



THE CENTRE CALL

GERMANTOWN JEWISH CENTRE

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Exploring Our Differences by Rabbi Adam Zeff

One of my favorite rabbinic stories about creation compares God, the fashioner of humanity, to a coin maker who uses a press to create coins out of raw metal (Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 38a).

Like the coin maker, God takes raw souls and presses them into human form. But unlike coins, which each come out of the press exactly the same, each human being that God creates comes out unique, different from any other person on earth. The message is clear: the beautiful, unfathomable, and sometimes challenging diversity of humanity is God's plan for creation. Yet sadly, we human beings spend a lot of time fleeing from our diversity, suspicious of those who are unlike us and trying to surround ourselves with those we think are the same. We can call to mind countless examples throughout history, with the Jewish people too often the group attacked as too different to be trusted, too different to be listened to, too different to be allowed.

As we all know, we are facing this problem in our country right now, as discomfort with and even hostility toward difference breaks out into political attacks and violence against religious, ethnic, and racial minorities, including Jews, but also including Muslims, refugees, African Americans, and others. How can we change this dynamic? At this season when we celebrate the renewal of creation, how can we reach back to the ancient vision of an earth intentionally populated by the divine hand with wildly different and diverse creatures? And how can we engage with those unlike us at GJC, in our neighborhoods, and in the wider world?

We will have many wonderful chances in the upcoming year to examine these questions both personally and as a community. We have an exciting schedule of activities, special events, and classes that will bring us face to face with these issues in new ways. 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 the newly created animals learn about how their different abilities might enrich 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 Chris Satullo of the Penn Project for Civic Engagement to teach us how we can talk respectfully about divisive issues both within and outside our community. And our Rabbi Charry Memorial Weekend in November will feature Rabbi Leonard Gordon, our Rabbi Emeritus and my mentor and teacher, who will help us understand new ways that Jews, Muslims, and Christians are engaging, interacting, and learning about and with each other. 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 Hashanah day and on Yom Kippur. Check out the Kol D'mamah contemplative service or study texts with fantastic new Rabbinic Intern Ari Witkin on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Participate in the musical Ne'ilah service in the Charry Sanctuary to close Yom Kippur with Nina Peskin and me. 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 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!*

SHABBAT & HOLIDAYS

September 9

- Charry Service welcomes Lee Gordon of Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel
- BBMM Shabbat
- Childcare & Children's Services resume
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

September 16

- Dorshei Derekh's Kiddush Talk: "Activism-Honoring leaders of NW Philly Indivisible"
- Musical Marching Minyan
- S'lichot Musical Service featuring G'vanim (album release)
- S'lichot Late Night Text Study & Service

September 20: Erev Rosh ha-Shanah

- Rosh ha-Shanah JAM program & Community Dinner
- Kol T'ruah Musical Service

**See inside schedule for Rosh ha-Shanah,
Kol Nidrei, Yom Kippur & Sukkot.**

October 7: Sukkot III

- Sukkah Walk

October 8: Sukkot IV

- GJC Celebrates! Sukkot
- Israel Sukkot Program w/ Abbie Rosner

October 11: Hoshanah Rabah

- Early Hoshanah Rabah service
- Tot Sukkot Potluck
- Dorshei Derekh Erev Simhat Torah Service

October 12: Sh'mini Atzeret (See inside schedule)

- GJC Celebrates! Simhat Torah

October 13: Simhat Torah (See inside schedule for services)

October 14

- Charry Services welcomes Reverend Jarrett Kerbel
- BBMM Shabbat
- Parashat ha-Shavua B'Ivrit

October 20 & 21: Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

- Kol Zimrah
- Charry Service: Mazal tov to Oliver Moscow, son of Dan Moscow & Sharon Strauss, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
- Dorshei Derekh's Kiddush Talk: "The New Sanctuary Movement"
- Kol D'mamah Jewish Chant w/ Nina Peskin
- Musical Marching Minyan

Kabbalat Shabbat on Fridays at 6 PM

Shabbat Morning Services at 10 AM

Shabbat Morning Kids Space

Kids are welcome to play Shabbat-friendly games in Room 305 - bring your own and some will be provided.



MAZAL TOV!

IN CELEBRATION OF...

Nan Daniels, on the birth of her 2nd grandchild, Ian Alec Wallis, son of Jeffrey and Jessica Wallis

David & Nahariyah Mosenkis, on the birth of their grandson, Hananel Boaz, son of , son of Eitan and Leah Mosenkis

Leah & Norman Schwartz, on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Dovid Schwartz, son of Joel & Sydney Schwartz in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel

Rafael Barcan, son of David Barcan, on his graduation from high school and his matriculation at Columbia University to study engineering.

Judge Harold Berger, on receiving the inaugural Lifetime Commitment Award from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Yoni & Avivia Reinfeld, on the birth of their twins

Ameet Ravital, on his Adult Bar Mitzvah

Cyrella Rosen, on the engagement of her granddaughter Leetal Chai to Erec Sittelcool. The aufruf is scheduled for November 15th in Israel.

Maxine Margolies & Alan Soffin on their aufruf

Joan & Burt Horn on the bris of their new grandson

IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Robinowitz,
mother of Robin Robinowitz

Hinda Oler Gutoff,
mother of Rabbi Josh Gutoff

Ruth Seltzer,
mother of Gail Tunick

Carl Norden,
husband of Joyce Norden

President's Message

by Chip Becker, GJC President



As I write this, I've just returned from an overnight backpacking trip in the Loyalsock State Forest with my family – Marta, me, three kids, and two dogs. I'll describe what we did: We drove into Sullivan County to a location not far from Eaglesmere in the so-called Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania. We parked at trailhead that represented the terminus

of the Loyalsock Trail, which runs for roughly 60 miles through some rough mountainous terrain, but which initially runs fairly level along the Loyalsock Creek itself. We walked to the so-called Haystacks, which are a sandstone rock formation in the river that usually is a great spot for splashing and playing in the creek. Unfortunately, there had been significant rain in central Pennsylvania earlier in the week and the Creek was flowing fast and high. There was far too much water even to walk into the Creek, let alone play in it. So we continued on the trail along a steep uphill until we reached a waterfall, walked along an old railroad grade (a remnant of the logging industry), and then walked back down to the Loyalsock where it is crossed by an old iron bridge. There we camped the night – campfire and all. The next day we made the return trip. A perfect family outing.

I have been backpacking in the summer months since I was 10, and would spend summers at Camp Shohola in Greeley, Pennsylvania. I have always enjoyed it, and am glad that Marta and the kids enjoy the experience as well. Backpacking allows a person to see from the inside what otherwise at best would be the sights from a car window. You find streams, woods, rocks, flowers, and birds that only can be reached by putting in the work of getting there. There is the steady rhythm of the walking itself, which is hard when going uphill, but which is satisfying in its own right.

Backpacking also creates some perspective on the world. In Pennsylvania, with its large wilderness areas, you may be hiking in an area with limited or no cell phone coverage. That unplugging is powerful by itself. You release yourself all of your possessions except the few you're carrying on your back. Most of us have too much stuff in our lives, and it's reassuring to realize that we could leave virtually all of it behind, at least for a little while.

For a little while, backpackers can indulge in a fantasy that they are independent actors in the world. There is truth in that. But the full truth is that you walk a trail with lots of

other people – those who created the trail, those who maintain it, those who established the state forests without which the trail wouldn't exist, nearby private landowners, and of course one's fellow travelers. Backpackers rely on more people than meets the eye.

So it is in our regular lives. At any given moment, we may regard ourselves as traveling under our own power. But even in the best of circumstances, we are enmeshed in networks of people that make success possible. That can be hard to admit but still true. Life is not always a parade of victories. Especially during the bumpy parts, we need the communities of people who support us. So whether in good times or bad, we should support the communities in which we are involved. We need those communities to be robust and strong, because they buoy our lives and carry us along. They must present be for others, so they may be present for ourselves.

