# The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

**February 2021**
**SHEVAT/ADAR 5781**
**thejewishcenter.org**

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# The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY


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## Join TJC on a trip to Israel - *Virtually!*

Save the Dates
4/11 - 4/15/21
Limited to 25 members

Watch your upcoming emails for details

zoom

It's Time to Update your Zoom!
Zoom keeps adding new features and so do we. Please make sure you have the latest version when you join our services, programs and events.

# Mitzvah Madness

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

Join us for an M&M Purim Celebration
February 25, 2021
The evening will include:

5:45 p.m. Zoom Room Opens
5:55 p.m. Masquerade Madness– virtual parade by age group (PRIZES will be awarded!)
Get your costumes ready!
6:10 – 6:40 p.m. Megillah Meshugas - Speically written Purim Shpiel in an intergenerational format
6:45 – 6:50 p.m. Meet the Menches (Costume Awards!)
6:50 – 7:00 p.m. Maariv and Megillah (A large screen will be available for those on livestream)

All events are on zoom and details will follow by email!

RSVP for these programs to
info@thejewishcenter.org

# A Message from Our Interim Rabbi

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg
609.921.0100 ext. 203
eschoenberg@thejewishcenter.org

## Our Connection To Purim

Dear friends,

Polish Jews have special connection to Purim. They believe that the pro-Jewish policies of the Polish King, Casimir iii the Great, was due not merely to his interest in building a strong Poland, but also influenced by his love for a Jewish woman, Esterke. In our Tanach, Esther saved her people from the evil adviser of King Achashverosh, and by Mordechai, who led the King to adopt pro-Jewish policies. So Polish Jews celebrate Esterke, who persuaded King Casimir iii to adopt pro-Jewish policies in the 14th century.

There is no doubt that King Casimir iii was a friend of the Jews. He confirmed the privileges his grandfather, King Boleslav the Just, had granted the Jews. and expanded them on October 9, 1334. He also encouraged the immigration of Jews from Germany who, he believed, would be beneficial to Poland's economy. Under the penalty of death, King Casimir forbade the kidnapping of Jewish children in order to baptize them, and severely punished anyone who desecrated any of the Jewish cemeteries. King Casimir protected the Jewish people from attacks by anti-Semitic mobs who falsely accused the Jews of poisoning the wells after an outbreak of the Black Plague.

Esterke's existence is more murky. Though both Jewish and anti-semitic tracts refer to her, there is no historical evidence definitively confirming her role. Then again, Jewish documents from early 14 century Poland are hardly plentiful. According to the story passed down by the community, Esterke was the beautiful daughter of a tailor named Yeruchom, who lived in Opoczno, Poland. One day, King Casimir the Great was pursuing a gazelle in a forest in Solib. On his hunt, he chanced upon a beast threatening a beautiful girl collecting herbs. The king slayed the beast, saving Esterke's life. He was so impressed by the young woman's intelligence and natural nobility that he decided to take her as a wife.

During Esterke's reign, the story continues, she persuaded the king to invite more Jews to settle in the country. Historians claim that between 1348 and 1370, the sharp increase in the number of Jews helped establish the Jewish communities in Krakow, Lvov , Kalicz, Pozen, Gniezno, Lublin, and Plock.

The leadership, courage, intelligence and beauty of Jewish women have long been celebrated. Whether or not Esterke was a real person, it would be no surprise if Jewish women were instrumental in the rise of the Polish Jewish community, one of the world's greatest, most creative, and longest enduring. Our Purim story raises up the model: Jewish women can be crucial advocates for our people.

In our day, may both Jewish women and men take on Esther and Esterke's model of strong advocacy for our people. Then our community will surely grow and prosper.

**Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg**

*Celebrate Simcha Shabbat.*
*Every Third Saturday:*
*February 20, 2021*

# MESSAGE from the Cantor

Cantor Jeff Warschauer
609.921.0100 ext. 213
Cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org

Dear TJC Friends,

Now that the winter holidays, both Jewish and secular, are over, our thoughts move on to planning for the spring and early summer.

There is still, unfortunately, a great deal of uncertainty. Yet we can remain hopeful and turn our eyes towards the eventual full reopening of TJC and the musical and spiritual joys it will bring us when it happens. So how best can we use these winter months to prepare for an upcoming time of renewed physical togetherness?

1. The Return of the Wednesday Night Singers!
Though, as we know, technology doesn't yet allow us to sing at the same time on Zoom, we still can meet virtually and learn music together. I have been planning some new repertoire that I am excited to share during these sessions. Then when we are back together singing in the sanctuary, we'll truly be ready to "make a joyful noise!" As always, ALL are welcome! If you would like to be put on the Wednesday Night Singers email list, please send me a note: cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org

2. Jewish Music: Across the Globe and Through the Generations
This exciting series will return on selected Wednesday evenings, with special guest artists, teachers and lecturers. One silver lining to meeting on Zoom is that we can draw from a huge pool of talented, knowledgeable and innovative artists working throughout today's global Jewish music community.

So please keep your eyes out for notices about upcoming events, and join us!

As we move toward spring, may we, in our communities and throughout our country, find our way to peace, reconciliation and greater harmony. Let's hope that the New Year of 2021 brings us closer and closer to those essential goals.

In the meantime, please stay safe, healthy and warm during this chilly month of February.

**Cantor Jeff**

## Havurah Minyan: Study Service at 10:00 a.m. February 13 & 27 via Zoom

Minyan members prepare and lead an in-depth discussion of a range of material that is usually, but not always, related to the themes of the weeks' Torah portion. Newcomers welcome. To receive a Zoom invitation, or for more information, contact neillitt@outlook.com.

## Adult Hebrew Sunday Zoom Classes Are Back!

- **9:00-10:00 a.m. Intermediate Hebrew**
- **10:00-11:00 a.m. Advanced Hebrew**
- **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Beginners Hebrew**

For further information contact:
Edna Bryn-Noiman at
edna.bryn@gmail.com

# MESSAGE from the President

Randall Brett
president@thejewishcenter.org

I usually use this column to share some personal thoughts and ideas with you. The "President's Message" gives me an opportunity to communicate with the whole congregation even though we cannot meet in person. This month, I want to try something different. I asked two of our congregants to share their thoughts on issues that are meaningful to The Jewish Center community.

Edye Kamenir and Adam Scheer are two of our more active members. Edye is our current Recording Secretary and a former Trustee. Adam is a current Trustee and has participated in several committees and projects. I asked the two of them to respond to some questions I posed (in italics). Perhaps these are questions you have been asking yourself. I also shared their first drafts with the other to stimulate a dialogue. Below are their responses, lightly edited for space and clarity.

I think their comments will help to keep the events of the past months in perspective and guide our thinking about our future, as both a religious institution and as a community.

1. The last year has been exceeding difficult for our entire community, with the loss of Rabbi Feldman z"l, the pandemic, and our inability to gather in person to provide comfort and support to each other. What has this meant to your personal connection to The Jewish Center?

**Adam Scheer**

I miss Shabbat as it was before March 2020. Spiritually, Shabbat services in the sanctuary were always a time for contemplation, reflection, and relaxation. Losing the opportunity to lose myself in our ancient liturgy in the company of fellow congregants has made Shabbat less special and my connection with The Jewish Center less intimate. Socially, our kiddush luncheon was always a cherished chance to catch up with fellow congregants, meet visitors to our community and linger over a meal knowing there was no place I needed to rush to. Zoom works well if you have something specific to say to a particular person but it fails to facilitate the kind of spontaneous engagement that builds community that comes with sharing a meal.

The sense of isolation and loss I feel is exacerbated by the reality of navigating these difficult days without my friend and Rabbi Adam Feldman. I mourn the loss of someone who was always there for my family and, in many ways, represented my most profound and personal bond with The Jewish Center. I also miss Rabbi Feldman's talents as a community leader. After the murders in Pittsburgh, Rabbi Feldman had the wisdom to support two ceremonies to mark that tragedy – a large community-wide service where we could accept the support and sympathy of our neighbors and shabbat service in our sanctuary where we could mourn our Jewish brothers and sisters. Rabbi Feldman would most certainly have come up with creative ways to bring us together that would have been singularly appropriate for our unique community.

