wonderful way for our students to participate in larger community programming and hopefully creates a connection to the families who will be housed in their classrooms when GJC opens its doors in to PIHN homeless families whom we host every year.

None of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Alanna Sklover, who regularly displays the tremendously important quality of being able to connect to kids in a respectful but challenging way, on their own level. She engages them in ways that interest them – which means, at least in my house, that my kids view Religious School favorably, and not only because of the opportunity to see their friends.

It also wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary work of the ad hoc Religious School Curriculum committee, and the on-going work of the Religious School liaison committee. It also wouldn't be possible without the financial support of the Women's Club and of an anonymous gift that will support Rabbi Sklover's salary through this year.

My own view of synagogues and the future of Judaism is that educating our teens is among the most important things we, as a community, do – and I firmly believe that Rabbi Sklover is both up to the challenge and already succeeding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Rabbi Sklover, to me, or to Alex Avelin and Alex Molot, the co-chairs of the Religious School Committee.



## Shabbat Chai-Lites

### November 7

- Charry Service: *Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Becker, son of Marta & Chip Becker*
  - Kol D'Mamah

### November 13-14

- Tot Shabbat
- Minyan Masorti Shabbat Potluck
- Charry Service 2nd Grade Siddur Ceremony
  - Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

### November 20-21

- Kol Zimrah
- Musical Marching Minyan

### November 28

- Minyan Masorti: *Bat Mitzvah of Joanna Charap, daughter of Lawrence Charap & Ellyn Specker*

### December 4-5

- Kol Ha-Lev Service (Voice of the Heart)
  - Friday Night Potluck & Program with Maharat Rori Picker Neiss
- Charry Service: Scholar-in-Residence Maharat Rori Picker Neiss
  - Kol D'mamah

### December 12

- Charry Service: *Bar Mitzvah of Noah Rudick, son of Denise Wolf & Paul Rudick*
  - Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

### December 18-19

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: *Bar Mitzvah of Noah Eisenstein, son of Andrew & Ricki Eisenstein*
  - Musical Marching Minyan

### December 25

- Early Kabbalat Shabbat (4:15 PM)

BBMM Dates: 11/7, 11/21, 12/19

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

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

Musical Marching Minyan at 11:00 AM  
Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit at 11:00 AM

### Shabbat Morning Kids Space - Room 305

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



(September 2015- October 2015)

## IN CELEBRATION...

**Jake & Linda Kriger** on the birth of their grandson, Maayan Chadash Kriger-Corso.

**Peter & Leslie Maas** on the marriage of their son, Daniel to Orit.

**Simcha Raphael** on the publication of his book *Living and Dying in Ancient Times: Death, Burial and Mourning in Biblical Tradition*.

**Maya Goldshaw** on becoming Bat Mitzvah.

**Ted & Betsy Hershberg** on the marriage of their daughter, Jessica, to Santino Fontano. They are both TV and Broadway stars!

**Adin Esberg** on becoming Bat Mitzvah.

**Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser** on the engagement of their son Jeffrey Ajl Kitrosser to Lauren Aliyah Berger.

**Eitan Barash** on becoming Bar Mitzvah.

**Will & Akhila Shapiro** on the birth of their son, Rashi Vasthare Shapiro.

**Paul & Hilda Minkoff** on their daughter, Deborah Minkoff, being appointed by Governor Tom Wolfe as one of 26 women to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women. Deborah is vice chair of Cozen O'Connor's Global Insurance Department and an adjunct professor at the Drexel University School of Law.

**Juniper Moscow** on becoming Bat Mitzvah.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Alex Naveh**, father of **Izhar Naveh** and father-in-law of **Allan Oster**

**Margaret Krafchik**, mother of **Frank Krafchik**

**Eleanor Blumberg**, mother of **Lois Robbins**, grandmother of **Sarit Kunz**, and great-grandmother of **Lillian** and **Adam**

**Rabbi Seymour Friedman**, father of **Aryeh Friedman**, father-in-law of **Reena Friedman**, and grandfather of **Ilana**, **Uri**, **Shira**, and **Tamar**

**Monty Herbert Specker**, father of **Ellyn Charap**

## Join us in welcoming new members

Ari Feinberg

Oren Gershon & Erica Glazer

Adam & Elisabeth Horry & their family

David Zvi & Yael Kalman & their family

Daniel & Sonia Levy & their family

## Welcome back to

Shai Ben-Yaacov & Kate Dugan & their family



## Pinat Ha-Hinuch (Education Corner)

### Examining the Threads of our Global Jewish Tapestry

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover

*This month for my Centre Call article, I wanted to share with you an article that I wrote just before Rosh Hashanah for the Jewish Exponent's Rabbis Uncensored blog.*

Full disclosure – I love to sing Jewish songs. Israeli folk-songs, camp songs, catchy melodies to *tefillot* (prayers); the corny and the moving alike, every time someone took out the guitar and started strumming, I was hooked. But these songs were not only fun to sing, but I believe also instilled and rooted within me values and pieces of theology that formed the core of an identity that I would continue to develop into my Jewish adulthood. An example of one such song is Larry Milder's "Wherever you go, there's always someone Jewish." As I sang lyrics like, *some Jews wear hats, and some Jews wear sombreros, and some wear keffiyehs to keep out the sun*, I painted a picture for myself of a global and diverse Jewish community – one where Jewish people came in all colors, shapes, sizes, and family configurations and lived in and originated from communities all over the world.

This image, the one that we paint for our *children* through song and story, is often unfortunately missing from our *adult* Jewish communities and institutions. In many of our congregations, we still default to assumptions of Jewish status based on physical features associated with Ashkenazi (Eastern European Jewish) heritage. Sometimes, these assumptions are made consciously, as we exclaim in surprise to a newcomer *funny, you doesn't look Jewish?!* More frequently, though, I notice that they come out in more subtle and subconscious ways. A smaller group than usual has gathered for services on a Shabbat morning, and, though there are 10 people present, eyes dart around the room as the

bar'chu approaches, looking from face to face nervously, not sure whom to count. Most of us do not mean to exhibit these behaviors. Many don't even notice that they have manifested, until after the fact. But the truth remains, from Mel Brooks movies to the Shabbat Kiddush buffet line, we afford insider privilege to those with dark curly hair, shorter stature, large noses, and light/mid-olive skin – and this prevents us from building the kids of welcoming and inclusive communities that we envision ourselves as being.