By the time you are reading this, it will be nearing autumn and the High Holiday season will be upon us. I hope this finds everybody well, and that the High Holiday season feels happy, meaningful, and full of good things. I am constrained to mention that Germantown Jewish Centre's High Holiday appeal will be upon us as well. The Appeal last year was a tremendous success, raising over \$200,000 from nearly two-thirds of the membership to support the synagogue and its programming. I hope we can achieve the same success this year as well. Indeed, I hope even more of you will undertake to contribute to the appeal (and I realize that all you already contribute simply through your annual dues), because GJC is a crucial institution in our personal lives, in Jewish Philadelphia, and Northwestern Philadelphia as a whole. It has been a bedrock of this neighborhood for 80 years. Let's make it a bedrock for 80 years to come, so that it can continue to be present for us, our friends, our children, and everyone who needs or will need it. I thank you all for your commitment and generosity, and wish you a happy and sweet new year.

PLANNED GIVING & NER TAMID



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

TIKKUN OLAM UPDATE

by David Mosenkis

POWER Rallies for Racial Justice in Public Education

GJC members were among 350 public education supporters who joined POWER's rally in Harrisburg on June 21st to demand an end to "Education Apartheid" in Pennsylvania. Speakers at the rally, including GJC's David Mosenkis, called for the state to distribute all basic education funding through the state's fair funding formula. Currently the state distributes just a tiny fraction of its funding through the formula, leaving in place a systematic bias against school districts with more students of color, including Philadelphia. On average, the whitest districts receive \$2,000 more than their fair share per student, while the least white districts receive \$2,000 less. After the rally in the Capitol rotunda, participants marched to the office of Senate Education Chairman John Eichelberger's office, where POWER representatives met with the Senator, who agreed to hold a public hearing on the racial bias in early fall. In addition to its advocacy for



public education, economic dignity, and criminal justice, POWER has recently launched new campaigns in the areas of healthcare and environmental justice. To learn more, contact David Mosenkis or Andrea Moselle, or sign up for POWER's weekly E-newsletter by clicking "E-MAIL SIGNUP" at powerinterfaith.org.

GJC Alumni in Israel: Shira Pik-Nathan

This is the fourth in a series of articles written by and about the lives and work of young people who grew up in Germantown Jewish Centre and are now living in Israel. Our author this issue is Shira Pik-Nathan, who is the daughter of Rabbi Marsha Friedman, a long-time member of GJC.



I moved to Israel about three years ago on what was supposed to be a short 10-month stint as a volunteer English teacher on a program in Rehovot. Somewhere along the way I realized I wasn't ready to leave, and decided to apply for graduate school. During this program, which was run mainly by a social justice-oriented nonprofit called Ma'ase Olam, I really learned about and witnessed for the first time many of the inequalities and social issues in Israeli society and wanted a degree that would allow me to work on these issues.

The next fall, I made Aliyah, moved to Tel Aviv, and began studying for my Master's in Non-profit Management and Leadership at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Throughout the year, as part of my studies, I had a difficult yet extremely rewarding internship at an organization called ASSAF that aids African asylum seekers in Tel Aviv. That year I also got a real taste for what it was like to live in Israel outside of the confines of a structured program. It hasn't always been easy. Making Aliyah and the steps that come afterward can be a bureaucratic nightmare: there are of course times of heightened tension in the country, not to mention the struggles of building your life far from the place and culture you grew up with, but I have learned to embrace the endearing chaos of this place.

After my studies and a few months of travel earlier this year, I started working at University of the People, which has branded itself the world's first non-profit, tuition-free, online university. Founded by an Israeli entrepreneur, the university is accredited in California, but run by a team based in Tel Aviv. People all over the world are denied access to higher education due to rising tuition costs, not having legal status, being restricted by societal expectations or laws, and other issues. The university aims to provide an accredited university degree to those willing to work for it. Anyone who meets a few basic qualifications and has internet access can study with us and graduate with an American college degree, a dream for many who hope that education will open doors for them. I manage the Transfer Credit department, which helps those continuing their studies with us to finish their degree faster. So far I've really enjoyed my time at the university and am excited to see what my future in the organization and in Israel holds.

NEDIVOT LEV (Offerings of the Heart)

by Linda Kriger

Joan N. Stern's family, longtime members of the Germantown Jewish Centre, originally joined the Centre for, among other things, its Zionist values. "We were all about Zionism and the creation of the state of Israel," she said. That is why when Joan reviewed a list of giving opportunities during the 75th anniversary endowment Campaign, she was surprised to find that there was nothing on Israel or Zionism. After speaking with campaign leaders and synagogue staff, she arranged for the Stern-Gafni Endowment, which funds Israel programming at the synagogue and to memorialize her parents and her late sister, Miriam Gafni.

"My family have been members since 1946," she said, "and aside from inclusion and egalitarianism, the reason was Zionism. A lot of my other activities are built around the Zionist ideal. We have to remember the Zionist ideal is not just about the creation of a homeland for the Jewish people; it is about the building of an exemplary state. Creating a homeland isn't enough. Over the years, especially recent years, we have had a lot of division within the Jewish community about actions by the Israeli governments that affect democratic principles involving inclusion."

As a member of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Joan would like to see the synagogue grapple with issues that affect American Jews and their relationship with the Jewish state. "I saw in the synagogue bulletin that there will be a discussion of pluralism in Israel, about the government's decision to suspend the agreement on egalitarian access to the Wall," she said approvingly. "We vehemently protested the actions of the cabinet and the Netanyahu government sponsoring a bill that would create a monopoly for the chief rabbinate on conversion. Those are two of the most recent issues for the Jewish Agency, which had negotiated the egalitarian prayer wall that all parties had signed off on. This, to us, was an outrageous rejection of the global Jewish community."

Joan's beliefs are consistent with her decision to create the endowment. "I have believed our congregation needed to have programming on Israel. We couldn't step around the issue because it's controversial. We have to learn about Israel, discuss the issues and recognize that we can have differences of opinion and still believe in the importance of Israel to the Jewish world. That's why I created the endowment."

Joan is glad that the synagogue now has these discussions.

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.

"We get reports on what the committee is planning; we're paying attention to Israel and not being timid about discussing Israel and the role it should play in Jewish life."

On September 9 & 10, Lee Gordon, co-founder of Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, will speak in the Chavvy Service and participate in a panel of Philadelphia educators addressing questions of integration and education against cross-cultural divides. In October, Abby Rosner will introduce us to the foods of the Galilee and the diverse cultures that prepare them in an interactive exploration of food, culture & connection to Israel. In December, two scholars, Dr. Reena Friedman and Rabbi Robert Tabak, will teach two class sessions on the Balfour Declaration. Israel Programming at GJC has more programs planned for 2018...stay tuned!

Three friends. Two worlds. One life.

A new exploration of Israeli-Palestinian-Jewish-Arab-LGBTQ culture in Tel Aviv



ORIENTED

Film Screening & Discussion with
Director/Producer Jake Wittenfeld

Past Israel Programming at GJC. We partnered with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Mazzoni Center, and Spectrum Philly to present ORIENTED: a new exploration of Israeli-Palestinian-Jewish-Arab-LGBTQ culture in Tel Aviv. After the film screening, the audience participated in a Q&A Skype session with the film's director.

Yael & David Zvi Kalman

Yael and David Zvi Kalman, and their children Avri, 4, and Shula, 2, are among the relatively new young members who have joined the Germantown Jewish Centre in recent years and found a religiously comfortable home here.

Yael, 32, was born in Atlanta where her father, a conservative rabbi, held a pulpit. Her parents moved to Jerusalem when she was five and she attended school there from gan (kindergarten) through 5th grade, after which the family moved to East Brunswick, N.J. Yael's older sister led the way with a decision to attend the Yeshivah of Flatbush for high school and when it was her turn, Yael followed. "They have an excellent Hebrew program and they taught Talmud to girls, which not all yeshivas do," Yael explained.