**Edye Kamenir**

There's no doubt that all manner of personal connections have been cast in a different light during this pandemic. An interesting tension has emerged: as connections have frayed due to physical distance, those very same connections have arguably never been more important. This is true whether we are talking about family connections, work connections, or even our connections here at TJC. Of course, on the heels of the tremendous loss of our spiritual leader last year, followed by the physical distance of the pandemic, I feel that this community is naturally a bit shell-shocked. However, because we have always had this strong bedrock of the value of community, these types of difficulties often forge deeper commitment and connection as we work to rebuild in the coming year.

Personally, I have felt a different type of connection to TJC during this time. I will never forget in the first weeks of the pandemic the dedication our clergy team, Rabbi Bob Freedman and Cantor Jeff Warschauer, demonstrated in showing up to lead services in the sanctuary on Live Stream week in and week out, trying to maintain some sense of normalcy and connection for all of us; the dedication of our Religious School team, who within a week of closure, had seamlessly moved classes online and made them fun and engaging for the children, while providing access to other digital communal events, like the Worldwide Synagogue Singalong; and the dedication of our leadership team and Joel Berger, who began meeting weekly to ensure that we were on top of all of the critical decisions that needed to be made under those trying circumstances. It's often in the worst of times that we see what we're truly made of, and if we can get through this, we can get through anything! It might be a bit odd to quote Nietzsche in a TJC newsletter, but "That which does not kill you makes you stronger."

2. We are increasing our reliance on electronic means for maintaining our community. Email, Zoom, LiveStream and WebEx are wonderful tools but some have said this has led to a "digital diaspora". What does this mean to you and your family? What are the implications for The Jewish Center?

**Edye Kamenir**

Whenever I have used the term "digital diaspora," I have never meant it in a negative way. I see the dawn of the "digital diaspora" as an incredible opportunity. I feel that the practice of Judaism, or the way people "be Jewish" is at an inflection point, not unlike the inflection point that ushered in the Rabbinic Movement that freed Jewish people from the obligation of visiting the Temple in Jerusalem with sacrificial offerings at proscribed times throughout the year. That inflection point over two millennia ago forever changed the practice of Judaism from a religion practiced in "one central location" led by High Priests, to a religion led by learned teachers that can be practiced in any community throughout the world.

Certainly, the digital age that we've been living in for the last 20+ years was bound to influence the practice of Judaism at some point, but this pandemic has accelerated the impact in a number of different ways:

- The "where" – One of the most obvious ways the pandemic has changed how we practice our religion is that geography is no longer a constraint. We can Zoom into the service of a Rabbi who gives thought-provoking sermons, or into the service of the Cantor who plays the style of music that was popular where we grew up.
- The "who" (and the rise of cult personalities and content creators) – When we are no longer constrained by geography, the most enlightening, spiritually rewarding, entertaining personalities emerge as the leaders who can build a following. We can select the style and type of personality that resonates most strongly with each of us. Much like the way the digital landscape changed the broader consumer world, this shift rewards the prolific and/or provocative content creators and people who are adept at building a following.
- The value proposition in a more competitive marketplace – All of those potential changes

creates a seismic shift in the value proposition one's local synagogue offers. The "digital diaspora" may fulfill one member's need for interesting learning opportunities around the world, while filling another member's need to maintain their connection with a college friend who became a Rabbi across the country. That ability fundamentally changes both the value a member seeks from synagogue membership, as well as what a synagogue's offering should be. There are some, of course, aspects of communal life that can never be replaced by a digital experience – anyone who has attended a Zoom funeral or shiva this year can attest to that. After the pandemic recedes, local synagogues need to perfect the in-person experience in the areas of communal life that can only be done well in-person, while simultaneously honing the overall value proposition, which, no doubt will need to include a compelling digital presence centered around stimulating personalities, learning opportunities, and Jewish content creation.

- What being a member of a synagogue means – These changes lead to the question of what will being a member of a synagogue really mean? In my opinion, I see a future in which we may have a membership in our local "home synagogue", but then may choose to subscribe to the digital content of other synagogues that provide opportunities that speak to each of us individually. Why should those of us who came of age being able to select our own special beverage of 87,000 options available at Starbucks or create our own custom music library on iTunes (without ever having to listen to all those "filler" songs on a CD) have to accept our religion in whatever one-size-fits-most way our local synagogue may offer? I see a future in which the way many of us make choices in other aspects of our daily lives to curate our own unique experience will permeate our religious experience, as well. Investing now to 1) build the infrastructure to sustain robust digital membership options to enable additional revenue streams in the future and 2) hone and refine the most attractive and salient aspects of the physical communal religious experience can help The Jewish Center emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

**Adam Scheer**

I agree with Edye that the advent of a "digital diaspora" has, in so many ways made Jewish content more personal and accessible. My family has benefited from the chance to connect with family and friends while also getting a chance to experience new modes of worship and study:

• On Yom Kippur, my family got a chance to experience the High Holidays around the world. We watched Kol Nidre services broadcast from the synagogue my wife and I belonged to in New York prior to moving to Princeton, we prayed morning musaf at my sister-in-law's synagogue in Texas, we closed Yom Kippur with Neilah Services from the great synagogue in Rome and we tuned in to an alternative Jazz/Soul service in San Francisco that kept us engaged well past our post-fast repast, all from the comfort of our living room.
• My children have benefited from exceptionally rich online educational content. For example, my oldest daughter learned about the Start-Up Nation in an intimate seminar led by leading college professors organized by the Tikvah Fund. As anti-Israel sentiment heats up on college campuses around the country, it is comforting to know that no matter where my daughters end up studying, they can find comfort and support for their convictions.
• My Modern Orthodox high school now sponsors weekly Zoom sessions led by faculty who taught back when we were students. These sessions have included reflections on the holidays, discussions about presidential politics, and interviews with prominent alumni. I have connected with classmates I have not seen for decades years and have seen how far Modern Orthodoxy has modernized over the past several years. Modern Orthodoxy looks and sounds a lot like the Conservative movement of thirty years ago. I think the development of online Jewish content on a massive scale has significant implications for The Jewish Center. Our educational programming has always been a point of pride for our community, but we lack the expertise and resources to compete with some of the truly outstanding offerings out there. We might want to think about how we can leverage online content for our own purposes. As an example, Zoom education may not work for pre-school kids, but it can very effective for high school students and older congregants with mobility issues. We could create partnerships to deliver programming targeted to those demographics rather than creating that programming on our own. At the same time, we could spend our limited resources focused on those things that only The Jewish Center can offer congregants.

3. Vaccines are now being distributed and it is likely that we will be able to return to the sanctuary and building by summer. We will also be welcoming a new Rabbi at the same time. Will life return to normal at TJC or will things be different? If different, in what way? What is this likely to mean for our congregation?

**Edye Kamenir**

I think the summer is a bit too optimistic right now, but when we do physically return to the synagogue, there's no doubt that things will be different when we begin anew under the spiritual leadership of a new Rabbi. Since we don't know who our new Rabbi will be, I'm not exactly sure how things will be different. But there are some things that I know will remain the same, because these are the things that have been tried and tested during this period. We will remain a community of people who have a lot of differences and practice differently across the spectrum of Judaism, but we all care about fostering and cultivating a strong Jewish future for the greater Princeton area. We may not always agree on how we accomplish that goal, but we do agree that it's a worthy goal and that TJC plays an integral role. We are a community that has been forged by some really trying times, especially in the last year. When we are able to be together again, I think it will be like a family reunion, because we do miss each other and care about each other deeply.

Adam Scheer

I share Edye's view that we are at living through a unique inflection point and that inflection points, while scary, also represent the chance to pursue growth through re-invention. One way to make the most of this moment is to give our new Rabbi the space and the encouragement to think creatively about their "Shlichut" or mission as our spiritual leader. I have heard some say that "the Rabbi works for us and should follow our guidance." I disagree with that sentiment. While many of us have strong opinions each of us also has a lot to learn about our religion, our traditions and the elements that contribute to community. And even though we may be experts in the TJC way of doing things, I think we can all agree that COVID has shown us that many of our legacy practices for engaging each other and learning with each other have been disrupted forever. An impactful Rabbi will have the sensitivity to understand the unique attributes of our community. At the same time, they will also have a personal point of view about how we can grow spiritually and intellectually as a community in the new age that will begin with our return. In the spirit of "Na'aseh 'V'nishmah" or we will do then we will listen, I hope we can have the humility and the patience to allow our new Rabbi to lead and see where they can take us

4. At TJC, we have a history of disagreeing disagreeably. Do you think the tzurus we have shared over the past year will cause us to change our ways? Do you think we've learned anything about how to get along better? If so, what?

