



The Centre Call

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

www.GermantownJewishCentre.org

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SEPTEMBER 2016



By Rabbi Adam Zeff

The world and our vision

As a rabbinical student, one of my teachers asked the class, “Which is your favorite holiday?” As you might imagine, I had a very hard time answering. How could I choose Hanukah over Sukkot? Or Purim over Pesach?? But when it comes right down to it, I think my favorite holidays of the year are Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur, the High Holidays, a time that always fill me with excitement. Why? The High Holidays invite us to take stock of where we are in our lives and where the world is and to compare both ourselves and the world to our highest vision for them, the vision enshrined in Torah. When we make that comparison, we inevitably find that there is a considerable gap between our aspirations and the reality we see around us. We address that gap not by adjusting our vision but by gathering inspiration to change ourselves and the world. That process is what is known as Tikkun ha-Olam – literally, “repairing the world,” causing the world and our lives to conform more closely to our vision.

This is a time of immense challenges as well as immense possibilities for change and growth. How can we imagine a new future for ourselves and for the world we call home? What steps can we take to lead toward that vision? And how will we engage with the GJC community to learn together,

pray together, support each other, and work together to make this New Year different for ourselves and those around us?

We will have many wonderful chances in the upcoming year to examine these questions both personally and as a community. First, GJC’s Social Action Committee is remaking itself as the Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team in order to better bring the richness of GJC’s many active groups working on many different issues to the community and to encourage everyone to find a way to get involved (see page 17). We have an exciting schedule of adult education classes, as well as activities for kids and families – both coordinated by the marvelous Rabbi Alanna Sklover – that will bring us face to face with these issues in new ways (see page 22). And we have an exciting schedule of special events that will bring these issues to the fore. Just a few examples: The Rosh ha-Shanah JAM (Jewish Arts and Music) program for young families will feature a magical, musical puppet play about how Adam and Eve learn about humanity’s interdependence with the animal and plant life on the brand new Earth; we are grateful to the Harold and Renee Berger Family Engagement Endowment Fund for sponsoring this program. The Bregman Memorial program on Yom Kippur will bring us the gift of Curt Pontz and Rabbi David Teutsch teaching us how we can take an ethical approach to buying and selling as business people and consumers. And our Rabbi Charry Memorial Weekend in November will feature Daniel Matt, one of the world’s foremost authorities on Jewish mysticism, who will help us understand the roots of Tikkun

Olam in medieval Jewish texts and its meaning for us today. I encourage you to take advantage of all of the opportunities we have to learn from and with each other this year.

The High Holidays are a valuable time to come together with a large cross-section of our community to pray and sing and think and talk about how we want to live our lives in the upcoming year. Sign up for the Erev Rosh ha-Shanah dinner at 6:30, and come to the special Kol T’ru’ah singing service at 7:30. Bring your children to one of the range of services for young people on Rosh ha-Shanah and on Yom Kippur. Check out the Kol D’mamah contemplative service or Torah-centered Yoga. Study texts with fantastic new Rabbinic Intern Becca Richman on Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur afternoons. Participate in the musical Ne’ilah service in the Charry Sanctuary to close Yom Kippur, featuring the combined voices of Nina Peskin, Becca, and myself. Or enjoy teen activity groups, childcare for the youngest GJC members, services in the Charry Sanctuary, Minyan Masorti, and Dorshei Derekh, and more! Please come and explore it all, and bring along those who are interested in GJC to see all that we offer!

As we enter the New Year, I encourage you to try something new, to open yourself up to ideas and activities that you may not have encountered before, to stretch and grow in new ways that you may not have previously imagined. The year stretches out before us like a blank canvas, waiting for us to fill it with learning, growing, and engaging

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**IF YOU THINK
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
ISN'T THE RIGHT FIT,
YOU DON'T KNOW JACK.**



We're an inclusive Jewish day school with a broader worldview. So we welcome students from all facets of observance. We offer an amazing middle school and incredible high school...where everyone fits. Our kids are baseball players, history buffs, engineers, mathletes, rising stars. And we encourage all of them to choose their own path. There's a place for your family here. Come love where you learn.

VISIT US AT AN OPEN HOUSE OR SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR.

Monday, October 10, 2016 • Friday, November 11, 2016
Tuesday, January 10, 2017 • Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Time: 9:30am - Noon



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610-922-2350 | admissions@jbha.org | jbha.org



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President's Message

By Chip Becker, GJC President



Greetings! As I write this column, it is the height of summer and hard to be-

lieve that the days are shortening, and the temperatures cooling, and soon enough it will be autumn. No doubt my sense of the seasons is shaped by my school-age children, but I imagine many of you also experience August as a time of quiet anticipation. It's a time when people often slow down, and gather strength, before September brings that great burst of activity as we recommit ourselves to our projects and aspirations.

Germantown Jewish Centre is undergoing its own version of renewal. The office seems quiet but just under the calm surface a hundred events are being brewed for fall and beyond. Soon enough the place will explode with High Holiday fervor. At the same time, a fabulous group of GJC members is working on rebuilding the synagogue's relationship to one of its core spiritual and religious commitments – tikkun olam, the effort to repair and perfect the world through human attitude and action.

Tikkun olam has been central to GJC's identity for decades, harkening back to when Rabbi Elias Charry led door-to-door campaigns to promote Mount Airy's racial integration and to fight blockbusting practices in the 1950's. Since then, GJC has been a leader in social action on a huge and expanding range of issues.

Today, GJC members energetically engage tikkun olam through a variety of activities through the Social Action Committee. To name just a few, these include hosting families in need through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, supporting refugee and immi-

grant families with HIAS PA, and working to improve education and eliminate poverty through the synagogue's active participation in the POWER Interfaith community. Other parts of the synagogue community are engaged as well. The Religious School, Early Childhood Program, and teen programs include tikkun olam in the curricula. The Men's and Women's Clubs, Hazak, and GJC's prayer groups also sponsor programs geared toward supporting our efforts to make the world a better place.

Given the vibrancy of GJC's tikkun olam efforts, our Social Action Committee is now reorganizing to present a more comprehensive approach for organizing and managing this energy. The Committee is transitioning to become the "Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team," which will guide, coordinate, and support the many activities occurring within the synagogue community. The Team is presenting Tikkun Olam@GJC as the new face of this work. The synagogue is also presenting a new logo around this work and creating a link on our website to enable members to indicate how they'd like to be involved, and be matched up with opportunities to participate. Stay tuned for these developments!

Let me thank Andi Moselle and Davis Mosenkis, the current chairs of the Coordinating Team, for their commitment to making this transition a reality. If you have any questions or want to learn more about how you can participate, please give them a call. So many others have been integral to GJC's social action work, and it would be absurd to try to mention them all. But let me also thank Maxine Margolies as the long-time chair of the Social Action Committee for her service and support of this effort. Maxine will remain part of the Team and is co-chair, with Dayle Friedman, of GJC's work supporting refugee and immigrant families. Let me also thank Howard Bilofsky, who

is spearheading the synagogue's work with POWER on nonpartisan voter registration and education. As he and I have discussed, this is a vital issue for the health of our civil society. Rabbi Charry would be proud that GJC remains so energetic today.

Let me note that the concept of tikkun olam is not limited to external outreach in the form of social justice work. It also encompasses the idea that humans are part of the unfolding of God's creation and will. To honor that concept, it may be said that the external outreach of tikkun olam must be paired with an internal spiritual practice. As one reinforces the other, we can heal both the brokenness that is visible and that which lies inside. In this conception, tikkun olam is not geared only to making the world better, but to make us better as well. And as we grow in compassion and justice, so we promote these traits in the world around. This is a worthy goal, and we should be proud that GJC has so thoroughly committed itself to the work.

As a concluding note, GJC was officially established on September 28, 1936. This synagogue has had a pretty good run over the last eight decades years. We remain strong, and can forward to the decades to come. Please join me in wishing GJC a happy 80th birthday!

On behalf of Marta, Isaac, Jacob and Naomi, I wish everybody a happy and sweet new year. *L'shanah Tovah!*

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



Shabbat Chai-Lites

September 8 & 9

- Kol ha-Lev
- Charry Service: Camp Shabbat
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

September 16 & 17

- Tot Shabbat
- Charry Service: *Mazal tov to Jessie Singer, daughter of Marc Singer & Leah Lande, on her Bat Mitzvah*
- Kol D'mamah
- BBMM Shabbat
- Musical Marching Minyan

September 23 & 24

- Kol Zimrah
- S'lichot Program
- Late Night S'lichot Study & Service

October 1

- BBMM Shabbat

October 8

- Parshat ha-Shavua b'Ivrit

October 15

- Kol D'mamah
- BBMM Shabbat
- Musical Marching Minyan

October 21 & 22

- Erev Shabbat Hol haMoed Sukkot Service
- Kol D'mamah
- Sukkah Walk

October 28 & 29

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: *Mazal tov to Isaac Steinberg, son of Harris & Jane Steinberg, and Hilary Chiptez on their aufruf*

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

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

Kol D'mamah at 10 AM

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.



(June – July 2016)

IN CELEBRATION...

