



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

June/July 2020  
Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5780  
thejewishcenter.org

CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY · **היה שותף בקהילה**

Wishing our entire TJC family a happy,  
healthy and safe summer!



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Robert Schwartz	Nicole Soffin

Recording Secretary	Edye Kamenir
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435 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540

www.thejewishcenter.org

info@thejewishcenter.org  
(office)

Telephone  
609.921.0100 x 201

Fax  
609.921.7531

School telephone  
609.921.7207



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**JUNE/JULY LIVESTREAM  
SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Friday Night Shabbat Service - 6:30 PM**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87670384283?pwd=b0xoYURNN3RBSDRZM2pHZDdaZzBadz09>  
**Meeting ID: 876 7038 4283**  
**Password: TJCSabbat**  
**Livestream - <https://livestream.com/tjc>**

**Saturday Morning Shabbat Service**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88917859044?pwd=bFpCZXIxVGp4RUhhWFEzbHpuMeetingID:88917859044>  
**Meeting ID: 889 1785 9044**  
**Password: TJCSabbat**  
**Livestream - <https://livestream.com/tjc>**

**Sunday Morning Minyan**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88517105859?pwd=NnU5VENCbTZjeXNDcURWSHZsYXl5UT09>  
**Meeting ID: 885 1710 5859**  
**Password: TJCminyan**  
**Livestream - <https://livestream.com/tjc>**

**Wednesday Morning Minyan**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82303857786?pwd=Wet1WVNBalpUUTNONEV3TkY4N3JYZz09>  
**Meeting ID: 823 0385 7786**  
**Password: TJCminyan**  
**Livestream - <https://livestream.com/tjc>**

Prayer Book pages can be found on our website at:  
<https://thejewishcenter.org/Resources/Services-Sid-durs.aspx>

**Please visit the website  
for clickable Zoom links.**

To Live Stream our services, go to [www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org). Scroll down and in the gold box on the right, which says "go to livestream". Click on that. On the next page, a gray box will appear. Click on that as well. You will then see our main sanctuary. If we are live, just click the play button. Cameras go live 10-15 minutes before services begin.

**Slate of Officers  
2020-2021**

The following officers are elected for their first one year term:

- PRESIDENT ELECT\*: Alexandra Bar-Cohen  
 VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION: Naomi Richman Neumann  
 VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE: Dane Dickler  
 VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION: Linda Meisel  
 RECORDING SECRETARY: Edye Kamenir  
*\*which will be followed immediately by a two-year term as President*

The following Trustees are elected for the first year of a two year term:

- TRUSTEE: David Greenberg  
 TRUSTEE: Adam Scheer

The following officers are elected for their second one year team:

- VICE PRESIDENT, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS: Polly Strauss  
 VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMMING: Heidi Joseph

These nominees would join the current officers and Trustees, who will serve a second year of a two year term:

- PRESIDENT: Randy Brett  
 TRUSTEE: Bob Schwartz  
 TRUSTEE: Nicole Soffin

Respectfully Submitted,  
 The 2020 Nominating Committee  
 Edye Kamenir, Chair  
 Justus Baird, Member-at-Large  
 Michael Feldstein, Member-at-Large  
 Barbara Gantwerk, Member-at-Large  
 Art Meisel, Member-at-Large  
 Liz Nayden, Board Member  
 Abigail Rose, Board Member





## MESSAGE from the Acting Interim Rabbi

Rabbi Bob Freedman  
609.921.0100  
rabbibob@thejewishcenter.org

Mann tracht un Gott lacht, “man plans and God laughs,” is the way the Yiddish proverb goes. To say that when you asked me to be interim rabbi until July we didn’t expect what was going to happen is a comical understatement. Many of you know that I approached the work with trepidation, knowing that we would all be frustrated if we thought I could replace Rabbi Feldman<sup>z”l</sup>. Then COVID happened.

Looking back on it, I’m pleased to say that the experience has been enriching and rewarding. Had we only been confronted with the technical adventures of developing and providing live streaming services, dayenu. But really fascinating to me was and remains the wrestling with halachic issues that live streaming and Zoom participation present. In rabbinical school we read about times of halachic crisis and how the rabbis responded. How Yohanan ben Zakkai led the community to a new paradigm after the Temple was destroyed in the second century. How Maimonides reacted to forced conversions by the Muslims in the 11th century. How in the 12th century Rashi’s grandson Rabbenu Tam convinced Ashkenazi Jewry that Christians weren’t idolaters, so that Jews could do business with them on Christian festivals. How in the 19th century Rabbi Israel Salanter instructed his congregation in a time of plague to eat on Yom Kippur. How seventy years ago the Law Committee of the Conservative Movement gave its members permission to drive to shul on Shabbat. Now it’s the turn of this generation. 6 weeks ago we decided that since we could not gather ten live Jews in a room, we would recite Mourners Kaddish if only a Zoom Minyan were present. That may be only the beginning of

the halachic shifts that we’ll need. When I reached my 70th birthday I decided that my desire for the rest of my life was to remain useful and interested. I got my wish.

Lots and lots of people have guided and helped me. I’m hugely grateful for your support. I’m even more gratified to see how many groups in the congregation have come together to solve problems and activate solutions to the quarantine. At the risk of leaving someone unmentioned I’ll thank some individuals for their leadership and energy, and you should too when you talk to them: Cantor Jeff Warshauer, Polly Strauss, Joel Berger, Randy Brett, Mindy Langer, Linda Milstein, Linda Meisel, Judi Fleitman and Gil Gordon. Regretfully, I only worked a little with Sharon Diamondstein. She deserves an enormous amount of praise for keeping the flow of education uninterrupted.

And thanks in advance to Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg. He and I will share rabbi duties for the month of June. In July I’ll leave you with confidence in his capable hands.

*Rabbi Freedman will be with us until June 30.*



## MESSAGE from the President

Randall Brett  
president@thejewishcenter.org

### What I Will Do on My Summer Vacation

My 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Murray, had all of us in her class write an essay near the end of the spring semester. Rather than start off a new school year in September with an essay on “what I did on my summer vacation”, Mrs. Murray thought that it would be more interesting to hear what we wanted to do over the upcoming few months. Apparently, she thought this would make us think about our summer activities and help our parents keep us occupied in productive pursuits rather than just hang out and get into trouble. I do not know if this essay accomplished the first goal, but it certainly did not stop me from getting into trouble. But that is a topic for another article.

The summer between 5th and 6th grade was the first time I went to overnight camp. For Jewish children in the Chicago area during the late 1950’s and early 1960’s, going to overnight camp meant either the JCC’s Camp Chi in Wisconsin (if your parents had the money), or Camp Henry Horner, operated by the Young Men’s Hebrew Association. Located in the idyllic Chain O’ Lakes area of McHenry County, Illinois, Camp Henry Horner (whose name was often transposed by us witty 12-year-olds) was named for a former (and Jewish) Illinois governor; one of the few who did not go to jail either during or after his term. The summer was filled with swimming, hiking, camp crafts, sports, mediocre food, mosquito bites, sunburn, and the occasional case of impetigo. In other words, the classic summer camp experience. I looked forward to going to camp, especially since I would be getting away from my annoying younger brother and sister for several weeks. I’m sure they celebrated my departure, too – a break from the bossy older brother.

What brought this to mind was thinking about what a strange summer this will be. Families probably will not be taking the stereotypical summer trip to the shore or Disney World. The Meadowlands will not be the same without a Bruce Springsteen concert or Asbury Park without a visit to the boardwalk. And summer camps, if they even open, will be an entirely different experience if social distancing must be maintained.

