



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

February 2022  
Shevat-Adar 5782  
[thejewishcenter.org](http://thejewishcenter.org)

# IMAGINE

A World Without Barriers

See page 22 for  
Special Guest details.

Jewish Disability Awareness,  
Acceptance and Inclusion Month

היה שותף בקהילה • CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

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Rabbi 2005-2019  
Cantor  
Rabbi Emeritus  
Cantor Emeritus  
Executive Director  
Dir. of Congregational Learning  
Communications & Social Media Manager  
Youth and Membership Associate  
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Executive Office Staff  
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Education & Youth  
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**Andrea Merow**  
**Adam Feldman**<sup>z"l</sup>  
**Jeff Warschauer**  
**Dr. Dov Peretz Elkins**  
**Murray E. Simon**  
**Joel Berger**  
**Sharon Diamondstein**  
**Emily Kafas**  
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**Gila Levin**  
**Dr. Shoshana Silberman**  
**Roni Garrison & Cynthia Richman**  
**Mindy Langer**  
**Nikita Agyei, Khaled Ahmed,**  
**James Itomo, Marc Sene Charles**

**Alexandra Bar-Cohen**  
**Randy Brett**

**Naomi Richman Neumann**  
**Gabrielle Cayton-Hodges**  
**Dane Dickler**  
**Linda Grenis**  
**Nancy Lewis**

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**Judy Kutin**  
**Jesse Treu**  
**vacant**  
**Jeremy Black and Brad Bailey**  
**Lauren Neufeld and Claude Winn**  
**Shari Allen**  
**Moshe Margolin**  
**Fredi Pearlmutter**  
**Jenny Ludmer**  
**Dana Molina**  
**vacant**

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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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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  
609.921.0100 ext. 203  
[RAM@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:RAM@thejewishcenter.org)

In the summer between college and Rabbinical school I went out of my comfort zone. I had several options for where to do Jewish educational work that summer: I could have returned to work at Camp Tel Yehuda as a unit leader or do the same at my local Ramah or be a counselor for an Israel program. I chose to work as a counselor at the Tikva program for special needs kids at Camp Ramah in New England. I decided that if I wanted to serve the Jewish People as a rabbi, I needed to learn about the entirety of our community.

I admit then and now that it was a hard summer. It was emotionally draining considering how complicated the lives of our campers were now and would be as they grew. An element that made it challenging for my 21-year-old self was that Tikva counselors were always with the kids, from wake-up to bedtime and at every activity. In a camp setting for typical kids, counselors would also have activities for their age cohort when kids were in class, swim, or sport. Tikva counselors were always with their kids and when we had “free” time it was spent learning about how to handle new situations. Our campers needed our help with activities of daily living, with their unique emotional issues, and with teen stuff. There were the typical fights between friends and unrequited crushes. For our very high-functioning campers there was their sadness when they expressed that they wanted to be like everyone else. I admit it was exhausting.

It was also an incredibly rewarding summer. Our kids had deep spiritual and emotional lives and they were open to sharing. Many loved singing and prayer and could not wait to put on talit and t'filin. Many of our campers were unafraid to express joy and sadness – this is not always true with typical kids. I learned deep joy from our campers. It was also the summer of learning to listen to what they needed and learning to be fully present for our campers.

The wise founders and directors of the Tikva program reminded us that we were only doing this for a summer; their families were there all the time. If we could provide parents a bit of a break for a few weeks of knowing that their children were well cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually it was a good day. I think about those of you who lovingly care for relatives who need care and the immense patience and love that you exhibit. Each one

of you had to pivot your expectations for what your family member's life would be like. I also learn from you how precious your people are and how it is the community's responsibility to make all feel welcome.

The inclusion programs at Ramah are an example of programs that provide Jewish camping experiences for children with developmental or intellectual disabilities, neurological impairments, and other disabilities. Camp Ramah was a pioneer in the inclusion camping movement when they opened their first program in 1970. Currently Ramah has 8 overnight camp programs, 4 day camps programs, 4 family camps and vocational education programs that serve kids with different kinds of needs around North America.

When I returned from camp, I started to question my mother about her experiences in the world. In my biased opinion, mom is one of nicest, gentlest, and wisest souls that I know. My mom was also born with a deep hearing deficit that has gotten progressively worse throughout her life. Hearing aids worked somewhat, but she relies on lip reading as well. Mom expressed that sometimes people questioned her intellectual abilities, left her out of conversations, or made other assumptions about her because her hearing was not good. I learned from mom to try to be open to people who are differently abled and to appreciate their souls for who they are.