**Adam Scheer**

I think one of the reasons we have "disagreed disagreeably" is because we try to be too many things for too many people. Today, we are more than a "synagogue", we are a "center" that offers opportunities for social justice activism, a range of different religious services, a home for both Israel activists and agitators, and much more. One potentially positive outcome of these days of tzurus could be a more profound understanding of and appreciation for what we can do that no one else can. In my mind, that unique value proposition boils down to four things:
• **Religious Services –** Our synagogue services

are generally a place where we agree to park our differences and pray as a community. We have a broad range of regulars who include members coming from Reform, Orthodox, Mizrachi and Ashkenormative worldviews. But truth be told, even prior to COVID, our religious services were in trouble. Services often lacked energy and we have started to compromise our once high standards. Other congregations are doing more with music to engage congregants more passionately and are appropriating the best of Jewish practice – wherever it may come from – to ensure services speak more personally and profoundly to congregants. Our next Rabbi must see the sanctuary and all that happens within it as their highest priority.

• **Pastoral Care –** Rabbi Feldman spent many hours visiting the sick, calling elderly congregants to check in on them, offering comfort to congregants suffering the loss of a loved one. Those efforts are not easily captured in spreadsheets or synagogue bulletins, but they represent an essential component of community building that our next rabbi should understand take precedence over raising money, and many other potential priorities.

• **Pre-School Programming –** It may not be realistic to think about bringing back our pre-school given current demographic trends in our community, but pre-school parents and their kids represent our future, and we need to find a way to engage them. Pre-school kids cannot sit for Zoom so giving them a physical place to meet and play in a Jewish environment is something we can do that cannot be easily replicated elsewhere. During COVID we have seen pre-school parents were willing to organize outdoor programming even during the winter months and that is something to build on.

• **Engagement with the Local Community –** This area is unique and we share a common identity that cuts across creeds and social classes. It is always interesting to see how many of our congregants choose to be buried in Princeton Cemetery among their neighbors as opposed to a traditional Jewish cemetery. Our rabbi and congregation can find common cause by prioritizing our local institutions including local schools, libraries, and faith communities for programing and engagement.

Focusing on the above does not necessarily mean we stop everything else that we do. But a decision to focus would reflect our priorities and be a statement about what gets the most immediate and profound attention of our clergy and lay leadership.

Edye Kamenir

In general, I tend to see our community's tendency to "disagree disagreeably" as the result of a few lightening rod personalities who like to stir the pot, and I really believe that the rest of us just want to get along.

I agree with the premise Adam outlines above as to the likely cause of our institution's historical challenges, which really date back to TJC's founding and the desire of our founders to be able to span the range of Jewish practice in the greater Princeton area.

I also agree with the suggestion that leadership needs to focus on some key priorities that cultivate and shape our unique value proposition, not only relative to other synagogues in the area, but more importantly, versus the alternative of not joining a synagogue. One of the key areas that will help build a sustainable future for TJC above and beyond the discussion on priorities above is also doing our part to build and strengthen Jewish infrastructure in this area. The suburbs around NYC and Philadelphia have benefitted from the great migration out of cities that has occurred during this pandemic. How does the greater Princeton area stack up against Bergen County, West Chester, Long Island, Manalapan or Cherry Hill when young Jewish families are evaluating their options? For more observant families, some of these areas offer more options for preschool, day school, kosher eateries, etc. than Princeton and its surrounding communities. Therefore, building a sustainable future for the institution requires that we focus on our key priorities as an institution, while also supporting the greater Jewish community infrastructure build-out in our area, so that, eventually, the Princeton area can be a magnet and destination for the urban migration to the suburbs. But we will still fall short if we haven't taken this time to hone our value proposition as an organization.

**5. TJC leadership** must undergo a generational change in order to ensure the congregation remains vibrant. Recognizing that younger congregants are coping with financial stress, childcare issues, increasing work commitments, and many other concerns, what can be done to transfer leadership from the "baby boomers" to the next generation?

**Edye Kamenir**

First, we have to make leadership roles inclusive and welcoming. Many of us in the younger generation got involved in TJC volunteer and leadership opportunities because one person in a leadership position reached out and asked for our help or perspective. Then, one thing led to another. Many people in the "young children" life stage really don't have time for another commitment, but we often feel bad saying "no" – then one thing leads to another, and a new potential leader has been fostered. Likewise, better communication of what type of volunteer roles are needed and the time commitment each commitment entails can better help a potential volunteer turn into an actual volunteer.

Second, we need to make leadership and volunteer roles easier overall, especially for those who work full-time and want to spend their weekends and evenings with their children, and not at a meeting. We have proven that all of these meetings can be done on Zoom. Let's keep it that way! Having office staff help facilitate some of the administrative aspects of volunteer roles (like room scheduling, set-up, etc.) can also help lighten the load.

Third, we have to make leadership and volunteer roles rewarding. Why does anyone volunteer to do anything, particularly if they are in a life stage in which they don't have free time to spare? Because it makes people feel like they did something that made a difference and mattered to others. Or because they made new friends and connections with people they may not have known well before. So as a leadership team, we have to do our part to make sure our volunteers feel like their contributions matter each and every day. Throwing in some incentives for younger families – who are generally short on both time and money – may also help attract people to take on these roles

**Adam Scheer**

In the past, we were lucky to have a range of congregants with seemingly limitless time on their hands and the willingness to pitch in wherever and whenever necessary. We must adjust our expectations for the next generation of lay leadership. It is more likely that a young congregant will work for an international technology firm than a local law or accounting firm, making regular in-person meetings difficult to commit to. Our lay leaders should spend time to get to know our younger congregants and tailor volunteer opportunities to suit congregants' skills. This can be done by simply talking to them or by checking their LinkedIn profiles. Once we know a particular congregant, we can formulate a personal specific "ask" that speaks to their interests and abilities. For example, rather than ask a younger congregant with an academic background to serve as on the education committee, we could ask them to work on a defined project to organize Zoom educational content for our Sulam students in partnership with a national Jewish organization.

Both Adam and Edye have given me a great deal to think about, and I hope they have stimulated your thinking, too. Our synagogue community has experienced tremendous trauma over the past 14 months. Let's use our shared experience as an opportunity to build stronger bonds with each other and our institution. Thank you, Edye and Adam, for sharing your thoughts with all of us.

B'shalom,

**Randy Brett**

# MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger
609.921.0100 ext. 205
jberger@thejewishcenter.org

## The Holidays are coming! The Holidays are coming!

Now that everyone has survived the New Year, it's time to turn the calendar to our upcoming holiday season. One a month for the next 5 months. Are you ready?

January was Tu B'Shevat. The holiday of the trees. Did you plant a tree in Israel? Have you planted a tree in Princeton? Let's do something to support our environment for Tu B'Shevat. Let us know what you did.

February brings Purim. It's Adar. Be Happy. Have you picked out your costume yet? Have you started making your plans for Hamentashen? We are working on the shpiel but unfortunately no carnival this year. But we will celebrate as best as we can. I thought this holiday was in March??

March is Passover? What the heck? I need to start thinking about where to hide the Afikomen already? Can you hide the Afikomen on zoom? I think this year we will need a LOT more than 4 cups of wine. I suggest start drinking early (BUT RESPONSIBLY!).

April is the "Yoms" as someone once called them. Yom Hashoa. Yom Hazikaron. Yom Ha'atzmaut. We will remember and celebrate together. Make sure you watch your emails for some amazing programs being planned.

May is Shavuot. Isn't this usually Memorial Day Weekend? We will study and learn together and of course, eat blintzes and cheesecake. I don't like cheesecake. Just putting that out there.

In June we celebrate the arrival of our New Rabbi. A holiday unto itself. Special thanks to the Rabbi Search committee for all the hard work they have done to find a new spiritual leader.

Can't wait for summer already!

**Joel**

### FEBRUARY LIVESTREAM

**Erev Shabbat Services for February 2021**
**Time: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**
**Join Zoom Meeting**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88979306216**
**Meeting ID: 889 7930 6216**
**Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**
**Meeting ID: 889 7930 6216**

**Shabbat morning services for February 2021**
**Topic: Shabbat Morning services for February**
**Time: Feb 6, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**
**Feb 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM**
**Join Zoom Meeting**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83112872612**
**Meeting ID: 831 1287 2612**
**Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**
**Meeting ID: 831 1287 2612**

**Sunday morning minyan for February 2021**
**Topic: Sunday morning minyanim for February**
**Time: Feb 7, 14,21, 28, 2021 at 8:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**
**Join Zoom Meeting**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542085551**
**Meeting ID: 815 4208 5551**
**Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**
**Meeting ID: 815 4208 5551**

**Wednesday morning minyan for February 2021**
**Topic: Wednesday morning minyanim for February**
**Time: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**
**Join Zoom Meeting**
**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87375441050**
**Meeting ID: 873 7544 1050**
**Dial by your location**
**+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**
**Meeting ID: 873 7544 1050**

To Live Stream our services, go to 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.

# MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

There is a Hebrew song that I sing every year around Purim. The words are "Whomever brings in the month of Adar, brings in joy." It seems so difficult to find joy these days - just one short year ago, the world was so different. I looked to past Purim holidays to find joy as I plan for a very different Purim this year.

One of my least favorite (though highly entertaining) Purim memories took place circa 1980-something when my mother had the brilliant idea to dress me up as a rosebush. This costume was Pinterest worthy (and equally cringe-worthy) and my children don't know how grateful they truly are that I don't have the energy to painstakingly put together a costume for them. I will never forget the itchy green leotard, the itchy green tights, the green skirt and the shades of pink tissue paper she crumpled up into tiny balls and either pinned or stapled all over me once I was dressed. As I scratched my way through Megillah, I remember being told to stop squishing my roses. Seven-ish year old me is eternally grateful for the lack of social media in the '80s.

I also remember the countless number of Purim carnivals at my childhood synagogue, Bnai Israel, in Millburn. Games of Shoot the Moon, Shave the Balloon, games in which I won goldfish, a pastel portrait of me dressed as some critter with a purple wig and wings - 9-ish year old me is equally grateful for the lack of social media in the '80s.

These pictures are buried somewhere in my mother's house, and cannot be found - you will just have to take my word for the horrific costumes.

For me, Purim is always about the costumes, the carnival, the hamantaschen, and the noise. The cacophony caused by drowning out Haman's name always succeeded in riling up the youngest kids to the point where synagogues of my youth had stop/go signs or traffic lights.

Purim is also about reading the Megillah and noticing what was missing - the name of G'd. We learn from the story of Purim that G'd's hidden hand is everywhere. Sometimes it doesn't seem so obvious. As we look at the world today, we struggle with a pandemic, fires, self-mutating crayfish, earthquakes and so many other natural phenomena.

We also see the kindness of others. We see people ensuring their neighbors are safe and warm. We reach out to make sure that the hungry are fed. We have become a physically distant, tightly knit community. We keep moving forward, finding ways to help, and doing better.

This year for Purim, we may not physically hand off Mishloach Manot, but we can drop them by a friend's door. We may not physically be in the sanctuary to hear Megillah, but we can log in to Zoom. We may not have a carnival, but we can find ways to bring in joy. We will make new memories and find new joy in Purim.

I'd love to hear about your favorite Purim memories, and about the new ones you will create! Please email me sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

B'Shalom,

**Sharon**

# Kabbalat Shabbat Katan

## February 12

## 5:45 p.m. 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!

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

# Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah

**Cooper Jacknow**
**February 6, 2021**
Cooper is currently a 7th grader at Princeton Unified Middle School. He has been part of The Jewish Center since the K'tontonim class when he was one year-old! His years through The Jewish Center Preschool and Religious School have well prepared him to become a Bar Mitzvah. Cooper is very observant and inquisitive. He is a caring soul and loves spending time with his family and friends (mostly virtual now, thanks to the pandemic!). He is a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, talented on the drums and piano (and part of PUMS Jazz Band) and loves television game shows and video games. A regular Kabbalat Shabbat attendee, it is only fitting he is excited to lead the Friday night service, Musaf and more on his Bar Mitzvah weekend. Thanks to all of the TJC teachers for his years of Jewish education, notably Carol Alpert and Ellen Pristach for so many classes, Ronit Johnson for honing his Hebrew through the years, Nancy Lewis for perfecting his Haftorah and Torah portions and Cantor Jeff for working all year to share his love of davening and the prayers. Rabbi Adam Feldman$^{Z"L}$ would've loved to see Cooper lead the weekend and will be missed.

**Samuel "Shmoo" Schwartz**
**February 20, 2021**
Samuel is a 7th grader at Princeton Unified Middle School. He grew up at The Jewish Center as he started his education in its nursery school. Samuel likes to play the trumpet, reading and bike riding. But mostly, he likes to hang-out with his friends He has been a camper for many years at Camp Young Judea, Sprout Lake. An unexpected highlight for him has been how much he enjoyed the time spent with Nancy Lewis and Cantor Jeff preparing for the service. He would like to thank them, Sharon Diamonstein and Rabbi Schoenberg for their roles in helping him reach this moment

A Thank you from
Myra Weiner

"Thanks to congregants, clergy and friends for their kind support on the loss of my dear husband, Irv Newman. Your calls, emails and donations in memory of Irv show the depth of your friendship. My family and I are so grateful!

Thanks!"

## Bible Baboker
## Saturdays, 8:45 a.m.

**Each week a reminder notice is sent. If anyone wishes to participate, they are welcome to join via Zoom. Email Michael Goldin, at mmgold18@yahoo.com to receive the zoom link.**

**Zoom video study session each week.**

# TJ CONNECTIONS

## Coffee, Conversation, Connections

Join us for our monthly Coffee, Conversations and Connections zoom get together. Learn an interesting fact about coffee. Have a conversation with our Senior Staff: Rabbi Schoenberg, Cantor Warschauer, Executive Director Joel Berger, and Director of Congregational Learning Sharon Diamondstein, and find more ways to connect with TJC.

**Wednesday, February 3 at 12:00 p.m.**
Zoom link to follow.

# So Much Is Coming Up In March!

**THE JOY OF MACAROONS**
WITH
**JAY SCHNITZER**
INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS
**MONDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2021**
**7:30 TO 8:30 PM**

PLEASE USE COURSE CODE **SCHNITZER** WHEN REGISTERING.

**THE JOY OF KUGEL**
WITH
**JUDY LEOPOLD**
INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS
**MONDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2021**
**7:30 TO 8:30 PM**

PLEASE USE COURSE CODE **LEOPOLD** WHEN REGISTERING.

## Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

# Torah ON TAP

*Sponsored by TJC Men's Club.*

**This TOT will be lead and facilitated by Rabbi Justus Baird.**
**It is open to ALL Men at TJC.**
**It will be occur online with a Having a drink and food while online is encouraged!**
**Zoom link sent to all interested participants.**

**RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org**

## FRUSTRATED WITH TIKKUN OLAM LITE:

**WE'LL SHOW HOW**
**MUCH MORE IS POSSIBLE**
WITH
TJC CONGREGANT AND CHANGEMAKER
**SAM DALEY-HARRIS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2021
8:00 TO 9:00 PM