For Debbie and me, our summer activities have been arranged. We will be helping our daughter and her family move to Lawrence, Kansas where our son-in-law becomes a professor with the University of Kansas Law School and our daughter an attorney with the ACLU and an adjunct on the law school faculty. Our joy at their professional success is tempered by the knowledge that it will be harder to get to see them and our grandchildren. Visits will no longer be a jump into the car and a drive up to Boston or down to Washington, D.C. Now, we will have to contend with air travel in the era of Covid-19.

I am not complaining, mind you. We are among the fortunate in that we have the means, the time, and the good health that allow us to travel. Many people do not, and if the stay-at-home orders remain, parents will continue to have to deal with energetic children after months of home-schooling in an environment that requires limited interaction with their peers. Children will not have an opportunity to experience summer as I did so many years ago. I can only hope that next summer will be better for all of us.

If Mrs. Murray were still around, I am sure she would offer good advice on how to enjoy the summer and stay out of trouble. I would love to tell her of my plans. But she would be the first to tell you that I’m not likely to stay out of trouble—she knew me too well.

*The Havurah Minyan will continue Zoom meetings in June and July on the second and fourth Saturdays.*

*June 13 and 27*  
*July 11 and 25*

Thank you Rabbi Bob for all your efforts in supporting our congregation and guiding us through these past six months.

With love,

TJC





# An Introduction to Our Interim Rabbi

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg  
609.921.0100  
eschoenberg@thejewishcenter.org

*The Interim Rabbi Search Committee, Michelle Bellows, Raanan Boustan, Judi Fleitman, Dana Molina, Liz Nayden, Naomi Richman Neumann and Ed Simon, are very happy to welcome Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg. We will officially welcome him at our Zoom/Livestream Shabbat Services on Friday, June 5 and Saturday morning, June 6. There will be many opportunities for congregants to connect with Rabbi Schoenberg on Zoom for the present and in-person as soon as feasible.*

*Rabbi Schoenberg comes to us after retiring from his executive role in rabbi placement at the Rabbinical Assembly, effectively working with rabbis seeking positions and congregations seeking rabbis. He also is responsible for implementing and developing the Interim Rabbi program to assist congregations in the permanent rabbi search process. He now brings that expertise and sage guidance to us in our upcoming transitional year, as we look towards defining our congregation and selecting the rabbinic leadership we seek for our future.*

*Rabbi Schoenberg and his wife, Rabbi Cathy Felix, have taken an apartment within walking distance of the synagogue. We know they will be made to feel at home here in the caring and welcoming community that is The Jewish Center.*

The following article appeared in the New Jersey Jewish News(NJN) on May 5, 2020.

This month, Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg will begin a one-year term as interim rabbi at The Jewish Center (TJC) in Princeton. For the past three decades, he's been senior vice president and global director of rabbinic career advancement of the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the international professional association of Conservative rabbis. In that position he led the career development of rabbis in the movement and oversaw their job placements.

He has a varied educational background, including rabbinic ordination and a master's degree in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary; he studied philosophy and chasidism at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; and is a N.Y.-state-trained disaster chaplain.

In addition, he's a fair-trade coffee aficionado who, before the Covid-19 pandemic, led coffee tours in New York City. He recently returned from an RA trip to Uganda, where he met with the Abuyadaya Jewish community and toured their many coffee farms.

Schoenberg is married to Rabbi Cathy Felix, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Am in Bayonne. They have three grown sons.

NJJN: What made you want to return to the pulpit after nearly 30 years away?

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg: I began my career as a pulpit rabbi, spending a dozen fulfilling years in two pulpits in the Boston area (Temple Aliyah in Needham and Temple Emanuel in Newton, Mass.). I actually was not looking to

work for the RA, they approached me because they were seeking a "happy" pulpit rabbi. I loved my work for the RA, and now it feels like I am moving full circle, to end my career in the position I love best: the pulpit rabbinate.

The themes of my rabbinate have been teaching, counseling, and building relationships. I look forward to bringing those strengths to TJC.

NJJN: How will you preserve the legacy of TJC Rabbi Adam Feldman, who passed away in December, and what innovations do you plan to bring to the congregation?

ES: The role of the interim rabbi is not the same as that of the permanent rabbi. I am not here to bring my agenda and my innovations. I am here to respect, appreciate, and articulate the strengths of the congregation. I think about the interim rabbis via a metaphor — rabbi as mirror. I reflect back to the congregational leadership what they say and do with greater clarity and perspective. I am a tool so they can see themselves better. The mark of my success is that they will find a successor to Rabbi Feldman who matches their strengths.

I knew Rabbi Feldman, and respected him. We often golfed together. Mine was the better short game and he was an excellent long-ball hitter. Together, we made a very good golfer. The loss of Rabbi Feldman is a great tragedy. Nothing can replace his warmth and caring for each individual member of the community. My role will be to listen to my congregants as they tell me their stories. Through storytelling and deep listening comes healing.

NJJN: How will you unite a congregation while programming and prayer remain virtual?

ES: In the middle of this pandemic, I will bring all of my experience, creativity, and energy to help the congregation chart a new path. This task will be a partnership with the staff and the talented lay leaders. We will experiment and see what works. This is a good time to take risks. We will learn together what works best.

NJJN: What is your favorite Jewish ritual?

ES: We are now in the Omer season, in which we count each day between the holiday of Pesach and the holiday of Shavuot. I like counting the Omer because: There is a blessing, it's brief, and it reminds me to focus on the joys of this day and this moment, to try not to worry about the larger issues just for this moment. Every day the Omer inspires me to think of something I give thanks for.

NJJN: What's Jewish about a good cup of joe?

ES: Quality coffee and ethical questions around the production of coffee are my passions. Over the last four months, I created a walking tour in Greenwich Village that traces the history and ethical concerns around coffee. Greenwich Village is the birthplace of espresso in America, and still contains many ethnic and high-quality coffee stores (plus it's a fun neighborhood for a walking tour.)

The history of coffee is a lens to examine our own ethical values. Coffee touches on slavery, feminist expression, political freedom, workers' rights, climate change, and so much more. When the pandemic ends, I look forward to sharing this adventure with my new community in Princeton. I love teaching in an informal setting, especially outdoors while drinking good coffee. I am anticipating exploring good coffee places in Mercer County.

Edited by NJJN Managing Editor Shira Vickar-Fox

## A Word on Leadership

Dear Congregants,

After nine consecutive years serving on the TJC Board (seven on the EC), I wanted to thank you for the opportunities and also to share some reflections on how fulfilling it is to volunteer and to answer the call to leadership.

I selfishly accepted the appointment of JCW Chair after being a member of TJC for less than 2 years (having moved from California) because I was anxious to make friends. When Linda Grenis called me a couple of years later to offer me VP of Programming because my name was suggested, my response was "and then your search committee asked 'who's THAT?'". I then went on to serve for 2 years as VP of Religious Affairs and then the past 3 as VP of Administration.

Did I work hard? Did I spend sleepless nights trying to grapple with important issues? Did I get frustrated? Of course. "The Jewish Center way" is disparate points of views on what is best for our synagogue. Respecting various opinions of a passionate, diverse community and maintaining our mission of "warm

and welcoming" with integrity continues to be the push-pull of leadership. Was it discouraging? -- sometimes. Was it fulfilling? -- often. Was it worth the effort? -- always.