In my first year in the rabbinate, I was fortunate to go on a trip to Israel with The Rabbinical Assembly to learn about the work of our counterparts in Israel. We attended several b'nai mitzvahs for children with Special Needs. At the time the Masorti (Conservative) Movement was enabled, Israeli special needs children from all religious backgrounds were given the opportunity to have meaningful b'nai mitzva training and ceremonies. Since then, the program has grown to also include special needs informal education, teacher training, production of special prayerbooks and texts and social opportunities. The Masorti Movement in Israel created Adraba- The Shirley Low Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities. At the time, this program was pioneering; it needed to serve Masorti kids in our own shuls, secular, orthodox and all kids in between. I learned from that trip that it is

important to discern communal needs and to thoughtfully, and in partnership with others, address those needs.

These experiences have shaped my view of what our Jewish community might aspire to become: a place where we see each person as a valued member of the community and created in God's image. Our sacred Jewish Literature teaches us about the concepts of *B'tzelem Elohim*, that we are created in God's image and that of *"Imitatio Dei."* For us to fully understand God's Oneness we must include all in our community, thus bringing all aspects of God into our community. Holding God's image in ours teaches us that it is our sacred duty to understand that every single person, with no exceptions, is created in God's image. It is our job to uncover what is holy in each other and to strive and work to be an inclusive community so that all of God's children can participate. We will continue to strive to be more inclusive. We are human, so we will not always get it right, nevertheless, let us set an intention to accept and include the diversity of the Jewish community in our sacred community.

To Learn more, go to:



<https://www.campramah.org/tikvah-programs>



<https://masorti.org/adraba/>

**Rabbi Andrea Merow**



# MESSAGE from the Cantor

Cantor Jeff Warschauer  
609.921.0100 ext. 213  
[Cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:Cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org)

Dear TJC friends,

At the end of December we began reading from the second book of the Torah, the book of *Shemot*. Now into February, we are well along in *Shemot*'s powerful and pivotal narrative: The Israelites are enslaved in Egypt, they escape, receive the Ten Commandments and build the Tabernacle. And at the center of this action-packed adventure? Our hero Moshe, of course.

To me, the beauty of a hero such as Moshe is that he is by no means perfect; at times he stumbles, questions, shows great anger and fails. But through trial and error, he learns to overcome fear, delegate responsibility and become a great leader. Moshe is someone we can relate to, which is perhaps why legends abound about every aspect of his life and character. And where there are legends, there are songs!

One of my favorites is *Yis'mach Moshe*, from the Shabbat liturgy:

*Yis'mach Moshe b'matnat chelko  
Ki eved ne-eman karata lo.*

Moses rejoiced in his portion,  
For You called him a faithful servant.  
You adorned his head with a brilliant crown  
When he stood before You on Mount Sinai.  
He carried down two tablets of stone,  
Inscribed with the instructions to observe Shabbat.  
(Text and translation, Siddur Lev Shalem, page 162)

Here is an excerpt sung by the great cantor Mordechai Hershman, with the melody by S. Gozinsky. This version has special significance to our community as Hershman's daughter, Rena Klein, has been a long-time member of TJC.

<https://rsa.fau.edu/album/1302>

And I couldn't help but include this classic version of a different melody for *Yis'mach Moshe* sung by the phenomenal Moroccan-Israeli hazzan and singer Jo Amar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PspssxY8Ub-w>

And from deep within the Ashkenazic Yiddish tradition, a song by the great poet, *Avram Reisen*, set to music by Michl Gelbart:

*Shvimit dos kestl afn taykh,  
Afn groysn nil.*

Little Moses' basket floats quietly on the Nile.  
The waves are not evil like Pharaoh.  
They will protect the little child from harm.  
They will not harm the redeemer of the slaves.  
(Text and translation, Yontivdike Teg, Mlotek and Gottlieb)

It's a pleasure to share a version recorded by the incomparable Dutch Yiddish singer, Shura Lipovsky.  
(Who's that guitar player? That would be me!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRO6cVYe0vA>

Finally, a Mizrachi melody to the *piyyut*, *Mipi El*:

*Mipi El, Mihi El, y'vorach yisrael.*

From God's mouth, Israel's blessing flows. None is as splendid as Adoshem, none as blessed as Amram's son (Moshe), nothing is as great as the Torah, none seeks her like the People Israel.  
(Text and translation, Siddur Lev Shalem, page 365)

This version, sung by the Mizrachi singer Yossi Barda, is a beautiful example of Mizrachi singing style and accompaniment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFKzx-kyRZQ>

I hope these recordings will bring you joy and help keep you warm during these cold February days.