Yael attended Brown University and during summer break in 2007, she was a [counselor and] Jewish Studies teacher at Camp Ramah Wisconsin, where she met David (pronounced Dovid, but he doesn't want anyone to get hung up on the correct pronunciation) Zvi. It was David Zvi's first experience in a non-Orthodox setting, but he wanted to teach and he was told it was a good place.

Two years ahead of David Zvi in school, Yael moved to Toronto, where he was finishing at the University of Toronto. She set about getting a masters degree in religion at the University, thinking about entering academia. She also worked as a nanny to two children for a year. She then rejected the academia idea and decided to apply to law school in the U.S. "We both had options for graduate school in New York and Philadelphia and decided on Philadelphia," she said. "I had a full scholarship to Temple and the program was better for David Zvi at Penn." They married in 2010.

Today, Yael is a practicing lawyer at the Drinker Biddle law firm specializing in employee benefits, and employee retirement plans and health plans. "They try very hard to be accommodating," she said about the firm. "They don't have anyone else who keeps kosher, but they want to learn."

For five years, they lived near Penn's campus. "We had a great community of other graduate students," she noted. "But, towards the end of our time there, our friends started graduating and moving away. We felt we'd started aging out of Penn Hillel. We were the first of our friends to have kids. We wanted more space that would be affordable.

"We considered different options around Philadelphia," she continued. "What we really appreciated about Mt. Airy



and the GJC community was that there's an existing infrastructure. We wouldn't have to create from scratch whatever community we wanted. There'd be other people living there who care about Judaism. In West Philly, there were hardly any other kids and here there were many other young families. We also appreciated how thoughtful and sincere and intellectually curious people are and how much they really care about Judaism."

They already knew two couples at GJC: Joey Weisenberg and Molly Weingrod with whom they stayed for a Shabbat when the Weisenbergs were still living at Rabbi Adam Zeff's house during his sabbatical. Yael knew then assistant Rabbi Annie Lewis, because they both were at Brown at the same time.

David Zvi, 30, was born and grew up in Toronto with four half siblings who are between 7 and 15 years younger than he. He grew up in the Orthodox community, attended Orthodox shuls, and Orthodox day schools. His stepfather is a Jewish educator. David Zvi attended a B'nei Akiva high school in Toronto, took a gap year in Israel, and enrolled at McGill for his first two years, during which time he met Yael.

"Yael graduated from Brown and I transferred to the University of Toronto," he said. After graduating, he began doing a doctorate in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with a focus on medieval Jewish and Islamic law. That held his interest through the Masters degree, but for his doctoral dissertation, David Zvi decided to focus on something different - the relationship between Jewish history and the history of technology. "I'm writing about the rabbinic reception" of self-operating devices like mechanical clocks called automata, he explained. Currently, he is still working on his dissertation.

Besides writing his dissertation, he runs two companies. One is a publishing company named Print-O-Craft that publishes Jewish art books. It started when friends were

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued)

getting married and wanted a bencher that was both queer friendly and had a haimish quality to it. "I designed it and decided that instead of publishing it as a one-time occasion book, I'd publish it and other books as well." Working with an artists' collective in Israel, David Zvi published haggadot and then "The Illustrated Pirkei Avot" by Jessica Tamar Deutsch.

"The benchers and the books have been successful and sell very well," he said. "This is a for-profit business. I also have a non-profit called Jewish Public Media, a podcasting platform. We publish podcasts like the *Joy of Text*. I wasn't the first to think of this title," he said, grinning at the wordplay with *Joy of Sex*, a book that was wildly popular in the 1970's. This podcast features a conversation between an Orthodox rabbi and a sex therapist, a collaboration with the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) and YCT, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. Jewish Public Media has produced five podcasts, three of which are active, meaning they have episodes coming out on a regular basis.

Neither Yael nor David Zvi define themselves precisely as Conservative Jews. "We're in the murky space between Conservative and where Mechon Hadar is," David Zvi remarked, referring to a recently established yeshivah that describes itself as, "an educational institution that empowers Jews to create and sustain vibrant, practicing, egalitarian communities of Torah learning, prayer, and service."

Once a year, David Zvi does standup comedy, usually at the Mechon Hadar alumni retreat. They both attended a summer session at Yeshivat Hadar, in 2009 and taught for Mechon Hadar when they lived in West Philadelphia.

Yael likes to attend the monthly session of Parasha ha'shavuah b'ivrit, (the portion of the week discussed in Hebrew) which pulls together people from across the spectrum of GJC. She speaks Hebrew to her children. "They understand everything," she said. "They don't usually speak it." Both children attend the Early Childhood Program (ECP) at GJC. "We love ECP," she said. "They had really great and loving teachers. We're very grateful."



NEWS FROM THE MEN'S CLUB by Dick Menin

HARP - defined as an ancient musical instrument that has a number of individual strings running at an angle to its soundboard. It also describes what Dick Menin does to get people out to help with setting up and dismantling the GJC Hanukiyah. Over the years the process has actually become easier, but we still need new hands in the mix if the lighting are to continue. Plan to come out to any of the 2 sessions in December and one in January. It doesn't take too long and is actually fun.



This is only one of the Men's Club events planned for the next few months. Since the beginning of 2017 the Men's Club has been working with the Jewish Relief Agency to box and deliver much needed food packages to impoverished, mostly elderly, individuals and families in the Philadelphia area. This is an ideal project for parents and children over 8 or so to make a real difference in people's lives. It takes place one Sunday morning each month starting at JRA's warehouse, 10980 Dutton Road in Northeast Philadelphia. Look to the Shabbat Bulletin for dates and contacts. Our next outings will be on September 17 and October 15.



Shortly after Yom Kippur, we'll continue our traditional "Scotch, and beer, in the Sukkah" on Wednesday, October 4. Rain location is the Charry lobby. Non-alcoholic refreshments will be available as well.



Programs for Sunday mornings are being planned on diverse topics: the borders and "language" of Israel, the ties that enable men's friendships, what really matters in politics, how to start or improve searching for your family's background (other than submitting a saliva sample), several thought provoking movies and several other programs. Again, watch the Shabbat bulletin for dates and times.

The Men's Club is about building community. Let us help you build yours.

WOMEN'S CLUB

by Sandy Meyer and Vilma Lieberman

We held a retreat in July to explore ideas for greater inclusiveness of people in our activities and events. At the retreat we reaffirmed that Women's Club makes important contributions to the synagogue in the forms of fundraising, religious observance, social/community connections and education. We see Women's Club evolving as an organization representative of all GJC women. We look forward to the continued growth of partnerships across generational boundaries and throughout the synagogue community. We invite all GJC women to join us in working toward this goal.

The Building Beautiful Project of restoring the façade of the GJC on Lincoln Drive has been completed. The building looks beautiful, fresh and inviting. We thank all of you for your participation and generosity in helping to make this project a reality. We especially want to thank Eric Word for finding quality contractors to do such fine work on our façade, Marcy Fish for reminding us that the view from Lincoln Drive was obstructed by trees that needed to be trimmed or removed, and the House and Design Committee (Mark Fallon, Leslie Pontz, Susan Pardys) for their time and effort in starting the process of securing proper landscape enhancement in front of the wall. There is more to do in the future, but we have a wonderful beginning that makes our building a noteworthy piece of architecture along Lincoln Drive.



Building Beautiful 2017-2018

This coming year, Building Beautiful funds will be used to restore the playground which so many of our children use on a daily basis. This project will enhance the growing popularity of our Early Childhood Program in the neighborhood. The playground is also a common area in which so many of our GJC families gather on a regular basis. We look forward to all of our community working together on this important project.

Ilene Blitzstein Poses and Amy Cohen will continue to send "Care Packages" to our college students. 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 so that no student will be without reminders that the GJC community cares about them and wishes them well in their college experience. Please include the following as 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. Your annual membership in Women's Club helps all of us to reach these goals. Please look for membership information in Women's Club fall mailing.