Chana Bonn, on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter Kelilah Tiferet Bonn-Yavneh, in Jerusalem

David & Marcy Fish, on the birth of their newest grandchild, Ramona Miri Fish Kuhn, on Sunday, June 26

Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary

Herman & Marcine Mattleman, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Maya Rose Kaplan, born to their son, Alex, and his wife, Laura

Ari & Corey Pontz, on the birth of their daughter, Aviva Jane Pontz, born on July 16th

Curt & Leslie Pontz, on the birth of their granddaughter, Aviva Jane Pontz, born on July 16th

IN MEMORIAM

Therese Posnansky, mother of Ann Itzkowitz

Join us in welcoming
new member

Allison Pokras

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays (Sept-June) & Wednesdays (July-Aug)
September – October 2016 at 10:00 AM
(*excluding Sept. 4 & Oct. 2*)

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

For more information, contact Tamar Magdovitz at tamarmagdovitz@gmail.com.



Rabbi's Message

Continued from page 1

with Jewish tradition and with each other, enhancing the meaning of our lives together in new and exciting ways.

My wife, Cheryl and our sons, Zeke, Avi, & Mati, join me in wishing you a new year full of the blessings of health, happiness, joy, and peace. *L'shanah tovah!*

Religious School

Meet Joshie – A new kid around shul!

By Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Rabbi Educator

Over the course of the past year, I have been thinking a lot about the kind of culture and community we build in our Religious School at Germantown Jewish Centre.

Who do we want to be? Who do we hope our children will become? What characteristics, relationships, and skills do we hope students glean from this place and carry with them into their adult Jewish lives? In reflecting on these questions and their implications on building school culture, I began to toy with the idea of creating a GJC Religious School mascot— a fitting metaphor for all we hope to be, and wish to instill in our students.

But, what would such a mascot be?

A lion for strength? A turtle for perseverance? A Torah scroll or kippah for connection tradition? A puzzle piece for creativity? A rainbow for the covenant? A beaver for building a strong foundation of learning? A camel or sabra cactus for our relationship Israel? A Hebrew letter for Jewish literacy? As I thought about each of these possible mascots (and others – there

were lots!), something always fell short. And then it hit me – what about a *kid*!?

And so, I want to introduce you all to someone very special – GJC's newest student, and symbol of our program: Joshie! Joshie will be celebrating holidays with us, visiting classrooms, and hanging out with his fellow students throughout the year. But, most of all, Joshie will symbolize for all of us what it means to be a kid at GJC! We are a friendly, curious, and inclusive community where everyone can be themselves. We are a school for a "community of communities" that strives to be a "family of families," each coming from a different background and bringing unique stories that blend together to enrich our whole. Our students are proud of their learning both in the classroom and as they apply what they have learned in the context of their own lived Judaism.

I hope you will all join me in welcoming our newest student (and symbol for our school) Joshie, and look forward to introducing him in person at our Religious School opening assembly on Sunday, September 11th.

Shalom,

My name is Joshie, and I am new here at the GJC Religious School. I am a little bit nervous about being a new kid at a new school, but Rabbi Alanna says that everyone at GJC is really nice. I like to act and sing (you can tell because my arms are open wide, that I'm ready to let it all out on stage!), and enjoy playing sports, especially hockey.

You can tell from the big star on my shirt that I love being Jewish, and from the smile on my face that I am excited to make new friends. Here's a picture of me from my tour of GJC, and another one from this past Hanukkah (with the really yummy sufganiyot that I made with my parents). Do you have any cool pictures of you and your family doing Jewish things? See you when the school year starts!

From,
Joshie ☺



LULAV & ETROG SETS Pre-order through the Little Shop

Erev Sukkot is Sunday, October 16th.

Reserve your own Lulav and Etrog set for SUKKOT. Each set is \$40 and **MUST** be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Make checks out to the Little Shop. You can pay cash or credit in the shop.

**Orders will be accepted until
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

Your order will be available for pick up at GJC on:

Friday, October 14th
from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 16th
from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Order forms are available online at
www.germantownjewishcentre.org
or throughout the building.



2016/5777 Kol Nidrei Food Drive in partnership with Philabundance

*This is my chosen fast — share your bread with the hungry.
from Yom Kippur Haftarah (Isaiah 58:6-7)*

*When you come to GJC for Kol Nidrei on
Tuesday, October 11, from 4:30-5:15 pm,*

PLEASE BRING...

- ✓ TUNA FISH
- ✓ CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY (Plastic Containers Only)
- ✓ MAC & CHEESE
- ✓ CANNED GREEN BEANS, CORN, PASTAS & FRUIT
- ✓ HOT & COLD BREAKFAST CEREAL

Please note...

- Please bring **SMALL OR INDIVIDUAL SIZED** items that have been recently purchased
- No old, dented, corroded, or soiled cans
- No other kinds of food or supplies

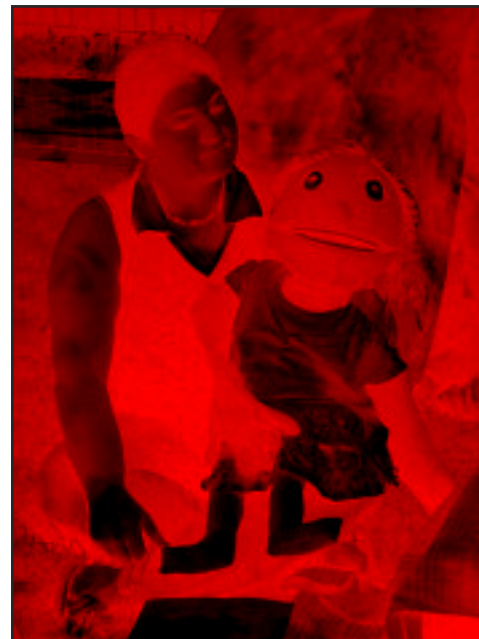
*Philabundance will also accept donations by
check made out to "Philabundance".*

Early Childhood Program (ECP)

Camp Keshet 2016

By Jodi Gordon, ECP Director

This summer we enjoyed a “rain-bow” of fun in Camp Keshet! The beautiful Mitzvah Garden created by Camp Keshet Supervisor Anna Goldberg (and parent volunteers) was a focal point of the summer. The children enjoyed havdallah, puppet shows and Shabbat each week in the Mitzvah Garden and it was truly magical. The children also enjoyed water play and painting outside with various materials and techniques. It was a lovely summer and we are looking forward to a fabulous fall and the beginning of a new school year in the ECP.



JEWISH ARTS & MOVEMENT
JAM
 at Germantown Jewish Centre

OCTOBER 2nd at 6 PM
ROSH HA-SHANAH JAM

with an original narration by
 Rabbi Adam Zeff and puppetry by
 guest artist Anna Goldberg, Rabbi
 Alanna Sklover & Becca Richman
 music by Raji Malik



**How do we teach our children to
 live in harmony with the world?**
 By starting from the very beginning...
 with Adam and Eve and a big fuzzy bee.

Long before there were words like “ecology” and “environment”, the ancient rabbis wondered about the first beings and how they learned to live in harmony with the diverse range of creatures that inhabit the earth. During Rosh ha-Shanah, we celebrate the birthday of the world, but from past to present, we still struggle to understand how we relate to all the different parts of creation.

On erev Rosh ha-Shanah, GJC invites you to enter a lush dreamscape where life-size puppets tell the story of how the tradition of eating apples and honey on this holiday first began. How did Adam and Eve discover that honey was good? And how did they meet that fuzzy bee? Come to the Garden of Eden and find out!

The program is followed by a delicious, child-friendly holiday meal.
 \$9/adult, \$5/child (age 2+) Register at www.germantownjewishcentre.org

Call 215.844.1507 to REGISTER & MORE INFO

program@germantownjewishcentre.org

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HIGH HOLIDAY & SUKKOT SERVICES 2016-5777