**Cantor Jeff**



# MESSAGE from the President

Alexandra Bar-Cohen  
[president@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:president@thejewishcenter.org)

It should not be an act of bravery to come to synagogue. It should not take courage to do what we've been doing for thousands of years—coming together as Jews in our Beit Knesset, our house of gathering. Whatever your point of connection with The Jewish Center—religious, spiritual, educational, cultural, or social—you ought to be able to come to campus without fear for your safety. Biblically and historically, Jews have faced persecution over and over. As the megillah goes, we overcome it and survive. But unlike Jews who live elsewhere in the world, it is only relatively recently that we in America have been faced with the need for locked entrances and armed guards.

The hostage taking in Colleyville, TX, like the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, have made it clear that we need our local Jewish community more than ever before. In times like these it is even more important to come back together. After all, the greatest triumph over the hatred that fuels acts of violence against us is to refuse to let them succeed in terrorizing us.

Be on guard, yes, but live in fear, no. When faced with threats and persecution, we overcome and thrive. It's how we Jews roll.

It is important that you understand that we at The Jewish Center are doing everything we can to ensure your security, from engaging additional armed guards at entrances to our buildings, to providing updated training for staff and lay people. Our doors are secured at all times and we use camera surveillance to grant entry to the building. We continue to maintain a close working relationship with our contacts at the Princeton Police, Chief John Buccere and Lieutenants Leonard Thomas and Ben Gering, who are responsive to our needs at all times, but especially when current events merit extra attention. We employ the services of K Street Group Security and we collaborate with local synagogues, Federation, JCRC, and national organizations like Secure Community Network and the ADL to share information and proactively mitigate risk. We have attended multiple

briefings and webinars that included top cabinet officials from the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI among other organizations and will continue to stay informed by doing so at every opportunity.

Our dedicated Security Committee is reviewing new recommendations and re-evaluating current proposals for campus upgrades. We are in the process of prioritizing a list of physical upgrades and will be scheduling additional training sessions for staff, clergy, and congregants in the coming weeks. We are grateful to have a dedicated and hardworking group of congregants led by Safety and Security co-chair, Tom Will, who are committed to our continued security and wellbeing. But in a very real sense we are all part of our collective Security Team. You are all the eyes and ears of our community. If you see something, say something. Nothing is too small to mention to clergy, staff, or lay leaders.

Another way you can help build an environment that is safe, secure, and welcoming is to be a Friday night or Saturday morning greeter. This important volunteer role entails greeting members as they come into the lobby and directing them to claim their name tags. You will be informed on safety and security protocol in advance. Please contact Nancy Lewis, VP of Religious Affairs, at [NJL01@aol.com](mailto:NJL01@aol.com) to help us with this important community building effort! Give it a try! It's a great way to see old friends and make new ones while enjoying our Friday night and Saturday morning services and providing a valuable service to our community.

If you have any suggestions or concerns about the security of our community, please feel free to contact me at [President@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:President@thejewishcenter.org). I look forward to coming together with you all as the strong and secure community we are.

*L'Shalom,*

**Alexandra**



# MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger  
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[jberger@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:jberger@thejewishcenter.org)

## What is enough security?

I write this article after the shocking details are emerging from the hostage situation in Texas. We were all stuck on our phones and TV's praying for a good outcome and we certainly got one. As someone who has worked in the Jewish community, before, during and after 9/11, security is always something that hits close to home. More than our wonderful congregants coming in at various points, we, the staff, work in our buildings every day. Who is that person knocking on the door? Is that really our Amazon delivery person or is that someone new? Who are these vendors that come in fixing plumbing, air conditioning and doing pest control? And of course, all are wearing masks, making it even harder to identify someone. It's a constant level of fear that we have working in a synagogue on a daily basis. All the more heightened when an incident takes place.