REGISTRATION CODE
**DALEY-HARRIS**

# Thursday, February 4

Business Consultant
and TJC Congregant

## Drew M. Nuland

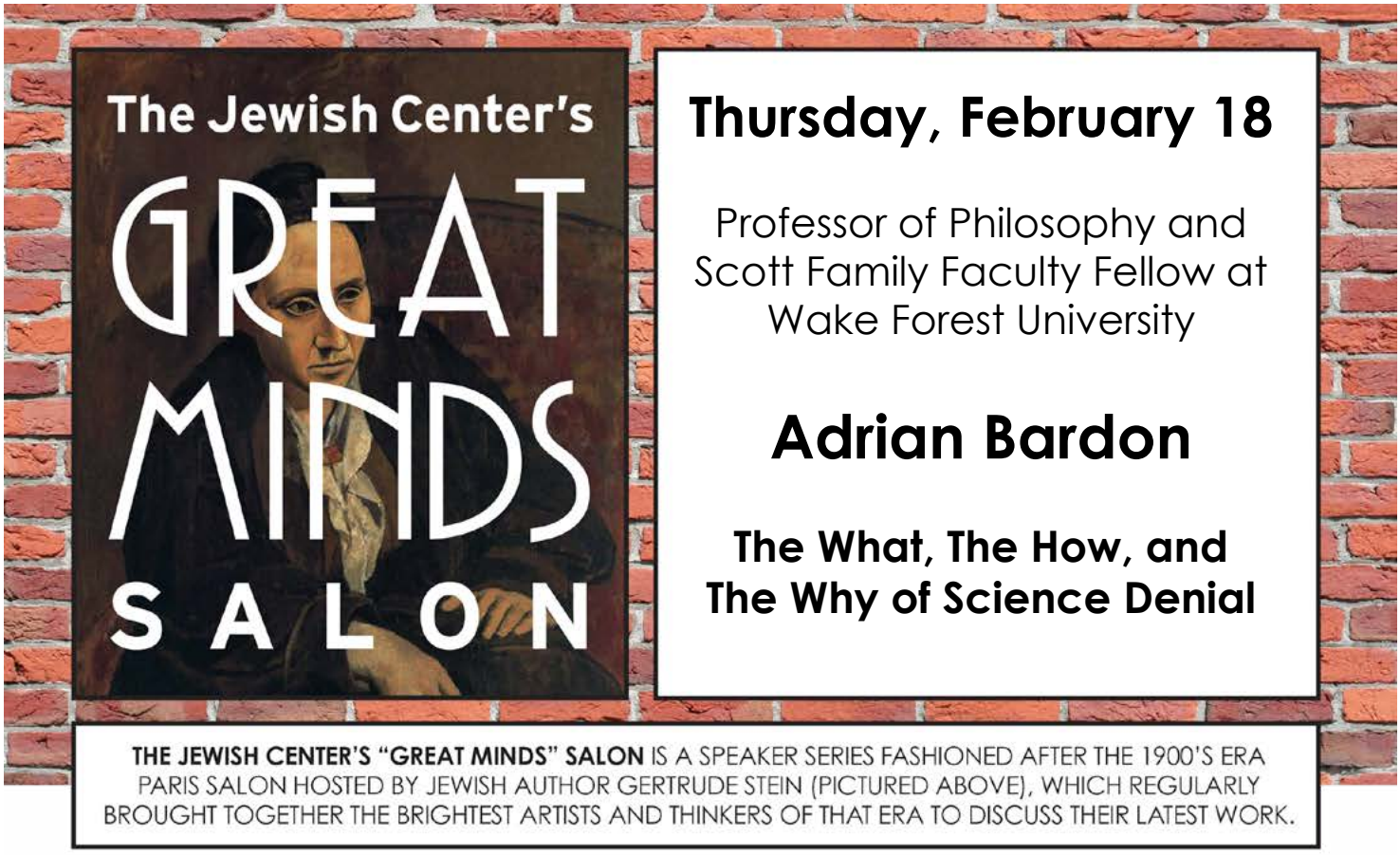
### The History of Jews in Shanghai

**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.

Drew is Principal of Meyerson Quest Limited, a U.S. and China based consultancy specializing in corporate transformation and M&A. Prior to launching MQ in 2007, Drew established then ran Bacardi's China operating companies, led one of China's first foreign-invested television production enterprises and managed new product development/marketing for Bristol Myers Squibb's China division. Drew first went to China in 1986 on a Yale-China Association teaching fellowship. He later ran China-based epidemiology studies for the US National Cancer Institute and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Drew speaks Mandarin and holds a BA in History, with additional concentration in Biochemistry from Yale, an MBA in Finance from Wharton and an MA in International Studies/Chinese from UPENN and the Lauder Institute. Drew is also an Adjunct Professor in the Global Leadership Program at SMU's Cox School of Business.

## 8:00-9:00 p.m. Via Zoom - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

**PROGRAM WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM. PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAILING INFO@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG**
***A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.***



Mr. Bardon discusses the philosophy and the social science of ideological denialisms like the denial of climate science, or the denial of the need for masking and distancing during the COVID pandemic. What is it to be in denial about expert consensus? How is sincere self-deception possible? And why do we see certain types of denial among certain political constituencies and demographic groups?

Adrian Bardon holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He teaches courses in the philosophy of space and time, philosophy and social psychology, 17th-18th century European philosophy, critical reasoning, the philosophy of religion, and political philosophy. His current research focuses on the philosophy, psychology, and politics of ideological science denial. He is the author of The Truth About Denial: Bias and Self-Deception in Science, Politics, and Religion (Oxford UniversityPress, 2020).

Adrian's work has been featured in *Scientific American, Vox, Salon, The Conversation,* National Public Radio's "On Point", NPR's "Think", NPR's "The Brian Lehrer Show", NPR's "Gulf Coast Life", Public Radio International's "*The World*", *NBC News, Radio New Zealand, The David Pakman Show*, *Business Insider, The Houston Chronicle, The San Antonio Express-News, The San Francisco Chronicle, Krautreporter* (Germany), *ABC* (Spain), *The Tablet* (UK), *Filozofuj* (Poland), *Science and Education, Metapsychology,* and the podcasts *Parlia* and *The Sustainable Century*.

## 8:00-9:00 p.m. Via Zoom - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

**PROGRAM WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM. PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAILING INFO@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG**
***A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.***

# February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wedn |
|---|---|---|---|
| All programs are held via Zoom until further notice.<br><br>All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org | 1 | 2<br>12:00 PM AE Lunch and Learn Maimonides<br>4:00 PM Religious School | 12:00 PM Coffee, Cor<br>Connection<br>12:15 PM Adult Ed P<br>Study<br>4:00 PM Religious S<br>7:30 PM #Sulam |
| 7<br>9:00 AM Morning Minyan<br>9:00 AM Religious School<br>3:00 PM AC Ron Schnur | 8 | 9<br>4:00 PM Religious School<br>7:00 PM AE - Rajan Narayanaswawy<br>7:00 PM Religious Affairs Meeting | 12:15 PM Adult Ed P<br>Study<br>4:00 PM Religious S<br>7:30 PM #Sulam<br>7:30 PM Board Mee |
| 14<br>8:00 AM NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL - PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND<br>9:00 AM Morning Minyan | 15 | 16<br>4:00 PM Religious School<br>7:30 PM TJC Book Club | 12:15 PM Adult Ed P<br>4:00 PM Religious S<br>7:00 PM #Sulam<br>7:30 PM AC Hamen<br>7:30 PM EC Meetin |
| 21<br>9:00 AM Morning Minyan<br>9:00 AM Religious School<br>4:00 PM AC Leah Lax<br>7:30 PM #Sulam<br>7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting | 22<br>7:30 PM AC Guitar Making | 23<br>12:00 PM Shiur with Schoenberg and Sharon - Purim<br>4:00 PM Religious School<br>7:00 PM AE - Rajan Narayanaswawy | 12:15 PM Adult<br>Talmu<br>4:00 PM Religi<br>6:00 PM Purim<br>and S<br>7:30 PM AC N<br>Simon |
| 28<br>Shushan Purim<br>9:00 AM Morning Minyan<br>9:00 AM Religious School | | | |

# Shevat/Adar 5781

| nesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3<br>nversation and<br>ns<br>rograms - Talmud<br><br>chool | 4<br>8:00 PM Great Minds Salon Drew Nuland | 5<br>6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 6<br>8:45 AM Bible Baboker<br>9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Cooper Jacknow<br>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service<br>11:00 AM Shabbat Katan<br>4:00 PM Mindful Meditation with Ruth Goldston |
| 10<br>rograms - Talmud<br><br>chool<br><br>ting | 11 | 12<br>Rosh Chodesh Adar<br>6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 13<br>8:45 AM Bible BaBoker<br>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service<br>10:15 AM Havurah Minyan<br>4:00 PM Mindful Meditation with Ruth Goldston |
| 17<br>rograms - Talmud Study<br>chool<br><br>tashen Baking<br>g on Zoom | 18<br>9:30 AM JCW: NOSH & DROSH<br>8:00 PM Great Minds Salon Adrian Bardon | 19<br>6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 20<br>8:45 AM Bible BaBoker<br>9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Sam Schwartz<br>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service<br>Simcha Shabbat - February Birthdays and Anniversaries<br>4:00 PM Mindful Meditation with Ruth Goldston |
| 24<br>Ed Programs -<br>ud Study<br>ous School<br>n Megillah Reading<br>hpiel<br>ational Parks w/ Ed<br>n | 25 | 26<br>6:00 PM Purim Megillah Reading and Shpiel<br>6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service<br>6:30 PM JCW Shabbat | 27<br>8:45 AM Bible BaBoker<br>9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service<br>10:15 AM Havurah Minyan<br>4:00 PM Mindful Meditation with Ruth Goldston |
| | | | |

# Jewish Center Women

Our November NOSH & DROSH meeting was very well received! We had no doubt that it would be, as our facilitator Gila Levin was kind enough to come back and enlighten us once more.