AMAZON SMILE

**EVERYONE CAN SUPPORT OUR GJC COMMUNITY
THROUGH WOMEN'S CLUB IN JUST 3 EASY STEPS!**

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

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

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

NEWS FROM HAZAK (55+ programming)

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

Last year, as the song goes, "was a very good year." At least, that was the case if you had participated in any of our HAZAK activities, such as our intergenerational event "Heart to Heart: Conversations Among Family & Friends about Money, Health & Wellbeing," or our two author talks – Ari Pontz's Fishing with Hand Grenades and Frank Hoeber's Against Time: Letters from Nazi Germany, 1938-1939. Then there were the tours that we had taken of the Kimmel Center in the fall and the Lasalle Art Museum in the spring. And let's not forget the films – All the President's Men, Twelve Angry Men, and Defiant Requiem – that we had shown, or the coffee roasting demonstration by GJC's own Josh Peskin.

Although we are proud of what we had accomplished over this past year, we look forward to serving the needs and the interests of our HAZAK community during the year to come. In addition to the wonderful institutions that had been developed under the leadership of Cherie Goren, Sonia Dishler, and Sam Feinberg - "Opera Under the Stars," HAZAK Shabbat, and the monthly book group – this year's lineup of events looks very enticing. Dr. Ken Weiss will kick off

our film and discussion series with Waltz with Bashir, an animated psychological thriller based upon actual events. Trips, book discussions, and joint ventures with the Women's Club and Men's Club are also in the works. And remember, if it is an HAZAK event, there is always food.

If you are 55 or older, we welcome your participation. Annual membership is still only \$10, which allows you to attend all events held in the synagogue (and includes food, of course). If you haven't paid your dues yet, now's the time! Click here to pay online, send a check (or bring it to "Opera Under the Stars" on August 16!) payable to "GJC-HAZAK" (mailed to Germantown Jewish Centre at 400 W. Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119). If you want to make additional donations, now or anytime throughout the year, they will be accepted with gratitude.

HAZAK is a community of elders, where we can learn and experience new adventures together. The fun starts NOW!!

THE LITTLE SHOP

Fall/Winter Hours

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



Sampling of
September specials to the left.
October specials above.

Special Discounts

- September-10% off Tallitot and Kippot
- October-10% off Mezuzot and Havdalah items
- EARLY BIRD EVERY WED-FRI 12-3, 10% discount on everything except books, wine, tefillin, and mezuzah parchment

DID YOU KNOW?

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

GJC's EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM (ECP)

by Jodi Gordon

Camp Keshet was filled with fun, creativity, and friendships this summer. The children explored the theme of Earth and Water (Mayim and Adama) throughout the summer by working with different materials from bubbles, tie dye and dirt. The children enjoyed special snacks such as watermelon, dirt pudding, and homemade popsicles each Thursday! We ended the summer by celebrating Tu B'av by wearing white while enjoying some Israeli dancing. Our last Friday of Camp Keshet was filled with song and stories, as we celebrated a lovely Shabbat with Rabbi Adam.

We look forward to a fabulous school year ahead.

L'Shanah Tovah to all!



DID YOU KNOW?

ECP is a special place for young children from 6 months of age through 5 years of age and for their families. Through the lens of Jewish culture and tradition, our children learn about themselves, and the world around them in a program which emphasizes learning through doing. The Early Childhood Program nurtures and respects individuality, while encouraging the children to develop a sense of community and friendship. Our talented, dedicated, professional staff provides age-appropriate activities that stimulate the development of the whole child in a warm and creative environment. The preschool follows the yearly cycle of the Jewish holidays. Jewish culture, traditions, and values are woven into our curriculum. Through Mitzvot (commandments), Tzedakah (charity) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), the children learn to respect themselves, others and the world they live in. We are committed to teaching and promoting respect and understanding of all persons. Our program stresses "learning through doing" using a multisensory approach and emphasizes the importance of play. We understand that children's work is play. The teachers utilize many learning styles to engage the children and allow for individual differences. Through this approach the staff assists in the development of cognitive, social-emotional, language, and physical skills.

Germantown Jewish Centre's Early Childhood Program is open to all!

PINAT HA-HINUCH EDUCATION CORNER

by Rabbi Alanna Sklover

Etgar Ivrit: Taking on the challenge of Hebrew learning

"Ani po!" (I'm present) echoes through the halls of the GJC Religious School, Wednesday afternoon his here again! Our students and teachers pepper their speech with Hebrew phrases and key vocabulary words: saying *thank you*, gathering their school supplies, referring to holiday and *halakhic* terms or Biblical people and places, and asking to use the restroom, but I often wonder – is it enough? Can we do more? How can we maximize the 5 ½ hours each week that our students are in their Religious School classrooms to foster real substantive Jewish learning that engages our students and peaks their curiosity?

This year, we will unveil our new *Etgar Ivrit* (Hebrew Challenge) program. *Etgar Ivrit* takes the both a group and individual approach to language learning, and creates a mechanism for students (and parents!) to both set goals for achievement, and track those achievements over the course of the school year. The *Etgar Ivrit* program has two components: Wednesday classroom learning, and individual achievements. On Wednesdays, rather than learning by grade, our 3rd-6th graders have been divided into *k'vutzot* (groups) that take into account the learning styles and needs of the student (on Sundays, students will still be learning by grade). As in the past, our Wednesday Hebrew program will focus on fluency and proficiency in reading (decoding) and Modern Hebrew language. Both parallel to and separate from the *k'vutzot*, students will have the opportunity to "level-up" throughout the year, earning colored bracelets corresponding to new skills gained. There are more than 30 levels (and corresponding colorful bracelets!) that students may "unlock" as they pursue their learning of Hebrew language at a pace that makes sense for them, and allows each child to feel confident and proud of the achievement that s/he has made over the course of the year.

This is the pilot year of this program, and I look forward to both sharing with all of you our progress, and hearing your feedback and observations. Personally, I can't wait to see our students proudly walking through the hallways of our synagogue displaying their Hebrew achievements, and looking forward to the next – from week to week, month to month, and year to year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marti Reinfeld & Ilde Burgos
Andrea Jacobs
Juliet Spitzer
Rabbi Eli Havivi
Amy Ignatow & Mark Graham
Shana Teitelbaum & James Manchester
Ari Witkin & Elizabeth Traison

TODAH RABBAH

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

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

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

HIGH HOLIDAY HUB



Germantown Jewish Centre

HIGH HOLIDAY & SUKKOT SERVICES 2017-5778

Day/Date	Service	Charry Service	Minyan Masorti	Dorshei Derekh	Kol D'mamah	Children's Services	Child-care
Sat, Sept 16	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]					
Wed, Sept 20	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 and Nina Peskin</i> [CS]				6:00 PM Rosh ha-Shanah JAM [MAR]	
Thur, Sept 21	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [MAR]	9:30 AM [MAS]	9:00 AM Meditation [LIB]	11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
	Tashlich	Meet at Germantown Jewish Centre at 4:00 PM					
	Minha/Ma'ariv	6:30 PM [MC]					
Fri, Sept 22	Rosh ha-Shanah	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [MAR]		10:30 AM-1:00 PM Kol D'mamah [LIB]	11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Sat, Sept 23	Shabbat Shuvah	10:00 AM [CS]	10:00 AM [CAN]	10:00 AM [MAS]		Regular Children's Shabbat Offerings	
Fri, Sept 29	Kol Nidrei	6:00 PM [CS]	5:45 PM [MAR]	6:00 PM [MAS]		6:30 PM Kids' Services	6:00 PM-9:30 PM
Sat, Sept 30	Yom Kippur	9:00 AM [CS]	9:00 AM [MAR]	9:15 AM [MAS]	9:00 AM-1:00 PM Kol D'mamah [LIB]	11:00 AM	9:00 AM-2:30 PM
	Yizkor	apx 11:30 AM	apx 11:30 AM	apx 11:45 PM			
	Oscar Bregman Program	2:45 PM [CS] "Pluralism in Action: Talking Respectfully About Divisive Issues" with Chris Satullo					
	Services Resume	4:15 PM [CS]	4:15 PM [MAR]	4:30 PM [MAS]	6:15-7:30 PM Kol D'mamah [LIB]		4:00 PM-7:30 PM
	N'ilah	5:45 PM [CS]	5:45 PM [MAR]	5:45 PM [MAS]			
	Blow Shofar	7:28 PM [CS]	7:28 PM [MAR]	7:28 PM [MAS]			
	Break-Fast	7:30 PM [SKL] Community Break-Fast (advanced registration necessary)					
Wed, Oct 4	Erev Sukkot	7:00 PM Scotch in the Sukkah					
Thur, Oct 5	Sukkot Day I	10:00 AM [CAN]		10:00 AM [MAS]			
Fri, Oct 6	Sukkot Day II	10:00 AM [CAN]			9:00 AM [LIB]		
Sat, Oct 7	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 8		10:00 AM [Israel Program] "Of Sukkot and other Harvest Holidays in the Contemporary Galilee Agricultural Landscape" w/ Abbie Rosner 10:30 AM GJC Celebrates! Sukkot Family Program [SKL] 11:00 AM GJC Celebrates! Sukkot [CS]					
Wed, Oct 11	Hoshanah Rabah Sukkot Day VII	6:00 AM Hoshanah Rabah Service [CS]		6:30 PM Dorshei Derekh Erev Simhat Torah Service [CAN]		5:30 PM Tot Sukkot Potluck [PLAYGROUND SUKKAH]	
Thur, Oct 12	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]		
Fri, Oct 13	Simhat Torah	10:00 AM [MAR]					