So, the question once again comes up, what is enough security? We have a wonderful partnership with our security company K Street who provide regular guards on our premises when we have kids on campus and during services. Is one guard enough? Many will tell you that someone who wants to cause trouble, will take the guard out first. Should they be armed or unarmed? We can debate all day.

We have access control systems on our doors so nobody can freely walk in. It's limited to our staff and some others who come by on a regular basis. Should we re-do our entrance pushing it out further into the courtyard? Making a bigger barrier for someone to come right in?

We recently put 3M window coverings on all of the windows in the main building. If someone were to detonate a bomb outside, it would shatter the glass but not break the glass. It does give us another layer of protection from the crazy people out there.

We have a great relationship with our local police department. When I called them during the Texas situation, they provided a car in our parking lot for a few

days. They are wonderful partners with us and am proud that we have a good relationship with them.

Should we add bollards? To prevent cars from ramming into the building. Should we add additional cameras? To show a more visual presence for anyone gathering surveillance information. Should be put gates on our driveways so after hours, or during the day, cars need to be screened to come onto our campus?

I can go on and on. It's a fine line between being open and welcoming, and becoming a fortress where only our members can get inside. There is no right answer.

We ALL need to remain vigilant in providing security. Not just for our TJC, but anywhere you go. Do you feel safe entering a building? If you see something, will you say something?

We will continue to upgrade our security, whether you are aware of it or not, to continue to make TJC a safe place of our members, students, staff, teachers and anyone who walks in the building. But we definitely can't do it alone. Please help be our eyes and ears out there. There is never such a thing as too much information or too many emails.

Once again, our Jewish community was attacked and thankfully, it ended well. But, "When will it happen next?" and "What is enough security?" are questions that keep me up every night.

**Joel**



## Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

February 1-28, 2022



**Join The Jewish Center in February as we raise awareness for  
Jewish Disability and Inclusion month.**

The mission of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month is to unite Jewish communities worldwide to raise awareness and champion the rights of all Jews to be included and to participate in all aspects of Jewish life like anyone else.

Here are some of the steps we have already taken, and others we are in process of doing and looking into. Continue to watch your emails as we announce new initiatives:

- 1) We Raised the Bima! This past summer, after a wonderful campaign to help fund the project, we raised the Bima in our Sanctuary so that anyone who needed wheelchair access could come directly to our Amud (Reading Table) and have an Aliyah. We also installed a hydraulic Amud which can be raised or lowered for anyone with any disability.
- 2) Large Print Siddurim. We have a collection of large print Siddurim for those who need this. Ask an usher when you arrive.
- 3) Magnifying sheets. Maybe you just need a little help. We will have magnifying sheets available on Shabbat.
- 4) Audio Hearing System. We currently installed a temporary hearing device system and are testing it out. When fully installed, all you will need to do is download their app and listen to services on your phone with earphones. Very cool!
- 5) We are looking to partner with a national organization to create a sensory table and a quiet room for those who need it. We want to welcome everyone into our spaces and want to make sure we adequately have ways for everyone to participate.
- 6) Speakers & trainers - We are looking into bringing speakers and trainers so we can all become more sensitive and inclusive here at TJC. We will email out to the community when these are taking place so everyone can participate and get trained.
- 7) Our madrichim in the Religious School are taking training as well to work with students with special needs.

Special thanks to our JCW leadership, Lauren Neufeld and Claude Winn, and Myra Weiner who are leading the charge in making TJC more inclusive. We hope you will join us along the way!



# MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein  
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[sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org)

*"It's like people you see sometimes, and you can't imagine what it would be like to be that person, whether it's somebody in a wheelchair or somebody who can't talk. Only, I know that I'm that person to other people, maybe to every single person in that whole auditorium.  
To me, though, I'm just me. An ordinary kid."*

- R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*

Friends,

The above quote comes from R.J. Palacio's book, *Wonder*. If you haven't read the book, read it. If you choose to watch the movie, watch it with tissues. *Wonder* tells the story of Auggie, who was born with physical deformities. His parents homeschooled him, and he underwent numerous facial reconstruction surgeries, before starting school in person in fifth grade. The story is told through multiple perspectives, but it speaks to the importance of being seen.

5 years ago, I was given the opportunity to hear the best-selling author Leon Logothetis speak. He traveled around the world living solely off the kindness of others, and said to a room full of teens and staff that the greatest gift one can give another person is to see them. Not look at them, but really, truly, SEE them. Acknowledge them.