Day/Date	Service	Charry Service	Minyan Masorti	Dorshei Derekh	Kol D'mamah, Yoga /Qui Gong	Children's Services	Child-care
Sat, Sept 24	S'lichot	8:00 PM Musical service followed by oneg [CS] 10:30 PM Late Night S'lichot Study [MC] 11:00 PM Late Night S'lichot Service [MC]					
Sun, Oct 2	Erev Rosh ha-Shanah	6:30 PM Community Dinner (adv. registration nec.) [MAR] 7:30 PM Kol T'ru'ah: <i>a musical Kol Zimrah-style service without instruments, led by Rabbi Zeff, Nina Peskin & Becca Richman</i> [CS]				6:00 PM Rosh ha-Shanah JAM [MAR]	
Mon, Oct 3	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [CAN]	9:30 AM [MAS]	9:00 AM Qui Gong [LIB] 9:45-11:15 AM Kol D'mamah [LIB]	11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
	Tashlich	Meet at Germantown Jewish Centre at 4:00 PM					
	Minha/Ma'ariv	6:00 PM [MC]					
Tues, Oct 4	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [CAN]			11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Sat, Oct 8	Shabbat Shuvah	10:00 AM [CS]	10:00 AM [CAN]	10:00 AM [MAS]		Regular Children's Shabbat Offerings	
Tues, Oct 11	Kol Nidrei	5:30 PM [CS]	5:15 PM [CAN]	6:00 PM [MAS]		6:00 PM Family, Kids' & Teen Services	5:00 PM-8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 12	Yom Kippur	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [CAN]	9:30 AM [MAS]	9:30-12:30 PM Kol D'mamah [LIB]	11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:30 PM
	Yizkor	apx 11:30 AM	apx 11:30 AM	apx 12:00 PM			
	Oscar Bregman Program	2:45 PM [CS] "Unethical Business Practices: What Can Be Done?" with Curt Pontz & Rabbi David Teutsch					
	Services Resume	4:00 PM [CS]	3:45 PM [CAN]	5:00 PM [MAS]	4:00 PM Yoga [LIB]		3:45 PM-7:15 PM
	N'ilah	5:30 PM [CS]	5:30 PM [CAN]	6:00 PM [MAS]			
	Blow Shofar	7:09 PM [CS]	7:09 PM [CAN]	7:09 PM [MAS]			
	Break-Fast	7:15 PM [SKL] Community Break-Fast (advanced registration necessary)					
Sun, Oct 16	Erev Sukkot	9:00 AM Morning Minyan [MC]		10:30 AM GJC Celebrates! Sukkot Family Program [SKL] 11:00 AM GJC Celebrates! Sukkot [CS]			
Mon, Oct 17	Sukkot Day I	10:00 AM [CAN]		10:00 AM [MAS]			
Tues, Oct 18	Sukkot Day II	10:00 AM [CAN]			9:00 AM [LIB]		
Sat, Oct 22	Shabbat Sukkot Day VI	10:00 AM [CS]	10:00 AM [CAN]	10:00 AM [MAS]	11:00 AM [LIB]	Regular Children's Shabbat Offerings & Sukkah Walk	
Sun, Oct 23	Hoshana Rabah Sukkot Day VII	8:00 AM Hoshana Rabah Service [CS]		7:00 PM Dorshei Derekh Erev Simhat Torah Service [offsite]		Religious School	
Mon, Oct 24	Sh'mini Atzeret/Yizkor	10:00 AM [CS]	10:00 AM [CAN]	10:00 AM [MAS]			
	Erev Simhat Torah		7:30 PM [CAN]		6:30 PM GJC Celebrates! Simhat Torah [CS]		
Tues, Oct 25	Simhat Torah	10:00 AM [MAR]			9:00 AM [LIB]		

CS: Charry Sanctuary CAN: Temin Canteen Room LIB: Quitman Library MAR: Marcus Auditorium MAS: Maslow Auditorium

Pre-Registration and payment are required for the Rosh ha-Shanah Community Dinner, Yom Kippur Break-Fast, Childcare, Children's Programming and Children's Lunches. Forms are available at GJC and online (www.germantownjewishcentre.org/pray/High-Holidays)



Registration for High Holiday Childcare (6 mth-1st gr), Children's Programming (2nd-6th gr) & Lunches

Please see separate flyers for full details.

REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY by SEPTEMBER 28th



Parent's Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please circle all that apply: Charry Service Minyan Masorti Dorshei Derekh

* place an "x" where you wish to register	Child	Child	Child	Child	RATES * Please total your amounts
Name					
Age & grade as of Sept. 2016					
Childcare: Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1 For ages 6 months to 1st grade					\$45/ 1 child
Childcare: Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 For ages 6 months to 1st grade					\$65/ 2 or more children
Childcare: Yom Kippur (9am-2:30pm) For ages 6 months to 1st grade					
Childcare: Yom Kippur (3:45-7:15pm) For ages 6 months to 1st grade					My total for childcare \$_____
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1 Morning programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1 Afternoon programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 Morning programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 Afternoon programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
Kol Nidrei Programming for 2-6 graders					\$10/child \$_____
Yom Kippur Morning programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
Yom Kippur Afternoon programming for 2-6 graders					\$5/child \$_____
N'ilah Programming for 2-6 graders					\$10/child \$_____
Lunches (\$15 or \$5 per day) Please circle the day(s) you are signing up, and calculate the total in the end column	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	Total for lunches \$_____
I have enclosed a check for the following amount:					\$_____
Please note that if your child is 6 & under, you must pick them up from childcare & accompany them to lunch.					

Kate Lawn, Program Director
program@germantownjewishcentre.org

Germantown Jewish Centre

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



LUNCH: Children's lunch follows children's services.

Rosh ha-Shanah Day I (Oct. 3) • Rosh ha-Shanah Day II (Oct. 4) • Yom Kippur (Oct. 12)

Cost is \$15.00 (\$5/day) per child

If your child is age 6 or under, please pick them up from childcare and accompany them to lunch, then return them back to childcare (or deliver the lunch to their room). Thank you!

Advanced registration and payment are necessary by September 28th.

High Holiday Childcare for ages 6 mths. - 1st gr.

Childcare program includes:

Light Snacks & festival foods

Stories and supervised play-time

Rates:

\$45 for one child

\$65/family with 2 or more children

PLEASE SEND A DAIRY OR PAREVE LUNCH or REGISTER FOR LUNCH

2016/5777 Schedule		
Rosh ha-Shanah I	Monday, October 3	9:00am – 2:00pm
Rosh ha-Shanah II	Tuesday, October 4	9:00am – 2:00pm
Kol Nidrei	Tuesday, October 11	5:00pm - 8:30pm
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, October 12	9:00am – 2:30pm
Yom Kippur Minha/N'ilah	Wednesday, October 12	3:45pm – 7:15pm

Germantown Jewish Centre would like to thank **The Betsy and Hershel Richman High Holiday Childcare Endowment Fund** for generously supporting our High Holiday childcare.

High Holiday Programming (Kids' Camp!) for 2nd-6th Graders

MORNING PROGRAMMING (\$5 per child per day)

Join us for supervised morning games and activities by our amazing and fun teen-*madreirim* (counselors) from 9:30 AM-11:00 AM (at 11:00 AM children will be escorted to age-appropriate services)

**Rosh ha-Shanah Day I (Oct. 3) • Rosh ha-Shanah Day II (Oct. 4)
Yom Kippur (Oct. 12)**

KOL NIDREI - October 11 (\$10 per child)

Join us for a special Kol Nidrei service geared towards 2nd-6th graders followed by supervised play through the conclusion of the adult services (6-8:30pm).

There is no charge for attending the service only (6:00-7:00 PM).

AFTERNOON PROGRAMMING (\$5 per child per day)

Join us for interactive and experiential learning that connects our "campers" to the themes of the holidays and invites them to go deeper. (1:00 PM to the conclusion of adult services)

**Rosh ha-Shanah Day I (Oct. 3) • Rosh ha-Shanah Day II (Oct. 4)
Yom Kippur (Oct. 12)**

**YOM KIPPUR NE'ILAH - October 12
(\$10 per child)**

Usher out Yom Kippur with an afternoon of story-telling, low-key activities and other thematic programming from 4:00-7:00 PM

All questions and registration forms should be directed to Kate Lawn, Program Director at 215-844-1507 ext. 19 or program@germantownjewishcentre.org.

Registration is necessary for all programs , childcare and lunch by SEPTEMBER 28th.

High Holidays 2016/5777 Special Programs for Adults

In addition to our Charry, Dorshei Derekh & Minyan Masorti services, we invite you to participate and be renewed by the following programs:

Yoga & Qui-gong led with Leah Weisman

Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1, 9-9:45 AM
Yom Kippur, 4-5 PM

Kol D'mamah Contemplative Service

Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1, 9:45-11:15 AM
Yom Kippur, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Israel Garden is open throughout the day

Open Meditation Space

Kol Nidrei, 5-8 PM

Text Studies

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, 12-1 PM (w/ Becca Richman)

Rosh Hashanah Day 2, 10-11 AM (w/ Herb Levine)

Yom Kippur, 12-1 PM (w/ Becca Richman)

Yom Kippur Oscar Bregman Memorial Program:

"Unethical Business Practices: What Can Be Done?"

Wednesday, October 12 at 2:45 PM

with Curt Pontz & Rabbi David Teutsch



Join Rabbi Zeff and his family for a delicious vegetarian meal provided by Centre Catering to break your fast immediately after Yom Kippur Services on

Wednesday, October 12 at 7:15 PM
at Germantown Jewish Centre

\$16.00/person
Children 7 and under are free
(sponsorships available upon request)

RSVP is necessary by Wednesday, October 5

[www.germantownjewishcentre.org/
secure-break-fast-5777](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-break-fast-5777)
program@germantownjewishcentre.org,
215-844-1507 ext 19, or mail in/drop off
a hard copy form. Thank you!