Last week, I had the opportunity to hear Rabbina Barbara Aiello, the first (and only) female rabbi in Italy, speak at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Rabbi Aiello serves a mixed and diverse liberal Jewish community in the southern Italian region of Calabria. Hers is the only non-Orthodox congregation in the region, which means that it is not atypical for her membership to travel for many hours in order to attend services. But this is not the only thing that makes Rabbi Aiello's congregation or her rabbinate special. Southern Italy is not known for its large Jewish community today, but Rabbi Aiello and others believe that at one point, before the expulsions of Jews from the country in the middle ages, that this region may have been nearly 50% Jewish. Rabbi Aiello has spent decades studying the Jewish history of Calabria, and most interestingly the ways in which Jewish traditions have been incorporated into secular Calabrian customs by the hundreds of Cryptojewish families still living in the region. Many of the descendants of these forcibly converted individuals (*b'nai anusim*) also engage with Rabbi Aiello's congregation, as they search to rediscover their heritage.

These customs are wide-ranging and fascinating – from the weaver who learned from her grandmother (who in turn learned from her grandmother) that when you weave a shawl with four corners, it must have fringes on it, and at least one thread of blue; to Italian families in the Calabrian mountains who blow the ram's horn on December 31st, to ring in the New Year. Rabbi Aiello even shared a regional folktale passed on to her by her father about how Italy got its name.

*Legend has it that in 167 BCE when the Jews found themselves in dire straits – the story of Hanukkah – King Antiochus was hell-bent on separating the Jews from their culture, tradition, and religion. It was the Maccabees, as we know, who rose up in rebellion against him. The war dragged on, the Jews were faced with heavy losses, and they made an important decision. They formed scouting parties that sailed from Judaea in search of mercenary soldiers to help their cause... As their tiny craft drifted farther into the sea, the Jews aboard viewed a beautiful mist rising above the pristine Calabrian coast – the toe of the boot. In Hebrew, these Jews who were searching for soldiers exclaimed, "Aie tal Yah!" [אֵי תַל יָהּ] Aie is the Hebrew word for Island, which they thought Italy was (they didn't realize that it was a long peninsula), tal is the Hebrew word for mist, and Yah is the contracted form of one of the names of God. "Aie tal Yah" – Italia – or the Island of God's*

*continued on next page*

## Religious School

Continued from page 4

dew. The Jews named Italy.

Rabbi Aiello ended her talk with a call to “extend the hand of Jewish welcome to everyone – even and especially those who at first glance do not appear to be Jewish”. As we approach the season of *Hanukkah*, I pass this challenge on us all. As we prepare to increase the light each night as we light more and more candles on our *hanukiyot*, may we reflect on all of the ways in which we can extend our “hand of Jewish welcome,” not notice that, as we do so, we all become enriched by the many stories, traditions, recipes, and customs of our global Jewish world. As the song teaches, *Amsterdam, Disneyland, Tel Aviv – oh! We’re miles apart – But when we light the candles on Sabbath Eve, we share in the prayer in each one of our hearts.*

## Family Retreat



Children painting at an Art and Music Gathering at last year's 5th Annual GJC Young Family Retreat. Next year's retreat is schedule for May 6-8, 2016. For more information, contact: [geniebud@gmail.com](mailto:geniebud@gmail.com)

## CONNECT

### Outreach & Welcoming by Naomi Klayman

**Mt. Airy Village Fair Excitement!** In addition to a live performance of our wonderful [GJC Jazz Band] at the Fair, we staffed a table where people could sign up for a free raffle for a gift basket donated by The Little Shop, find out about all the exciting events happening at GJC, receive a free apple and honey stick, and relax while their children colored greeting cards for the holiday season. We met a number of families that are new to our community and seeking to join a synagogue as well as welcoming secular Jews to participate in our many cultural events. As a result, we can reach out to prospective members who can benefit from all that our community offers. A huge thank you to the volunteers who helped prepare our “give-aways” and spent time at the table engaging with passers-by. As a result of our outreach activities, visitors are getting to know how diverse our community is and how welcoming we are. Stay tuned for more events to come as our year gets under way.



We had the pleasure of welcoming a large number of guests during our High Holiday services, and several are becoming members as a result of the warm welcome they received.

***Creating and maintaining a growing, vibrant community requires the participation of all our members.***

People want to join and stay in our community when you:

- Smile at them when you see people in the hallways and in services, even if you don't know who they are
- Children make friends with children from other families and include them in their conversations and play
- Greet everyone as belonging even if their appearance might not be what you consider traditionally Jewish
- Reach out to people you do not recognize who might be members you never met or visitors to our building



## Do You Shop On Amazon.com? Do You Want A Creative Way To Support GJC? IF THE ANSWER IS YES AND YES, READ THIS!



GJC's Women's Club raises funds to support our larger GJC community. As an entire community we can support Women's Club effort to continue to raise funds that go directly to their on-going efforts to support and grow GJC. Here's how. Many of you use Amazon to purchase items such as gifts, home supplies, books, movies and games for your electronic devices. Amazon Smile is a program through Amazon.com that allows you to select a charity or organization (tax exempt entity) that you would like to support. For every purchase you make .5% goes to your selected organization. Germantown Jewish Centre meets the requirements for Smile Amazon. Co-President Yona Dansky, Past President Dena Lake and Susan Weiss met with Nina Peskin. With the help of GJC financial director Gloria Geissler, we have arranged for all funds raised through Amazon Smile, for which GJC is the selected partner, to go to Women's Club. By providing this one income stream we can better track use and report on our results.

### THREE EASY STEPS TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S CLUB & GJC WITH NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU

1. Establish your link. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com).
2. Search for Germantown Jewish Centre.
3. Select charity: Germantown Jewish Centre

Once you register with Amazon smile it will link your Amazon account to Smile Amazon and .5% of every purchase will go to GJC, free and clear. Smile Amazon is the same as Amazon but you **MUST START with [Smile.amazon.com](http://Smile.amazon.com)** to shop. This is the only way GJC can benefit from your purchases. If you have any questions or need help with registration please contact Susan Weiss at 610-909-8127 or [slw6809@comcast.net](mailto:slw6809@comcast.net).

This is a wonderful way for all of us to raise funds for our community without any additional cost to you. We hope you will support this effort. You can continue to shop while enabling Women's Club to continue to do wonderful things for all our GJC community. **Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)....shop away!**

## *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	12-4 pm



Not hard to guess what Jacob Becker's favorite item  
is in The Little Shop



Latifa McLeary loves the jewelry at The Little Shop. Gabe is proudly pointing to his mom's Star of David necklace, which she purchased at The Little Shop.