CS: Charry Sanctuary / CAN: Temin Canteen Room / LIB: Quitman Library / MC: Magil Chapel/
MAR: Marcus Auditorium / MAS: Maslow Auditorium / SKL: Silver Kiddush Lounge

SINGING BEFORE THE GATES

PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH DEVOTIONAL MUSIC AND PRAYER

FEATURING G'VANIM WITH RABBI ADAM ZEFF, NINA PESKIN, DAN BERMAN,
CHERYL BETTIGOLE, MIKAEL ELSILA, JUSTIN FINK, ELLIOTT SEIF & HOAGY WING

How do we take stock, let go, and move in new directions? What do we do to prepare our hearts for the spiritual work of teshuvah (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 Holy Days begin. Join G'vanim for an evening of devotional music, spiritual kavanot (intentions), deep prayer, and inspiring melodies. Together we will open our mouths, our ears, our minds, and our souls to all of the possibilities that the new year offers.

MUSICAL SERVICE AT 8 PM | REFRESHMENTS & ALBUM SALES AT 10 PM | LATE NIGHT SERVICE AT 11 PM

G'VANIM

A CHANCE TO TAKE
STOCK OF OUR LIVES

LET GO OF OLD HABITS
OF THOUGHT AND
ACTION

AND COMMIT
OURSELVES TO MOVING
IN NEW DIRECTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16 AT 8 PM

S'lichot Musical Service and Album Release



Erev Rosh ha-Shanah Community Dinner

Wed, Sept. 20 at 6:30 PM

Please join us at GJC for a delicious holiday meal! \$8/adult, \$4/child (age 2+)

Sponsorships available upon request

Advance registration & payment are necessary by Monday, 9/18.

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/RH-dinner-5778



Kol Nidrei Food Drive

Friday, September 29th from 5-6 PM
on the front lawn of Germantown Jewish Centre

Please bring a donation of food in the form of canned tuna, healthy canned goods, boxes of cereal, mac & cheese, or whole grain pasta, bags of grains, bottles of 100% juice, peanut butter or jelly. Monetary donations to Philabundance via check are also welcome.

How do we teach our children to appreciate the diversity of the world? By starting from the very beginning...in the Garden of Eden with a chatty bird, a thoughtful snake, and a very ambitious fish.

Rosh ha-Shanah JAM

Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 6 PM

original story by Rabbi Adam Zeff, puppetry by Rabbi Alanna Sklover, Kate Lawn, and Rabbinic Intern Ari Witkin, with music by Raji Malik

Come to the Garden of Eden!

ROSH HA-SHANAH JAM REGISTRATION:

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/RH-JAM-5778

**Happy New Year
from your friends at**

The Little Shop

at Germantown Jewish Centre

**JUDAICA • JEWELRY • TOYS
BOOKS • WINE • UNIQUE GIFTS**

Regular Hours (September-May)

Sunday 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Mon & Tues Closed

Wed 12:00-7:30 PM

Thurs & Fri 12:00-5:00* PM

(*Fri until 4 PM during winter months)

Summer Hours

Wed & Fri 12:00-6:00 PM

(Also by appointment through Marcy Bacine at 215-309-5928 or
Connie Katz at 215-248-0309)

*Early Bird Special: 10% off Wednesday - Fridays 12-3 PM
(some exceptions apply). Watch for monthly specials as well!*

*Gift Registry & Gift Wrapping available
"LIKE" us on Facebook!*

<https://www.facebook.com/thelittleshopatgjc>



Pluralism in Action:

Talking Respectfully about Divisive Issues

Yom Kippur Oscar Bregman Memorial Program

presented by Chris Satullo

Saturday, Sept. 30 at 2:45 PM



The nation's political discourse is in crisis. Debate by insult. Online trolls. Toxic tweets. People hunkered down in partisan silos where assumptions harden. What can be done? Can communities of faith become places where respectful dialogue takes root and flowers, where we blaze a

trail out of the poisonous wilderness? Chris Satullo (journalist and principal at the Penn Project for Civic Engagement), Rev. Sandy Strauss (of the PA Council of Churches), and GJC member Rabbi George Stern are creating a new project in congregation-based dialogue. It is based in existing models for discussions that manage to be both passionate and civil, carving out safe spaces for airing opposing viewpoints in a way that potentially provides an opportunity for finding common ground. At GJC's annual Oscar Bregman Memorial Program, Chris Satullo will introduce the project and provide details about the steps GJC and other local congregations can take in a quest for civic engagement and problem-solving.



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

Saturday, September 30

at 7:30 PM

at Germantown Jewish Centre

\$18.00/person

Children 7 and under are free
(sponsorships available upon request)

RSVP is necessary by Tuesday, Sept. 26

[www.germantownjewishcentre.org/
break-fast-5778](http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org/break-fast-5778)

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. If you plan to attend the break-fast with a sponsorship, please contact the GJC office.*

HIGH HOLIDAY SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Meditation led by Rabbinic Intern Ari Witkin : Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1, 9:00-9:45 AM

Kol D'mamah: Connect with the divine through music, breath and learning. Includes chant, hand percussion, meditation and contemplative teachings.

Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2, 10:30 AM-1:00 PM | Yom Kippur, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM | Yom Kippur, 6:15 PM-7:30 PM

Meditation Space - The Quitman Library will be open at 6:00 PM on Kol Nidrei for those who want a quiet space.

Text Study: Rosh Hashanah Day 1, 12:00-1:00 PM (led by Rabbinic Intern Ari Witkin)

Breaking Up the Family: *A text study on the banishment of Hagar and Ishmael. Why do we read the biblical account of Hagar and Ishmael's banishment on Rosh ha-Shanah and what can we learn about our selves and our community from this difficult narrative? In this hour we will look closely at the story of Hagar and Ishmael's banishment and they ways different voices throughout our tradition have understood what took place.*

Text Study: Rosh Hashanah Day 2, 10:00-11:00 AM (led by Herb Levine, Ph.D)

Exploring Conscious Alternatives to the High Holiday Machzor: *This one-hour session will explore the latest book by poet Marcia Falk, The Days Between, which expresses a spiritual take on the liturgy of Rosh ha-Shanah, the Days of Awe, and Yom Kippur that does not include any traditional God-language. Instead, Falk roots spirituality in the world around us. We will look at her English versions of the poem, but Hebrew will also be available.*

Text Study: Yom Kippur, 12:00-1:00 PM (led by Rabbinic Intern Ari Witkin)

Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice: *Sometimes it can be even more difficult to grant forgiveness than to ask for it. As we conclude our season of teshuva (repentance) this session will discuss what it means to forgive. In our time together we will explore a range of Jewish voices on the practical and spiritual process of forgiving and the role it plays during the High Holiday season.*

HIGH HOLIDAY HUB (continued)



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



REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY by SEPTEMBER 18th

Parent's Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

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

Childcare is for ages 6 months to 1st grade. Please choose from this year's sessions and pricing options and calculate accordingly. Please note that Family Plans include any and all sessions (please specify which sessions your child will be attending).

