



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

January 2022  
Tevet-Shevat 5782  
thejewishcenter.org

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

The 15th of The Hebrew month of Shevat  
January 17th, 2022

# TU BISHVAT

Celebrating the Trees, Nature and the Land of Israel



# The Jewish Center

PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

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The Jewish Center Princeton

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## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 ZOOM LINKS

(Please make sure to have the latest version of Zoom.)

### Erev Shabbat Services – 6:30 PM

**January 7, 14, 21, 28**

**February 4, 11, 18, 25**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82412593218>

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (NY)

Meeting ID: 824 1259 3218

### Shabbat Morning Services – 9:30 AM

**January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2022**

**February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84191490431>

Meeting ID: 841 9149 0431

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US

### Sunday Morning Minyan – 9:00 AM

**January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022**

**February 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172977699>

Meeting ID: 821 7297 7699

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (NY)

### Wednesday Morning Minyan– 7:00 AM

**January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89283935218>

Meeting ID: 892 8393 5218

Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (NY)

### Live Stream our services:

**[www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org).**

Click on the button (shown right).

If we are live, just click the play button.

Cameras go live 10-15 minutes before services begin.

[www.livestream.com/tjc](http://www.livestream.com/tjc)



Watch  
Livestream



## MESSAGE from the Rabbi

Rabbi Andrea Merow  
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RAM@thejewishcenter.org

Chapter three of the Book of Ecclesiastes teaches that there is a time for everything. “A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven:” the text continues with examples: “A time for weeping and a time for laughing, A time for wailing and a time for dancing.” It feels like the author believes that each event will happen at a different time. I find this to be a curious statement because I experience that often many things happen at the very same time, and that part of life is about balancing competing commitments and even competing emotions. In our community we endeavor to honor a multitude of special times and events, even when they seem to occur all at once.

The weekend of January 14th to 17th is packed with many important events. Just on Saturday morning alone we will celebrate Shabbat, a bat mitzvah, Shabbat Shira (The Sabbath of Song) and we will commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend – all in one morning. Each is special and worthy of our attention, and coming to shul on one Shabbat morning will allow us to honor all of these special times.

Celebrating Shabbat as a community is one way that we each **create** sacred community. As the great Zionist thinker Ahad HaAm notes, “More than Israel had kept the Shabbat, the Shabbat has kept Israel.” Simply being in sacred time creates sacred community. I encourage those who have not in the past attended Shabbat morning services to consider spending some spiritual and communal time with us. Come for part of the service and stay for lunch or to schmooze. Take a walk on our beautiful campus, come for Bible BaBoker – even use one of our spaces to meditate then join us for some of the service and lunch. Be in community with us. Or come on Fridays to help prepare for Shabbat lunch with our Kiddush Krew.

Also consider coming when we celebrate a young person becoming bar or bat mitzvah. The song “*Siman Tov u’Mazal Tov* / “It is a sign of good and of good luck...” continues with the words, “*y’hay lanu, u’lchol Yisrael*” “for us and for the entire People of Israel.” It is not only a family that celebrates a bat or bar mitzvah; it is the entire congregation and Jewish People welcoming that child into the Jewish community. With this in mind, we print a paragraph about each upcoming bar or bat mitzvah in this newsletter so that our entire congregation can celebrate. B’nai mitzvah IS a communal celebration. It is also an opportunity for the child and the family to interact with our Shabbat community and to experience communal, joyful prayer. So come on the 15th and come whenever we can welcome the next generation to our People.

Saturday the 15th is Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song, named about the Song of Moses and Miriam in the Torah, and the Song of Devorah in the haftarah. It is a Sabbath of joy where we celebrate our freedom from slavery in poetry and in song.

It is fitting that the Sabbath of Song coincides with the weekend where we honor the legacy of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The TJC community is fortunate to have a group of serious learners who have been meeting for over a year and a half to learn about issues of racism in America. Many already do serious work in this area and are expanding their efforts by learning with others. They have used the traditional Jewish model of hevruta study, studying with a partner or in a small group, and have read and discussed numerous books, both fiction and non-fiction, about race in America.

What most impresses me about this group is their intense desire to learn deeply from the written word and lived experiences of others, and their convictions that we do not know enough, that we can be humble enough and open enough to learn. This group embodies the phrase in the Talmud, “Study Leads to Action (Kiddushin 40b) because they are engaged in deep study so that they and others will continue to act. On Saturday morning of Dr. MLK Jr. Shabbat this group will present some of what they have learned, along with opportunities for more people to join them. The Cantor and I will participate in honoring the legacy of Dr. King with words of Torah, and of course song, since it is Shabbat Shira.

All of this in one beautiful Shabbat morning.

On Monday, join us over Zoom for the Princeton Area Clergy Association Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith service.

On Sunday night January 16, we usher in the holiday of Tu B’shevat, the holiday where we celebrate trees, nature, and our relationship to the land and to the Land of Israel. Join us on Sunday for a hike in honor of the holiday; it’s at 10:00 a.m. and hosted by Andrew Broadie and Eugenia Erlij. Meet at the Mountain Lake parking lot for the outer ~3 mile loop. Join us on Tuesday morning, January 18, for a Tu B’shevat Seder, over Zoom.

Song, Shabbat, Bending the arc of justice towards less racism, Celebrating the natural world and the land of Israel ...all in one sacred weekend! I hope you will join us!

**Rabbi Andrea Merow**



# MESSAGE from the Cantor

Cantor Jeff Warschauer  
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Cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org

Dear TJC friends,

The Jewish calendar, with its yearly cycle of holidays, often brings us joy just when we need it the most: the sweetness and renewal of Rosh Hashanah and the fall holidays, the lights and playfulness of Chanukah as the days grow darker, and, of course, the holiday that celebrates the greening of nature and the promise of spring in the midst of our winter here in North America, connecting us to Eretz Yisrael where sap is rising and buds are beginning to bloom—Tu BiShvat!

Tu BiShvat is a celebration of the environment and a focused opportunity to reflect on our successes—and failures—as stewards of our physical world. On Tu Bishvat we take time to develop, express, add to, and question our beliefs and practices and to strengthen our commitment to making a more beautiful and just world.

My young students are often amazed and delighted that we have an entire holiday dedicated, in large part, to our love for trees. But, in fact, trees don't only figure prominently on Tu BiShvat. Jewish prayers, texts, poetry, songs and literature abound with references to trees.