### Monthly Specials

- 10% off menorahs in November
- 10% off candlesticks in December

### Special Discounts

- Any purchase of \$50 or more gets a free pinky ball in tribute to little Becker!
- In honor of Latifa, there is a 10% discount on necklaces until the end of the year.

## Women's Club News

By Yona Diamond Dansky and Marcy Fish, Co-Presidents



### Welcome Back Brunch

Women's Club partnered with Men's Club, Hazak and Social Action Committee for this year's Welcome Back Brunch on Sunday, September 20. GJC author Betsy Teutsch along with Cheryl Bettigole discussed Betsy's new book, *100 Under \$100: One Hundred Tools for Empowering Global Women*. There was enthusiastic participation among the audience of about 60 people, with many connections made to the city of Philadelphia. Don Joseph summed it up: "What we learned today was so educational it should be taken on the road (for community input)." Books are still available for purchase in The Little Shop.

Women's Club also sponsored a Bake Sale that morning.



By the time this article is published, Women's Club & Men's Club will have had their Paid-Up Membership Brunch on Sunday, October 18th. Entertainment was provided by Alex Keiper and Cara Noel Antosca, both of 11th Hour Theatre.

Look for flyers with details for our **flower arranging** event on November 15, from 1-3 PM, Autumn/Thanksgiving Theme. Everyone will make and take home 2 arrangements. Learn how to make arrangements, just in time for Thanksgiving.

The monthly **Intergenerational Women's Gathering** was held on Sunday morning, October 4, with the topic, "What Have You Harvested from Living Your Life? What Insights Can You Share from the Bounty of Your Harvest?" **New participants** welcomed! Location is off site. For more information on upcoming dates, see the Women's Club calendar on the GJC website (on the Get Involved Tab, scroll down to Women's Club) or contact Nina Gordon [ngordonclay@hotmail.com](mailto:ngordonclay@hotmail.com).

We all benefit when you patronize The Little Shop! Please be sure to visit **THE LITTLE SHOP** for a great selection of Judaica and gift items. If you purchase anything on Amazon, please do a mitzvah when you shop online: remember to first register on Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), then please check off Germantown Jewish Centre when you register. Women's Club applies all proceeds to GJC projects.

### Women's Club Membership

Please join us in actively sustaining the synagogue. When you join WOMEN'S CLUB by paying \$45 annual dues you help sponsor enriching programs and

important projects that everyone enjoys. You can also contribute your talents to help with these projects. By being part of WOMEN'S CLUB, you help the entire GJC community. For more information, email Peninah Berdugo, [pennahberdugo@gmail.com](mailto:pennahberdugo@gmail.com) or Vilma Lieberman, [vilmablue@yahoo.com](mailto:vilmablue@yahoo.com).

### Torah Mantles: Preserving the Old ~ Planning for the New

Many of the High Holiday (white) and everyday (purple) Torah mantles used in the Charry Sanctuary were woven more than fifty years ago, some by GJC members. Over the past year, a group of dedicated and talented women repaired these cherished Torah mantles. While making repairs it became apparent that they really needed to be replaced. This year, our Building Beautiful Project is raising money to purchase new Torah mantles. Thank you for your pledges made on Yom Kippur and for your generous contributions. It's not too late to send in your Building Beautiful contribution. If you are interested in making a dedication and inscription in one of the new covers or table runners, see Nina Peskin for prices. Also contact Nina if you can share details of how our current beautiful Torah mantles were made.



*Repairs made to our current Torah mantles.*

Germantown Jewish Centre's



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

## November

### **Ma'achil R'evim - Feeding the Hungry Philabundance Food Drive**

Collection bins will be in the Magil Chapel lobby,  
Charry Sanctuary lobby, Religious School & ECP.

Sundays 9 AM-2 PM

Mondays-Thursdays 8 AM-8PM

Friday 9 AM-4 PM

Please bring small or individual sized items that were recently purchased (no old, dented, corroded or soiled cans). Please do NOT bring produce or items in glass. Accepted items: tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, mac & cheese, hot & cold breakfast cereal and canned items.



## December

### **Malbish Arumim - Clothing the Naked Winter Coat Drive**

Collection bins will be in the Magil Chapel lobby,  
Charry Sanctuary lobby, Religious School & ECP.

Sundays 9 AM-2 PM

Mondays-Thursdays 8 AM-8PM

Friday 9 AM-4 PM

Please bring in new or gently used coats.  
All sizes will be accepted.

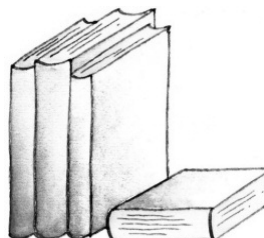


### **Join the Ner Tamid Society by Making a Planned Gift to GJC**

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.**

### **Tutoring for Reading and Language Arts Wilson Reading System Certified**



#### **Ellen Reese**

Tel: 610 668 9865

Cel: 267 971 7970

e-mail: [emr@telegraphics.com](mailto:emr@telegraphics.com)





Selma Schlee

## Member Spotlight

By Linda Kriger

On Kol Nidrei night, when Rabbi Adam Zeff addressed the issue of who is a Jew, Selma Schlee, 36, a member of the High Holiday choir, sat and listened to his talk with interest. Selma discovered as an adult that she is a Jew by matrilineal descent. Growing up in Bueckeburg, near Hanover in northern Germany, she “only heard from my mother that her mother’s family was Jewish,” Selma said, sitting at her kitchen table in Mt. Airy, where she laid out a small pile of old photographs of the few maternal ancestors she has been able to identify. She is trying to construct a past out of what until now has been buried in secrets.

Selma learned that her great-grandmother’s name was Johannah Rosenkrantz. Johannah married a German, and somehow survived the war as did her daughter, Ilse. Ilse died in 1960



Ilse Grauting, daughter of Johannah Rosenkrantz, Selma’s grandmother

of cancer when Selma’s mother was six years old. The following year, Johannah also died. As Selma grew up, her mother “may have mentioned it twice that her family was Jewish” but nothing more was made of it. Her mother remembered seeing her grandmother’s apartment, “with very high ceilings, a very cultured place” and she enjoyed being there as a child. “That’s all I knew,” Selma said. “Growing up in Germany there was a big silence in the entire post-war generation regarding the time of the Second World War.”