(1 child) Family Plan \$85 | Individual Sessions \$30 each Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1, 2 & Yom Kippur/\$20 each Kol Nidrei & N'ilah
(2+ children) Family Plan \$120 | Individual Sessions \$45 each Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1, 2 & Yom Kippur/\$30 each Kol Nidrei & N'ilah

<i>* place an "x" where you wish to register</i>	Child	Child	Child	Child	RATES
Name & age as of Sept. 2017					
Childcare: Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1					Please calculate your total here: \$_____
Childcare: Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2					
Childcare: Kol Nidrei					
Childcare: Yom Kippur					
Childcare: Yom Kippur N'ilah					

Children's Programming is for children in 2nd through 6th grades. Please choose from this year's sessions and calculate accordingly. Please note that prices are per session/per child.

<i>* place an "x" where you wish to register</i>	Child	Child	Child	Child	RATES
Name, age & grade as of Sept. 2017					
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 1 (morning, \$5)					Please calculate your total here: \$_____
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 (afternoon, \$5)					
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 (morning, \$5)					
Rosh ha-Shanah Day 2 (afternoon, \$5)					
Kol Nidrei Kids' Programming, \$10					
Yom Kippur (morning, \$5)					
Yom Kippur (afternoon, \$5)					
N'ilah Kids' Programming, \$10					

Lunches: Please note that if your child is 6 & under, you must pick them up from childcare and accompany them to lunch.

<i>* place an "x" where you wish to register</i>	Child	Child	Child	Child	RATES
Lunches (\$15 or \$5 per day, per child) <i>Please circle the day(s) you are signing up, and calculate the total in the end column</i>	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	RH1 / RH 2 / YK	Total \$_____

I have enclosed a check for the following total amount (childcare, children's programming & lunch totals): \$_____



Klezmas Eve!

December 24

Dinner, Concert & Dance Party with

The Ken Ulansey Ensemble & Dance Master Steve Weintraub

Germantown Jewish Centre hosts a Klezmas Eve like no other! The Ken Ulansey Ensemble brings stellar music to the mic, while Steve Weintraub, a.k.a. the "Pied Piper of Yiddish Dance", weaves dancers and music together in astonishing ways. Join us for evening of excitement!

Koresh Dance Company

January 20

Israeli Experiences

The full Koresh Dance Company, widely recognized for their powerful stage presence will present works that range from humorous and eloquent to passionate and explosive, while Israeli-born choreographer and artistic director Ronen (Roni) Koresh gives a behind the scenes look at the choreographic process highlighting the Israeli influences in his work. In Koresh's work the use of gesture, movement patterns and musical choice often draw from his early training in Yemenite folk dance and his on-going connection to the life and people of Israel.

Purim Bash

February 24

Women's Club Fundraiser - Eat, drink and dance the night away!

Night Club vibes. DJ & dancing. Costume contests. Great food. Silent Auction & more! Childcare & children's programming. Start gathering your friends now to book a table!

ISRAELI DANCING

Sundays at 10 AM: Sept 10 & 17, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

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 info, contact Tamar Magdovitz at tamarmagdovitz@gmail.com.

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

September 13

Lilac Girls

by Martha Hall Kelly

October 10

Heat and Light

by Jennifer Haigh

November 14

Karolina's Twins

by Ronald Balson

December 12

The Seven Good Years

by Etgar Keret

January 9

The Family Orchard

by Nomi Eve

February 13

In the Darkroom

by Susan Faludi

March 13

*A Backpack, a Bear, and
8 Crates of Vodka*

by Lev Golinkin

April 10

Two She-Bears

by Meir Shalev

May 8

Pastrami on Rye

by Ted Merwin

June 12

All Who Go Do Not Return

by Shulem Deen

At GJC, it's all about Jewish Connections. Whether you are looking for one-of-a-kind workshops or are interested in diving deeper into Jewish tradition, history, philosophy and more, there is something for you! We are proud to announce a wide range of 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.



SELF-CARE & HEALING WORKSHOP SERIES (OCT-NOV)

\$25/GJC members • \$30/non-members • reduced fee or supplies fee as marked*

REGISTRATION: www.germantownjewishcentre.org/jewish-connections-workshops

Finding Ourselves Amongst the Trees

with Ari Witkin, GJC's Rabbinic Intern

Sunday, October 15 at 10 AM

This workshop will give us the opportunity to make space for ourselves and silence in nature. Through a guided walk together we will explore the beauty of the park we share with our neighborhood, practice our skills of silence and listening, and breathe a little deeper while outside.



Drumming from the Heart:

Women's Drumming Circle

with Maureen "Moe" Jerant

Sunday, November 5 at 11 AM

Join drummer Moe Jerant as she introduces you to the fun, joy and healing power of the drum and drum circles. Be part of a unique, one of a kind energetic creation. Drum circles are a safe, fun and transformative space to let loose, reduce stress and access your inner power. Bring an open mind, a willing spirit and some creative energy. No previous drumming experience is necessary. A brief drum lesson will start the session. BYOD or reserve a drum when you register.



JEWISH HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

REGISTRATION: www.germantownjewishcentre.org/jewish-connections-classes

Sanctuary Cities and Sanctuary Spaces: Sacred Space in Judaism

with Rabbi Adam Zeff

Tuesdays at 7 PM - October 3, 10 & 17 | \$60/GJC members, \$75/non-members

**William Beck
Memorial
Course**

The embattled status of immigration policy in the United States has led to greater interest in the idea that cities and houses of worship might provide "sanctuary" in different ways to those whose right to be in the country may be contested by the federal government. In this class we will explore the idea of sacred space in Jewish thought, from the Mishkan (Tabernacle) in the wilderness to the Temple in Jerusalem to Israel and the modern synagogue. How do certain spaces change the people in them and those outside them? What kind of protection or refuge can they provide? And how might Judaism provide a reference point for our current struggles? No prior knowledge is assumed, and all texts will be studied in English.

LIFELONG LEARNING AT GJC

JEWISH LAW

monthly Oct-Mar • \$150/GJC members • \$200/non-members • \$100/cle

REGISTRATION: www.germantownjewishcentre.org/jewish-connections-lunch-and-learn

Truth, Lies, & Gossip: Speech Ethics in Jewish Law

CLE

Centre City Lunch & Learn Series with Rabbi Adam Zeff

begins Wednesday, October 4 (meets monthly Oct-March)

Torrents of speech pour over us every day, from family, friends, and colleagues, as well as from public figures through the media. Troublingly, in this moment, all limits and boundaries on speech seem to have washed away in the flood of words. Lies are told with impunity, unsubstantiated gossip drives quick action, and even the nature of truth itself seems to be embattled. According to the Torah, God created the world with speech, and Jewish law takes human speech equally seriously – sometimes as a matter of life and death. A whole literature of laws on speech ethics carefully considers both how we should monitor our own speech and how we should react to the words of others. In this class we will survey this body of law and explore how the boundaries that Jewish tradition places on speech might help us judge and make sense of the words we hear every day.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for PA lawyers is available through Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis for an additional \$100 for the full year or \$75 for any three sessions. CLE fees must be paid separately.

6 Sessions (OFF-SITE): Wednesdays 12:15-1:30pm

Oct 4; Nov 1; Dec 6; Jan 3; Feb 7; Mar 7

GJC Members \$150 / Non-Members \$200 / additional CLE fees may apply

(Lunch & texts included) **Hosted by Jim Meyer at Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis** (1600 Market St, Ste. 3600)

This course is supported by a gift from Sandy & Jim Meyer in memory of their parents.