Sponsorship: *Please consider sponsoring another person's break-fast meal if you can by making an anonymous donation of \$16.00. If you plan to attend the break-fast with a sponsorship, please contact the GJC office.*

Germantown Jewish Centre High Holiday Guest Ticket Request Form **Please return by Friday, September 23, 2016.**

During Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and year-round, our synagogue is full of life, song, study, prayer, community, and opportunities for connection. Germantown Jewish Centre welcomes family and friends of our members to attend High Holiday services, and to enjoy the programming throughout the building. In order to sustain our abundance of activity and to ensure that we can accommodate all who want to celebrate the holidays with us, we ask that our members request guest tickets for those who will be joining you. We welcome your children of all ages; no tickets are necessary for children through their college years. We suggest a donation of \$36 for full-time students beyond college-age. For all other guests, there is a suggested donation of \$200.00 per ticket. GJC participates in a reciprocal ticket program. If your guests are members in good standing at another synagogue, they are eligible for free tickets at GJC. To receive reciprocal tickets, please provide a letter from your guests' synagogue to the GJC office, confirming their membership status. We look forward to welcoming your family and friends to join us in community this High Holiday season!

Member's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

☐ I will pick up these tickets from the GJC office by 9/29/16. ☐ Please mail these tickets to the above address.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to cover the cost of guest tickets for:

Guest Names & Relationships:

Address:

Guest Names & Relationships:

Address:

Please send me reduced price tickets for my children who are full-time students beyond college-age:

Names:



S' LICHOT

Preparing for the New Year
at Germantown Jewish Centre

Saturday evening, September 24 at 8 pm

Singing Before the Gates: Devotional Music & Prayer

with Rabbi Zeff, Nina Peskin, Cheryl Bettigole, Dan Berman
Mikael Elsila, Justin Fink, Elliott Seif & Hoagy Wing

Musical Service at 8:00 pm • Refreshments at 10 pm • Late Night Service at 11 pm

The High Holidays offer us the chance to take stock of our lives, to let go of old habits of thought and action, and to commit ourselves to moving in new directions in the coming year. To make this possible, we need to prepare our hearts for the spiritual work of *teshuvah* (literally, "return"). The tradition of chanting S'lichot - psalms, poems, and prayers for forgiveness - invites us to return to ourselves and to awaken our spirits before the High Holidays begin. Join us for an evening of devotional music, spiritual kavanot (intentions), deep prayer, and inspiring melodies for S'lichot. Together, we will help each other open our mouths, our ears, our minds, and our souls to all of the possibilities that the new year offers.



Germantown Jewish Centre Erev Rosh ha-Shanah Community Dinner

Sunday, Oct. 2 at 6:30 PM

Please join us at Germantown Jewish Centre for a delicious holiday meal.

\$9.00/adult, \$5.00/child (age 2+) *sponsorships available upon request*

Advance registration & payment are necessary by Tuesday, September 27th:

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/secure-rosh-hashanah-dinner-2016

or mail in/drop off a registration form (found online or throughout the building).

Sponsorship: Please consider sponsoring another person's meal if you can by making an anonymous donation. If you plan to attend the break-fast and would like to request sponsorship, please indicate this on a registration form or contact the GJC office. Thank you!

Following dinner, all are welcome to Kol T'ru'ah, an engaging musical Kol Zimrah-style service (without instruments) to welcome the new year. The service begins at 7:30 PM, and will be led by Rabbi Zeff, Nina Peskin, and Becca Richman.

At 6:00 PM, our Rosh ha-Shanah Tot JAM (Jewish Arts & Movement) is perfect for families with young children. Please see separate flyer for details!

Hazak News

By Helen Feinberg & Coleman Poses

It's been a hot summer, what with political conventions and impassioned speeches, as well as soaring temperatures and not much rain to cool things off. But Hazak has stayed cool within the rooms of GJC, enjoying films, books and opera.

On July 20, Hazak showed "Frozen River," the first in a series of films planned for the year. Set in upstate New York on the Canadian border within Indian territory, the story revolves around a working class mother of two boys - recently abandoned by her gambler husband - and a native American woman who is desperate to regain custody of her young son. Since neither woman has enough money to meet her needs, they form an unlikely (and illegal) business relationship. The film addresses themes of poverty, single parenting in harsh conditions, racism, and illegal immigration, with tenderness and a gritty realism. Coleman facilitated a lively discussion encompassing all these issues - a stimulating evening.

Then on August 24, Maestro Sam Feinberg entertained and instructed us, as he does every year, about opera. This year his theme was important tenors. He played selections and film clips. We are so grateful to Sam for his continued willingness to prepare and present a stimulating evening of opera!

Our book group met on July 13 and August 10 to discuss Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible* - a book that needed two full discussions to cover the many ideas that it had generated. Stay tuned to the "The GJC Weekly" email blasts for our upcoming selections.

PLEASE RESERVE THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, for a major panel discussion sponsored by Hazak. Entitled "Who Will Change My Lightbulb? And Other Important Family and Community Conversations," we'll have a panel of experts talking about financial, psychological and medical issues that need to be on the table between the older and younger generations in families and the community.

Kol D'mamah on Tuesday mornings

Led by Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein and Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

We will be introducing a new offering this year at GJC, an opportunity for contemplative Jewish practice each Tuesday morning, from 9AM-9:40AM, starting September 13. Our time together will include Hebrew chant, Qi Gong (energy cultivation) exercises, a brief teaching, and 20 minutes of silent meditation. These practices cultivate inner joy and peace, which allow for living in the world with greater joy, peace, and awareness. The name "Kol D'mamah" is a Biblical term from the story of Elijah the prophet hearing God as a "still small voice." Our weekly gatherings will offer the opportunity to slow down and listen

for that which lies deep within. Kol D'mamah is also offered the third Shabbat of each month at 11AM and on the High Holidays. Check the synagogue calendar for exact dates and times. You are most welcome to join us.



PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

September 13

Leaving Berlin
by Joseph Kanon

November 8

The Family
by David Laskin

December 13

Moving Day
by Jonathan Stone

January 10

The Marriage of Opposites
by Alice Hoffman

February 14

Jews and Words
by Amos Oz

March 14

The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

April 4

My Grandfathers Gallery
by Anne Sinclair

May 9

Lineup
by Liad Shoham

June 13

The Paris Architect
by Charles Belfoure

Tuesdays at 7:15 PM
in the Quitman Library



Nedivot Lev (Offerings of the Heart)

By Rebecca Paquet

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

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

Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Germantown Jewish Centre's Director of Lifelong Learning, has been spending her summer getting ready for the upcoming Religious School year, set to begin September 7. "It's like an iceberg," she explains, "Most of the work [we do] is below the surface, unseen." One of her tasks involves gathering special needs resources and assembling teen aide volunteers, *madreichim*, with a special needs coordinator. This coordinator, who the Religious School provides for its students, is also available outside of Religious School hours to collaborate with Rabbi Alanna and parents, if need be. There is also a designated Hebrew Resource Room, for one-on-one learning – particularly useful for students with sensory integration issues. The coordinator supervises a few *madreichim* in the Resource Room, as well as other *madreichim* who act as "wrap-around" support for some students. This program, generously funded by The Julius and Ray Charlestein Foundation, supports the Hebrew Resource Room and the *madreichim*, allowing all of our students to benefit from what our Religious School has to offer.

The effects of this kind of support are tremendous. One young student with sensory integration issues had a rough start to a recent school year. A teen aide worked with him patiently throughout the year and the student's mother raves about the aide: "The teen aide... was absolutely phenomenal with [my son]. It was a wonderful experience. It got to the point where he loved to go to Religious School." She continues, "The school was very sup-

portive. Instead of it being an exclusive environment, for [him] it was a very inclusive environment."

Rabbi Alanna points out that "inclusion should be with, not to or for. Diversity is an ongoing process, not a goal." It is crucial for children to be involved in creating systems and routines that help facilitate their learning. To this end, Rabbi Alanna works with students and their parents, and often their secular teachers, to create systems that best suit the students' needs. One student with comprehension challenges already had a system of graphic aids in place at his secular school, so Rabbi Alanna worked with him, his parents, and his teachers to create similar resources for him to use during Religious School. These graphics helped with his general comprehension as well as his Religious School comprehension. His fellow students found these visual aids useful as well – particularly those for the Hebrew letters and the order of the service. The visual aids, while intended to support a student with comprehension challenges, actually gave everyone structure with no "othering."

Rabbi Alanna and Rabbi Zeff collaborate with the families of BBMM students with special needs to make sure they're not excluded from participating. They work with the students so they get comfortable and confident during their B'nei Mitzvot preparations. Giving a d'var Torah, for instance, can be particularly nerve-wracking, but Rabbi Alanna and Rabbi Zeff work with the kids so they can embrace the process. Together, they aim for "that one moment when [we're] working with the kid and their family to achieve something they're proud of. A

bar or bat mitzvah doesn't have to look just one way. Having the BBMM program be kid-centric elevates the process for everyone."

One inspired – and inspiring – way the students learned about inclusion and its place amongst Jewish values this past year can be seen on the Religious School YouTube channel. February is Jewish Disabilities Inclusion Month and as part of the Wednesday electives – *breira* – 2nd through 6th grade students chose from a variety of topics relating to disabilities and inclusion and explored their connection to Judaism. One group of students made stop-motion animation videos blending stories from Jewish texts with special needs, for instance, explaining how Moses got his stutter. Another group's video told the stories of characters from the Torah – like Isaac – who they deemed "Jewish Disabilities Heroes." Yet another group partnered with Phill Goldberg and the Jewish Institute for the Blind. Together, they were able to raise \$250 for the Institute, while learning what the organization does for the youth in Israel.