In the meantime, Selma visited the

Czech Republic with a friend when she was 18 and still in high school. Where she lodged, she met a 22-year old Philadelphian, Dante Zappala, who had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. After high school, Selma lived in Mexico for a year, began college in Berlin, then decided to go back to Mexico. Dante had moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting and playwriting. “We hadn’t been in touch for a year,” she recalled, smiling. “I sent him an email saying we should get together and he responded a day later and said, ‘When and where?’ I decided he should come and see me, and we met again in Cancun. We traveled in Poland, Italy and Denmark and I met his father, who grew up in South Philadelphia, in Italy.” Selma knew this was a relationship that would last, so she left Germany to live in Los Angeles. They married in Las Vegas three months later in 2002. The wedding wasn’t a typical Las Vegas wedding. “It happened in the office of the wedding chapel because the wedding chapel had burned down, so they put up some ornaments. My sister and his brother were witnesses.”

They moved to Philadelphia in 2005. “I felt more comfortable here,” she said. “It’s closer to Europe. I liked the culture here and all his family was here. Pretty soon, we had our first child and the rest is history. We have two sons, Antonin, 9, and Nikolai, 6.” Selma works as a home health care coordinator and care giver through a registry and also tutors students in German, including Germantown Jewish Centre member Peter Maas.

### A chance remark from a neighbor kindled Selma’s curiosity about her own background.

Selma mentioned to her neighbor “that my mother’s family was Jewish and she said, ‘Then you are Jewish.’ The remark resonated. “I wrote to Adam because he was the rabbi and I was cu-

rious to learn more about our history maybe,” Selma says. “I asked Adam to talk about it. There had always been a curiosity about Judaism. I was always interested in Jewish culture and German Jewish literature.”

She explained. “When you live in Germany, you learn about these authors they don’t always tell that they were Jewish. Heinrich Heine was Jewish and tried to convert because he wasn’t allowed to work in Germany. Erich Kaestner wrote very famous children’s stories. Everybody grew up with him as a child. You weren’t raised with their ethnicity. After World War Two, there was a point made to not distinguish anybody. Not like here where everybody is very defined. I also feel put in a drawer when people would say, “Oh you’re from Germany. The beer, the food.”

After learning of her Jewish background, Selma said she “went back to my mom,” and asked, “Who were your family?” “She didn’t know much,” Selma said, resignedly. “The two women had died but there’s no knowledge about any other extended family. So I had to make up for myself.”

There were two reasons that Selma pursued what she calls the two paths. “One was my personal curiosity of the Jewish culture and to see what religious life would look like. And the other was to know my mother a little better. I identify most with American Jewish culture. I had not identified with American Christian culture. My family was never quite of German culture, not the religion, the farm fest culture, the coffee klatches. Even though it’s a wonderful tradition, my mother couldn’t be a part of it. She looked different. She was more exotic.”

Selma knew that her mother grew up bereft of consistent love. After her beloved grandmother and mother died when she was 6 and 7, “an aunt that

*continued on next page*

## Member Spotlight

*Continued from page 8*

couldn't have children took her in but then she had a child of her own and my mother was sent to boarding school. So she was left alone again and again."

As a result, Selma grew up with a mother who was depressed. "She would cry in the kitchen when we were coming home from school," Selma recalled. "She was not available. The relationship was very hard all of my growing up. Where she was lacking was in her own history and spirituality, which is wonderful. In Jewish culture, the family, the ritual, the spiritual life is very rich, and she's been missing out on that.

"Perhaps by learning about that I could bring a little back to her, but I don't think she understands. I got not much reaction. I got to meet her cousin Margaret, who knew her grandmother. She just passed away this year. But when you touch anyone of Jewish descent, especially those who don't know anything, they fend it off." Selma knows a lot more about her father's German side of the family. Her father's mother helped raise Selma and her sister. But in her living room growing up was a small photograph of a sad looking young woman staring off into the distance. Selma never asked who it was. Her mother didn't discuss the photograph. Now she knows it was of her mother's mother.

Selma's husband, Dante, was raised as a Methodist. His main belief is in forgiveness. After a period trying to make it in Los Angeles as an actor, he became a program manager for an information technology company and

satisfies his love of theater by acting in plays at the Allen's Lane Art Center. He also writes weekly for the Chestnut Hill Local and is an elite runner.

### **Selma feels the weight of her German background at times.**

Selma's approach to Judaism is cautious because of the mosaic of her family's heritage. For Chanukah, Selma and her sons make clay menorahs. They have attended Seders and, she said, "I'm interested to do a Seder myself." The family also celebrates Christmas with their American grandmother. "Christmas for me was never a Christian thing to do. It was another pagan ritual of bringing light into the house. Jesus was never mentioned in my life. But here it's so prevalent. It's very overwhelming" to absorb all the ethnic strains in their family, Selma says: "Sicilian, Latvian, Irish, German, Jewish, American. I'd like (her sons) to learn the Jewish traditions." Her ambivalence is reflected in whether to send her sons to GJC's religious school. "I don't want to raise children to be indoctrinated in who they ought to be. I was raised with no religion whatsoever. Yesterday I sent my older son to Hebrew school and I will ask him whether he wants to do it. In school, when they asked him what he celebrated, he'd draw a menorah and a Christmas tree and say we celebrate all these things."

One thing that irks Selma is when she is asked to explain her ethnicity and what her grandfather did in the war. "I would like more curiosity. Who were your family? My grandfather served but refused to join the SS. He said he wouldn't join those fools. He married a Jewish woman. He knew what he was doing. I

would welcome the chance to explain all the different experiences my family had in the war."

Selma feels the weight of her German background at times. "I was talking to someone who's 80 and who fled Germany as a child and he said, 'I will never be able to forgive.' He said that to me because I'm German." On the other hand, there are people who had to leave Germany but still identify with the German culture. They, too, seek her out.

As Rabbi Zeff expressed in his Kol Nidre sermon, being Jewish is fluid and yet maintains boundaries. Adam told Selma that she could join the synagogue if she wanted to (she did) and didn't need to convert if she didn't want to (she didn't, since she's already Jewish). "I took two Hebrew classes, I'm a language person. I've been singing in the choir for the fifth year, because I'm a music person and love the way the music brings out the prayers. I've been too busy the last five years to do much more." Her children attend Springside/ Chestnut Hill Academy and are studying Chinese and have an intense course of study. Selma tries to keep them in a Jewish loop. She took her sons to toddler Shabbat and recently to the family program during Sukkot. She is trying to figure out the different ways that people express their Jewishness, religiously and culturally. She approaches it as an anthropologist might, with curiosity and no judgments.

"Adam has a sensible approach to religiousness. I am so grateful for the welcome I have received," Selma said, gently. She pauses. "It's my personal journey."