“*Etz chayim hi lamachazikim ba...*” “It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and all who uphold it are blessed.” We sing these words every time we return a Torah scroll to the ark. (Translation from Siddur Sim Shalom)

Here is a beautiful and meditative new setting of *Etz Chayim* from Yoel Sykes of the Jerusalem-based prayer and study community Nava Tehila.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wem6yb6ql8A>

Of course, songs about trees abound in the Jewish song and dance repertoire related to Eretz Yisrael. One of my favorites is *Eten Bamidbar*.

Deborah and I love listening to songs from the charming 1960s album, *Shalom!*, by Geula Gill & the Oranim Zabar Israeli Troupe. Written by the great Israeli composer Dov (Dubi) Seltzer (b.1932), *Eten Bamidbar* is also a popular Israeli circle dance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI5uAkWBVT4>

*Eten bamidmar net'a erez  
Shitah vehadas ve-etz shamen  
Asim ba'aravah b'rosh  
Tid'har ut'ashur yachdav*

*I will plant cedar in the desert,  
Acacia, and myrtle, and the olive tree.  
I will put cypress in the wilderness,  
Elm and box-tree together.*

(Isaiah 41:19)

Translation from Sefaria.org

Finally, I'd like to share a bittersweet song by the great Itzik Manger (1901–1969), about a child trying to separate from his mother.

*Oyfn veg shteyt a boym...* By the wayside stands a tree, bent against the storm. All the birds have deserted it, leaving it alone and unprotected. (Translation by Eleanor Gordon Mlotek<sup>21</sup>)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45KYqWpZKso>

Manger was a Yiddish poet, playwright, prose writer, and essayist. Born in Czernowitz, Bucovina, Manger spent his final years in Israel, where he attracted a mass audience in both Yiddish and Hebrew.

Although there are many excellent recordings of this song, including one by the incomparable Chava Alberstein, I've provided a link for a recent version by Moldovan-Yiddish singer and composer, Efim Chorny. Not only is the singing and musical arrangement gorgeous, but the song is set to an original animation that vividly captures the poetry's sweetness, pathos and humor.

Please enjoy these three musical gems in honor of the holiday.

**Cantor Jeff**



# MESSAGE from the President

Alexandra Bar-Cohen  
president@thejewishcenter.org

Dear TJC Kehilah,

Tu B'shevat begins this year on the evening of January 16th and I will be celebrating the New Year of the Trees by walking among them.

Having grown up summering in the Adirondacks and later hiking in the Czech Republic, the Negev, the Arava, and the Higher Mountain region of the Sinai, I confess that I am a latecomer to the beauty of our local woodlands. It was during the early days of pandemic, those uncertain days of sacred pause when the world stopped and those of us fortunate to be untouched by covid suddenly had time to organize decades of loose photos, cultivate sourdough starter, and listen to birdsong, that the Bar-Cohen family began to head out on a different hike every week. We'd take the dog (and the kids when they'd come), and arrange to meet friends on the trail, especially during the cold winter months. Barak would bring a *finjan* and he'd make us hot tea with *nana* (mint leaves) while we sat on a boulder or a downed tree and breathed in the heavy musk of decaying autumn leaves beneath our feet.

It seems we've largely lost the sacred pause part of the pandemic - life has sped up even if it hasn't returned to normal - but we do not have to abandon practices that feed our soul and our sanity. I will continue to go into the woods, and I hope you will join me!

Perhaps you went into the woods last year with TJC Hikes, our new hiking affinity group. There were hikes in the Woodfield Reservation led by Ed and Lori Simon and in High Point State Park led by Rick and Donna Rosenberg. This month's hike will take place on January 16, Tu B'shevat Eve, at Mountain Lakes and will be lead by the wonderful Erlij/Brodie family. Andrew Brodie and Eugenia Erlij moved to Princeton from Ohio in 2019. Come meet them! For details see the TJC Hikes section of this newsletter.

TJC Hikes is looking for congregants to lead hikes each month. Where can you lead us? Contact [info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org) to claim a month.

I hope to see you on Tu B'shevat - adults, kids, dogs, all are welcome on TJC Hikes. By way of an invitation I offer this poem by Mary Oliver, one of my favorite poets.

*Chag Tu B'shevat Sameach,*

**Alexandra Bar-Cohen**

*How I Go Into the Woods*  
by Mary Oliver

Ordinarily I go to the woods alone,  
with not a single friend,  
for they are all smilers and talkers  
and therefore unsuitable.  
I don't really want to be witnessed talking to the  
catbirds  
or hugging the old black oak tree.  
I have my ways of praying,  
as you no doubt have yours.  
Besides, when I am alone  
I can become invisible.  
I can sit on the top of a dune  
as motionless as an uprise of weeds,  
until the foxes run by unconcerned.  
I can hear the almost unheard sound of the roses  
singing.  
If you have ever gone to the woods with me,  
I must love you very much.



# MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger  
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jberger@thejewishcenter.org

## Magical Moments

I spent the last two weeks in Sunny South Florida sharing some wonderful and magical moments with my family. A special thanks to the leadership of TJC for giving me the time to experience what I experienced.

Our younger daughter Lauren had her winter vocal concert. It was preceded by her A Capella group singing caroling songs in the lobby. It was nice but it became magical when they sang *Hinei Ma Tov*. I am sure Lauren was the only Jewish member of the group (and masked) but it felt extra special that they at least acknowledged the Jewish nature of the holidays. The concert was also magical as Lauren had a few solos with her Jazz group and performed beautifully.

Magical moment two was for our older daughter Stephanie. She graduated on the 18th but the weekend before, she was given a 10 minute time slot for her senior showcase. To show off her talents to friends, faculty and staff. I had heard Stephanie sing plenty of times over the years but this performance blew me away. A variety of songs, monologues and music. Her own version of an Elton John song and Far from the Home I love from Fiddler. It was magical.

But the biggest magical moment came at graduation. We were called by her college ahead of time that Stephanie was receiving the highest academic honor at graduation. The President's Scholar Medal which is described in the program as being given to the top 1% of their class, exemplifying the values of her college and who also has demonstrated a

commitment to scholarship, student leadership and service. Stephanie graduated with a 4.0 GPA, Summa Cum Laude with highest honors. But now way would the give this award to a theater student?



Only Gloria and I knew. We were given VIP parking and VIP seats but had to fib a little to Lauren about why we had such great seats and parking. And then the moment came.

After thanking the guest speaker, the President announces the award and calls her name out. We could see her from behind and she stood up not really knowing what to do. The President called her up on stage, told the commencement crowd about her accomplishments and handed her a box with the medal inside. She told us she was stunned, because why would she win the award? There had to be others more qualified, but there weren't. Her work around campus, her work in the theater and her academics set her apart from her peers.



We were certainly shedding tears of joy when we saw her after graduation.