Goodblatt Academy

Begins September-October

www.germantownjewishcentre.org/lifelong-learning-at-GJC for brochure & application

During 23 weeks of study in the Rabbi Morris Goodblatt Academy you will learn about Judaism and Jewish living in a welcoming classroom setting. In addition, you will meet fellow students and celebrate five holidays with the entire Goodblatt Academy community of students. You will learn the sweeping story of the Jewish people, and the blueprint that Judaism provides for a full life of meaning and purpose.

Contact Kathy Elias at goodblattacademy@gmail.com or 732-841-4876 | www.goodblatt.org

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE GOODBLATT ACADEMY? All those interested in learning about and deepening their connection to Judaism are welcome in the Goodblatt Academy program.

WHEN DO GOODBLATT ACADEMY CLASSES MEET? There are two choices of start dates for Goodblatt Academy classes: September and January. Classes continue for 18 weeks; each class is 1½ hours. In addition, five holiday-themed celebrations will bring together the entire Goodblatt student community throughout the year. (Exact days and times determined by each location.)

WHERE DO GOODBLATT ACADEMY CLASSES MEET? Classes are offered at area synagogues in Greater Philadelphia and New Jersey.

WHAT IS THE COST? \$550/individual; \$650/student and his/her Jewish partner. Cost includes all study materials.

WHAT IF I'M INTERESTED IN CONVERSION? If you choose to embrace Judaism through conversion, we will help you find a Conservative rabbi to be your mentor as you begin to study.

The Jewish-Muslim-Christian Interfaith Encounter: from Text Study to Co-Existence

32nd Annual Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial Weekend



NOVEMBER 10 - 12, 2017

Germantown Jewish Centre is pleased to welcome

Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Gordon

How can religious leaders play a role in peace building between Israelis and Palestinians? Can shared text study be a meaningful part of that process? Our weekend together will look at a wide range of sacred scriptures with a special emphasis on texts from the Qur'an.

FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 10

Please join us for Kol Zimrah, our musical Friday night service, before the program at 6:00 PM.

7:15 PM Shabbat Potluck & Program: A Jewish Reading of Sura 1 of the Qur'an

The first Sura (chapter) of the Qur'an is short and it contains terms and ideas familiar to us from the High Holiday liturgy and the Bible. How might these verses bridge our traditions?

REGISTER FOR THE POTLUCK ONLINE:
www.germantownjewishcentre.org/Charry-Weekend-Potluck-2017

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

10 AM Comparing Halakhah & Sharia Law: A New Frontier of Jewish-Muslim Relations

Rabbinic Judaism and Islam are both traditions rooted in law and legal philosophy. Join us for an opportunity to examine passages comparing and contrasting rules governing food, the family, and religious life.

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.germantownjewishcentre.org/Charry-Weekend-Sunday-Workshop-2017
\$18, scholarships available upon request

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 AM Charry Memorial Shabbat Service & Portrait Dedication for Rabbi Gordon

Please join us for a special service in which we will dedicate a portrait of Rabbi Gordon. GJC is deeply grateful to Rick and Eileen Bazelon for donating this portrait. Rabbi Gordon's work was crucial in shaping the synagogue community we have today. He designed communal processes that helped make GJC a "community of communities," where multiple minyanim flourish, share governance, care for one another, and are united in learning and pursuing social justice. We are grateful to be able to honor him.

11:30 AM D'var Torah - Rules for Rulers: The Queen of Sheba as Model Monarch

The story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba continued to resonate for Jews and Muslims over a thousand years after their fateful encounter. How does the account of the Queen's visit differ in the two traditions, and what does that teach us about gender roles and political leadership?

All are invited to kiddush following the service. Childcare and children's supervision (6+) will be offered through the program.

1:30 PM Program - Children of Sarah and Hagar: Recovering our Embattled Foremothers for Contemporary Dialogue

When we speak of "Abrahamic" traditions we trace Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to a common ancestor about whom we tell very different stories. Might we instead think of ourselves as descendants of Sarah and Hagar? What might emerge from such a change in perspective?



Rabbi Elias Charry Memorial Weekend is made possible by the Julius & Ray Charlestein Foundation and an endowment established in memory of Fannie, Samuel & Arthur Weiss. Germantown Jewish Centre extends thanks and gratitude to the Wolfe Family Foundation for their generous support in all GJC programming.

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TODAH RABBAH

CONTRIBUTIONS from JULY-AUGUST 2017

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

FUND	BY	OCCASION
Adult Education Fund	Judy & Jerry Caplan	in honor of Harry Cooper, on his special birthday.
	Linda Millison	in memory of Vivian Rabineau, aunt
	Betsy & Hershel Richman	in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
Bess Schick Fund	Howard & Yona Diamond	in appreciation of Sam & Connie Katz, for their gracious, warm, and generous hospitality
	Dansky	in memory of Saul Zack, grandfather
	Michael Schick	
Camp Scholarships Fund	Norman & Leah Schwartz	in honor of Benji Axelrod, son of David Axelrod & Keira Chism Axelrod, on his Bar Mitzvah
		in honor of Caleb Shapiro-Mendelsohn, son of Alan Mendelsohn & Mindy Shapiro, on his Bar Mitzvah
Chesed Fund	Lizanne Berger	in memory of Mildred Marcus, grandmother
		in memory of Myer B. Marcus, grandfather
	Cheryl Kritz	in honor of our teacher, Rabbi Fredi Cooper
Early Childhood Program Fund	Abby Pozefsky	in honor of our teacher, Rabbi Fredi Cooper
	Alex Seldin	in memory of Ruth Seldin, mother
	Eileen Bazelon	in memory of Edith Ferrin, mother
	Lynne & Art Ellis	in honor of Phill & Anna Goldberg, on the birth of their son, Benjamin
		in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Maxine & Maurice Feldman	in honor of Phill & Anna Goldberg, on the birth of their son, Benjamin
		in honor of Anna Goldberg, on receiving her Masters in Jewish Education
	Howard Girsh	in memory of Betty R. Werner, friend
	Connie Katz	in memory of Donald B. Hackel, father
	Isador & Myra Kranzel	in honor of Phill & Anna Goldberg, on the birth of their son, Benjamin
	Cyrilla Rosen	in honor of Phill & Anna Goldberg, on the birth of their son, Benjamin
		in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Joan Silver	refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal, for a speedy recovery
	Wendy Smith & Michael Posner	in memory of Brian Rosenthal, husband of Amy Jo Rosenthal
	Wendy Weingarten	in honor of The Ziskind-Miller Family, for their generosity
Floral Fund General Fund	Barbara Weiss	in honor of Ivan Levingston, son of Judd Levingston & Hilary Kruger Levingston, on his graduation
		in honor of Isaac Spear, son of Michael & Shelley Spear, on his high school graduation
		in honor of Sophia Gluskin-Braun, daughter of Rabbi Shai Gluskin and Sarah Braun, on her graduation from Brown University
		in honor of Jake & Linda Kriger, on their newest grandchildren
		in honor of Ezra Solway, son of Linda & Jake Kriger, on his graduation from the University of Maryland
	Chana Bonn	in memory of Belle Greenwald, mother
	Michael & Frances Baylson	in honor of Rabbi Fredi Cooper, on her retirement
	Doris & Shlomo Cohen	in honor of Marty Millison, on his 80th birthday
	Jeremy Holl	in memory of Albert E. Holl, father
	Shellie Holl	in memory of Maurice Steier, father
	Abby Horn & Maria Pulzetti	in honor of Matt Utterback, on his Bar Mitzvah