To paraphrase JFK, I urge you "do not ask what your synagogue can do for you, ask what you can do for your synagogue". The more people you know, the more dedication you emulate, the more you offer your skills and talents, I can say confidently from personal experience, the more you will reap the high-yield returns of a greater sense of community, develop deep friendships and garner more respect for the commitment of others.

You have a great deal to offer TJC. Contact Randy, or the appropriate VP or Committee Chair and get involved! No need to wait to be asked. This is a great community and with your efforts you will fortify our community while our community fortifies you.

B'shalom,

**Judi Fleitman**



## MESSAGE from the Cantor

Cantor Jeff Warschauer  
609.921.0100 ext 213  
jwarschauer@thejewishcenter.org

### Enhancing Our Online Services

Dear TJC Friends,

As I write this, in mid-May, the need to social-distance continues, and with it, our online-only services continue as well.

A few weeks ago, I was contacted by two members of our wonderful TJC leadership, Naomi Richman Neumann and VP of Religious Affairs Polly Strauss. They felt that, since online-only services clearly would be continuing for far longer than initially expected, there was an urgent need to enhance the services with much more congregational participation.

We formed a group, informally called the “Enhancing Online Services Task Force,” comprised of Naomi, Polly, Rabbi Bob, Linda Meisel, Gil Gordon, Mindy Langer, Joel Berger and Sharon Diamondstein, plus, representing the Religious Affairs Committee, Dana Molina and Suzanne Esterman. We began meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings.

What a great group! Our meetings have been lively and full of great brainstorming. Not only that, the results have been spectacular, which is a not only a tribute to the members of the task force, but to the willingness of our congregants to step up and take part.

Here’s what’s happening:

During the Saturday morning online services, congregants with access to Zoom have begun reading Torah and Haftarah, delivering divrei-Torah, leading prayers and readings from the siddur and beyond, and joining in on the participatory Torah discussions led by Rabbi Bob. And our B’nai Mitzvah families and young families have been joining in as well.

On Friday night, we will be expanding participation in similar ways, including songs, candle lighting and Kiddush to be led by congregants of all ages, including kids and their families.

Special kudos go to Polly and to Mindy Langer for their coordination of the participation (a big job!), to Rabbi Bob for reaching out to the congregation to provide opportunities for participation, and to Gil Gordon, Naomi Richman Neumann, Ed Simon and Joel Berger for their stalwart efforts to keep our online services and meetings secure from interference. Further kudos go to Dana Molina and Joel Berger for their efforts to expand Zoom access to all our congregants.

All in all, the initiative and the results are a great tribute to the resourcefulness and resilience of our TJC family.

Deborah and I send you our continued wishes for health and safety!

**Cantor Jeff**



## MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger  
609.921.0100 ext. 205  
jberger@thejewishcenter.org

### A Tribute to Zoom

As we sit here waiting for our lives to **resume**, let’s not **presume** anything. I thought it would be a good time to look around the **room** and see what has transpired. Certainly we can **assume** that there will be a baby **boom** in about 8-9 months. The **wombs** will be full and new **playrooms** will be needed. We will try to get away from the **doom** and **gloom** of the crisis and look forward to flowers to **bloom**. Will there be new brides and **grooms**?

Have you cleaned out your **bedroom**, dining **room**, **bathroom**, play **room**—or any **room**—at this point with a **broom**? Have you found any missing **heirlooms**? We know that kids are still in the **classroom** and lawyers can’t wait to get back into the **courtroom**. Are you traveling to **Khartoum**? Have you seen the play *Brigadoon*? Have you finally learned what a **Zoom waiting room** is?

Have you tried to **consume** any new **legumes**? What about a new **perfume**? Have you found some distance from your family by using more elbow **room**? I can’t wait for the 4th of July when we hear the big **Ka-booms!** Have you found a new game **room** or **lunchroom**?

I think you get the point. As summer approaches, we all need to get out a little. Smell the fresh air. Go on a walk or hike. But most importantly, do NOT stop practicing social distancing. Do not stop wearing a mask. Wash your hands often.

We will hopefully see you in the **boardroom**, **cloak room**, **ballroom**, **chat room**, **child’s room**, **cleanroom**, or any **room** where we can safely get together in the future. Maybe all it will take is a new **costume!**

On behalf of my family, we wish you a safe and healthy summer. Be smart and make sure you all take time for yourselves to stay healthy. See you on Zoom!

**Joel**

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# MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein  
609.921.0100 ext 220  
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

Sunday September 8, 2019 was a bright, sunny day. I remember it vividly. I was so excited to begin the new year. High Holy Day plans were underway and apples and honey sticks were ordered. I started the morning with a brief meeting with my madrichim—my AMAZING support staff, followed by a quick meeting with the teachers and *madrichim* together. I greeted the students as they walked into the building. After meeting with new families, Rabbi Feldman,<sup>21</sup> and I held a back to school parent meeting in the social hall and then we went into the sanctuary for a school wide welcome back and sing-a-long. As the morning ended, we sent the students off with survival kits for the school year. As Rabbi Feldman and I spoke after the meeting, I remember saying, “this is going to be a great year.”

These toolkits became survival kits that, in retrospect, really helped me focus on what would lie ahead. Some of the more notable items included an eraser to remind us that everyone makes mistakes, and that’s ok. A band aid served as a reminder that we are obligated to perform acts of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world. A friendship bracelet was included, because one of the Rabbis, Ben Shira, teaches us that “a faithful friend is a secure shelter; whoever finds one has found a treasure.” Also included was a star, as a reminder of our place in the family of the Jewish people, because G’d promised Abraham more children than there are stars in the sky. We also included a bell as a reminder to listen to the Torah, and an “Admit One” ticket, because TJC is a place where everyone is included.

Never would I have anticipated the year that was gifted to us. That September morning seems like it was a lifetime ago, and yet it could have been yesterday. As I reflected upon the year, the word that continues to come to mind is resilience. Perhaps that was our gift—the knowledge that we are more resilient individually and as a community than we had ever thought. Merriam Webster defines resilience as “an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” In fact, as I researched “resilience,” I learned that this is a multifaceted word. We see resilience throughout our tradition: as Abraham’s faith in G’d was tested, he persevered. When Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, his resilience enabled him to rise to a high position in Pharaoh’s court. Moses showed resilience repeatedly throughout the Israelites’ time in the desert. The story of the Jewish people is a story of resilience.

Our story, The Jewish Center’s story, is one of resilience. I am so proud to be a part of this great community: one where people came together to grieve for their beloved Rabbi and help repair our sacred Jewish Center world. A community of people

who learned quickly how to transition from in-person to virtual interactions. We made mistakes, but we used our erasers to correct them. We have found shelter in our community as we came together as one—in one large virtual friendship bracelet. We’ve continued to pray and learn together, as a reminder of our place in the Jewish people. This same community was resilient through the quarantine measures put into place. As we rang the bells in our toolkit, we continued to learn Torah online. Teachers made fast adjustments to their lessons and students continued to learn without disruption. Face to face meetings were replaced by Zoom as we glimpsed into each others’ homes. Services were led on line via Livestream. Our “Admit One” tickets gave us the opportunity to participate in so many programs not only within The Jewish Center, but throughout our communities as a whole. This year of our lives is not one that will be forgotten, and a time we will look back upon with pride. This year is another chapter in our Jewish Center history.

Yes, this year was indeed about resilience. Even without our toolkits, I have no doubt that we would have succeeded, but it was nice to have symbolic reminders that helped us keep our focus. I never expected this year to end the way it did, and I never thought that the Mensch Toolkits distributed in the beginning of the year would have been relevant in the way they became. I have learned, though, that there are many symbols around us for resilience.