I am still not sure it has totally sunk in but what a moment for all of us. To reward her for all the great work she did in college, for her academics which were awesome, and for us, the wonderful person she became.

It was magical.

**Joel**



## MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein  
609.921.0100 ext. 220  
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

“Frog pushed a coat down over the top of Toad. Frog pulled snow pants up over the bottom of Toad. He put a hat and a scarf on Toad’s head. ‘Help!’ cried Toad. ‘My best friend is trying to kill me!’ ‘I am only getting you ready for winter,’ said Frog“

This story, [Down the Hill](#), from the book [Frog and Toad All Year](#) by Arnold Lobel, continues to tell about how Toad, who is so resistant to winter and being afraid of a sled ends up riding the sled down the hill all by himself, and was having a wonderful time, despite not knowing that Frog had fallen off. As soon as he realized Frog was gone, everything went sideways. He bumped into a tree, he crashed into a rock, and the sled dived into the snow. Frog, who saw everything, tried to get Toad to stay outside and play, but instead, Toad had decided to go home because that is what worked for him.

I reflect on this story and often wonder whether Frog would have stayed outside had he not bumped and crashed or if Toad had stayed on the sled. The truth is, so much that we do in life depends on our experiences immediately prior to an event. How often have we made spur of the moment decisions based on weather, a phone call from a friend, traffic, or any other reason? Each link in a chain of events leads to the next, and sometimes in life, we act in the moment. We notice things around us, and those things cause feelings. Sometimes those feelings are excitement, other times curiosity. Sometimes those feelings are hope, and sometimes those feelings cause sadness. Sometimes we act on those feelings, and sometimes, like Toad, we go home and go back to bed where it is safe.

We just started reading the Book of Exodus - the book where each one thing leads to another. Moses sees an Egyptian beating an Israelite and lashes out. He runs away and meets Jethro’s daughters. He becomes a shepherd, loses a sheep and sees a fire. Upon closer examination, he notices that the bush that is on fire is not burning. He approaches the bush, and ends up having a conversation with the Divine One.

What would have happened if Moses had made even one different choice? Would the Israelites have escaped from Egypt? Would they still be enslaved? One could argue that things definitely went sideways for Moses - imagine if he had just gone back home and gotten into bed?

Life is about showing up for the experiences. It is about taking those experiences and using them to take us to the next thing. We will bump into trees, crash into rocks, and even dive into the snow, but unlike Toad, we should not go home (though on a snowy day, that may not be the worst response...)

As we embark on the secular new year, I would like to invite you to notice the small things that cause you to act. Consider whether your choice would be different given the circumstances, and look around at what other options you might have.

Be intentional. Help others around you see the possibilities, much like Frog did. You might be surprised!

B’shalom,

**Sharon**

For Kids K and below! Bring your friends! All are welcome!



## KABBALAT SHABBAT KATAN

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! Ages: K and below.

Open to the community!

### RETURNS IN FEBRUARY!

## Shabbat Katan

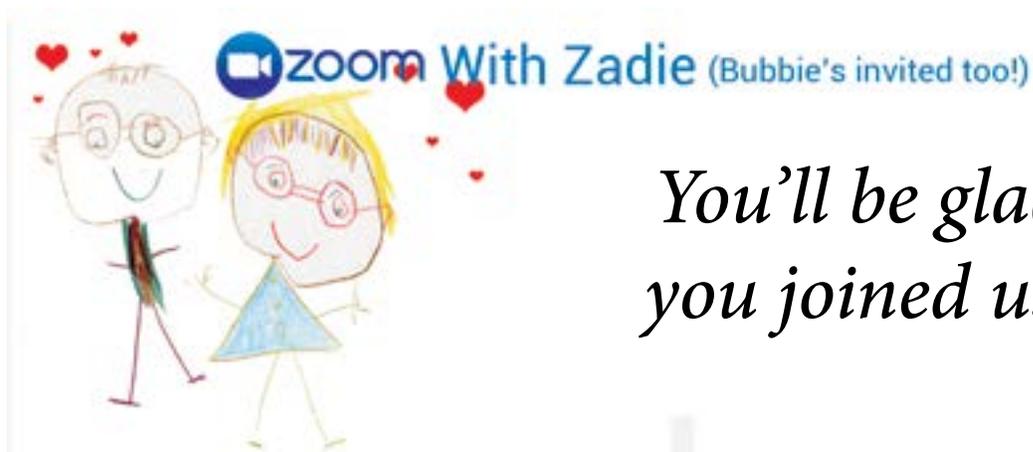
This spirited service is designed for preschool-aged children and their families. Led by music teacher Susan Sacks and parents, this interactive Shabbat experience includes stories, prayers, songs, and a brief Torah reading. Ages: K and below.

Open to the community!

January 29  
11:00 am



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



*You'll be glad  
you joined us!*

**All Bubbies and Zaydies are invited to ...  
Shabbat Katan on January 29!**

We invite all of our senior congregants to join us with your grandchildren. Open to both members and non-members. There's no better way to spend Shabbat than with the kinder.

**Email [sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org) to sign up.**



# Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



**Paula Kutin**

**January 15, 2022**

Paula Kutin is a seventh grader at Princeton Middle School. She loves playing the flute and practicing Tae Kwon Do. Paula's family have been members of TJC since before she was born, and she has many TJC friends of all ages. Paula lives in Princeton with her parents, her sisters Amalia and Shira, and her cats Nutmeg and Chai. She is excited to become a Bat Mitzvah on January 15 and to celebrate with her family and friends.



**Nava Brito**

**January 22, 2022**

Nava is currently an eighth grader at Princeton Middle School and has been learning at TJC Religious School since moving from NYC in 2015. She enjoys competitive cheerleading, opera-singing (her talent was discovered during a very enthusiastic rendition of "Happy Birthday" during religious school), dancing, and track & field. Nava has been a Girl Scout since second grade. Nava has been volunteering at Blue Bear Café and finds the experience both meaningful and enjoyable. Nava is smart, funny, thoughtful, kind, bold, chatty, and confident. She adores her dog (Jersey), her family, and her friends. Nava would like to thank Ronit Rakowski, Rabbi Merow, Cantor Jeff, Sharon Diamondstein, Daryl Rothman, and all her religious school teachers for all of their support and guidance in helping her prepare for this very special day.

## Torah and Tea



JANUARY  
7, 14, 21, 28  
9:30 am

Questions? Contact Sharon Diamondstein  
609.921.0100 ext. 220 [sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org)

# MEMBERSHIP



## Mazal Tov...On Your Great News!

Email your news to us: [mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org)

Jonathan and Susan Gross, whose granddaughter Nili Forgy and her husband Joshua Forgy had a new baby daughter, named Ahavah Tsiyonah.