**Germantown Jewish Centre would like to extend thanks and gratitude to the**

**Wolfe Family Foundation**

**for generously supporting and making our programming possible.**

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

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

Title	Instructor(s)	Timing	Dates	Cost Members/ Non Members
<b>Center City Lunch &amp; Learn</b> The Development of an Ethical Legal System: From Bible to Present Day	Rabbi Zeff	Wednesday 12:15-1:30 PM	Continuing Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2	\$150/\$200 (add. CLE fees may apply)
<b>Coffee &amp; Commentary</b> (ongoing Torah study)	Rabbi Zeff & Rabbi Lewis	1st Thursday at 11:00 AM @ Mt. Airy Read & Eat  3rd Wednesday at 2 PM @ Chestnut Hill Coffee Co.	Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7, May 5  Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18	FREE
<b>Learn Haftarah Trope!</b>	Eve Pinkenson	Tuesday 7:00-8:30 PM	Continuing Nov 3, 10, 17, 24; Dec 1, 8, 15	\$125/\$150
<b>(Yet) More Tough Social Issues in Israel</b> William Beck Memorial Course	Rabbi Zeff, Rabbi Lewis & Guests	Sunday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Nov 1, 8, 15, 22	\$60/\$80

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

Title	Instructor(s)	Timing	Dates	Cost Members/ Non Members
<b>Lomir Ale Zingen! Yiddish Culture through Song</b>	Hazzan Naomi Hirsch	Sunday 10:00-11:30 AM	Jan 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb 7, 21	\$75/\$100
<b>Talmud Class: Great Sugyot</b>	Rabbi Josh Guttoff	Tuesday 7:30-9:00 PM	Feb 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar 1, 8	\$75/\$100
<b>Jewish Theology: Spinoza to Kaplan and Beyond...</b>	Rabbi Zeff & Rabbi Lewis	Sunday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Mar 6, 13, 20, 27	\$50/\$65
<b>Six More Cities and Jewish History</b>	Rabbi Robert Tabak & special guest Lila Berman	Wednesday 7:30-9:00 AM	Mar 2, 9, 16, 30; Apr 6, 13	\$75/\$100
<b>Torah &amp; Technology</b>	David Zvi Kalman	Sunday 10:00-11:30 AM	Apr 3, 10, 17; May 8, 15, 22	\$75/\$100
<b>Bible &amp; Archaeology: Two Witnesses to Ancient Israel</b>	Elizabeth Bloch-Smith	Wednesday 7:00-9:00 PM	Apr 27; May 4, 11	\$50/\$65



# Hazak

By Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses

**H**azak actually began its program year in August, with Sam Feinberg's annual "Opera under the Stars," focused on famous baritones. Barry and Ruth Farber wrote an ode to Sam (see below), which spoke for the full audience. In September, Hazak collaborated with Men's Club, Women's Club and Social Action for a first-ever "Welcome Back" morning, focused on meeting, eating, and learning. Betsy Teutsch and Cheryl Bettigole discussed major global and local issues in public health, using Betsy's book and Cheryl's experience

as a public health physician to engage with the large group who eagerly participated. In early October, our group visited the Philadelphia Water Works to learn about the architectural and engineering marvel that revolutionized the sanitation of our drinking supply. (We also had a delicious lunch!) At the end of the month, HAZAK hosted an excellent and thought-provoking discussion by Rabbi Dayle Friedman of her new book, *Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older*. The HAZAK book group also held its monthly gathering to discuss *The Great Gatsby* and *And So We Read*

*On* (Maurine Corrigan's critique of the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel).

Helen, Connie, Kate, and Coleman have also been analyzing the responses to date of our HAZAK questionnaire. The table below summarizes the results.

Because films are rated so highly, we plan to have a film evening one or two weeknights this winter. We are also planning a group trip to see a play this December. Keep your eyes on future HAZAK communications for further details.

Answer Choices for Preferred Events	Responses	Answer Choices for Preferred Events	Responses
Concerts	(33) 63.46%	Home Construction/Repairs	(5) 9.62%
Trips to Museums	(27) 51.92%	Foreign Language Learning	(6) 11.54%
Religion/Prayer	(9) 17.31%	Films	(20) 55.77%
Israel	(26) 50%	Sports Participation/Exercise/Dance	(6) 11.54%
Other Current Events	(30) 57.69%	Professional College Sports Events	(0) 0%
Cooking	(10) 19.23%	Book Discussion	(16) 30.77%
Gardening	(9) 17.31%	(Please note that Hazak has an active book group.)	



Hazak's tour of Fairmount Waterworks

Hazak's monthly book group meets at 10:00 AM on Nov. 11 (*From the Four Winds* by Haim Sabato) and Dec. 9 (*Purity* by Jonathan Franzen).



**SAM, BRAVO!**

Upon projecting screen  
A CD, a DVD  
Opera displayed  
Our HAZAK meeting yearly

Hosted by Sam Feinberg  
Our operatic aficionado  
Heard the voices of baritones  
We're so glad we did go

But the performance to remember  
Is one of Sam's to show  
He wholeheartedly gives to us  
We're so glad we did go  
...Thank You  
...SAM, BRAVO!

Ruth and Barry Farber,  
8/18/2015



## Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence with Maharat Rori Picker Neiss

Friday, December 4-Saturday, December 5

Maharat Rori Picker Neiss is the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in St Louis. Prior to that she served as the Maharat of Bais Abraham Congregation, a Modern Orthodox synagogue in St Louis, MO known for its embracing attitude toward all Jews and its social responsibility to all people. She is one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a pioneering institution training Orthodox women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic (Jewish legal) authorities. Rori is the chair of the International Youth Committee of the Religions for Peace Global Youth Network and co-editor of "InterActive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook." Please join us for an engaging weekend of events!

**Friday, December 4:** Join us at 6 PM for Kol Ha-Lev (Voice of the Heart), led by Rabbi Zeff & Nina Peskin. There will be a Shabbat potluck, program & discussion following the service.

**"Dialogue and Confrontation":** Faith communities across the spectrum extol the important of interreligious dialogue to promote peace and cooperation in our world. Is a true encounter really possible? Together we will explore excerpts of the philosophical writings of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, a great 20th century Modern Orthodox leader.

**Saturday, December 5:** Maharat Rori Picker Neiss will give the d'var Torah in the Charry Service "Lighting the Darkness" There will be a Tish following the service.

**"Breaking Walls, Opening Doors":** Embarking upon a study of two Talmudic passages, we will use the text as a platform to discuss the revolutionary, yet not revolutionary, grassroots change within Orthodoxy to ordain women as clergy. No prior Talmudic study necessary.