How many times do we avoid eye contact because we are uncomfortable? Sometimes someone looks differently, acts differently, learns differently, and we don't know how to respond. Oftentimes, this has more to do with us and not them. How can we learn to see past our own discomfort and unfamiliarity with those with whom we don't know how to interact? This is a challenge faced by many educators - how do we build bridges so that children know how to interact with their differently-abled classmates? How do we teach others to see past the wheelchair or the person who can't talk? How do we learn how to include?

To be sure, I don't for a moment believe that any of this discomfort is malintended - in fact, I believe that it comes from a place of unfamiliarity. I believe that when we interact with atypical people of any age, we are unsure what is acceptable to say or do.

To that end, a small group of us, under the leadership of Lauren Neufeld and Claude Wynn from JCW, Myra Weiner, and my fellow staff-mates are learning to be more open to those who are differently-abled, whether they have physical

or developmental differences. We have a new bimah that was built to be accessible. The madrichim are being guided by a training program provided by Matan, an organization whose mission is to enable communities and families to create and sustain inclusive settings in educational, communal and spiritual aspects of Jewish life. They will be receiving ongoing training throughout the year. We are also working on spaces for people to be during services where they can still feel part of the community while not being in the sanctuary. We are working on being accessible with vision and hearing devices. Our goal is to ensure that everyone is seen. And that we do everything we can to ensure everyone's needs are met. We can't be everything to everyone, but we can certainly do our best to be more of what we are to meet the needs of more people.

Auggie says in the book, "I wish every day could be Halloween. We could all wear masks all the time. Then we could walk around and get to know each other before we got to see what we looked like under the masks."

Every day is not Halloween. But maybe there is something to Auggie's logic. As we embark on Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion month, I would like to invite you to interact with someone with whom you normally would not. Get to know who they are, without their proverbial mask. See them. And as you see them, you will see something new in yourself.

I would love to learn what you see, and more importantly how we can make our space accessible for you.

*L'Shalom,*

**Sharon**



# Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



## Adam Kaplan • February 5, 2022

Adam Kaplan is a seventh grader at Princeton Charter School. He enjoys playing golf and tennis, but his real passion is working with computers. In fact, he wants to grow up to be a coder for government, web, and/or gaming. Adam is delighted to have become a member of the Trenton Circus Squad a year ago, a program he has been involved with since he was 6. He is very talkative, competitive, and energetic. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is very meaningful to Adam, and he would like to thank Gila, Jonathon, Cantor Jeff, Rabbi Merow, the TJC religious school, Rabbi Feldman, and most of all, Mom, in helping him prepare for his special day.



## Gabriel Vermut • February 12, 2022

Gabriel Vermut is a seventh grader at Princeton Middle School. Gabriel loves swimming on the Pirhana and middle school swim team and also enjoys skiing, scuba diving and being with his friends and family and especially his dogs.

Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is very meaningful to Gabriel, and he would like to thank Gila, Jordan, Wilma Solomon, Cantor Jeff, Rabbi Merow, the TJC religious school, Rabbi Feldman, and his parents who helped him prepare for his special day.



# Meditation Mincha

Saturday, February 5 & 19, at 4:00 p.m.

# Torah and Tea



FEBRUARY  
4, 11, 18, 25  
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)

To Naomi Reich on celebrating her 100th birthday on December 8th  
To Wilma Solomon and David Goldberg whose grandson Benjamin Emmett Irwin was born November 22 to their daughter Erica Beth Goldberg and husband Alex Irwin. He joins brother Marshall Edward who turned 3 in December

To Honey Rosenberg on the birth of her 4th Great Grandchild and first Great Granddaughter, Samantha Simon, born on December 14th  
To Susan Grossman and Lewis Pollack, who are thrilled and grateful to announce the birth of their first grandchild Max Leonardo Avni on Monday, October 11th. Max is the son of Stacey Pollack and Adam Avni who live in Rome, Italy. It was with great joy that we (along with his paternal grandparents) were present for the Bris of Mordechai Aryeh performed at The Great Synagogue of Rome (Tempio Maggiore di Roma). Honey also welcomed the birth of her Great Niece Ann Langston to parents Caitlyn and Lee in Washington, D.C. Big sister Claire welcomes her arrival too!