The Borsack and Wiener families on the Aufruf and upcoming marriage of David Borsack to Stephenie Wiener.

Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeffrey Mattes who joyfully announce the birth of their granddaughter Liv Sarah Greenberg, daughter of Rachel Mattes Greenberg and Duncan Greenberg, and little sister of Arthur Paul Greenberg. Liv was born on October 13th of this year.

Diane and Mitch Schwartz who are thrilled to announce the wedding of their son, Kyle Jacob to Bridget Emily Nolan, who were married under the chuppah at the Four Seasons Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland on November 21.

*The Jewish Center is the place to be in Princeton and Mercer County! Tell your friends and let's grow our synagogue together.*

*Contact the office for more information or email us at [info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org)*

### **January Committee Meetings:**

January 6 - EC Meeting

January 20 - Board Meeting

January 27 - Finance Meeting

January 27 - School Cmte. Meeting

### ***In Memoriam:***

*We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering:*

**Selma (Sally) Kaufman**

**Sandra Gainin Katz**

**Jay Craig**



On the 2nd night of Chanukah, some of our newer TJC families, along with their "TJC Sponsor Families" and many of our lay-leaders gathered for warm drinks, donuts, and mingling before we lit the TJC chanukiah on Nassau St. ✨

Below are some highlights from a great night of communal socializing, joy, & celebration. ✨



# Synagogue Spotlight



A member of The Jewish Center since moving to Princeton in 1950, Hazel Stix has seen our congregation grow from a one-room building to the multi-building complex and membership we have today. But her Jewish identity and commitment to Israel started long before moving to the Garden State.

Hazel was born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the granddaughter of two observant men. While she regularly had Shabbat lunch with her grandfather (after he attended services) and her parents kept a kosher

home, developing her Jewish identity and a connection to the Jewish homeland was more important to them than religious observances.

In 1946, when she was graduating high school, Hazel's father suddenly died. The family's next decision ultimately shaped a huge part of her life. It was agreed that she would move in with her aunt and uncle in St. Louis and attend Washington University.

"My uncle was the music critic for the St. Louis Post Dispatch, so they moved in an intellectual circle which included the Stix family. At Christmas time, their sons Tom and John would come home college, and I would go back to NY to be with my mother," remembers Hazel. "On my 2nd vacation, Mrs. Stix suggested to my aunt that I stay a day longer and come to the party she was giving for John and Tom. 'She can come early and stay late,' she said. I did both, and that was the beginning."

Hazel and Tom married in 1950 and moved to Princeton, where Tom became a graduate student at Princeton University. Hazel had intended to go to the NY School of Social Work, but instead she opted to stay home and become an active volunteer.

She started with the League of Women Voters and Hadassah and ultimately spent her life dedicated to those organizations as well as UJA-Federation and The American Jewish Committee. Tom also volunteered – which is how they met Albert Einstein. Tom was chairman of UJA in 1953, when Einstein was the Honorary Chair. They were lucky enough to get a photo together before Einstein's passing the following year.

Also in 1953, five years after it became a state, Hazel and Tom visited Israel. Over the next few years, they added a son and daughter to their family and in 1960, they all moved to Israel's Weitzman Institute when Tom took a fellowship there.

"We rented a small house near the Institute which had no central heating, a kerosene burner, tile floors, and no telephone. We could smell the fragrance of the nearby orange grove and hear the coyotes at night," Hazel recalls. "We were tempted to make

Aliyah because you felt that each individual could make a real contribution, but too much of our life was still in the U.S."

However, their Zionism remained important to them. Hazel and Tom visited Israel several more times and took 2 sabbaticals there over the years.

The Stix did remain rooted in Princeton and stayed involved in the Jewish community here. In fact, as he was nearing retirement, Tom took on a volunteer role

as the Director of the Center for Jewish Life (CJL) at Princeton University. It had just moved into its new building and there was no rabbi to lead. To ensure the young staff had direction, Tom filled in where the National Hillel could not, and ultimately helped CJL to hire a fulltime director.

In 2001, after a short illness, Tom passed away. Another patient using the same doctor's office was Jean, who died three weeks later. It was there that Hazel met Jean's husband, Harold.

"We had crossed paths several times in the doctor's office. Harold called to find out how I was 'surviving,' and we had conversations about issues we shared. We were both suffering from loss, but over time we found comfort and a warm and loving future together," explains Hazel.

In addition to a future with Harold, Hazel enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. Her son is an anesthesiologist, and her daughter is a volunteer writing coach at Hunter. Together they've given Hazel four grandsons, now aged 21 to 33.

*Synagogue Spotlight is a joint project by TJC members and journalists Lisa Jacknow and Michele Alperin. Each month they take turns writing about fellow congregants to help us learn more about one another. This article was written by Lisa, who lives in Princeton with her husband Bret and their two sons, Gabriel and Cooper. She is Founding Editor/Writer of the monthly online magazine Princeton Perspectives.*



The Jewish Center's

**GREAT  
MINDS  
SALON**

**Wednesday, January 12  
8:15 p.m.**

**Manager, Business  
Development & Partnerships at  
Stellar Development  
Corporation**

**BILLY GRENIS**

***Billy Bitcoin: An Introduction  
to Bitcoin & Blockchain  
Technologies***

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.

Billy Grenis is the Manager of Business Development & Partnerships at the Stellar Development Foundation (SDF), an organization which seeks to create equitable access to the global financial system. In his role, he works on developing Stellar network's global reach and forming partnerships with financial institutions and digital asset issuers. Prior to joining SDF, Billy worked as a management consultant at PwC, focused on enabling his clients to adopt emerging technologies. Billy holds two engineering degrees from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Cornell Tech. He wrote his website [Billy Bitcoin](#) to help bring Bitcoin and blockchain understanding to a broader audience.