## 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.*



### 2015-2016 schedule

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


VALLEY GREEN BANK

# 2015 HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE


*Nov 27th - Dec 31st*

**DONATE NEW OR GENTLY USED  
CHILDRENS BOOKS FOR PRESCHOOL -  
8TH GRADE READING LEVELS AT ANY  
OF THE LOCATIONS BELOW.**


PARTNERS AND DROP OFFS:




**Valley Green Bank**  
7226 Germantown Avenue



**Big Blue Marble Bookstore**  
551 Carpenter Lane




**Weavers Way Coop**  
559 Carpenter Lane



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GREEN  
BANK**

A DIVISION OF  
UNIVEST BANK AND TRUST CO.





## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

# GJC CELEBRATES! HANUKAH

**JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED NIGHT OF  
LATKES! LAUGHTER! AND LEARNING!**

- Latke Dinner (6:00 PM), Dreidel-off and Games (RSVPs a MUST!)
- Hanukiyah Candle Lighting & Singing with the GJC Choir
- Hot Cocoa & Sufganiyot (jelly donuts)
- and more! Look for details on our website, Facebook & flyers.

*ECP potluck & class events begin at 5:30 PM. ECP families are welcome to join in Candle Lighting & Dessert!*

**Dinner is \$7 per person.**

**Register & pay online by Friday, December 4th:**

**[www.germantownjewishcentre.org/latke-dinner](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/latke-dinner)**

or contact Kate Lawn at [program@germantownjewishcentre.org](mailto:program@germantownjewishcentre.org) or 215-844-1507 X19 and mail your check payable to Germantown Jewish Centre. Please note "latke dinner" in the memo section.



## Help Germantown Jewish Centre Light the Dancing Children Hanukiyah! 2015 Men's Club Fundraiser

**Please join Men's Club by sponsoring a candle in honor or memory of someone special in your life.** Each night at the lighting the names of those honored or remembered will be read. Lightings are at 7:00 PM, Dec. 6-13 except Fri. Dec. 11 at 4:00 PM. **To sponsor a candle, please complete the form below and send a check to GJC for \$36 per candle made payable to the GJC Men's Club.**

### 2015 Hanukiyah Fundraiser

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of (please specify for each): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) and address(es) of people to notify: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Night to Sponsor (Please circle): December 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Amount Enclosed (\$36 per honoree): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail form to GJC and make checks payable to Men's Club. Thank you so much!**



## Charry Service 2015 High Holiday Thanks!

### Honors Committee

Debbie Fishman  
Josh Goldblum  
Mindelle Goldstein  
Ruth Loew  
Tamar Magdovitz  
Eve Pinkenson

### Honors Ushers

Chip Becker  
Helen Feinberg  
Debbie Fishman  
Josh Goldblum  
Connie Katz  
Dena Lake  
Chris Levin  
Ruth Loew  
Tamar Magdovitz  
Mitch Marcus  
Barb Menin  
Beth Rosenbaum  
Stefanie Seldin  
Jessica Shapiro  
Berel Sternthal  
Denise Wolf

### Sermons & Speakers

Kenneth Lande  
Mathieu Shapiro

### Davening & Service Leading

Abe Gafni  
Nina Peskin

### Gabbaim

David Kraut  
Josh Goldblum  
Judah Labovitz  
Beth Rosenbaum  
Mathieu Shapiro  
Howard Treatman

### Haftarah

Nan Daniels  
Mati Zeff  
Beth Rosenbaum

### Readings

Shai Ben-Yaacov  
Eileen Carlin  
Shari Feldman  
Stuart Feldman  
Jill Gurvey

Rachel Marcus  
Jessica Shapiro  
Eden Singer  
Jessie Singer  
Mark Singer  
Lee Silverman  
Miriam Von Essen  
Matt Wray  
Chung Yi Young

### Leyning

David Barcan  
Noah Boyer  
Sonia Dishler  
Aryeh Friedman  
Jakob Friedman-Slifker  
Anna Goldberg  
Elisheva Hollo  
Sam Katz  
Serena Levingston  
Lauren Mermelstein  
Jim Meyer  
Eve Pinkenson  
Micah Ravital  
Chuck Schleifer  
Patty Segal  
Alex Shapiro  
Jake Shapiro  
Mathieu Shapiro  
Erica Solis  
Avi Zeff  
Mati Zeff

### Bregman Program

Michael Baylson  
Rick Bazelon  
Chip Becker  
Jane Greenspan

### Shofar

Raffi Barcan  
Phill Goldberg

### Choir

**Music Director:**  
Rabbi Adam Zeff  
**Conductor:**  
Martha Schleifer  
**Choir:**  
Beth Aron  
Debbie Aron  
Marty Aron  
Elayne Blender  
Eleanor Brownstein

Linda Cherkas  
Steve Corsover  
Nan Daniels  
Sonia Dishler  
Nini Engel  
Lynne Ellis  
Ari Feinberg  
Helen Feinberg  
Maurice Feldman  
Betty Ann Fellner  
Janet Filante  
Anna Goldberg  
Mitch Hirsch  
Ed Lake  
Beth Rosenbaum  
Laurance Rosenzweig  
Selma Schlee  
Charles Schleifer  
Berel Sternthal  
Judy Sussholtz  
Ken Weiss  
Max Woessner  
Patty Wright

### Greeters

Kathy Amrom  
Dan Bacine  
Marcy Bacine  
Mitchell Berk  
Dan Berman  
Lila Berman  
Ned Borowsky  
Sonia Dishler  
Noel Eisenstat  
Lynne Ellis  
Art Ellis  
Joyce Eveloff  
Sam Feinberg  
Rochelle Fellman  
Justin Fink  
Debbie Fishman  
John Frank  
Elaine Frank  
Phill Goldberg  
Haviva Goldman  
Marlene Hilkowitz  
Steve Hilkowitz  
Elana Hollo  
David Kanthor  
Connie Katz  
Naomi Klayman  
David Kraut  
Linda Kriger  
Brenda Laigaie

Ed Lake  
Dena Lake  
Greg Lattanzi  
Della Lazarus  
Chris Levin  
Joyce Lieberman  
Barbara Lissy  
Barb Menin  
Dick Menin  
Jim Meyer  
Sandy Meyer  
Nan Myers  
Jeff Needleman  
Linda Needleman  
Dan Piser  
Curt Pontz  
Pearl Raz  
Beth Rosenbaum  
Selma Schlee  
Judy Schwartz  
Jessica Shapiro  
Jessica Shamash  
Beth Stearman  
Joan Stern  
Steven Wade  
Deb White