To Summer and Andrew Pramer, who are very proud to share that their daughter, Emily, was accepted into the Executive MBA Program at Columbia University! Emily begins her studies in August  
To Fran and Fred Edelman and Sherry and Gerard Meyer who are delighted to announce that Eli Edelman has been accepted to Tufts University on early enrollment

To Gloria and Joel Berger on the honor of their daughter Stephanie graduating from Florida Southern College with a BFA in Musical Theater. Stephanie graduated with a 4.0 GPA, Summa Cum Laude with highest honors. She also received the President's Scholar Medal for her academics and service to the college community. The highest award given at graduation. She begins her career in theater at the Rev Theatre company in Auburn, NY in January, 2022

To Louise Sandburg on her dedication and commitment to refugees  
To TJC for providing access to online services

To Eleni Litt (EYL Studio) who currently has pieces in 5 local art

shows with sales supporting the sponsoring organizations

To Dr. Joan Goldstein who taped a TV show with Dr. Myra Weiner on the topic of Finding love when we are older, and in Age of the Pandemic. Both Myra and Joan shared their stories of finding love and the hope that their new companions can offer to us. Joan is also taping a show with Senator Andrew Zwicker. Stay tuned: Princeton TV30 and FIOS45, Sundays at 5:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:30 PM

To Michael and Carrie Swallow, who are delighted to announce that their daughter, Hailey, and the rest of her Falcons cheerleading team placed 3rd in the nation at the 2021 Pop Warner Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, FL

*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)*

# TJC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

WHY NOT INVITE  
YOUR FRIENDS  
AND NEIGHBORS  
TO COME AND  
CHECK OUT  
WHAT IS  
HAPPENING AT  
THE JEWISH  
CENTER?

WE HAVE SO  
MANY GREAT  
PROGRAMS AND  
EVENTS  
HAPPENING IN  
FEBRUARY, AND  
WE WOULD LOVE  
TO SEE SOME  
NEW FACES!

DO YOU WANT TO  
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OUR COMMUNITY?

YOU CAN BECOME A NEW  
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
BECOMING A NEW MEMBER  
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## NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

### AN INTERVIEW WITH NEIL WISE

This month we are spotlighting someone many of us know – we are happy to welcome back Neil Wise as a TJC member!



“ TJC : What is your past relationship to TJC ?

Neil : Before I worked at the TJC, I looked at every synagogue as being boring and stale. Then I worked at TJC for nine beautiful years, in what was such an exciting time in TJC's history.

My vision was to look at things outside of the box and keep people coming back. I have so many memories from planning events and engaging with the most magnificent congregants, families, and kids. I look back at some of the programming that I did in my time at TJC. I have so many amazing many memories, it really was a phenomenal chapter in my life.

TJC : What was your favorite program?

Neil : The Holocaust Torah Reunion and the Guinness World Record for lighting the most menorahs in one place at one time.

TJC : Why did you rejoin this year?

Neil : It wasn't a hard decision. The Jewish Center is home. I love Princeton and I love the congregation. I am excited to rejoin TJC to be part of this new chapter. Since I left in 2017, I have been behind the scenes.

As someone who was part of TJC's history, I want to support the future vision of the synagogue, and it is important to me to support TJC in its next chapter.

I have felt like I never left. This is my home. I couldn't join anywhere else. I am looking forward to bringing my fiancé, Lincoln – he loves Shabbat and coming with me to TJC!

TJC : What is your first memory of Rabbi Merow?

Neil : In high school, I walked into Temple Sholom on Roosevelt Boulevard in Philly and was handed a *kipah* by the Rabbi. She welcomed me to the USY event.

TJC : What are you looking forward to?

Neil : I am looking forward to celebrating Rabbi Merow's arrival at TJC and this new chapter in TJC's history at the Installation festivities at the end of March.

”

# Synagogue Spotlight



Barbara Vilkomerson's parents, Marion and Jess Epstein, were Jewish Center founders. They moved to Princeton in 1943, when Marion was pregnant with Barbara, so that Jess could be closer to his work at the new RCA research center.

Barbara's first years of Sunday school were in a multi-age class around the dining table of two podiatrists, Dr. Robinson and Dr. Spears. "There were very few Jewish kids our age, one or two a class," she recalls. "I also went to Sunday school at what is now Chuck's Café, The Presbyterian Seminary, and Princeton's baseball clubhouse."