Perhaps a seedling could replace the band aid that represented *tikkun olam*. Maybe a chain of paper clips could replace the friendship bracelets, because we can always add more. Maybe a small mezuzah can replace the star. There are many ways for each of you to create your own resilience toolkits.

I can’t wait to see each of your kits, and learn how you use your tools to make your lives better and easier.

*B’Shalom,*

**Sharon**

# Lockdown Liberation via Life & Legacy

**Do we have your attention? Great—read on.**

The pandemic is tough on everyone, and we’ve all seen enough of the inside of our homes. Good news: there’s an easy way to free yourself from the lockdown blues! We are the Life & Legacy Committee at The Jewish Center, and it’s our privilege to help ensure a strong future for TJC by giving you the opportunity to protect what has been an important part of this community for 70 years.

Sixty-seven current and former TJC members made Promises under Life & Legacy (L&L) to leave a bequest to TJC as part of their estate plans. There’s no need to write a check today—just agree to help secure our future tomorrow. There are eight key elements of Life & Legacy:

Love this congregation? Provide for it tomorrow without spending a cent today.

Energize yourself out of lockdown boredom by investing in TJC’s future.

Think how good you’ll feel by helping insure a strong Princeton Jewish community.

Modeling is important—*l’Dor V’Dor* is a key value; we must provide for future generations.

Ensure that those who come to TJC after you will find the same Jewish home as you did.

Own part of this community’s future by making an L&L Promise.

Understand that all L&L bequests go to the TJC Endowment Fund for future needs.

Tomorrow comes way too soon—support L&L today!

How do you break away from lockdown lethargy? It couldn’t be simpler. Just go to <https://tinyurl.com/TJC-Planned> for info about and links to materials about L&L.

Better yet, get in touch with one of us and we’ll be glad to answer your questions. Meanwhile, stay safe!

Eliot Freeman: BANDZFREEMAN@aol.com or 609-924-8167  
Gil Gordon: gil@gilgordon.com or 732-735-3216  
Evy Grossman: evgrossman@gmail.com or 609-577-1374



We congratulate our daughter, Galia, on graduating from the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government with a master’s degree in public administration. - Bernard and Barbara Abramson

Linda and Michael Grenis are proud to announce that their son, Billy Grenis graduated with an MBA Tech from Cornell SC Johnson College of Business.

Shoshana Silberman is proud to announce the college graduations of Noam Silberman Brenner (George Washington University) and Jonah Silberman Brenner (Skidmore)—both magna cum laude. She also is celebrating the elementary school graduation of Devorah Silberman in Boston.

Joyce And Clive Usiskin take pride and pleasure in announcing the graduation of four of their grandchildren.

The degree recipients are:

- Robin Quinn Barrett from University of Cincinnati, son of Irene and Ned
- Benjamin Y. Lee from Cornell University, son of Suzanne and Howard
- Hayley R. Roy from Amherst College, daughter of Natalie and Nikki
- Dr. Ilana Meryl Usiskin from Yale University School of Medicine, daughter of Keith and Michelle

To Bernard and Barbara Abramson on their daughter, Galia, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government with a master’s degree in public administration



# CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support The Jewish Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through their generous contributions:

## GENERAL FUND

*from Diane Guvenis  
from Jose Matiella*

### In honor of

The 50th wedding anniversary of Ira and Linda Cheifetz  
*from Gil and Ellen Gordon*

The 2020 Nominating Committee:  
Justus Baird, Barbara Gantwerk, Michael Feldstein, Art Meisel, Liz Nayden, Abigail Rose  
*from Edye Kamenir*

### In memory of

Robert Pollard  
*from Mark and Carol Pollard*  
Rosalind Spielsinger  
*from Ira and Linda Cheifetz*  
Jacob David (Jay) Caras  
*from Lynn Green, Marcie and Marc Citron, Allen and Rhona Porter*  
Emily Sobin  
*from Nancy Sobin*  
Dora Luchtan  
*from Sofia Parish*

Chaim Dubowska  
*from Sofia Parish*  
Aurelia Blau  
*from Leslie and Stephanie Blau*  
Abraham Carchman  
*from Phil and JoAnn Carchman*

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Phyllis Caras, Sara and Steven Just, Marcie and Marc Citron, Alison and David Politziner, David and Donna Gabai, Michael Feldstein, Polly and Rick Strauss, Linda and Art Meisel, Nikki and Len Feldman, Lauren Neufeld*

Phyllis Feigenbaum  
*from Jack Feigenbaum*

Hilda Hubert  
*from Marcie and Marc Citron, David and Donna Gabai*

Harold Berger  
*from Marcie and Marc Citron*

Cesia Blitzer  
*from Helena Schwarz*

Robert Aresty  
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Augusta Goodkin

*from Jerry and Vera Goodkin*  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
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Susan Loew  
*from Catherine Stroup*

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*from Sharon Shylit*

Milt Rubin  
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Frank Demitrovic  
*from Rick and Mitzi Seinfeld*

Benjamin Robert Mohr  
*from Marilyn Zagorin*

Rose Lackowitz  
*from Vickie and Jeff Solomon*

Toni Silman  
*from Carol and Mark Pollard*

Hyman Rosen and Lillian Greene  
*from Marilyn and Joe Rosen*

Max Levine  
*from Bob and Judy Levine*

Reeva Isaacs  
*from Betsy Ie*

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

**In honor of**  
Myra Weiner's kindness  
*from Shoshana Silberman*

### In memory of

Kenneth Kollman and Howard Margolin  
*from Moshe and Judy Margolin*

Jacob David Caras  
*from Dan Brent and Sally Steinberg-Brent*

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Joan Levin*

## ADULT LIBRARY FUND

**In honor of**  
The birth of Matan Silberman  
*from Joan Levin*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

**In honor of**  
The birth of Matan Silberman  
*from Myra Weiner and Irv Newman*

### In memory of

Richard Hanson  
*from Christine Kaufman*

## JESS AND MARION EPSTEIN LUNCH-AND-LEARN FUND

**In memory of**  
Anne Freedman  
*from Frederick Hughson, Melissa Lane, Buz and Terry Willins Aaron, Steven Rudenstein, Roberta and Richie Gorden, Jennifer Goldberg, Norman Melofsky, Anne and Bill Humes, Carol and Mark Pollard, Ruth Schulman, Gail and Marty Gottlieb*

## THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND

*from Emily Emminizer  
from Patricia Bardi Von Hippel*

### In honor of

The engagement of Lily Brent  
*from Shoshana Silberman*

### In memory of

Linda Gunther Edelman  
*from Sherry Edelman Meyer and Gerard Meyer*  
Milt Rubin  
*from Myra Weiner and Irv Newman*

## KIDDUSH FUND

*from Debbi Dunn Solomon*

### In honor of

The birth of Matan Silberman  
*from Shoshana Silberman*

### In memory of

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Mindy and Corey Langer*

## LASHIR FUND

**In memory of**  
Gertrude Coopersmith  
*from Lew and Lynn Coopersmith*

## LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

### In honor of

The engagement of Lily Brent to Jonathan Tescher  
*from Lenny and Evy Grossman*

### In memory of

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Lenny and Evy Grossman*

## MARCHAND ESPIR FAMILY HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

**In memory of**  
Ruth Mandel  
*from Michael Feldstein*  
Milt Rubin  
*from Barbara and Steve Felton*

## PRAYERBOOK FUND

### In honor of

Denise Cheskis  
*from the Bucholtz/Feldman Family*  
Joel Berger  
*from the Bucholtz/Feldman Family*