Since its founding, Germantown Jewish Centre has valued diversity and inclusion, emphasizing a welcoming environment for everyone. As a community within the larger GJC community, our Religious School is able to engage differences and reach beyond our own lives and experiences. In supporting GJC, you enable our Religious School students to learn empathy and kindness, becoming better Jews as they engage with the worldwide community.

Member Spotlight

By Linda Kriger



**Kathy Amrom & Elana Hollo,
Chesed Committee**

If there is a committee at GJC that demonstrates the values of our community of communities, it is the Chesed Committee, which cooks food for GJC members and ECP families who have just welcomed a new baby, and GJC members who are ill, who have recently lost a family member, or are recovering from surgery.

Kathy Amrom and Elana Hollo, both members of Minyan Masorti, took on the Chesed Committee's leadership last March, after Rabbi Fredi Cooper retired from creating the committee and leading it for many years. Kathy and Elana have held one cooking session with 20 volunteers that "was so successful that we filled up the freezer in the Marcus kitchen", Kathy said.

When she spoke in August, there were 25-30 packages still left unused. "You can't predict how quickly or how slowly people will use them," she said. "When it gets down to 15 packages, sometime after the Jewish holidays, it'll be time to cook again." Kathy's job is to keep an eye on the food supply and then schedule another cooking session, which means coordinating with the mashgiach and coordinating volunteers.

As Kathy pointed out, scheduling a session can be complicated. A mashgiach supervises the preparation of food to make sure it is done according to the rules of kashrut. The mashgiachs used by GJC, Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner and Barbara Lerner have generously offered to teach Kathy and Elana how to do that job themselves, thus saving

the cost of paying outsiders to supervise the kashrut. It also means that Kathy and Elana will be able to help GJC members who prepare their own food for their celebrations.

The Chesed Committee is financed through a separate fund to which people can donate. Given that Elana has started a new job in Jersey City, NJ, Kathy volunteered to do the food shopping. "I went to several supermarkets to check the kashrut and prices," she said. "Some places it's better to buy the flour, some places it's better to buy the oil. I can buy most of the things between BJ's and Giant."

The volunteers have three hours to make soup, challah and kugel in the kitchen. Recipes must be assembled, groceries bought and volunteers called in. "You need to be organized to get all that cooking done in three hours," Kathy noted. And they needed to replenish kitchen equipment. "They had two knives, one big bowl and three spoons," Kathy said. "We thought about the equipment you'd need to do what we needed to do and went to a restaurant supply store." (Kathy said that according to the mashgiach, the Chesed Committee is not allowed to use the extensive equipment belonging to GJC's onsite caterer.) "We have to cover every table surface with thin plastic covering. We plan what to ask people to do first, second and third," she continued. "We know how to double a recipe, but we had to multiply that recipe for 25. I was worried whether the challah would come out." To her relief, the challah came out beautifully.

Kathy said she was asked to take over the Chesed committee after she led a session on biblical foods during the 2015 Summer Sampler. "It's a thing I've been into for a while, researching what grew in Babylonia and Israel and what people ate," Kathy said. "There's an institute in Israel that's researched recipes

and put them out there. So I got into making different breads and soups. I think Nina saw that I enjoyed cooking foods and I do love to cook. But it's different when you're making 50 containers of soup, 50 challot and 50 kugel casseroles." The meals are delivered by rabbinical staff along with grape juice and hand-made cards by students of the GJC religious school.

When she isn't leading the Chesed Committee, Kathy is an accomplished painter, whose work, under her original name, Kathleen Shaver, has been exhibited at the Cosmopolitan Club, Abington Art Center, University City Arts League and many other venues.

Elana Hollo embodies the cliché that when you want something done, ask a busy person. She recently took on her dream job working for the Social Security Administration as an administrative law judge. "It's a significant step up in responsibility," she said. A longtime full-time worker for the federal government, Elana serves in the executive, not judicial, branch of government. People who are denied disability benefits can go before a judge. There are about 1,200 such judges nationwide and a significant backlog of 24 months to have an appeal heard. Her job entails being in Jersey City, NJ five days a week.

Despite her busy schedule, she says, "I've always done a lot of work for the synagogue. I love the Chesed Committee. The synagogue is full of people who are generous of heart. I'm really glad that Kathy and I were asked to be co-chairs of the chesed committee. I like doing it. It's really important and it helps a lot of people."

The rabbinic staff takes care of visiting the sick and delivering the food, she said. "That was in part so that volunteers like Kathy and I wouldn't know information that was confi-

continued on next page

dential," if the person didn't want their difficulties to become common knowledge. "People are really, really touched by the Chesed Committee, and although we cook 60 meals, we don't know to whom they go," Elana said.

Elana's original inspiration for the idea behind the Chesed Committee was intensely personal. When she and her husband were fairly new to the community in 1997, she was pregnant with her daughter, Naomi. "Someone in the minyan visited me while I was on bed rest and asked me what I was eating, and I answered 'toast'," Elana recalled. "I didn't grow up in such a generous community and this person arranged for me to get food while I was on bed rest for several weeks. I have tried to follow that initial lead."

Again in 2001, a personal need arose again. Their daughter, Elisheva, was born early and needed immediate very serious surgery at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). Someone in Minyan Masorti arranged for someone to deliver meals to them

at the hospital. "My parents took the two older kids, and I remember slipping out of the NICU to eat a meal that someone from the minyan had delivered to me," Elana recalled. "I thought I would forever repay that kindness. I would help other people the way they helped me."

Then, a third traumatic event hit them. Elana and her husband Juha's son, Mati, was struck by a car as he ran with his high school cross-country team. He suffered multiple injuries. (Mati has since healed.) "Then Hurricane Sandy happened," she said. "It made such a difference to my whole family that we were microwaving these meals from the minyan. 'People were just incredibly kind and supported us. It was an emotional upheaval and I felt I have a lifetime of kindness to pay back. I'm not alone in this, but I've always tried to cook for people' at difficult or trying times in their lives. 'When I got on the GJC board, you have to chair a committee, and I got to chair this one.'"

While the Chesed Committee will make up a basket of food to be delivered by rabbinic staff making a pastoral call,

when it comes to a need for longer term attention and care, community members are invited to alert the office to let volunteers know to visit them. "You might just want someone to get things from the market for you, if you can't get out," Elana said. "You only need to ask. If you speak up, there are plenty of people ready to step in."

Most often, each minyan takes care of its own, even though there is crossover among friends and generous community members. The Chesed Committee, on the other hand, serves everybody. "People from every area of the synagogue come to cook, and the meals go to anybody and everybody," Elana said. "It's a great way for the minyans to function together."

"One thing I really want to stress is there are so many people who arrange meals and cook and drive people," Elana concluded. "After all these years, I'm still incredibly impressed. I'm just trying to emulate other people I know. I'm always impressed by how incredibly caring people are. I feel like I'm a follower. I'm trying to catch up."

Baby & Me @ GJC

Baby & Me is a bi-weekly group that provides a space for new parents and caregivers to connect with their babies and each other.

**Fridays are BABY DAYS
at Germantown
Jewish Centre!**

The group will be facilitated by Tamar Jacobson, Molly Weingrod and Naomi Rotenberg, with occasional special topic workshops, such as baby massage and baby wearing, led by guest facilitators.

Everyone and every cry is welcome!

**September 9th October 7th
September 16th October 28th**

Refuat HaNefesh Jewish Healing Service

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

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



2016-2017 schedule

**September 6
November 1
December 6
January 3
February 7
March 7
April 4
May 2**

36 YEARS
PHILADELPHIA
JEWISH
FILM
2016 FALL FEST
NOVEMBER 5-19

LEARN MORE AT PJFF.ORG

THE
GERSHMAN

Social Action Update



Social Action is Becoming Tikkun Olam@GJC!

By Andi Moselle, David Mosenkis, and Maxine Margolies

The new social action name, Tikkun Olam@GJC, reflects our commitment to repairing the world as a congregational priority, making explicit the belief that working toward a better world is an integral and essential component of who we are as a congregation and as Jews.

Tikkun Olam—repairing the world—has long been central to Germantown Jewish Centre’s identity. GJC has a recognized legacy as a leader in promoting a racially and economically integrated community. To continue to honor and uphold this legacy of social activism, members of the current Social Action Committee have been developing ways to strengthen and broaden GJC’s engagement in social justice work. *Our goals are to encourage more widespread involvement in Tikkun Olam activities by publicizing the variety of Tikkun Olam options currently available to members, encouraging members to bring their passions and interests to new projects, strengthening GJC’s reputation and relationships in the broader community, and attracting new members through our social justice leadership.*

With the input of GJC members currently engaged in social justice work as well as other stakeholders and our clergy and program staff, the Social Action Committee has envisioned “**Tikkun Olam @GJC**” as a new and more comprehensive way of thinking

about the role of social justice work at GJC. Our aspiration is to integrate Tikkun Olam into every aspect of our synagogue life. This fall, the Social Action Committee will transition to a Tikkun Olam Coordinating Team, which will create and promote a strategic vision for Tikkun Olam@GJC. The team will support and empower both existing and new activities that fall under the Tikkun Olam@GJC umbrella, coordinate activities and communications and encourage engagement and participation.