**7:30-9:00 p.m. FREE,  
RSVP REQUESTED, ON SHUL CLOUD, BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 6**



# 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

### In honor of

Naomi Reich on her 100th birthday  
*from Evelyn, Barbara and Diane Saldick, Edith Neimark*

### In memory of

Lynda Falcon  
*from Carol and Mark Pollard, Marc and Marcie Citron*  
Sidney Greene and Ruth Rosen  
*from Marilyn and Joe Rosen*  
Harriet Bogdonoff, Roz Denard, Rose Golden, Phyllis Kurshan, Marge Horowitz and Sybil Parnes  
*from Evelyn Saldick*  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
*from Leonard Feldman*

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

*from Ruth Goldston*

### In honor of

The birth of Judy and Moshe Margolin's granddaughter, Arya Tamar Lehtman  
*from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs*

### In memory of

Ina and Paul Gilbert  
*from Roslyn and David Vanderbilt*  
Samuel Ribner  
*from Shoshana Silberman*

## ANNUAL FUND

### In honor of

Alexandra Bar-Cohen  
*from Edward and Jessica Deutsch*  
Rabbi Merow, office staff, volunteers and the congregation for all the support I have received  
*from Jerry and Ray Kaufman*  
Cantor Jeff Warschauer's and Debbie Strauss' immense talents and contributions to TJC  
*from Natalie and Brad Harrington*  
Gabriel Bar Cohen's service to Israel  
*from Kate Murphy*

### In memory of

Dr. Irwin Litt  
*from Barbara Litt*

Merrye Shavel-Hudis

*from Dr. Stephen Hudis*

Rabbi Adam Feldman

*from Lori Weir, Dan Brent and Sally Steinberg-Brent*

Joan Bass and Bernard Wiseblatt

*from Debra Bass*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

### In memory of

Susan Warschauer  
*from Sara Gordon (daughter of Irwin and Lenore)*

## JESS AND MARION EPSTEIN

## LUNCH-AND-LEARN FUND

### In memory of

Anne and Gerald Freedman, longtime members of the congregation and my grandparents  
*from Melissa Nancy Freedman*

## THE JEWISH CENTER

## REFUGEE FUND

*from Daniela and Ajay Kaisth*  
*from Muneesh and Shivani Chadda*  
*from Janet and John Francisco*  
*from Emily Matson*

### In honor of

The birth of our grandchild, Liv Sarah Greenberg, daughter of Rachel and Duncan Greenberg  
*from Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeffrey Mattes*  
Adam Straus-Goldfarb  
*from Sally Goldfarb*  
Alison Politziner for your hard work with the Refugee families  
*from Sarah and Pete Cheslock*  
Brent Walker and Heather Sherman  
*from Linda Chapman*

### In memory of

Herb and Fay Abelson  
*from Cheyanne Boyd*

## LASHIR FUND

*from Lew and Lynn Coopersmith*

## RABBI ADAM FELDMAN

## MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of

Rabbi Adam Feldman  
*from Marcie and Douglas Shavel*  
Franya Lichtman  
*from Sheila Marrero*  
Gil Gordon  
*from Bob and Eileen Garber*

## RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND

### In memory of

Gil Gordon  
*from Sara Gordon*  
Lynda Falcon  
*from Mark and Lisa Tobias, Michael and Linda Grenis*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

### In honor of

The Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein  
*from Gila and Gadi Levin*

### In memory of

Sally Kaufman  
*from Ellen Musikant*  
Lynda Falcon  
*from Linda and Art Meisel*  
Renee Gothelf  
*from Ricky Shechtel*

## SILVER CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### In honor of

Sam Goldfarb, Happy Chanukah  
*from Ruth Koizim*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

*from Douglas Greene*

## YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND

### In honor of

The Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein  
*from Michael and Linda Grenis*



# Tu B'shvat Hike

January 17  
10:00 am  
Hosted by Andrew Broadie  
and Eugenia Erlij

Dogs are welcome  
Dress appropriately



Meet at the Mountain Lake parking lot for  
the outer ~3 mile loop



The Jewish Center  
FREDERICK - NEW JERSEY

RSVP on ShulCloud by Jan 10



## GIVE AN EVERLASTING GIFT

Personalize a

## BRICK PAVER

on our

“TJC community walkway”

**Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries,  
b’nai mitzvah, and special occasions—  
A special way to forever commemorate a loved one.**

- Small brick (7.5 x 15) - \$250 - four lines of text, up to 20 characters/line
- Medium brick (15 x 15) - \$500 - six lines of text, up to 20 characters/line
- Large brick (15 x 22) - \$750 - six lines of text, up to 30 characters/line

**Contact the office for more information:  
[info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org)**



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

# To Lift or Not to Lift, that is the question..

Hagbah - the ritual lifting of the Torah scroll during the Torah service - is an ancient Jewish custom. But there is much more to it than muscle. Almost anyone can lift a Torah scroll with the right method, so come learn and practice how to lift the Torah safely and effectively. We'll bring out the Torahs so everyone can practice on different scrolls. We'll also learn a little about how hagbah has evolved over the centuries in different Jewish communities around the world (spoiler alert: g'lilah used to be the big honor!).

Led by Rabbi Justus Baird.

Men, Women and Children above B'nai Mitzvah age are invited.

## January 9, 2022 - 10:00 AM

Please RSVP using the link below by January 5, 2022  
so we know how many people to expect.



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

# Save the Date



## Rabbi Andrea Merow

— INSTALLATION WEEKEND —

MARCH 25-27, 2022

[info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org)  
609.921.0100

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<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>			
2	Rosh Chodesh Shevat 3	4	12:15 PM Talmud Stud 7:30 PM The Unconv Thought of S Bennett
9:00 AM Religious School 5:30 PM Affordable Housing in a Just World	9 10	7:00 PM Judaism on One Foot 11	12:15 PM Talmud Stud 8:15 PM Great Minds
16	MLK Day Tu B'Shvat 17	7:00 PM Seder Tu Bishvat 7:30 PM TJC Book Club 8:00 PM Judaism on One Foot	18 12:15 PM Talmud Stud
9:00 AM Religious School 12:00 PM Nitzanim Team Building Games	23 24	7:00 PM Rabbi's Class - Introduction to Mishnah 25	12:15 PM Talmud Stud
9:00 AM Religious School 12:00 PM The Jews from Arab Lands 12:00 PM Kadima Israeli Cooking Class	30 31		

# TEVET-SHEVAT 5782

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			New Year's Day <span style="float: right;">1</span> Vaera  8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha 5:33 PM Havdalah
5 y Gr. entional Jewish Life & Solomon Yom Tov	6 7:00 PM EC Meeting	7 4:30 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	8 Bo  8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 5:39 PM Havdalah 5:40 PM JCW Scavenger Hunt
12 y Gr. Salon	13	14 4:38 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30 PM Zamru Shabbat	15 Beshalach  8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:00 AM Bat Mitzvah of Paula Kutin 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha 5:47 PM Havdalah
19 y Gr.	20 9:00 AM Nosh and Drosh 7:00 PM Board Meeting 7:30 PM The Extraordinary Journey of a Multiracial Jewish Family in Early America	21 4:46 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	22 Yitro  8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:00 AM Bat Mitzvah of Nava Brito 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 5:55 PM Havdalah
26 y Gr.	27 7:30 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM School Committee	28 4:54 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	29 Shabbat Mevarchim Mishpatim  8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan 6:03 PM Havdalah 7:00 PM TJC Teens Iron Chef

# SULAM CHALLAH FUNDRAISER

Have Some Challah  
While Avoiding the Mess  
Sulam Has You Covered  
Remove All the Stress

Pre-order by emailing [sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org)

A Kosher-Pareve Challah Dough will be made by our 10th grade students  
COVID safety protocols will be followed—food preparers will be masked and gloved

Proceeds will be used to create an edible garden on TJC Grounds!