### In memory of

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Maryann Yarin, Cynthia and Fred Neufeld*  
Mark Levin  
*from Joan Levin and Family*  
June Slavin  
*from Mindy and Corey Langer and Richard Slavin*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*from Bonnie and Jeffrey Weizman*

### In honor of

Sara and Steven Just on the birth of their granddaughter, Juliet  
*from Marsha and Eliot Freeman*  
The engagement of Lily Brent to Jonathan Tescher  
*from Marsha and Eliot Freeman*

### In memory of

Shirley Steinberg  
*from Shirley Gordon, Marsha and Eliot Freeman*

Beatrice Sinclair, Nettie and Morris Bach,  
Estelle Bach and Gerald Freedman  
*from Bobbi and Barry Freedman*  
Jean Borkan  
*from Harold Borkan\**  
Gertrude Freeman  
*from Eliot and Marsha Freeman*  
Robert Aresty  
*from Eliot and Marsha Freeman*  
Ruth Mandel  
*from Eliot and Marsha Freeman*

## RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND

**In memory of**  
Barry Vogel  
*from Sally Vogel*  
Hilda Hubert  
*from Linda and Michael Grenis*  
Shirley Steinberg  
*from Linda Grenis*  
Dorothy Poecker  
*from David and Edye Kamenir*  
Reeva Isaacs  
*from Robin Persky*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

**In honor of**  
Malvina and Sasha Greenfield on the birth of granddaughter Ayla Rae  
*from Linda and Art Meisel*  
Shoshana Silberman on the birth of grandson Matan  
*from Linda and Art Meisel*

### In memory of

Harold Berger  
*from Linda and Art Meisel*  
Shirley Steinberg  
*from Sher Leiman*

## SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND

**In honor of**  
Malvina and Sasha Greenfield on the birth of granddaughter Ayla Rae  
*from Judy and Mike Leopold*  
Shoshana Silberman on the birth of grandson Matan  
*from Judy and Mike Leopold*  
Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman on their 2nd anniversary  
*from Judy and Mike Leopold*

### In memory of

Jacob Caras  
*from Linda and Art Meisel*  
Ralph T. Heymsfeld  
*from Joel Heymsfeld*  
Shirley Steinberg  
*from Jonathan and Susan Gross, Paula Heller*

## SILVER CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In memory of**  
Milt Rubin  
*from Karen Polakoff*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

**In honor of**  
Sara and Steven Just on the birth of their granddaughter, Juliet  
*from Maxine Gurk, Judy and Mike Leopold, Joan Levin*  
The birth of Matan Silberman  
*from Dan Brent and Sally Steinberg-Brent*  
The engagement of Lily Brent  
*from Myra Weiner and Irv Newman*

### In memory of

Jacob (Jay) Caras  
*from Maxine Gurk, Judith Bronston, Rogie and Martin Rome*  
Reeva Isaacs  
*from Gil and Ellen Gordon*

## TORAH REPAIR FUND

**In memory of**  
Shirley Steinberg  
*from Jose Matiella*

## YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND

**In memory of**  
Shirley Steinberg  
*from Debbie Freedman*

\*This gift is from a Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer.

# JUNE 2020

# SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All programs are held via Zoom until further notice.</p> <p>All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at <a href="mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org">info@thejewishcenter.org</a></p>	1	2 7:30 PM EC Meeting	3 7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 6:00 PM #Sulam	4	5 Candle Lighting is 8:07 PM 9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan
7 9:00 AM Morning Minyan 7:00 PM Board Meeting	8	9 7:00 PM A Dollmaker's Journey with Barbara Gantwerk	10 7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 6:00 PM #Sulam	11 7:00 PM #Sulam 7:00 PM Arts and Culture - Michele Alperin	12 Candle Lighting is 8:11 PM 9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	13 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
14 9:00 AM Morning Minyan	15	16 7:30 PM TJC Book Club - Pam Jenoff's - The Orphan's Talle	17 7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 6:00 PM #Sulam 7:00 PM Adult Ed - Dr. Vanessa Ochs	18 9:30 AM JCW: NOSH & DROSH 7:00 PM #Sulam 8:00 PM Adult Ed - Great Minds Salon featuring Ra'anana Boustana	19 Candle Lighting is 8:13 PM 9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	20 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
21 9:00 AM Morning Minyan	22	23 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 7:00 PM Adult Ed - Deborah Strauss	24 7:00 AM Morning Minyan 10:00 AM Adult Ed Program - Yoga - Debbi Gitterman 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 6:00 PM #Sulam	25 7:00 PM #Sulam 7:00 PM Arts and Culture - Aliza Sheriff	26 Candle Lighting is 8:14 PM 9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	27 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
28 9:00 AM Morning Minyan	29	30				

# JULY 2020

# TAMMUZ/Av 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>All programs are held via Zoom until further notice.</p> <p>All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at <a href="mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org">info@thejewishcenter.org</a></p>			<p>1</p> <p>7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Candle Lighting is 8:14 PM</p> <p>4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day - Happy July 4th!</p> <p>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service</p>	
	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Beginner's Drawing and Watercolor with Julie Rosenthale</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 8:00 PM Great Minds Salon featuring Ben Strauss</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 PM EC Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Candle Lighting is 8:11 PM</p> <p>4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan</p>
	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Minyan 5:00 PM Board Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Candle Lighting is 8:07 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service</p>
	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 PM TJC Book Club - The Cost of Living</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Av 7:00 AM Morning Minyan</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Candle Lighting is 8:02 PM</p> <p>4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Shabbat Chazon</p> <p>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan</p>
	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Erev Tisha B'Av 7:00 AM Morning Minyan 12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study 8:00 PM Tisha B'Av Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Tisha B'Av 9:30 AM Tisha B'Av Morning Service</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Candle Lighting is 7:55 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM Torah and Tea 4:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Meditation 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	



# Mazel Tov ...On Your CELEBRATION

## May

### Sydney Burnside

Sydney is a student from West Windsor who has a passion for baking and volunteering. She loves volunteering at the kids' cooking classes at Homefront, as well as at the Princeton Nursery School. Her favorite items to bake are cookies, lemon bars and apple pie. When she's not baking, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family.



Jonny Feldman, son of Jayne and Scott Feldman.

## June



### Emma Eisenberg

Emma is currently a seventh grader at The Hun School of Princeton, NJ with her twin brother, Zachary. She has an incredible work ethic and is a bright, motivated young lady. She loves all sports, but her favorite is softball, and her position is catcher. She has practiced off the tee almost everyday in quarantine. She has a passion for her Jewish sleep away camp in the Pocono mountains, her home away from home, and cannot wait to return next summer. She loves her dog, Oreo, and deeply cares for her family and friends. She is strongly rooted in her Jewish values and traditions, and has been working extremely hard for the past seven months preparing for her Bat Mitzvah.



### Zachary Eisenberg

Zach is currently a seventh grader at The Hun School of Princeton, NJ with his twin sister, Emma. He loves playing most sports including basketball and football but his passion has always been baseball. From his first day at T-Ball Zach has been dreaming of playing in the MLB. He has played on multiple recreational, travel and competitive teams and would play everyday of his life if he could. He is a very funny, thoughtful and caring young man who has a heart of gold. Zach is looking forward to and has been preparing long and hard for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.