We are fortunate that Tikkun Olam@GJC will be able to build on the exemplary variety of social justice activities we already have at GJC: the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Henry School Story Hour, Community Volunteers at Houston School, support for immigrant and Refugee families through HIAS PA, a book club and discussion groups focusing on race, the climate change initiative, and our membership in the POWER Interfaith community. The religious school, ECP, and teen programs

already include Tikkun Olam in their excellent curricula, while the Men’s and Women’s Clubs, Hazak, and each of the prayer groups sponsor Tikkun Olam programs as well. Awareness of the many different ways, large and small, that we already engage in building a better world will itself generate enthusiasm, increase our impact, and strengthen our dedication to Tikkun Olam.

To learn more or get involved:

- Click the Tikkun Olam button on the GJC home page.
- Attend one of the Tikkun Olam information sessions:

Sunday, October 9
9:00 – 10:00 AM


Sunday, November 6
9:00-10:00 A.M.

Tikkun Olam @GJC Mission

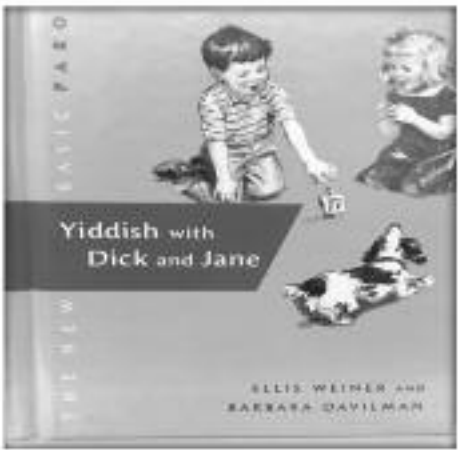
At Germantown Jewish Centre we believe that Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is central to our identity as a Jewish community. Our mission is to engage our diverse membership in Tikkun Olam both within the Jewish community and in the broader interfaith world of the Philadelphia region and beyond. Through learning, serving others and advocating for change, Tikkun Olam@GJC offers members a variety of ways to get involved that reflect their interests and skills and accommodate the demands of work and family commitments. Our aspiration is to infuse the entire synagogue with increasing awareness of how we can fulfill the Jewish imperative to “pursue justice” (Deuteronomy 16:20).

The Humans of
THE LITTLE SHOP

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



Teens purchasing a heart charm necklace
(PS - it was not for mom).



This nostalgic and hilarious book makes a great gift!

Looking for a Rosh Hashana resolution?!?!
How about shopping more at The Little Shop?
All purchases support ECP and RS and other GJC programming!!

High Holidays Special
Discounts

- In Sept., 10% off tallitot and kippot
- In Oct., 10% off mezuzot and havdalah items



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START WITH
GREAT MEAT**



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888-790-5781

Building a World of Love: GJC's Welcome Team Sponsors a Syrian Refugee Family

By Dayle Friedman, Welcome Team Co-Coordinator

We did not know what to expect when we approached a modest brick row house in Northeast Philadelphia on Mother's Day. We'd been dreaming of this moment for months. On the other side of the door were a mother and two daughters. They had not been anticipating this moment for months, or even weeks. But then again, very little of what they have experienced in the past few years was anything they could have known to expect.

Aisha, her husband, Ayad, and their three children have been on the move for several years since they left their home in war-torn Syria.¹ They spent time in Istanbul, where they applied for refugee status in the US. They finally arrived in Philadelphia in February. They received federal government support via HIAS PA: a fully furnished apartment, modest cash assistance, and three months of case management assistance to help them transition to life in Philadelphia. They spoke no English when they arrived, and knew no one. They are making their way as strangers in a strange land.

We were greeted by Aisha, a modestly clad woman with a hijab and a warm smile. Her daughters, Rasha (12) and Fatimah (10), gazed shyly at me, Maxine Margolies and Sarah Braun. Also present in their immaculate home were Carrie Fox-Kline, head of refugee resettlement at HIAS PA, and Yazeed, a volunteer interpreter. Ayad and their four year-old son, Raheem, were not present. Raheem is seriously ill and has been hospitalized since they arrived. One parent must

be with him at all times. We asked Aisha if it would be OK for us and our friends to become their friends, to help them learn English, and to help out if we could. *Inshallah*, Aisha said, meaning, God willing. And in English, she said: thank you.

Since May, the nine volunteers on our GJC Refugee Welcome Team have been immersed in our new friendship with Aisha, Ayad and their kids. One or two team members are special friends for each person in the family. As friends, we visit every week or two and offer help with homework and speaking English. We have found the whole family to be eager learners, including Ayad, who never learned to read in Arabic, because he had to drop out of school at age 7. Anna Herman, a member of our leadership team, has taken Aisha and the girls on a welcome outing to the Natural History Museum. Team members frequently drive the parents and children to medical appointments, and make sure that they have interpreters.

Two of our members have been advocating for one of the older children, who has a physical disability. They have visited her at school, met with teachers and administrators, and reviewed school and medical records. They found that the public school to which she had been assigned was not a promising match for her needs, and searched until they found a private Catholic school that specializes in students with her disability. Through their creative efforts, this child will begin the new school year in a sensitive environment where she will have a chance to learn and thrive.

The work of our team members is not easy. Language barriers make communi-

cation frustrating (though all of us have become quite facile at using apps for quick translation). The systems our family must navigate are labyrinthine and maddening. We can offer our hearts and our hands as a modest support, but this family's needs are deep and broad. We cannot solve the overwhelming problems they face.

On the other hand, the rewards of our efforts are immense. We have encountered people who are meeting an unimaginable series of trials with grace and dignity. We have been gifted with warmth and easy connection—with our family, and among members of our team. We have also been inspired by the generosity our family has sparked in the GJC community. For example, when we learned that our family was sweltering in their apartment, we put out a call for donations of air conditioners, and received offers of seven in a single day.

Improbably, and blessedly, our Syrian family has helped us to experience the words of the Psalms, *Olam hesed yibaneh*, a world of love will be built. In this small context, through each act of kindness, a world of love is being fashioned, for them and for us.

¹All names and details have been changed to protect the privacy of the family.

Women's Club News

By Marcy Fish and Sandy Meyer (co-presidents)



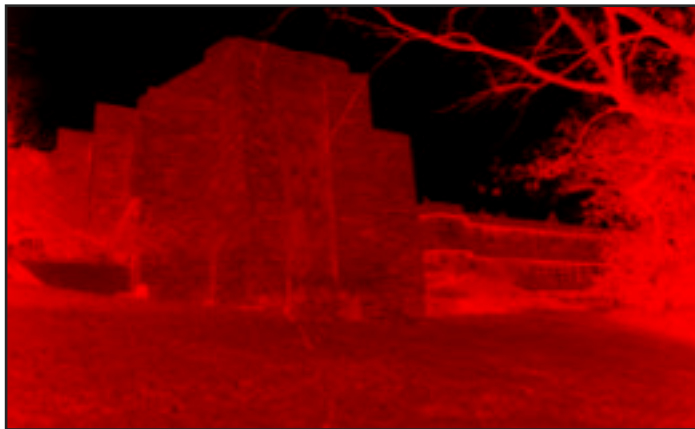
WOMEN'S CLUB! We are so excited to get this year started, that we're ready to shout from rooftops! Frankly, we're hoping every woman at GJC will join Women's Club so we don't have to climb on the roof.

The beginning of this year will include a **Walk in the Wissahickon on 9/11**, musical entertainment at the **Paid-up Membership Brunch 9/25** (if you pay for membership, the event is FREE!), and a **Fair Trade Program on 10/9**. The **Charry Shabbat on 11/12** will include a special dedication of the new Torah covers/mantles. This year will also mark the **40th Anniversary of Women's Shabbat and Scholar-in-Residence Weekend** to take place on April 8th.

Each year, the clergy and administration present the Women's Club with projects they would like to see accomplished. The new Torah covers were the **Building Beautiful** fundraising project of this past year. They have been lovingly hand-made in Israel. You will be in awe as you see the beauty of these masterpieces that tie in the vibrant colors described in the Torah for the decorating of the Mishkan. The design is intended to bring to mind the intertwining communities that make up the larger community that is GJC. The physical covers that have been used over the past many years are even being incorporated into the design to acknowledge how connected we are to our history.

We are embarking on our next **Building Beautiful** project to enhance our synagogue. This year the

synagogue has asked that our project be the focused on the appearance of the Lincoln Drive side of the building. The Ten Commandments and stone structure are a gateway on Lincoln Drive to the community of which GJC plays such a major role. There is need for cleaning and lighting so that each and every person can easily view our synagogue and realize what a vibrant and visual treasure we are to the entire Northwest Community.



Women's Club 2016-17 Calendar can be found in the same mailing with this year's membership form. It can also be found at the GJC website.