Gila spoke about the "CRASH" theory developed by Rabbi Benay Lappe. The CRASH theory deals with the idea of having a master plan and what happens when the plan doesn't go as you thought it would. Gila shared her opinion of how synagogues might use the CRASH theory in engaging it's members. It was a very interesting morning and we thank Gila for sharing and teaching us all.

Our December meeting was a very special one. It was very important to us that this month's Nosh & Drosh meeting be in memory of Rabbi Adam Feldman. When we thought about the best way to honor Rabbi Feldman's memory the answer was easy. He loved to teach Torah. We were very pleased when Rabbi Justus Baird agreed to facilitate for this meeting and so pleasantly overwhelmed when 50+ members joined us on Zoom. Rabbi Justus led us in a discussion revolved around the theme of Hanukkah and thinking about sacrifice and viewing the bright flames of the Chanukkiah from the perspective of what fuels them. We gave great thought and had an interesting discussion regarding the question posed by Rabbi Justus; " How do we connect to the past but leave room for things to renew?" Our morning involved sharing heartfelt memories, learning Torah together, singing and honoring the memory of our beloved Rabbi and good friend of NOSH & DROSH the best way we knew how.

Many thanks to Rabbi Baird for creating such a meaningful and enlightening morning in Rabbi Feldman's memory.

We hope that 2021 brings you and your families only good health and happiness. We look forward to "seeing" our regular NOSH & DROSHERS on Zoom this month and thank you so much for your continued participation. We hope that new friends will join us often too!

Stay Well,

**Lauren and Cynthia**

NOSH & DROSH welcomes the women of the congregation to join us for the following meetings:

## February 18

Dr Abigail Rose - Telemedicine is here to Stay

## March 18

Sharon Diamondstein-Leaving Egypt Together: An Exploration of Passover

## April 15

Linda Milstein-Learning From a Unique Genocide Exhibit: A Docent's Perspective is best

JCW was thrilled to have 133 members participate in our first ever Zoom Scavenger Hunt. This evening of pure joy, laughter and tremendous fun would not have been possible without the efforts of Co-Chairs, Roberta Sternthal and Ray Kaufman. Their hard work, creativity and flexibility through out the planning and implementation of the evening could not have been better. JCW thanks and appreciates you more than you could ever know.

Linda Milstein and Ellen Pristach were amazing committee members who handled the technology for the entire evening and all aspects of the Scavenger Hunt. From welcoming us in from the waiting room to randomly putting everyone into break out rooms to make and eat our pizzas, with old and new friends, Linda and Ellen had the technology down to perfection. JCW appreciates their expertise and willingness to be part of this first ever event. We couldn't have done it with out you and are beyond thankful!

Special thanks also goes to Heidi Joseph and Linda Milstein who personally delivered all of the Goodie Bags to the families living in Princeton, Lawrenceville, Plainsboro and West Windsor. This was a huge undertaking and a lovely gesture that Heidi and Linda took on for JCW and we are extremely grateful for their going above and beyond to make this event extra special.

Cantor Jeff got the evening started by leading Havdallah. Our Zoom group said good bye to Shabbat together through prayer and song and in a very warm and special way. JCW greatly appreciates Cantor Jeff's participation and from all of us, we thank you for setting the tone for an extra special evening.

Our thank yous would not be complete with out acknowledging the help of Joel Berger and Roni Garrison. JCW is so fortunate to have the support of our TJC office professionals for each and every event we do. Joel and Roni kudos to you for everything you did to help with not only this event but all of the projects JCW is involved with.

Congratulations to our Amazon Gift Card prize winners of the night; The Martinez Family, Polly Strauss, Arlene Opatut and Suzanne Esterman.

An event is only successful if it has wonderful participants who leave feeling that they had a good time. The feedback we have gotten has been so positive and kind. We thank each and every member/family that participated in our Scavenger Hunt evening. You made the night a success and for that we thank you!

Please watch for future JCW events and upcoming NOSH & DROSH dates too. We hope to "see" you all again very soon.

**Celebrate Purim**
**with Jewish Center Women**

**Join us for JCW Shabbat**
**Friday evening, February 26**
**6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

Kabbalat Shabbat services
will feature brief reflections on our theme:
History or Herstory?
Megillat Esther from a Woman's Perspective

Led by special guest Rabbi Cathy Felix

Interested in reflecting or
participating in another way?
Please contact Nancy Lewis at 609-529-9801.

# Arts & Culture

## February

### The Joy of Hamantaschen
### with Susan Gross
### February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Hamantaschen-Is it harder to spell or to bake them?

How do you get those corners just right and what do you fill them with? Find out at the Zoom baking session in preparation for Purim. Learn from an expert. Celebrate this joyous holiday with the joy of baking!
Susan Gross, our own synagogue member renowned for her kitchen skills, will make her second appearance as a Zoom presenter. The photo Susan sent to accompany her presentation confirmed she is the expert needed to show how to make beautiful Hamantaschen!

Extend your Purim joy by learning to bake some Hamantaschen!

## WHAT MADE ME THINK I CAN BUILD GUITARS?

### A LOOK AT HOW A GUITAR WORKS AND THE NATURE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

WITH

### DAVID SCHIFF

ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM**

For four decades, David Schiff has found ways to make a living combining two passions: words and wood. After 10 years as a newspaper reporter who renovated his own 1860s home, David became a writer and editor of how-to books about home improvement and woodworking. A guitar player since age 8, he'd spent many hours holding this wonderful instrument in his arms, but really had no idea how the thing works. How does this lightly built box withstand up to 200 pounds of string pressure while producing beautiful sound?

To find out, he decided to build one. Now on his second guitar, David is far from an accomplished luthier. But now he understands the basic physics and he will give you an overview of that, including some photos of how a guitar is assembled.

David believes that becoming a craftsperson is much more about determination, passion and practice than it is about any particular talent. Still, in the days before the internet, the only way to learn crafts like luthiery was to go to a school. Now there are extensive resources online that make it possible to pursue a craft on one's own—whether you want to make guitars, weld metal sculptures or blow glass. David will share his journey and if we are lucky, others in the session will have valuable experiences to share too.

**REGISTRATION CODE: SCHIFF**

All programs via Zoom.

# Arts & Culture

## February

### Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home - Leah Lax
### February 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Leah Lax will talk about her journey from her book Uncovered, the only gay memoir ever to come out of the hasidic community. Leah was born and raised in Texas in a family clustered around immigrant Jewish grandparents. She joined the hasidim at fifteen thinki she could reclaim all her family had lost before she was born. Uncovered becomes the story of a mother of seven who finds the courage to say no and set out on her own path. Leah Lax has published her work in many places and won numerous awards. She has also written for several Grammy Award-winning artists, and her work for stage has been featured by Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Symphony. Leah holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Houston.

Registration code: LAX

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP TO A
# NATIONAL PARK

WITH

**LORI AND ED SIMON**

ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM**

Join Ed and Lori Simon as they "show and tell" about their favorite National Park experiences. Take advantage of the tips these experienced explorers will offer that can enhance your plans for a fabulous trip to one of these majestic locations.

**Ed and Lori Simon** have been members of TJC for the last 31 years. They have each served on the Board and have been involved in many TJC committees and activities during these years. They share a love of nature and of travel. In 2015 they began to explore the National Parks. Between them they have visited 33 National Parks and many other National monuments and State Parks throughout the 50 states.