### Kol D'mamah Volunteers

#### Service, Shofar & Sit

Jared Jackson  
Martha Lask  
Steven Masters  
Gina Michaels  
Elanah Naftali  
Rebekah Robinson  
Rivkah Walton  
Leah Weisman

#### Organizing

Jonathan Harmon  
Rivkah Walton

## Minyan Masorti 2015 High Holidays Thanks!

### Davening Leaders

Neil Actor  
Debbie Aron  
Louie Asher  
Peninah Berdugo  
Sarah Braun  
Lawrence Charap  
Linda Cherkas  
Yael Kalman  
Bill Kavesch  
Jake Kriger  
Ned Kripke  
Herb Levine  
Sylvia Lifschitz  
Norman Newberg  
Eve Pinkenson  
Joan Sacks  
Dan Werlin  
Bob Zimring

### Shofar

Chana Bonn  
Shai Gluskin  
Judd Levingston

### Haftarah Readers

Chana Bonn  
Ken Cohen  
Lyndall Miller  
Bob Pomerantz

### Torah Readers

Neil Actor  
Art Ellis  
Lynne Ellis  
Nini Engel  
Shai Gluskin  
Gabe Gluskin-Braun  
Judy Groner  
Josh Gutoff  
Barbara Jaffe  
Ari Miller  
Miri Pomerantz  
Sherry Pomerantz  
Chava Weissler  
Ivan Wolnek  
Patty Wright  
Eli Yaron  
Minna Ziskind

### Divrei Torah

Isabel Cranz  
Aaron Finestone  
Ellen Frankel  
Jerry Kutnick  
Judd Levingston

### Gabbaim

Neil Actor  
Linda Cherkas  
Ned Kripke  
Ari Miller  
Sarah Miller  
Rachel Pomerantz

### Karyanim

Kathy Amrom  
Liz Bloch-Smith  
Avi Decter  
Tamar Magdovitz  
Adina Newberg  
Hideko Secrest  
Beth Stearman  
Wendy Weingarten

### Torah Holders

Neil Actor  
Ellyn Charap  
Gena Epstein  
Reena Friedman  
Josh Gutoff  
David Hahn

### Greetings/Appeals

Joel Fish  
Ned Kripke  
Eve Pinkenson  
Matt Shapiro

### Organizing Committee

Neil Actor  
Chana Bonn  
Aaron Finestone  
Ned Kripke  
Eve Pinkenson  
Dan Werlin

## Dorshei Derekh High Holiday Thank Yous 2015/5776

### Davenners

Leah Weisman  
Dayle Friedman  
Abby Weinberg  
George Stern  
Marc Newman  
David Mosenkis  
Michele Greenfield  
Nathan Martin  
Andrea Jacobs  
Alex Avelin  
Rebekah Robinson  
Freddie Cooper

### Gabbayim

Ruth Loew  
Debbie Cohen  
David Teutsch

Adina Abramowitz  
Dayle Friedman  
Betsy Teutsch  
Danielle Stillman  
Reena Spicehandler

### Darshanim

David Teutsch  
Dayle Friedman  
Tamara Cohen  
Bob Tabak  
David Ferleger

### Kiddush Providers

Lynne Jacobs  
Barb Pearson  
Donald Joseph

### Torah & Haftarah Readers

Noah Boyer, Diana Epstein, Tamara Cohen,  
Michelle Friedman, Barb Pearson,  
David Mosenkis, Andrea Jacobs, Robert Dudnick,  
Genie Ravital, Helen Feinberg, Betsy Teutsch,  
Kate Cook, Tamar Kamionkowski,  
Debbie Cohen, Dayle Friedman, Dina Pinsky,  
Freddie Cooper, George Stern

### Additional Thanks

Jacob Slifker - shofar blower extraordinaire,  
David Mosenkis and Michelle Greenberg for being  
the all-around go-to guys & advisors,  
Michelle Friedman & Nathan Martin for  
co-coordinating. And of course to Kate Lawn,  
Eric Word and the whole GJC staff  
– todah rabah.

Germantown Jewish Centre offers a special thank you to Frank Krafchik  
of Centre Catering for generously sponsoring kiddush for all  
on Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1.

# P.O.B

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

**November 10th**

*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*  
by Muriel Barberry

**December 8th**

*The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit  
of One of the World's Most  
Coveted, Sacred, and  
Mysterious Books*  
by Matti Friedman

**January 12th**

*The Fundamentalist*  
by Mohsin Hamid

**February 9th**

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

**March 8th**

*Henna House*  
by Nomi Eve

**April 12th**

*Little Failure*  
by Gary Shteyngart

**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**

## Social Action Update

### Conversations on Racism Book Group

By Naomi Klayman

As an outgrowth of our meetings regarding racism, we decided to have a book discussion group to read and discuss black authors writing on the topic. These discussion groups are intended to be open to the entire community on a come-when-you-can basis. For our first session, twelve of us gathered on September 16th to discuss our reactions to Ta-Nehisi Coates's book, *Between the World and Me*. Some of the questions we grappled with include: Why does he talk about black bodies rather than black lives? What are our reactions to his phrase "people who believe themselves to be

white" (taken from James Baldwin)? We had a lively and respectful discussion and ended with a number of us disagreeing over whether we felt his view was inappropriately pessimistic or realistic and possibly hopeful. The discussion motivated us to want to read other authors and to think more about what kinds of changes might be possible and how we (all present were white Jews) might engage in creating change. When a new book is chosen, it will be announced to the GJC community, and all will be invited to attend. Stay tuned!

## Mitzvah Riders

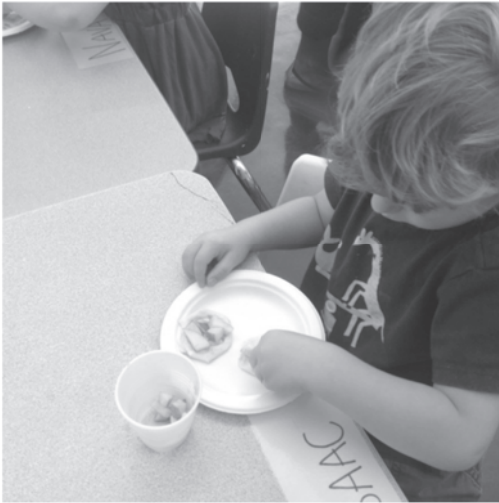
Tour de shuls 24 & 45 milers, GJC Mitzvah Riders Team





## GJC'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM & THE CHAGIM *by Jodi Gordon*

The Early Childhood Program at Germantown Jewish Centre has been bustling with activity. The children enjoyed the sights, sounds, and smells of all the fall *chagim* (holidays) by participating in various hands-on activities, including a wonderful Apple & Honey Festival outside filled with games, music, food, and of course, apples and honey! Each class prepared a special apple treat which was shared with everyone. Sukkot and Simhat Torah were filled with fun and laughter as the children made their very own edible sukkahs to eat in our very own ECP Sukkah! The GJC Rabbis, along with Miss Amy Jo and her music, made the children's Simhat Torah celebration special. We look forward to the winter!