Pick up your FRESH CHALLAH DOUGH on Thursday, January 13 between 10 am and 1 pm, or pre-schedule an alternate pick up time.

Only \$5.00 each!



JANUARY 25

7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

# Introduction to Mishnah

WITH RABBI ANDREA MEROW

Newly Resettled Afghan Families are growing!  
TJC DRIVE-THROUGH DIAPER DRIVE

Sunday, January 23

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Welcome the new babies by donating diapers (all sizes) and wipes.

Watch for more information coming soon!



# Affordable Housing in a Just World: Basics and Beyond



**Sunday, January 9, 2022, 5:30-7:00 PM**

**How can you support affordable housing in your community?  
Our speakers will give you the basics & share ideas on how you can help.**

## **Learn about**

- **types of low & moderate income housing**
- **process of creating affordable housing**
- **who's involved & what they do**
- **advantages of affordable housing for a community**

## **Speakers:**

**Diane Ciccone, Attorney, former West Windsor councilperson, filmmaker  
Mitchell Newman, Senior VP, Lennar, home builders  
Alice Small, President, Princeton Community Housing Development Corp.**

## **Moderator:**

**Hon. Peter Buchsbaum, retired Superior Court Judge & court-appointed  
master to implement affordable housing settlements**

**This free program is open to all. To register for Zoom link or more information,  
email [linda.oppenheim@gmail.com](mailto:linda.oppenheim@gmail.com)**

**Sponsored by Congregation Beth Chaim (Princeton Jct.), Har Sinai Temple (Pennington), The Jewish Center (Princeton)**





# ARTS & CULTURE

Jewish Center Women in partnership with Arts & Culture invited the congregation to a Progressive Chanukah Cooking Demonstration on Zoom. We were very fortunate to have Arlene Opatut as our MC for the evening. We appreciate the support and enthusiasm which Arlene provides to both JCW and Arts & Culture. Arlene's lovely and kind manner set the tone for this very unique evening. Arlene then introduced the Winn family, Claude, Dan, Maya and Jake who sang the Chanukah prayers as they lit their beautiful Hanukkiah adding warmth and light to the 4th night of Chanukah.

TJC President and noted synagogue mixologist, Alexandra Bar-Cohen introduced us to the art of making a Sufganiyah cocktail. Named for the traditional jelly donut, this beverage was perfect for toasting the start of the Chanukah Cooking Demonstration.

This year, there seemed to be a lot of discussion around olive oil cakes. Wouldn't you know that our own Susan Gross had been working on a recipe that she found for a Citrus and Olive Oil Bundt cake, which she was kind enough to share and demonstrate. Susan's ease in the kitchen and organized manner make it easy to follow and learn from her. While the cake was in the oven it was time to feature a mocktail appropriately named "Sparkle and Shine" created by Shari Allen for the young and young at heart who may not indulge. The recipe was adorable and the highlight was an apple dreidel adorned at the top with a clove which spun around and among the pomegranate seeds. Now that dessert was baking and beverages were in hand, it was time to feature well-known TJC chef Judy Leopold who whipped up the perfect batch of Latkes. Amazingly, we all were able to enjoy their aroma, even though we were not together in person. While cooking, Judy provided hints and introduced us to wonderful kitchen gadgets and utensils too! As the Latkes were frying we were able to hear several family Chanukah traditions from those who wanted to share.

Our evening came to an end with perfectly prepared and fried latkes and a stunning Citrus and Olive Oil cake with drizzle and all. The Chanukah event was a huge success because of the efforts and time provided by each of our Mixologists and Chefs, as well as, the participation of all who joined us for night #4. Our thanks, appreciation and gratitude go to you all.

May the New Year bring you, your family and friends much to toast and cheer about, warmth and light with which to be felt and surrounded by and the support and kindness of community.

Warm Regards,

**Lauren, Claude & Shari**

*"Accessibility is being able to get in the building. Diversity is getting invited to the table. Inclusion is having a voice at the table. Belonging is having your voice heard at the table." (unknown author)*



Dear Friends,

We have so much to catch you up on and lots to share too. In November, JCW invited Dr. Audra Kaplan to speak to our staff, educators, Nosh & Drosch and the Board about developmental disability inclusion. We received so many requests from participants looking for additional information on how to best help each of their students, and on how to modify programming to accommodate those with developmental disabilities. Be on the lookout for additional conversations for the entire congregation.

Dr. Kaplan spoke about being good community members, and making our shul disability-friendly will take all of us. In their lifetime people with developmental disabilities have experienced being asked to leave a program, school, service or activity and have been afraid to join again. The workshops that the synagogue is planning will help all of us know how to create a sense of belonging for children and adults with differing abilities. The entire TJC leadership is committed to welcoming all members to enjoy our services, programs and activities.

If you have any questions, or are moved to share your family's experience, we are here to listen and help. You will notice new messaging with TJC program announcement asking if there is anything you or your family might need in order to participate. And please don't be afraid to let Linda Grenis, VP of Programming, and our committee Chairs be aware of your needs.

Warmly,

Lauren and Claude



**Next meeting: January 20**

Nosh & Drosch had a wonderful start thanks to Rabbi Merow who facilitated our October meeting. Rabbi Merow introduced us to a program she created called "Spa for the Soul." After learning how to breathe in a way that promotes relaxation, we enjoyed a morning of chanting, sharing, mindfulness and a reminder to just "be."

This experience can easily become a go to "tool" anytime life gets overwhelming especially as Thanksgiving and Hanukkah are approaching. Rabbi Merow will be offering more "Spa for the Soul" opportunities outside of NOSH & DROSH and we encourage participation. It's just what the Rabbi ordered and from which we think most will find beneficial.

Many Thanks to Rabbi Merow for a wonderful NOSH & DROSH morning! We look forward to seeing our regular NOSH & DROSHERS and there is always room for new friends. Join us, we'd love to have you!