September also brings back the regular, busy schedule of many activities in the building. Among those is the regular schedule of the **Little Shop**. The Little Shop will be open Sunday mornings, Tuesday noon until evening, and Thursday and Friday from noon until late afternoon. Women's Club volunteers do everything behind the scenes, and behind the counter! Our shopping dollars help fund the many projects supported by the Women's Club.

Do you have a **college-aged student**? The Women's Club sends holiday treats periodically during the year. Women's Club feels a commitment to reinforce the bond between the Germantown Jewish Centre & our college

students. We want our children to know that we are cheering them on in their new adventures, and that we hold them dear. Women's Club annually strengthens this valuable connection by sending greetings holiday gifts, treats and surprises throughout the year. **Please send the complete mailing addresses of your college-bound children for the coming year and their birthday dates as well to Ilene's email address:**

ibposes@gmail.com.

Your prompt email response is imperative. Please include the following the subject of the email: GJC College Outreach. Many thanks.

We wish to remind everyone that the mission of the Women's Club of Germantown Jewish

Centre is to promote the welfare of the synagogue and its congregants through organizing, sponsoring and funding programs, projects and services that benefit **everyone** at GJC.

Women's Club's Fund Raising provides: \$18,000 annually for the Religious School and other youth programs, Childcare on Shabbat and High Holidays, Readers and Challah Helpers for ECP, Holiday Treats and gifts for our young children and college students, Women's Shabbat, Little Shop (Judaica and other gift shopping), enriching programs, \$25,000 annually for GJC's operating budget, a part of which pays for GJC's internet.

We are reaching out to all of you to join Women's Club and Support our Fund Raising efforts

continued on next page

Women's Club

Continued from page 20

through the Building Beautiful project, our annual Purim Bash, shopping in the Little Shop and attending events and programs throughout the year. Remember "Strength Through Women's Club".

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!
WOMEN'S CLUB: Enriching the fabric of our community!



Torah Fund Pin

Even though Women's Club's Torah Fund Brunch is not until May 7, 2017 (hold the date!), you can obtain and wear your special pin starting now. This year's Torah Fund theme is P'ri Yadehah, "the fruit of her hands" which appears in the book of Proverbs and is a phrase from the poem Eshet Chayil (a woman of valor). This lovely pin is Torah Fund's gift to you in recognition of your generous donation (benefactor level or higher). Torah Fund Campaign supports conservative/Masorti seminaries in NYC and around the world. Get your pin now, make your donation later. Please contact Yona Diamond Dansky, ydansky@gmail.com, or 215-485-0094.

Join us for 100% enrollment campaign:

Germantown Jewish Centre: Strength Through Women's Club

Please send your check payable to Women's Club of GJC for \$45.00 to:

Naomi Decter
Women's Club of GJC
400 W. Ellet Street, Phila., PA 19119

Or **PayPal** (\$46.65) accepted on the GJC website:
Connect>Women's Club> #6 (add your name/contact info)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Over 90 years of age? No payment required.
Circle **YES** and complete and return form

New GJC member as of June 2016? No payment required.
Circle **YES** for a complimentary WC membership for 2016-2017.

Save the Date!

November 11-13

*Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend*

**From Kabbalah to the Big Bang:
Ancient Wisdom and
Contemporary Spirituality**

with Professor Daniel C. Matt
one of the world's leading authorities on Kabbalah

December 24

Klezmukah Dance Party

*with the Ken Ulansey Ensemble
& Dance Master Steve Weintraub*

Saturday, March 4

Purim Bash

Saturday, March 18

Stanley Wolfe Memorial Shabbat

Sunday, April 2

***Mothers of Moses* (chamber work)
& Interfaith Seder**

Music by René Orth
& words by Ellen Frankel

Sunday, April 30

GJC's Annual Spring Fundraiser
**Yom ha'Atzma'ut Celebration
in Music & Dance**

honoring Dick & Barb Menin
and featuring G'vanim



Fall-Winter 2016

Why is this Adult Education Institute different from every other Adult Education institute? Because at GJC, it's all about **The Connection**. For many, the words "adult education" conjures up a picture of sitting in dark dimly lit spaces (often after-hours nursery school classrooms) learning about a narrow range of topics selected without much input from the learner. Whether you are looking for a "Sacred Spark" to kindle your curiosity or are interested in taking a "Deeper Dive" into the wellspring of Jewish tradition, there is something for you! Within these pages, we are proud to announce a wide range of workshops, courses, and immersive experiences that present opportunities for engagement with the wellspring of Jewish text, creative expression, history and culture in a way that is relevant to our lives in the 21st century. This year, may we grow both as individuals and as a community through our learning, through our journeys and through our connection to one another.

~ Rabbi Alanna Sklover, *Director of Lifelong Learning*

SACRED SPARKS Workshops & Immersive Experiences	DEEPER DIVES Multi-Session Courses that Delve Deeper into Study
Spiritual Preparation for the High Holidays: An Elul Writing Workshop with Rabbi Malkah Binah Klein Sunday, Sept 11 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm GJC Members \$20 / Non-Members \$35	Center City Lunch & Learn: The 2016 Election - Jewish Law and Ethics with Rabbi Adam Zeff Wednesdays, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1 & March 1 from 12:15-1:30pm 6 sessions, GJC Members \$150 / Non-Members \$200 <i>additional CLE fees may apply</i> (OFFSITE)
The Basics of Judaism with Rabbi Beth Janus Wednesdays, Sept 14, 21 & 28 from 7:15-8:45 pm 3 sessions, \$36 (OFFSITE)	Introduction to Midrash with Rabbi Michelle Greenfield Wednesdays, Oct 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 12-1:30pm 6 sessions, GJC Members \$120 / Non-Members \$135
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent Panel: For Parents Planning Bar and Bat Mitzvahs at GJC (guest panelists) Sunday, Oct 30 from 10-11:30 AM FREE	From the Creation of Humanity to Black Lives Matter: Jews, Race, and the Fight for Racial Justice with Rabbi Seth Goren Sundays, Dec 4, 11, 18 & Jan 8 from 9:30-11 am 4 sessions, GJC Members \$80 / Non-Members \$95
Exploring the Impact of Christian Hegemony on U.S. Culture with Dr. Andrea Jacobs Tuesdays, Feb 7, 14 & 21 from 7-8:30 pm 3 sessions, GJC Members \$60 / Non-Members \$75	Creating Midrash: Reading and Writing Our Way into Text with Dr. Andrea Jacobs & Rabbi Elyse Wechterman Thursdays, Jan 12, 19, 26 & Feb 2, 9 & 16 from 10-11:30 am 6 sessions, GJC Members \$120 / Non-Members \$135

MUSSAR

Register for Mussar 101 and Advanced Mussar at <https://mussarleadership.org/>

Register for Parent Mussar Va'ad at <https://goo.gl/WRJoNV>

Parent Mussar Va'ad with Mindy Shapiro Sundays, Sept 25, Oct 16, Nov 20 & Dec 4 from 9:45-11:15 am We are able to offer this program free of charge to all parents because of a generous grant. We offer our thanks and gratitude to this donor.	Mussar 101 with Linda Kriger Tuesdays, September 20, 27; November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; December 6, 13, 20; Jan 3, 10 & 17 from 7-9 pm 13 Sessions (1 semester), \$325	Tomer Devorah (Advanced Mussar) with Rabbi Ira Stone Tuesdays, September 20-May 9 from 1-3 pm (except Dec 21, 28, April 11) 28 Sessions, (2 semesters) \$650
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REJEWVENATING SHABBAT OF STUDY - SAVE THE DATE!

Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: November 11-13

From Kabbalah to the Big Bang: Ancient Wisdom and Contemporary Spirituality with Professor Daniel C. Matt
 Daniel Matt, one of the world's leading authorities on Kabbalah, will introduce us to some of the central themes of the Jewish mystical tradition. On Friday night he will focus on the concept of Shekhinah (the feminine aspect of God) in the context of Shabbat. In a subsequent presentation, he will show how Kabbalah promotes Tikkun Olam and how it enables us to discover God in the material world. Finally, he will address the question of "God and the Big Bang," exploring parallels between Kabbalah and contemporary cosmology, and seeking to find harmony between science and spirituality.

Lifelong Learning at Germantown Jewish Centre • www.germantownjewishcentre.org/LEARN

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 June, 2016 through July, 2016

Todah Rabbah!