### Mia Ramirez

Mia Ramirez is a seventh grade student at John Witherspoon Middle School. She has an older sister Ava, and two older brothers, Jason and Michael. When Mia is not in school, she keeps herself busy by playing field hockey and spending time with her friends. Mia has always loved younger kids and therefore chose to volunteer at the Princeton Nursery School for her Chesed project. Mia would like to thank Cantor Jeff, Nancy Lewis, and all of the educators at The Jewish Center who helped her prepare for her special day.

## We've Got E-Mail!



Dear Rabbi Bob and Cantor Jeff,

We can't begin to tell you how much we appreciate everything you did to make Sydney's Bat Mitzvah weekend such a special occasion for our family.

Sydney felt special and proud, and our family felt the love, warmth and support of our friends, family, and the TJC Congregation.

These last couple of months have been a roller coaster — thank you again for being so flexible and accommodating. Sharing today with you, our family and our friends was incredible.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Jaimie and Todd

Dear Rabbi Bob and Cantor Jeff,

We can't thank you both enough for all that you did to make today possible. It was warm and beautiful and meaningful. We so appreciate your patience and flexibility with the planning process as well. Today was very special for Jonny and our family and we will always remember it.

We hope to see you both soon at synagogue.

Best,

Jayne and Scott

# ZOOMING AROUND TJC



# ADULT EDUCATION

## Adjusting to the New Normal

With the advent of the coronavirus and the closing of the building, the Adult Education Committee was faced with a set of new challenges to continue to bring high-quality programming to our adult learners.

In the middle of the winter/spring schedule with two highly anticipated scholars set to visit TJC, on-site lectures became impossible. To fill this void, it was decided that our programs would be delivered by original videos and interactive Zoom classes. We called this initiative “TJC at Home” and it began in late March.

With the cooperation of nine presenters from an array of academic backgrounds and institutions, 15 original videos were produced through mid-May. Most of the videos focus on Judaic Studies topics related to the overarching theme of “Jewish Responses to Crisis”. We also offered videos that help us cope with the added stress caused by the current situation. Dr. Ruth Goldston, a practicing psychologist and TJC member, created a series of Mindfulness videos exclusively for our members. Access to the video collection will be available shortly through the Adult Education webpage on the TJC website.

During April and May, we offered two wonderful interactive Zoom classes as well. The first, presented by Bob Lebeau, a TJC member, discussed “Into the Wild: Revisiting the Wandering”, while the second, taught by Rabbi Dr. David Hoffman, discussed “Contract or Covenant: Jewishly Navigating Some of the Workplace Challenges of 2020”. Both classes were well attended and helped us understand the potential of this new medium.

All our presenters volunteered their time and expertise

to make “TJC at Home” possible and the overwhelming response by our congregants encourages our efforts. We are grateful for both.

For the first time, TJC will be offering classes in June and July. We will be focusing our efforts on interactive Zoom programs presented by both guest scholars and TJC members. Guest scholars include Prof. Rebecca Kobrin of Columbia University, who is an expert on Jewish Immigration to the US, and Rabbi Dr. Vanessa Ochs of the University of Virginia, who will talk about new rituals practiced by American Jews since the coronavirus. Deborah Strauss of TJC will be among those presenting during the summer.

**Look for program details in upcoming emails and the weekly newsletter.**

During the coming months, the members of the Adult Education Committee will be both conducting the summer programming and planning for the 2020/21 program cycle. Committee members are Lynn Coopersmith, Sharon Diamondstein (Director of Lifelong Learning), Heidi Joseph (VP Programming), Jon Katz (Co-chair), Jerry Kaufman, Frank Lees, Moshe Margolin (Co-chair), Warren Mitlak, Fredi Pearlmuter, Mik Rosenthal and Nancy Sobin.

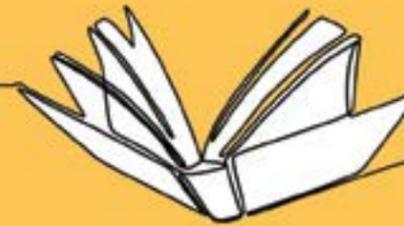
We are interested in new members joining our Committee.

Please let us know if you would like to help to enrich the adult learning experience at TJC: [adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org)



**Fridays:**  
**June 5**  
**June 12**  
**June 19**  
**June 26**

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Sharon Diamondstein in the TJC Religious School office at (609) 921.0100 ext 220 or [sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org)



# Book Club

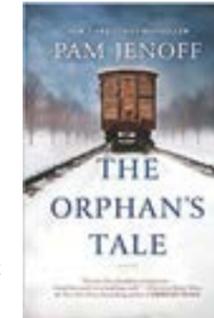
**Tuesdays, June 16 & July 21**  
**7:30 p.m.**

via Zoom.

**Tuesday, June 16**

Pam Jenoff's *The Orphan's Tale*

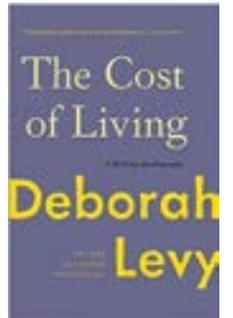
“Through the darkness of war, the circus lights twinkle on, the circus family lives and loves and laughs, all while beautiful athletes fly high above the crowd...Jenoff has written a tribute to the human spirit that soars in the midst of epic despair.” National Public Radio



**Tuesday, July 21**

Deborah Levy's *The Cost of Living*

The Cost of Living is a personal essay collection. After having divorced at age of 50, Deborah Levy sets up as a single parent in a London flat, finding time and space to write, meanwhile grieving for the death of her mother. This collection is about motherhood, feminism, and intellectual life.



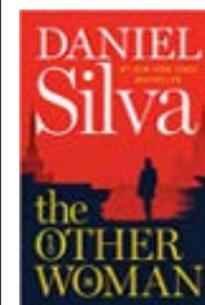
**August 18**

Covid permitting: Plan to join us at 6:00 p.m. for a Potluck supper and to watch: *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*



**September 15**

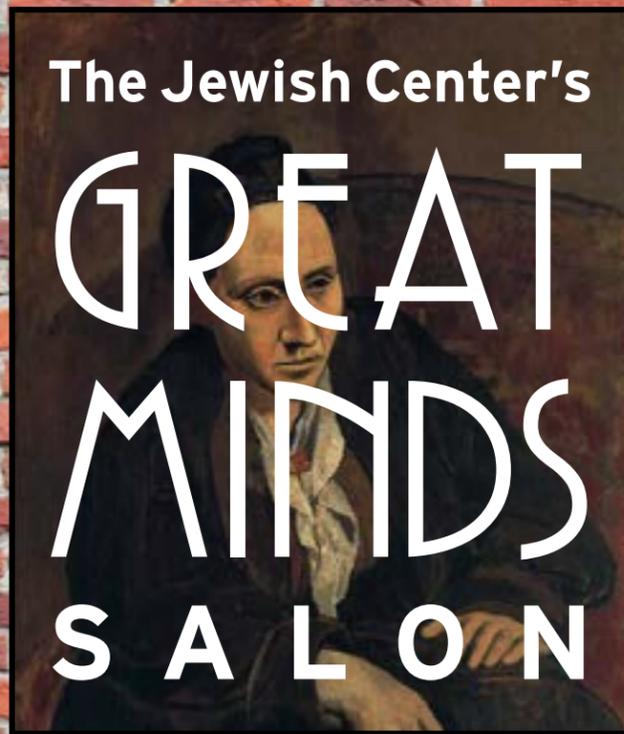
Daniel Silva's *The Other Woman*



An instant classic from Daniel Silva, whose latest masterpiece puts him firmly alongside le Carré and Forsyth as one of the greatest spy novelists of all time.