*Making a special apple & honey treat.*



*The Gan Katan class learns about Tashlich.*



### LOTS FOR TOTS at GJC

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

Tot Shabbat	Friday, November 13, 2015 (6:00 PM)
Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Gathering (perfect for families!) Kol Zimrah Musical Service	Friday, November 20, 2015 (5:15 PM/6:00 PM)
Pre-Kol Zimrah Pizza Gathering (perfect for families!) Kol Zimrah Musical Service	Friday, December 18, 2015 (5:15 PM/6:00 PM)
JAM Havdallah (with Cookie Lab Philly)	Friday, January 9, 2016 (6:00 PM)

### Spotlight on Tot Shabbat (Friday, Nov. 13)

**(register & pay online at [www.germantownjewishcentre.org/tot-shabbat-nov](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/tot-shabbat-nov))**

November brings a Friday evening Tot Shabbat service, where puppets (along with their rabbis) teach the week's Torah portion. There are stories and songs and a basketful of tambourines.

This delightful half-hour service is followed by a delicious, tot-friendly dinner catered by our marvelous in-house caterer, Frank Krafchik & Centre Catering. \$5.00/person

Tot Storytime at the Big Blue Marble	Fridays at 10:30 AM: 11/13, 12/11, 1/8
Baby & Me at GJC (0-9mths)	Every Friday at 11:00 AM in the Maslow Auditorium
Musical Marching Minyan (0-preK)	Every third Saturday of the month, 11:00 AM
Ginat Shabbat (through age 7)	Saturdays, 11:00 AM (10AM on third Sat. of month)
Shabbat Childcare (ages 2-5)	Saturdays, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM)

# SHIRAH B'KEHILAH

*A series of music in  
community at GJC*

**Saturday, November 14 at 7 PM: Music Café**

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

**Thursday, December 24: Klezmas Eve w/ the Ken Ulansey Band & Steve Weintraub**

**Saturday, January 16 at 7 PM: Melaveh Malkah Concert**

Bring in the new week "Kol Zimrah style" with joyful Jewish music from around the world. The concert features our in-house band, G'vanim, with vocalists Nina Peskin, Rabbi Zeff & Rabbi Lewis and musicians Cheryl Bettigole, Mikael Elsila, Justin Fink, Elliott Seif & Hoagy Wing. \$18/children 12 & under free

**Saturday, February 20 at 7 PM: Music Café** (*details above*)

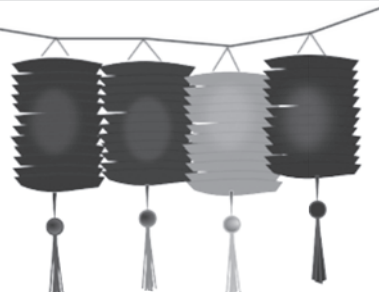
**March 2016: Concert/Artist to be announced**

**Saturday, April 9 at 8:15 PM: G'vanim Concert**

Join us for an evening of compelling rhythms, exotic melodies and timeless messages featuring Jewish music from Europe, Osrael and the Sephardic world with songs celebrating the richness and diversity of Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic and Ladino-speaking cultures. \$18/children 12 & under free

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

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



**KLEZMER  
MUSIC  
DANCING  
CHINESE  
DINNER**


Join GJC & the  
Ken Ulansey Band for

## KLEZMAS EVE!

on December 24th

**Chinese Dinner & Concert:**  
\$36.00, children (8 & under) \$26.00  
*advanced registration & payment  
necessary by Friday, December 18*

**Concert (& Dancing!) Only:**  
Advanced ticket price: \$16.00  
Tickets sold at door: \$20.00  
*advanced tickets can be purchased until  
Tuesday, December 22*



**Chinese Dinner  
at 6:00 PM  
Concert & Dancing  
at 7:00 PM**

**Ticket Purchases can be made online: [www.germantownjewishcentre.org/klezmas-eve](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/klezmas-eve)  
or by check to: Germantown Jewish Centre, Attn: Kate Lawn**



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*The fastest way for your contribution to be processed is for you to fill out a Contribution Form (available in the office or on our website) and return it to the office along with a check. Or just send in a check with a note.*

## Contributions For the period of September, 2015 through October, 2015

### Todah Rabbah!

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

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#### OCCASION

in memory of Evelyn Sherman, mother  
in memory of Sybil Sigman, mother  
in honor of Rabbi Doris Dyen, friend  
in memory of Lilly Routtenberg, grandmother  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Marilyn Wainer  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Don Dorfman, father  
in memory of Hilda Bredt Dorfman, mother  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
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in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Claire & Abraham Rosenman, parents  
in memory of Mary Lakernick, mother  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Alan Phillips, husband  
in memory of Emmy Lenore Podietz, wife  
in honor of Elana Shaw, for her wonderful years of service  
in honor of Linda Cherkas & Chaim Dworkin, on the birth  
of their grandson, Noah Joseph Dworkin  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Philip Weber, brother  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in honor of Scott & Leona Goldshaw, on the Bat Mitzvah  
of their daughter Maya  
in memory of Dr. Albert Nemez, friend  
in memory of Evelyn Applebaum, aunt  
in memory of Sidney J. Stein, a long-time member of GJC  
in memory of Martin Elfant, father  
in honor of Nisa Konstantin-Raz, on her special chai birthday.  
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*Please submit all articles via email to  
[program@germantownjewishcentre.org](mailto:program@germantownjewishcentre.org).  
Deadline for the January issue is December 1st.*



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### Save the Date November

**Refuat HaNefesh  
Healing Service**  
November 11

**Tot Shabbat**  
November 13

**Shirah b'Kehilah Series:  
Music Cafe**  
November 14

**Women's Club Flower Arranging**  
November 15

**Little Shop Flea Market**  
November 15

### Save the Date December

**Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat  
with Maharat Rori Picker Neiss**  
December 4-5

**Israel Speed Sharing**  
December 6

**GJC Celebrates! Hanukah**  
December 9

**Women's Club Program w/ Eli Lake**  
December 13

**Klezmas Eve**  
December 24