Contributions *continued*

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General Fund	Neil Kitrosser	in memory of Benjamin Kitrosser, father
	Steve & Chris Levin	in memory of Richard Rosenbaum, father of Beth Rosenbaum
	Steve Levin	in appreciation of Beth Rosenbaum, for her assistance with Torah reading
	Judd & Hillary Kruger Levingston	in honor of Phill & Anna Goldberg, on the birth of their son, Benyamin
		in honor of Jake & Linda Kriger, on the graduation of their son, Ezra, from the University of Maryland
		in honor of Rabbi Shai Gluskin & Sarah Braun, on the graduation of their daughter, Sophia, from Brown University
	Linda Millison	in honor of Marty Millison, on his 80th birthday
	Aileen Salus	in honor of Harry Cooper, on his special birthday
	Toni Seidl	in memory of Robert David Friedman, husband
	Susan Swartz	in honor of Rabbi Fredi Cooper
Hazak Fund	West Mt. Airy Neighbors	in memory of Janice Dobkin-Kardon, mother of Lou Dobkin
	Nancy Weissman & Ned Wolff	in memory of Hella Taylor, mother of Linda, Richard & Jarrod Gutman
	Susan Rothschild	in memory of Rosa Heimann, mother
	Rabbi Dayle Friedman	in memory of Fred Marcus, step-father
	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Eva Goldenberg, sister
	Eleanor Seif	in memory of Annabelle Cohen, mother
	Linda Dzuba	in memory of Nathan Routhinstein, father
	Rachel Falkove	in memory of Naomi Falkove, mother
	Cecile Merion	in memory of Joseph Kopstein, brother
	Karen Rothschild	in memory of Robert Rothschild, father
Interfaith Hospitality Network Fund	Frieda Sanders	in memory of Lena Goldenberg, mother
	Marcy & Dan Bacine	in honor of Rabbi Fredi Cooper, on her retirement
		in honor of Harry Cooper, on his special birthday.
	Barbara Morgenstern	in memory of Phyllis Rasner, mother
	Judy Schwartz	in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their grandson Sam's high school graduation
		in honor of Maurice & Maxine Feldman, on their grandson's graduation
	Leah Schwartz	in memory of Esther Sharlin, mother
	Norman & Leah Schwartz	in memory of Paul Schwartz, son
		in honor of Dovid Schwartz, son of Joel & Sydney Schwartz, on his Bar Mitzvah in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel
	Norman Schwartz	in memory of Joseph Schwartz, father
Israel Affairs Fund	Sonia Dishler	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
Israel Garden Fund	Vincent DiLorenzo	in memory of Sophie DiLorenzo, mother
	Richard Menin	in memory of Victor Menin, father
	Ellen & Andrew Mermelstein	in honor of Ivan Levingston, son of Judd Levingston & Hilary Kruger Levingston, on his graduation
	Betsy & Hershel Richman	in honor of Dan Bacine, on his special birthday
		in honor of Kate & Geof Margo, on their special birthdays
	Susan Rothschild	in memory of Robert Rothschild, husband

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FUND	BY	OCCASION
Kiddush Fund	Norman & Leah Schwartz	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
Library Fund	Martin Itzkowitz	in memory of Simon Itzkowitz, father
Minyan Masorti Memorial Shabbat Fund	David Barcan	in honor of Friends in Minyan Masorti, for their help in my time of need
	Rabbi Harold Kravitz & Cindy Reich	in honor of Minyan Masorti, for the kindness of their congregation
	Jerry Kutnick	in memory of Esther Kutnick, mother
	Dveera Segal	in memory of Batsheva Segal, mother
	Barbara Weiss	in memory of Margalit Berdugo, mother of Albert Berdugo
Music Fund	Marcy & Dan Bacine	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
		in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
	Peninah & Albert Berdugo	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Andi Brockman & Vinny DiLorenzo	in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
	Helene & Marc Cohen	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Lynne & Art Ellis	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Betty Ann & David Fellner	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Dena & Ed Lake	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Marcia & Jeff Pelberg	in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
	Jim & Sandy Meyer	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Miriam & Jim Robin	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Martha Schleifer	in memory of Martin A. Myers, uncle
	Judy Schwartz	in honor of Ira Somerson, on his special birthday
	Joan Silver	in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
Playground Fund	Daniel Bacine	in memory of Jules Bacine, father
Prayerbook & Ritual Items Fund	Judy & Jerry Caplan	in honor of Harry Cooper, on his special birthday
	Linda Hahn	in memory of Max Klevit, father
	Gloria Salmansohn	in memory of Adelheid Tilla Benjamin, friend
Program Fund	Linda Hahn & George Feuer	in honor of Marty Millison, on his 80th birthday
	Deborah Stern	in memory of Eva Klepper, grandmother
		in memory of Paul Klepper, grandfather
		in memory of Anna Schoen, grandmother
		in memory of Murry Schoen, grandfather
		in memory of Carlyn Stern, mother
Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund	Nan Daniels	in memory of Mildred Shapiro, mother
		in memory of Helene Bernat, sister
	Noel Eisenstat	in memory of Lorraine Eisenstat, mother
	Joyce Eveloff	in memory of Philip Blumenthal, father
	Rabbi Shai Glusin & Dr. Sarah Braun	in honor of Ivan Levingston, son of Judd Levingston & Hilary Kruger Levingston, on his graduation
	Marlene & Steve Hilkowitz	in honor of Dan Bacine, on his special birthday
	Roberta Kaneff	in memory of Ida Kaneff, mother

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FUND	BY	OCCASION
Rabbi Zeff's Discretionary Fund	Ed & Dena Lake	refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal, for a speedy recovery
		in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
		in honor of Nan Daniels, on the birth of her grandson
Religious School Fund	Ellen Lissy Rosenberg	in honor of Barbara Lissy
	Judy Schwartz	refuah shleimah to Susan Sternthal, for a speedy recovery
	Aaron, Nikki, Simone & Ever Weiss	in honor of Ken Weiss, inaugural Robert L. Sadoff Clinical Professor at UPenn's Perelman School of Medicine
	Ken & Susan Weiss	in honor of Dan Bacine, on his special birthday
	Michael Beer	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Abby Horn & Maria Pulzetti	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the baby naming of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Isador & Myra Kranzel	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Dena & Ed Lake	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
Special Education Fund	Chuck & Martha Schleifer	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Denise Wolf & Paul Rudick	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the birth of their daughter, Bina Yael
	David Barcan	in honor of Chessed Committee, for their help following his surgery
	Ben Greberman	in memory of Betty R. Werner, sister
Tikkun Olam Fund	Judah Labovitz	in memory of Deborah Labovitz, wife
		in memory of Clara Levy, mother-in-law
	Chava Weissler	in memory of Alfred Weissler, father
	Eleanor Brownstein	in memory of Joseph Brownstein, father
	Betty Ann & David Fellner	in memory of Stanley Abramowitz, father of Adina Abramowitz
Torah Restoration Fund		in honor of Maxine Margolies, on her engagement
		in honor of Chava Weissler, on her special birthday
	Jonathan Moselle	in memory of Phillip Moselle, father
	Joan Silver	in honor of Maxine Margolies, on her upcoming wedding
	Sonia Dishler	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Lee & Elaine Dushoff	in honor of Chuck & Martha Schleifer, on their 50th wedding anniversary
	Sheila Erlbaum	in memory of George Erlbaum, father
	Maurice Feldman	in memory of Reba Feldman, mother
Women's Club	Eve Pinkenson	in memory of Aaron Blumenthal, father
	Joan Silver	in honor of Carol & Marty Kaplan, on their grandson Sam's high school graduation
	Betsy & Hershel Richman	in honor of Sam & Connie Katz, on the birth of their new grand-daughter
	Alexandra & Sheila Avelin	in honor of Rabbi Alanna Sklover & Rebecca Kirzner, on the baby naming of their daughter, Bina Yael
	Girl Scout Troop 91224	in honor of Germantown Jewish Centre, for generously hosting the Mt. Airy Girl Scout Troops
Youth Activities Fund	Curtis & Leslie Pontz	in memory of Jake Taylor Pontz, grandson
	Curtis Pontz	in memory of Harry Pontz, father

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



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