Warm Regards,

Lauren & Cynthia

# THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributed, sent notes, or otherwise offered support after the passing of Gil Gordon,

The word “customary” is a word that takes on new meaning when a loved one dies. You aren’t sure exactly what is expected, what to do, or how to respond to the situation you find yourself in. There are things to be done, tasks to be accomplished, and people to be thanked for their support, but knowing how to do all of these things, or, what is “customary” in these situations becomes cloudy.

When our husband/dad/grandpa Gil died, the amount of support was somewhat expected considering his huge impact and wide reach, but, even so, the sheer volume of cards, contributions, and other memorial gestures left us humbled, grateful, and overwhelmed.



*Gil Gordon receiving the  
Richard Fishbane award in 2021*

Gil was always the first one to offer help and kind words when another person lost a family member. He would fix things in people’s houses or take people out for a meal to cheer them up, or famously write the kindest, most heartfelt sympathy cards that truly showed he cared for the deceased and offered support for their loved ones. So many of those that he showed this care for returned the favor to us when he passed, and have continued to do so.

As we take out a new calendar for a new year, we realize that more than four months have gone by since his passing, and we aren’t sure whether that is beyond the “customary” time to say thank you to everyone who showed us support, or whether it’s just right.

So as we sit down to our first New Year without him, we carry with us not only all of our memories of Gil, our fervent wishes that he could be here with us this year and every year, but also our deepest thanks to all of you who showed us (and him) support since his passing. Gil would be honored to hear of the many donations to TJC as well as to JFCS in his memory, and also to know that his many friends and acquaintances cared for his family the way that he had so often cared for theirs in the past.

Happy New Year. Enjoy your time with your family, and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting ours.

**Ellen Gordon, Lisa Rogol, Adam Gordon**



## Talmud Study Group

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.

The Zoom link for Talmud Study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931037869?pwd=Wmo1OVhrYU1oQitxaG5YdGtiSG0xZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 3103 7869

Passcode: 643177

Havurah Minyan:

Havurah Minyan will be meeting via Zoom on these days:

January 08  
January 22  
at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, contact  
[neillitt@outlook.com](mailto:neillitt@outlook.com)

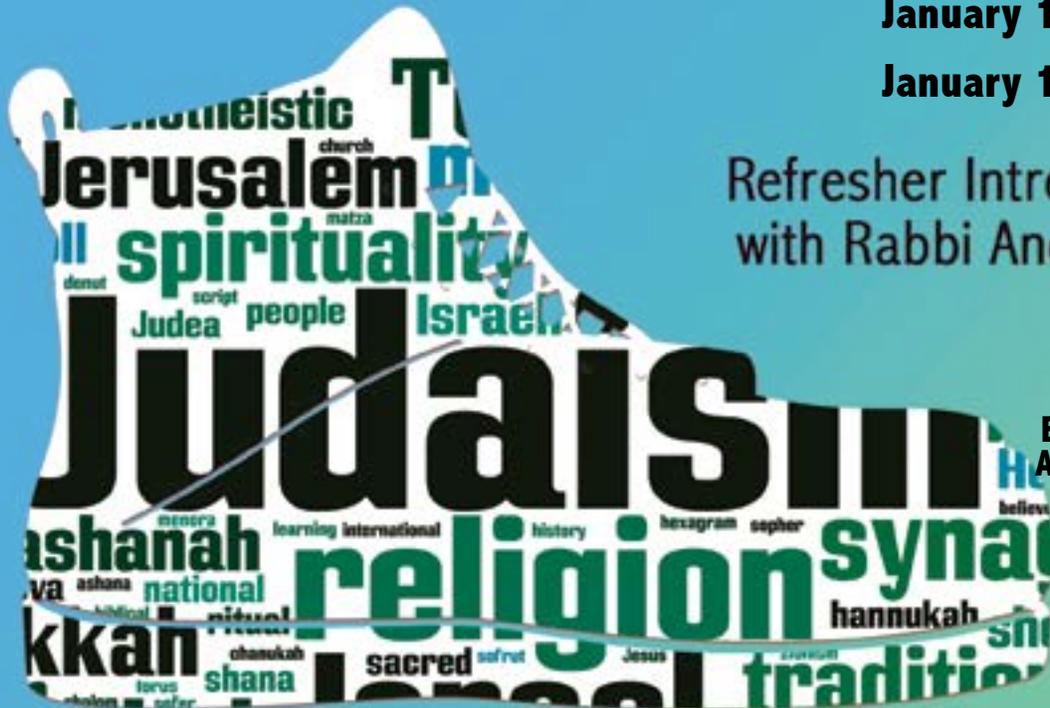
# JUDAISM ON ONE FOOT

January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

January 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Refresher Intro to Judaism  
with Rabbi Andrea Merow.  
Tuesdays

Everyone is invited!  
All classes via Zoom



RSVP: [info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org)



**Tu B'Shevat Hike**

Sunday, January 16

10:00 a.m.

Hosted by Andrew Broade  
and Eugenia Erlij

Meet at the Mountain Lake Parking Lot  
for the outer ~ 3 mile loop

**Tu B'Shevat Seder**

Tuesday, January 18

7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom.

*Led by Rabbi Merow*

An interactive service with fun and learning  
as we learn about the seven species mentioned in the  
Bible and eat fruits and other interesting delicacies.

More details will follow.

**THE  
TJC  
YOUTH  
YAP**

**TJC TEENS** (8th-12th Graders)  
Iron Chef Competition  
Saturday,  
January 29th,  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**NITZANIM** (3rd & 4th Graders)  
Team-Building Games  
Sunday,  
January 23rd,  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**KADIMA** (5th-7th Graders)  
Israeli Cooking Class  
Sunday,  
January 30th,  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO!**

**Team-Building Games**



**Nitzanim**  
3rd & 4th

Join TJC Nitzanim on January 23rd, after Religious School from 12:00 to 2:00 for some team-building exercises and challenges!

Lunch will be served.

RSVP is required by January 14th to Ethan Weg at [eweg@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:eweg@thejewishcenter.org)

**ISRAELI COOKING CLASS**

**KADIMA**  
Sunday Jan 30th  
12:00 PM



FEATURING

*Arielle Weg*

FOOD JOURNALIST,  
AVID HOME COOK, & ALL-  
AROUND AWESOME PERSON!

**IRON CHEF**

**TJC TEENS**

**Saturday Jan 29th**  
**7:00 PM**

RSVP REQUIRED  
TO ETHAN WEG  
[EWEG@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG](mailto:EWEG@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG)

**Meditation Mincha**  
**Saturday, January 1 and 15, at 4:00 p.m.**



THE UNCONVENTIONAL JEWISH LIFE  
& THOUGHT OF SOLOMON YOM TOV BENNETT

PROFESSOR DAVID B. RUDERMAN  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**Wednesday, January 5**

**7:30 p.m. | Via Zoom**

Solomon Yom Tov Bennett [1767-1838] was a maskil, a Jew committed to the Enlightenment. His odyssey, from Belarus to Copenhagen to Berlin and London, includes his training in the arts and his career as an engraver, his transformation into a scholar and translator in London and then into an English literary agent.