**REGISTRATION CODE: SIMON**

# 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 Melissa Freedman*
*from Anonymous*
*from Edward Deutsch*
*from Emily Gasthalter*
*from Joshua and Advah Zinder*

**In honor of**
Joanne Reiffe Fishbane on the marriage of Sophia to Scott
*from Marcie and Marc Citron*
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Marcie and Marc Citron, Edward Flax and Deirdra Silver, Harold Borkan*, Edith Neimark, Jaymee Alpert, Chavurah Aviv, Dina Shaw*
The JFCS Board
*from Michelle Napell*
Gil Gordon
*from Jack Feigenbaum*
All my friends at TJC
*from Evelyn Saldick*
the engagement of Max Merkovitz to Ali Slavens
*from Judy and Bob Levine, Marcie and Marc Citron*
Ellen and Jay Kuris on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren
*from Eliot and Marsha Freeman*
Alexandra Bar-Cohen becoming our next President
*from Dina Shaw*

**In memory of**
Irv Newman
*from Susan Schwirck, Gil Gordon, Arthur Lehrhaupt, Ed Flax and Dee Silver, Chavurah Aviv, Marcie and Marc Citron, Robert Lebeau and Leora Batnitzky, Alison and David Politziner, Donna and David Gabai*
Betty Borkan Chait
*from Harold Borkan**
S. Edmund Berger
*from Donna and David Gabai*
Leo Greenstein
*from Linda Greenstein*
Adele Cheifetz
*from Ira and Linda Cheifetz*
Judith Grabel
*from Linda Greenstein*
David Levin
*from Herb and Carol Horowitz*
Moe Gordon
*from Gil Gordon*
Rabbi Adam Feldman
*from Dina Shaw*

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND
*from Ruth Goldston*

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Sandy Sussman and Ron Schnur, Moshe and Judith Margolin, Shoshana Silberman, Linda and Art Meisel, Gil Gordon, Helaine and Hanan Isaacs*

**In memory of**
S. Edmund Berger
*from Linda and Art Meisel*
Irv Newman
*from Sher Leiman, Nedda Pollack, Judi and Bernie Fleitman*
Fred Spar
*from Winifred Hughes Spar*

## ANNUAL FUND
**In memory of**
Rabbi Adam Feldman
*from Adam Scheer*
Barbara Rossman
*from Tobe and Nat Fisch*
Sheldon Reich
*from Jeffrey Herbst*

## ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
**In honor of**
Evy Grossman and the publication of her new memoir, *Hidden in Berlin: A Holocaust Memoir*
*from Myra Weiner*

**In memory of**
Irv Newman
*from James Manganaro*

## BIMAH PROJECT
*from Robert and Carol Schwartz*
*from Mindy and Corey Langer*
*from Brad and Barbara Lawrence*
*from Melanie Stein*
*from Jayme, Maxine, Jonny and Scott Feldman*
*from Sue and Morty Levine*

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and Fred Edelman, Robert Lebeau and Leora Batnitzky, Alison and David Politziner, Judy Diamond, Alan Kingsberg, Bob and Carol Schwartz*

**In memory of**
Irv Newman
*from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and Fred Edelman*
Annabelle and Abraham Temkin
*from Roberta and Jeremy Spector*
Frances and Alexander Spector
*from Roberta and Jeremy Spector*
Rabbi Adam Feldman
*from Jonathan and Susan Gross*

## BUILDING DEVELOPMENT FUND
*from Barry Ableman*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND
**In honor of**
Rabbi Bob Freedman
*from Gail Alba*

**In memory of**
Rabbi Adam Feldman
*from Melanie H. Stein*
S. Edmund Berger
*from Shoshana Silberman*
Baruch Israel
*from Olga Barsky*
Irv Newman
*from James Manganaro*

## IRVING N. RABINOWITZ CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW FUND
**In memory of**
Irving Rabinowitz
*from Sandie Rabinowitz*

## JESS AND MARION EPSTEIN LUNCH-AND-LEARN FUND
**In memory of**
Irv Newman
*from Avi Paradise and Debbie Freedman*

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*from Sara Just*
*from Sandra Rabinowitz*
*from Amy Borovoy*
*from Cheyanne Boyd*
*from Kendra Di Paola*
*from Alison Politziner*

**In honor of**
Cynthia and Jake Sage on the birth of their granddaughter, Zelda Rose
*from Wilma Solomon*

**In memory of**
Leatrice Delores Lindsay Wood
*from Ajay and Daniela Kaisth*
Bruce Becker
*from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs*

## JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND

**In memory of**
Leo Eaker
*from Helen Ray Kaufman*
Harriette B. Eaker
*from Helen Ray Kaufman*

## KIDDUSH FUND

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Judy Kutin, Ron Schnur and Sandy Sussman*

## MEN'S CLUB FUND

**In memory of**
Ed Berger
*from Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman*

## PRAYERBOOK FUND

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Wilma Solomon and David Goldberg, Judi and Bernie Fleitman, Eliot and Marsha Freeman, Myra Weiner*
Polly Strauss in celebration of her birthday and friendship
*from Judi Fleitman*

**In memory of**
S. Edmund Berger
*from Sheila Kremer*
Irving Newman
*from Jerry and Vera Goodkin, Susan and Stuart Brown*

## RABBI ADAM FELDMAN MEMORIAL FUND

**In honor of**
The Bar Mitzvah of Shay Cheskis
*from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs*

**In memory of**
Albert Kaplan
*from Bobbi and Barry Freedman*
Dorothy Carchman
*from Philip Carchman*
Rabbi Adam Feldman
*from Steven and Karen Grey, Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Bobby Willig and Ginny Mason, Noah Feldman Greene and Angelicca Telles, Dennis and Gail Alba*
Irv Newman
*from Jonathan and Susan Gross*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*from Reba Orszag*

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Hazel Stix*

**In memory of**
Irv Newman
*from Maria Sanderson, Shoshana Silberman*
Bruce Becker
*from Beth Englezos*

## RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND

**In honor of**
the marriage of Sophia Fishbane to Scott Romero
*from Debbie and Randy Brett*
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Jonathan and Susan Gross*

**In memory of**
Avram Bar-Cohen
*from Linda and Michael Grenis*
Irv Newman
*from Linda and Michael Grenis, Joel Deitz, Helaine and Hanan Isaacs*

## RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUND

*from Harold Heft*

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Nedda Pollack*
The Religious Affairs Committee for their kindness
*from Myra Weiner*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

**In honor of**
Joanne Reiffe Fishbane on the marriage of Sophia to Scott Romero
*from Linda and Art Meisel*
The Greenfield's who celebrated the anniversary of their arrival to the U.S. from the former USSR
*from Linda and Art Meisel*
Mark and Wendy Merkovitz on the engagement of Max to Ali
*from Linda and Art Meisel*

**In memory of**
Dr. Oved Soffer
*from Linda and Art Meisel*
Bruce Becker
*from Linda and Art Meisel*

## SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Judy and Mike Leopold, Joe and Barbara Schwartz, Linda and Michael Grenis*

**In memory of**
David Persky and Evelyn Persky, Lloyd Nimaroff and Rose Nimaroff
*from Robin and Jeffrey Persky*
Irv Newman
*from Judy and Mike Leopold, Joe and* Barbara Schwartz, Joyce and Bruce Afran
Ina and Paul Gilbert
*from Roslyn Vanderbilt*

## SILVER CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Irene and Sam Goldfarb*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

**In honor of**
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
*from Joan Levin*

**In memory of**
S. Edmund Berger
from Seva and Peter Kramer

## SOCIAL ACTION – HOUSING FUND

**In memory of**
S. Edmund Berger
*from Judy and Mike Leopold*

## YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND

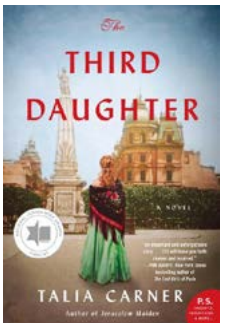
**In honor of**
The birth of our granddaughter, Samantha Hannah Steeil
*from Bobbi and Barry Freedman*

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

# Book Club

## Tuesday, February 16
## 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

We'll be meeting by Zoom to discuss:




### Talia Carner's *The Third Daughter*

"Set mostly in Argentina around the turn of the 19th century, Talia Carner's complex historical fiction, The Third Daughter, exposes the cruelty of Zwi Migdal, a notorious association of Jewish men involved in the exploitation of women and children." (Hadassah Magazine)

*The turn of the 20th century finds fourteen-year-old Batya in the Russian countryside, fleeing with her family endless pogroms. Desperate, her father leaps at the opportunity to marry Batya to a worldly, wealthy stranger who can guarantee his daughter an easy life and passage to America. Feeling like a princess in a fairytale, Batya leaves her old life behind as she is whisked away to a new world. But soon she discovers that she's entered a waking nightmare. Her new "husband" does indeed bring her to America: Buenos Aires, a vibrant, growing city in which prostitution is not only legal but deeply embedded in the culture. And now Batya is one of thousands of women tricked and sold into a brothel.*

A powerful story of finding courage in the face of danger, and hope in the face of despair, The Third Daughter brings to life a dark period of Jewish history and gives a voice to victims whose truth deserves to finally be told.