Multiple copies of our selections are available on the “Book Club” shelves of the Princeton Public Library. (NOTE: Book Club shelves for fiction are on the first floor, and shelves for works of non-fiction are upstairs on the second floor.) All of our books can be ordered online, and you can click on the synagogue link (below) to order a book from Amazon that will earn a commission for the Synagogue: <https://thejewishcenter.org/Participate-With-Us/Our-Committees/Book-Club.aspx>

For more information contact Louise Sandburg: [louise@sandsmith.com](mailto:louise@sandsmith.com)



TJC CONGREGANT AND PROFESSOR

**RA'ANAN BOUSTAN**

**COLLECTIVE SIN AND VICARIOUS ATONEMENT IN RABBINIC MARTYROLOGY**

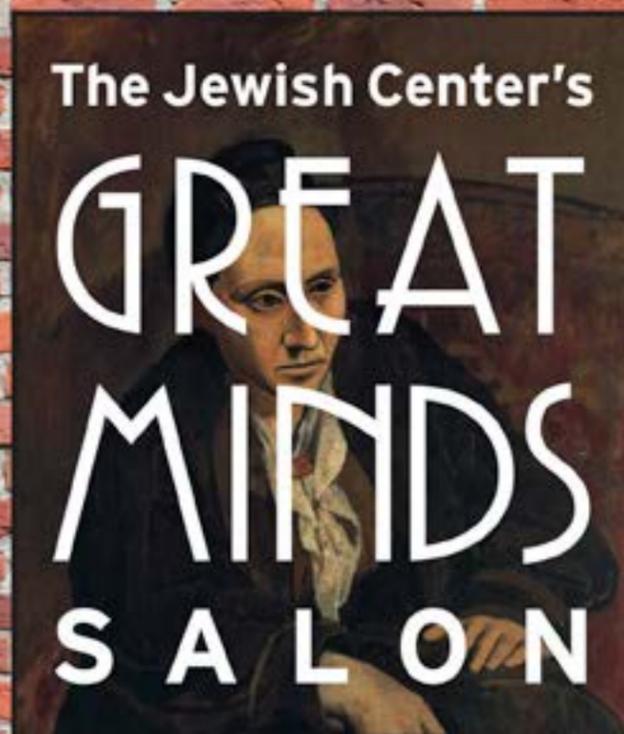
THE JEWISH CENTER'S "GREAT MINDS" SALON IS A SPEAKER SERIES FASHIONED AFTER THE 1900'S ERA PARIS SALON HOSTED BY JEWISH AUTHOR GERTRUDE STEIN (PICTURED ABOVE), WHICH REGULARLY BROUGHT TOGETHER THE BRIGHTEST ARTISTS AND THINKERS OF THAT ERA TO DISCUSS THEIR LATEST WORK.

What makes Jews different from Christians, and Christians different from Jews? What elements (if any) made Jewish and Christian identities irreconcilable with one another, already in the ancient world? The Story of the Ten Martyrs from Byzantine Palestine (fifth to seventh centuries CE) presents a narrative in which the blood of the rabbinic martyrs executed by Rome is presented as a medium of vicarious atonement for the sins of the Jewish people. The martyrology challenges conventional assumptions about Jewish attitudes toward atoning human blood and thereby illuminates the dynamics of Jewish self-definition in a Christian world.



**Open to the Community!**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 18 (8:00-9:00 PM)**

This program will be held via Zoom. Please register by emailing [adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org). A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.



**DR. BENJAMIN STRAUSS**

**ANCIENT STORIES AND THE FUTURE OF EARTH'S CLIMATE**

WHAT NOAH'S FLOOD AND THE FLOODS LONG BEFORE IT CAN TEACH ABOUT OUR CLIMATE CHOICES TODAY

THE JEWISH CENTER'S "GREAT MINDS" SALON IS A SPEAKER SERIES FASHIONED AFTER THE 1900'S ERA PARIS SALON HOSTED BY JEWISH AUTHOR GERTRUDE STEIN (PICTURED ABOVE), WHICH REGULARLY BROUGHT TOGETHER THE BRIGHTEST ARTISTS AND THINKERS OF THAT ERA TO DISCUSS THEIR LATEST WORK.

Dr. Benjamin Strauss serves as CEO and Chief Scientist at Climate Central. He is an expert on sea level rise and the architect of the Surging Seas suite of maps, tools, and visualizations. Strauss has testified before the U.S. Senate and his research has been cited by the White House and two Secretaries-General of the United Nations. His work has won extensive coverage in U.S. and international media in at least 110 countries and 29 languages. Ben, a TJC congregant, lives in Princeton with his wife and son.



**Open to the Community!**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 8 (8:00-9:00 PM)**

This program will be held via Zoom. Please register by emailing [adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:adulthoodeducation@thejewishcenter.org). A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.



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**In Memoriam:**  
*We extend our deepest  
 sympathy in remembering*

Reeva Isaacs<sup>z"l</sup>, mother of Hanan Isaacs (Helaine) and grandmother of Stuart and Joshua Isaacs.

Milt Rubin<sup>z"l</sup>, life partner of Rita Swirsky.

Dr. Ruth Mandel<sup>z"l</sup>, longtime congregant. She is survived by her daughter, Dr. Maud Mandel, son-in-law Steve Simon, and grandchildren Lev and Ava as well as by her husband, Jeff Lucker, and her ex-husband and dear friend, Barrett Mandel.

Al Klein<sup>z"l</sup>, husband of Rena Klein and father of Michael, Lisa, Lori, Karen, Judy, Amy, Gerri and Rachel

Leonie Menasche<sup>z"l</sup>, wife of the late Zaki Menasche, Mother of Isaac Menasche, Abraham Menasche, Mary Kersten and grandmother of four grandchildren.

*Bible Babaker*  
*Saturdays - 8.45 a.m.*

**Zoom video study session each week.**

**Each week a reminder notice is sent. If anyone wishes to participate, they are welcome to join via the Zoom link.**

**Michael Goldin**  
<https://zoom.us/j/165159911>



**Wednesday night**  
**July 29**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**Thursday morning**  
**July 30**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Tisha B'Av is an annual fast day in Judaism, named for the ninth day (Tisha) of the month of Av in the Hebrew calendar. The day commemorates the destruction of both the First Temple and Second Temple in Jerusalem, as well as other major tragedies in Jewish history including the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Accordingly, the day has been called the "saddest day in Jewish history." It is one of the two full-day fasts in the Jewish year.

Please join us on Wednesday night for a short discussion prior to our Tisha B'Av Service. The discussion will begin at 8:00 p.m. and the Evening Service that will include the Biblical reading of Eicha (The Book of Lamentations) will begin at 8:40 p.m.

On Thursday, our morning service begins at 9:00 a.m. and we will include all the appropriate readings for Tisha B'Av.

**ARTS  
 & CULTURE**

The Arts and Culture Committee has sponsored 4 delightful cooking demonstrations during May from our very own TJC chefs. Highly recommended by congregants, chefs well known to the pot-luck crowd shared recipes and showed their talent in well-attended Zoom classes. Thank you Mindy Langer for your demonstration of how to make beer bread (recipe courtesy of Williams Sonoma). This avant-garde demonstration preceded the NY Times publication of the beer bread recipe which was published the following day! Andrea Gaynor shared her recipe and cooking talents for ricotta gnocchi with butter herb sauce. Ellen Goldblatt followed up with a lemon meringue pie from a recipe she adapted from the Settlement Cookbook that was used by her grandmother. For our final session, Susan Gross made an Indian style shakshouka—a delicious recipe for brunch or dinner. Thanks to all the chefs and to our host, Arlene Opatut and sous-hosts Nancy Lewis and Joel Berger.