Bennett was a special kind of maskil, a rebel from Jewish rabbinic norms and institutions. He could not tolerate the arrogance and ignorance of the rabbinic establishment and acted defiantly against it, attempting to usurp its prerogatives and authority.

By examining the life and thought of Solomon Yom Tov Bennett, we will better understand an epoch.

David B. Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History emeritus and the former Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a prolific author. Three of his volumes have won national book awards in Jewish history. He is a past president of the American Academy for Jewish Research and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored him with its lifetime achievement award for his work in Jewish history.

Free for TJC members

\$10 for non-members

RSVP at [thejewishcenter.org/adulted](http://thejewishcenter.org/adulted)

THE JEWISH CENTER  
PRINCETON, NJ

# ADULT EDUCATION GOES GLOBAL



## THE JEWS FROM ARAB LANDS

SASHA GOLDSTEIN-SABBAH, PHD  
UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN (NETHERLANDS)

Sunday, January 30  
12:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

On the eve of the creation of the State of Israel nearly one million Jews lived across the Arab world. Today, at most, a few thousand remain. Why did they leave and what cultural remnants are still there? Take a sweeping tour of the modern history of Jews from the Arab world.

Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah is assistant professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She received her PhD in 2019 from Leiden University and specialized in the modern history of Middle Eastern and North African Jewry. She is the author of numerous scholarly and trade publications including her recent monograph *Baghdadi Jewish Networks in the Age of Nationalism* (Brill, 2021).

Free for TJC members  
\$10 for non-members  
RSVP at  
[thejewishcenter.org/adulted](https://thejewishcenter.org/adulted)



# The Extraordinary Journey of a Multiracial Jewish Family in Early America

Laura Arnold Leibman, Ph.D., from Reed College  
presents the fascinating story of Sarah Brandon Rodriguez and her journey from  
being an enslaved person in Barbados to entering New York's Jewish elite.



*Laura Arnold Liebman, Ph.D.  
Author of Once We Were Slaves.*



*Sarah Brandon Rodriguez*



*The Nidhe Israel Synagogue and Museum in Barbados.*

- *Thursday, January 20, 2022*
- *7:30 p.m.*
- *To register email [bethchaimrj@gmail.com](mailto:bethchaimrj@gmail.com)*

*Sponsored by the Congregation Beth Chaim Racial Justice Task Force and Sisterhood,  
The Jewish Center of Princeton, Flemington Jewish Community Center,  
and the Ernestine Urken Social Action Committee of Adath Israel Congregation*



# Refugee Resettlement

TJC Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee

The TJC Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee was founded in 2015 through the efforts of TJC members Melissa Hager and Louise Sandburg together with members of the Quaker Meeting and Princeton United Methodist Church. Initially founded in response to the surge of Syrian refugees, the Committee is now focused on supporting and welcoming the surge of Afghan refugees working with Interfaith-RISE, a U.S. State Department designated official resettlement agency.

We have welcomed three new Afghan families to our area and welcome volunteers to help them in settling into the area!

TJC members provide support for our refugee families in many ways including providing rides, finding housing, teaching English and Computer literacy, helping to furnish their homes, and helping them find jobs, and through financial donations as well. Specifically, donations of old laptops, unlocked cell phones, and cars are particularly helpful for our newly settled families!

Please contact Louise Sandburg or Alison Politziner for more information on getting involved at [louise@sandsmith.com](mailto:louise@sandsmith.com) and [a.poltziner@gmail.com](mailto:a.poltziner@gmail.com)

*We want to hear  
all about it!*

*Let us know...*

**SHARE**  
Your Simchas With Us!



[info@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:info@thejewishcenter.org)

## *Bible BaBoker Saturdays | 8:45 a.m.*

Bible BaBoker is a diverse community and carries on the Jewish tradition of Torah study in an open and respectful atmosphere. We strive for discussions based on reading Torah, other Jewish texts, and additional relevant resources from ancient to modern sources. Participants with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs deepen our understanding of Judaism, share insights and opinions, extract and develop wisdom, and consider our purpose in life, ethical principles to live by, and ways to be better human beings.

Prior Torah knowledge or background is not necessary and new participants are always welcome. Study with us each week or whenever you can make it! We look forward to learning together.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570201257pwd=SncvMTMvNkJOQklGWwJrdDBFMlp2dz09>

To be added to the BBB mailing list or for questions,  
contact Michael Goldin at [mmgold18@yahoo.com](mailto:mmgold18@yahoo.com).



# Book Club

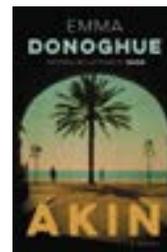
Tuesday, January 18

7:30 p.m.

via Zoom.\*

## *Akin* by Emma Donoghue

A retired New York professor's life is thrown into chaos when he takes a young great-nephew to the French Riviera, in hopes of uncovering his own mother's wartime secrets in the next masterpiece from New York Times bestselling author Emma Donoghue.



Noah Selvaggio is a retired chemistry professor and widower living on the Upper West Side, but born in the South of France. He is days away from his first visit back to Nice since he was a child, bringing with him a handful of puzzling photos he's discovered from his mother's wartime years. But he receives a call from social services: Noah is the closest available relative of an eleven-year-old great-nephew he's never met, who urgently needs someone to look after him. Out of a feeling of obligation, Noah agrees to take Michael along on his trip.

Much has changed in this famously charming seaside mecca, still haunted by memories of the Nazi occupation. The unlikely duo, suffering from jet lag and culture shock, bicker about everything from steak frites to screen time. But Noah gradually comes to appreciate the boy's truculent wit, and Michael's ease with tech and sharp eye help Noah unearth troubling details about their family's past. Both come to grasp the risks people in all eras have run for their loved ones, and find they are more akin than they knew.

Written with all the tenderness and psychological intensity that made *Room* an international bestseller, *Akin* is a funny, heart-wrenching tale of an old man and a boy, born two generations apart, who unpick their painful story and start to write a new one together. - Goodreads

All are welcome to join our Book Club Discussions.

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

For future planning, save these dates and read these books:

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February 15 - *An Unorthodox Match* by Naomi Ragen

March 15 - *The Light of Days* by Judy Batalion

April 19 - *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles

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