If you have a Princeton Public Library card, you can reserve the upcoming books. The library has multiple copies of these titles. They can also be ordered online, and you can click on the synagogue link (below) to order a book from Amazon to earn a commission for the Synagogue:

https://thejewishcenter.org/Participate-With-Us/Our-Commitees/Book-Club.aspx

All are welcome to join our Book Club. Please contact Louise Sandburg for more information:
louisesandburg@sandsmith.com

For future planning, save these dates and read this book:

**COMING SOON!**

March 16 -- Dara Horn's *In the Image*
April 20 -- Goldie Goldblum's *On Division*
May 25 -- Rachel Kadish's *The Weight of Ink*

# Mazel Tov ...On Your Great News!

To Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on December 23
To Joanne Reiffe Fishbane on the marriage of her daughter Sophia to Scott Romero
To Donna Rosenberg on her special birthday
To Rabbi Emeritus Dov Peretz Elkins on his special birthday
To Wendy and Mark Merkovitz on the engagement of their son Max to Ali Slavens
To Anita and Sam Cohen who celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on December 28
To Gilda Aronovic who became a great-grandmother for the first time when her granddaughter Stephanie gave birth to Jonathan Aronovic-Levi
To Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman who became great-grandparents again when Moriah and Jason Sirotkin welcomed their daughter, Josie
To Ellen and Jay Kuris on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren
To Alexandra Bar-Cohen becoming our next President
To Evy Grossman and the publication of her new memoir, "Hidden in Berlin: A Holocaust Memoir"
To Cynthia and Jake Sage on the birth of their granddaughter, Zelda Rose
To Polly Strauss in celebration of her birthday
To The Greenfield's who celebrated the anniversary of their arrival to the U.S. from the former USSR
To Bobbi and Barry Freedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Samantha Hannah Steeil
To Louis Abramson, son of Bernard and Barbara Abramson, who is a co-founder of newly launched The Hollywood Harvest, a nonprofit food relief program serving vulnerable seniors
To Eliza Rosenthale, granddaughter of Ellen and George Pristach, upon winning the award for poetry in the Rutgers University Writers House Winter Creativity Showcase
To Sharon Diamondstein who completed her coursework in Youth mental Health First Aid
To Eric and Jason Diamondstein who received their Judo promotions. Eric was promoted to orange belt and Jason was promoted to yellow
To Sam Daley Harris who had his op-ed titled "Our Misguided Tendency to Hibernate after an Election" published in the So. Fla. Sun Sentinel and his letter to the editor titled, "Sharing Good News of Legislation for Early Childhood Development" published in Town Topics

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

***Irving Newman, husband of Myra Weiner***
***David Levin, former longtime congregant***
***Bruce Becker, father of Barbara Reiff***
***Roz Denard, wife of Norman Denard***
***Marjorie Horowitz, longtime congregant and founding member***
***Norman Denard, father of Jeff and Jill Denard***

# ADULT EDUCATION

## GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED:
## BANNED, BURNED AND BLESSED

WITH

### RABBI ELLIOT SALO SCHOENBERG

ZOOM INTERACTIVE LUNCH AND LEARN

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND FROM NOON TO 1:30 PM**

Written by Maimonides at the end of the 12th century in Arabic, it is his signature work of philosophy. A medieval syllabus for those exposed to tradition of Aristotelian speculation and science current in the 12th century Islamic milieu who find their faith challenged and undermined by its assumptions. More than that, it is own spiritual autobiography. Today 800 years later it is still a compelling read for anyone who seeks a path to God.

**Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg** is the Interim Rabbi of The Jewish Center. He has served as the Senior Vice President and Global Director of Rabbinic Career Advancement of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international professional association of Conservative rabbis. He is responsible for the career development of rabbis across the world.

He is the Conservative Movement's expert on congregational dynamics.

**Open to the public | RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org**

**REGISTRATION CODE: SCHOENBERG**

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Over two sessions, on November 30 and December 7, the Jewish Center was proud to host Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Blanks, Pastor of the Mount Pisgah AME Church in Princeton. Her topic was *Christian Faith and how it Applies to the Major Issues of our Time*. Rev. Blanks gave a thoughtful lecture and presentation on the history of the AME Church from its founding in 1816, and a retrospective on Mount Pisgah, the oldest AME Church in Central New Jersey. Rev. Blanks educated us about the unique roots of the AME Church, as a bulwark against racial discrimination. She spoke about her congregation and its place in the community, its outreach efforts, its commitment to social justice, and plans for the future.

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**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**

# JEWS OF THE BRITISH CHANNEL ISLANDS UNDER THE NAZI OCCUPATION 1940-1945

***RACISM, LAW, ANTISEMITISM***

WITH

## RONALD SCHNUR, PH.D.

INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2021 FROM 3:00 TO 4:30 PM**

What would a World War II invasion and occupation of the British Isles, or even the US and Canada, by the Nazis have looked like, and more specifically, what would have been the fate for the local Jews? In fact, historically there was one such invasion and occupation: the part of Britain consisting of the Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey and others. In this presentation, accompanied by period photographs and maps, we will review this occupation to witness what happened when this area of English law, government and society encountered a totalitarian regime of racism and antisemitism.

**Ronald Schnur** holds a BA from Franklin & Marshall College, a M.Ed. from Boston College, a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, as well as post-doctoral study at the University of Pennsylvania. Professionally, Ron's career started as a teacher of blind and visually impaired children before completing his doctoral studies. That was followed by a career as a psychologist in a large, working-class school district as well as additional university, clinic and hospital affiliations. He is a TJC member.

**REGISTRATION CODE: SCHNUR**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE HINDU FAITH AND CULTURE

WITH

## RAJAN NARAYANASWAMY, PH.D.

INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS

**TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 9TH & 23RD, 2021 FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 PM**

The Hindu religion and culture are one of the oldest in the world. Its richness and variety and the number of facets and branches of study and practices it has spawned is myriad. In this series of two talks the speaker will try to introduce all these branches and go into the details of a few of them. The Hindu religion is often called by the term 'Sanatana Dharma' which can be translated loosely as 'Eternal way of living'. Indeed, that is what the Hindu Faith and culture is all about; an ancient way of living that attempts to bring out the best in us - righteousness, truth, compassion and charity and overseen by a strong belief in a higher power and intelligence that guides us in this path and always protects us.

**Rajan Narayanaswamy, Ph.D.** is a very active and prominent member of the Chinmaya Mission, a renowned religious and spiritual institution, located in Cranbury. The Chinmaya Mission excels in teaching children the noble human values like honesty, compassion and non-violence enshrined in the teachings of Hinduism and its culture. He has been leading scriptural study groups and teaching yoga for adults for 19 years. He was awarded the Martin Luther King Lifetime Achievement award sponsored by the Human Relations Council of Plainsboro.

**REGISTRATION CODE: RAJAN**

# Search

## Rabbi Search Committee Update

RABBI CANDIDATES VISIT TJC--CONGREGATION FEEDBACK NEEDED

The Rabbi Search Committee has worked tirelessly throughout the month of January to make it possible for our congregation to meet three highly talented rabbis who applied for our senior rabbi position: Rabbi Andrea Merow, Rabbi Abigail Treu, and Rabbi Daniel Nevins. What an inspiring and stimulating month it has been! TJCers and candidates had multiple opportunities to get to know each other in a variety of event formats over a number of days. The rabbis davened, taught, schmoozed, met with religious school students and their families, our clergy and staff, lay leadership, answered our questions at town hall meetings, embarked on a virtual tour, participated in Bible BaBoker and weekday minyan, and interacted with our teens. While we'll surely have heard back from many of you by this time, please be certain that you've completed the online surveys to provide your feedback on each candidate. The deadline for survey responses is Tuesday, February 2. You are always welcome to reach out to us with additional comments any time at rabbisearch@thejewishcenter.org. It is vital that we have input from as many congregants as possible in order for our committee to thoroughly process all we can learn from the congregation and make our recommendation to TJC's Board of Directors as to who should become our next senior rabbi. Our goal remains to find the best rabbi for our community. Please help us and TJC by telling us what you think!

Thank you!

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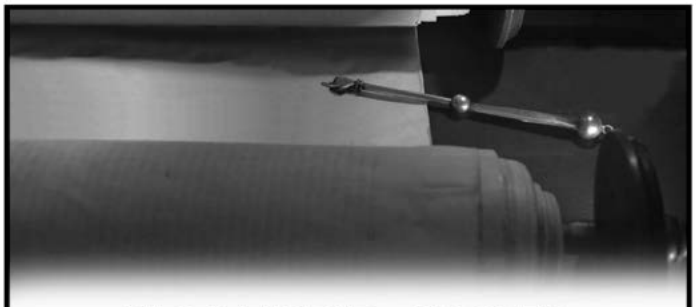

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