**Lynne Ross**  
 609-439-6834



**CONGREGANT OF THE YEAR**

**Mazel Tov to Suzanne Esterman**

I am pleased to announce that Suzanne Esterman has been named the 2020 Congregant of the Year. The Congregant of the Year award began in 1992. It is designed to recognize a congregant who has made significant and personal contributions to The Jewish Center.



This year, the Selection Committee was composed of Jerry Neumann as Chair, and Gabrielle Cayton-Hodges, Bob Lebeau, Michael Goldin, and Nancy Lewis as members. Sharon Diamondstein was the staff member assisting the committee. Our policy requires the selection committee to consider three key criteria in making their selection:

- 1) Nominees for selection must have provided devoted service to the Congregation over a significant period of time, generally recognized as three years.
- 2) Nominees for selection must have served in capacities outside of an official volunteer position, such as an officer or a member of the Board of Directors; and
- 3) Nominees for selection must have demonstrated exemplary volunteer contributions in more than one way and over time, and not measured by any financial impact on TJC. That is, one cannot simply receive this award through personal financial donations or by encouraging others to donate.

Which brings me back to this year's Congregant of the Year, Suzanne Esterman. Over the past 25 years as a TJC member, Suzanne has served TJC in many different ways—and nearly always under the radar. She has impacted the religious, cultural, social and, yes, the culinary aspects of the TJC life experience! With her modest, soft-spoken style and as a "Shabbat Regular," Suzanne has volunteered at numerous Jewish Center Women events, the annual Shavuot Holiday Learning events and the annual Sukkot events, and is one of the few key-holders for the Schnapps after Services kiddush - but perhaps her crowning achievement and contribution to TJC has been as the designer, founder, sustainer and true leader of the "Kiddush Krew."

What Suzanne has accomplished over the past five years is much more than simply making Shabbat or Festival lunches for Congregants when there is not a b'nai mitzvah taking place. She has single-handedly built a "community" within this community, as there are now upwards of 50 individuals who count themselves as part of the Kiddush Krew, all of whom truly look forward to attending those Friday morning preparation sessions. On any given Shabbat or Festival, 10 to 12 Kiddush Krew members are now stepping forward to help, and so many are repeat volunteers. In fact, during this challenging pandemic, Suzanne has put together a Kiddush Krew lunch next Friday afternoon on Zoom—because, as she has informed us, "these folks need to be together." Born in Jersey City, Suzanne grew up and became a Bat Mitzvah at the Conservative shul in Englewood. She attended Rutgers University and settled in Central Jersey. When first married and living in Highland Park, she attended the Highland Park Conservative Temple and when she and John moved to Kendall Park, she 'tried on' both B'nai Tikvah and The Jewish Center to see what felt the most comfortable for a Jewish family with a non-Jewish parent. When it came time for their oldest to start religious school, they decided to join The Jewish Center - where she and John both felt comfortable, accepted and welcomed. And still do, all these years later.

Please join me in shouting *Yasher Koach* Suzanne!

# Mazel Tov!

To Joyce And Clive Usiskin who take pride and pleasure in announcing the graduation of four of their grandchildren. The degree recipients are:

Robin Quinn Barrett from University of Cincinnati, son of Irene and Ned  
Benjamin Y. Lee from Cornell University, son of Suzanne and Howard  
Hayley R. Roy from Amherst College, daughter of Natalie and Nikki  
Dr. Ilana Meryl Usiskin from Yale University School of Medicine, daughter of Keith and Michelle

To Bernard and Barbara Abramson on their daughter, Galia, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government with a master's degree in public administration

To Ira and Linda Cheifetz on their 50th wedding anniversary

To The 2020 Nominating Committee: Justus Baird, Barbara Gantwerk, Michael Feldstein, Art Meisel, Liz Nayden, Abigail Rose

To Shoshana Silberman on the birth of grandson, Matan

To Dan Brent and Sally Steinberg-Brent on the engagement of Lily Brent to Jonathan Tescher

To Sara and Steven Just on the birth of granddaughter, Juliet Cecilia Alvarez-Just

To Malvina and Sasha Greenfield on the birth of granddaughter, Ayla Rae

To Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman on their 2nd anniversary

To Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, our Rabbi Emeritus, for teaching Divray Torah to almost all of his 12 grandchildren each Sunday with Zoom—from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Philadelphia

To Evan Bernstein (caterer) for providing delicious Seder food – safely and efficiently

Shoshana Silberman is proud to announce the college graduations of Noam Silberman Brenner (George Washington University) and Jonah Silberman Brenner (Skidmore)—both magna cum laude. She also is celebrating the elementary school graduation of Devorah Silberman in Boston.



*We were thrilled with the participation for April's Zoom meeting. It was good to be able to share our feelings, situations and Passover celebrations with each other. We may not have been able to be together but our connections were still very strong. Special thanks to Ellen Pristach for being our Zoom Host. Please see the screenshot below commemorating the first Nosh & Drosh via Zoom ever. Photo credit to Pam Zaifman for capturing it.*

*Special thanks to Ellen Pristach for facilitating our May ZOOM meeting. Ellen is a NOSH & DROSH favorite facilitator and we always appreciate her insightful and creative learning experiences.*

*Ellen is a huge help to us and a wonderful source of information. We personally appreciate everything she does for us and NOSH & DROSH.*

*Thank you to everyone who attended NOSH & DROSH this year your participation continues to make our group very successful, strong and special.*

*Wishing everyone a healthy and safe summer and hopefully we will be together come Fall.*

*Stay well,*

*Lauren & Cynthia*

# Kabbalat Shabbat Katan

June 5, 12, 19, 26

5:45 pm via ZOOM

Open to the Community!

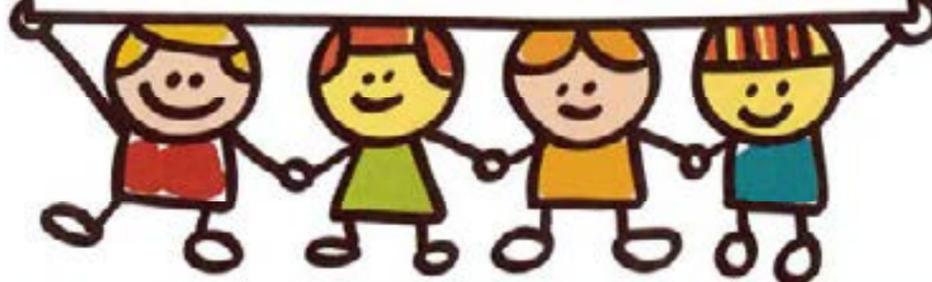
Please join us for **Kabbalat Shabbat Katan** and greet **Shabbat** with young families from TJC!

We will sing songs, tell stories, and make new friends!



Mark your calendar for  
**Shabbat Katan**  
Schedule  
June 6 & July 11

11:00 am via ZOOM



This spirited service is designed for preschool-aged children and their families. Led by music teacher Susan Sacks and parents, this interactive Shabbat experience includes stories, prayers, songs, and a brief Torah reading.

Open to the Community!

Questions? Call Sharon Diamondstein at (609) 921-7207 or email at [SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org)

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