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Beck Scholar-in-Residence Fund	Lizanne Berger Leah & Norman Schwartz	in memory of Myer B. Marcus, grandfather in memory of Therese Posnansky, mother of Ann Itzkowitz
Bess Schick Memorial Fund	Peshe Kuriloff Peter Kuriloff Ed & Dena Lake Mariann Schick	in memory of Emanuel Cantor, father in memory of Lucy Winifred Kuriloff, mother in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary in memory of Bess Schick, mother in memory of David Schick, father in memory of Alexandra Rapaport, cousin in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
Camp Scholarships Fund	Berel & Susan Sternthal	in memory of Shira Salant, sister of Bob Pomerantz
Chesed Fund	Ellen Fleishman & Allen Gottlieb Judah Labovitz Alex Seldin Martha Millison & Steven Wade	in memory of Deborah Labovitz, wife in memory of Ruth Seldin, mother in appreciation of Rabbi Annie Lewis, for supporting Jonah Wade in his Bar Mitzvah preparation in honor of Rabbi Shai Gluskin, with great appreciation of his 10-year service as rabbi of GJC's Junior Congregation.
Children's Services Fund	Mikael Elsila, Dina Pinsky, Sol & Ilan	in memory of Shira Salant, sister of Bob Pomerantz
Early Childhood Program Fund	Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser Eileen Bazelon Linda Dzuba Richard Gold Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in memory of Edith Ferrin, mother in memory of Nathan Routhinstein, father in memory of Yetta Gold, mother in honor of Peninah & Albert Berdugo, on the birth of their first grandchild, Gabriel Nathan Sanieoff
Floral Fund	Maria Marianovich	in memory of Adelheid Tilla Benjamin, friend
General Fund	Gloria Salmansohn Carol Actor Daniel Bacine Liz Bloch-Smith & Mark Smith Lyn Davis Shari Feldman Linda Hahn Neil Kitrosser Tamar & Sam Magdovitz Richard & Barbara Menin Jim & Sandy Meyer Linda & Marty Millison Allan Oster & Izhar Naveh Elizabeth & Hershel Richman Stephen & Patricia Segal Aaron & Lucille Weber Denise Wolf & Paul Rudick	in honor of Neil Actor, Congregant of the Year in memory of Jules Bacine, father in honor of Peninah & Albert Berdugo, on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Nathan Sanieoff in honor of Adina Newberg, on her retirement from RRC in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary in honor of Peninah & Albert Berdugo, on the birth of their grandson, Gabriel Nathan Sanieoff in honor of Rabbi Annie Lewis in memory of Jerold Klevit, brother in memory of Sylvia Klevit, mother in memory of Benjamin Kitrosser, father in honor of Diane Ajl & Neil Kitrosser, on the wedding of their son, Jeffrey, to Lauren Berger in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan in honor of Steven Wade & Martha Millison, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonah in honor of Nina Peskin, for her great kindness in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary in honor of Mathieu Shapiro, for being a dedicated and energetic President of GJC in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
Hazak Fund	Sam & Helene Feinberg	

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	Susan Rothschild	in memory of Robert Rothschild, husband
Interfaith Hospitality Network	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Lena Goldenberg, mother
	Deborah Stern	in memory of Murray Schoen, grandfather
		in memory of Anna Schoen, grandmother
		in memory of Eva Klepper, grandmother
		in memory of Paul Klepper, grandfather
	Louie Asher	in memory of Alan Kotranski, brother of Lynne Kotranski
	Cecile Merion	in memory of Goldie Kopstein, mother
	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Eva Goldenberg, sister
Israel Affairs Fund	Cyrilla Rosen	in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
		in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
	Mindelle Goldstein	in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
	Phyllis Kauffman	in honor of Maxine Feldman, in honor of her special birthday
		in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
	Gloria Salmansohn	in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
	Judy Schwartz	in memory of Ida G. Prager, mother
	Judy Schwartz & Jay Seitchik	in memory of Sharon Kaplan, wife of Gary Kaplan
		in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their 61st wedding anniversary
	Leah & Norman Schwartz	in memory of Paul Schwartz, son
		in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
	Norman Schwartz	in memory of Joseph Schwartz, father
Israel Garden Fund	David Axelrod	in memory of Bart Axelrod, father
Kiddush Fund	Yona & Howard Dansky	in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Vincent DiLorenzo	in memory of Sophie DiLorenzo, mother
	Richard Menin	in memory of Victor Menin, father
	Paul Minkoff	in honor of Daniel & Marcy Bacine, on the birth of their granddaughter
		in memory of Sharon Kaplan, daughter-in-law of Marty & Carol Kaplan
		in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
		in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their 61st wedding anniversary
		in honor of Linda & Marty Millison, on their 50th wedding anniversary
		in honor of Reena & Aryeh Friedman, on their marriage of their daughter, Shira, and Glen Romonosky
	Susan Rothschild	in memory of Rosa Heimann, mother
Minyan Masorti	Jerry Kutnick	in memory of Esther Kutnick, mother
Memorial Shabbat Fund	Tamar & Sam Magdovitz	in honor of Judy Groner & Ron Eisenberg, on the wedding of Daniel Havivi to Julie Lascar
		in honor of Reena & Aryeh Friedman, on the wedding of their daughter, Shira, to Glen Romonosky
	Leah & Norman Schwartz	refuah shleimah to Ned Kripke, best wishes for a speedy recovery and good health
Music Fund	Martha Schleifer	in memory of Martin A. Myers, uncle
	Chava Weissler	in memory of Alfred Weissler, father
Prayerbook & Ritual Items Fund	Ellen Kopeland, Joan Silver, Rebecca & Barry Lenick, and Jon Silver	in memory of Marjorie Kopeland, mother and grandmother
Program Fund	Lynne & Art Ellis	in honor of Reena & Aryeh Friedman, on their marriage of their daughter, Shira, and Glen Romonosky
		in memory of Shira Salant, sister of Bob Pomerantz

Contributions *Continued*

Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund

Meryl Bonderow
Noel Eisenstat
Joyce Eveloff
Maxine Field
Rose Lifschitz
Maria Marianovich
Cecile Merion
Priscilla Roslyn
Martha Millison & Steven Wade

in memory of Simon Bonderow, father
in memory of Lorraine Eisenstat, mother
in memory of Philip Blumenthal, father
in memory of Gladys Major, mother

Religious School Fund

Evelyn Caplin
Martha Millison & Steven Wade

in memory of Joseph Kopstein, brother
in memory of Joel Roslyn, husband
in appreciation of Rabbi Adam Zeff, for supporting Jonah Wade
in his Bar Mitzvah preparation
in memory of Herbert Caplin, father
in appreciation of Rabbi Alanna Sklover, for serving as
Gabbai Rishon at Jonah Wade's Bar Mitzvah

Social Action Fund

Gisha Berkowitz
Barbara Bloom
Eleanor Brownstein
Dayle Friedman

in memory of Susan Finkelstein Meltzer, niece
in memory of Alan Kotranski, brother of Lynne Kotranski
in memory of Joseph Brownstein, father
in memory of Fred Marcus, step-father

Special Education Fund

Judah Labovitz
Maurice & Maxine Feldman

in memory of Clara Levy, mother-in-law
in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary

Torah Restoration Fund

Eve Pinkenson
Joan Silver
Maria Pulzetti & Abigail Horn
Curtis Pontz
Leah & Norman Schwartz

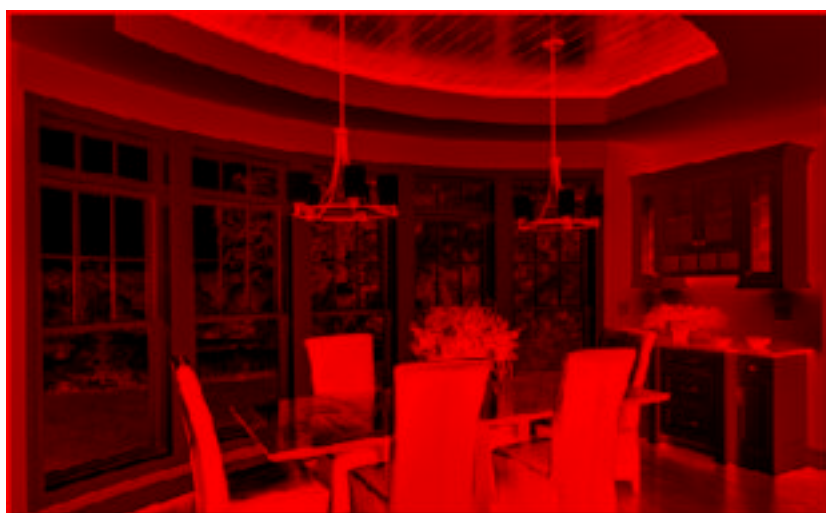
in memory of Aaron Blumenthal, father
in honor of Jim & Sandy Meyer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
in honor of Simon Horn Pulzetti, on his second birthday.
in memory of Harry Pontz, father
in honor of Jeremy Frank & Jennifer Zarro, on the Bat Mitzvah
of their daughter, Lucy.

Young Families Retreat

Youth Activities Fund

Lawrence Sternthal

in memory of Jacob Sternthal, father



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*Please submit all articles via email to
program@germantownjewishcentre.org.
Deadline for the November 2016 issue is October 1st.*



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Save the Date September

Hazak Film & Discussion
September 11

**Israel Program: Rani Jaeger
& New Religious Initiatives in Israel**
Exploring S'lichot
September 18

**Singing Before the Gates: Devotional
Music & Prayer (S'lichot)**
September 24

**Women's Club & Men's Club
Paid up Brunch**
September 25

Save the Date October

Tikkun Olam Info Fair
October 9

Women's Club Fair Trade Program
October 9

GJC Celebrates! Sukkot
October 16

Sukkah Walk
October 22

GJC Celebrates! Simhat Torah
October 24