As a child from a "proudly Jewish" family in a town with few Jews, Barbara recalls her mother going to her school and making sure she would not have to sing "Away in a Manger." In eighth grade she gave an assembly presentation explaining Chanukah.

Barbara calls her bat mitzvah (the second in Princeton), which occurred on Friday night, a "bat mitzvah lite." For her older brother's bar mitzvah, her mother sent penny postcards to the entire congregation inviting them to a backyard celebration with punch and cookies.

Both her parents were active in the Jewish Center. Her father, Jess, served as president twice. Her mother, Marion, "did a huge amount of community work"—as president of the League of Women Voters, and a member of local and state school boards. "She told me that to the extent that I ever played with dolls, my dolls had board meetings," Barbara recalls.

"It was the history of activism on both their parts that really influenced the way I thought. When I read Pirke Avot for the first time, what I thought was that my family values of course turned out to be Jewish values."

Barbara herself has done lots of volunteering, serving as president of the South Brunswick school board and board member of Princeton Adult School and Planned Parenthood. An event in Skokie, IL, prompted her to join the ACLU, where she eventually served on the ACLU-NJ board for 15 years. "I remember opening the paper and reading about the abhorrent plans of Nazis to march in Skokie. The ACLU was supporting their constitutional right to march despite their despicable views, and I thought it was such a principled stand for an organization."

"The ACLU in a certain sense mirrors the kind of Jewish values I grew up with at home and school—support of people who need help. When I was growing up, my parents always had people come for Passover."

Barbara met her future husband, David, through her father. The two men became friends and tennis and squash partners after Jess solicited David, a fellow RCA employee, for UJA. When the couple met, Barbara was home preparing for a seven-month trip the Far East. But soon after her return, they married and left immediately for a year and a half in Israel—where David had a post-doc at Hebrew University, and Barbara worked as assistant to the dean of the School of Education.

"The Jewish Center has always been a big part of our life," Barbara says. She has served on the board, on a rabbi search committee, co-chaired the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee, and enjoys many of the educational

programs. She attends the Riverside service on High Holidays, which, she says, "felt like the way services had been when I was growing up."

Barbara and David have two daughters in Brooklyn. Rebecca is married to Yoni, an Israeli, and was executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace for ten years and is now an independent consultant. Sara began as a writer/interviewer for both *The Observer* and *Entertainment Weekly* and is now a

supervising producer for "The Late Show with Steven Colbert." Barbara has two granddaughters: Tali is a first year student at UCLA, and Amalia, a high school sophomore.



Barbara earned a graduate degree in psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. At age 40, she returned to work at ETS, moving from program administration, to new product development, to strategic planning, and finally became executive director of an ETS business division.

"One of the big constants in our lives has been travel," Barbara says. "We love exploring different cultures, learning about their history, wandering through markets, tasting food, visiting local artisans, and exploring archeological sites."

On retiring, Barbara trained as a domestic violence response team member, and for the last decade has been a court-appointed special advocate for Mercer County children removed from their homes and placed in foster care.

Looking back, Barbara says: "We have been very blessed with family and friends. We have stayed healthy, had the opportunity to travel, and enjoyed music, museums, and dance. It's been a very full and happy life."

**Synagogue Spotlight** is a joint project by TJC members and journalists Lisa Jacknow and Michele Alperin. Each month they will take turns writing about fellow congregants to help us learn more about one another. This article was written by Michele.

Michele lives in Princeton with her husband, Steven Sheriff and has written for NJ Jewish News, US1, and Community News Service. Her son, Jacob, and his wife, Bina, live in Rockville, MD, with their children, Nava, Hannah, and Noam. Her daughter, Aliza, lives in the Manayunk neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Photos:

vilkomerson.AngkorWat2003: Barbara and her husband, David, in Angkor Wat, Cambodia, in 2003

vilkomerson.thanksgiving 2021: Barbara and her extended family, Thanksgiving, 2021

**Nitzanim (3rd & 4th) 99**

**Baking Class**  
Sunday,  
Feb 27th,  
12:00 - 2:30

**Teens (8th-12th) 99**

**Board Games & Hang**  
Saturday,  
Feb 26th,  
11:30 - 2:30

**Kadima (5th-7th) 99**

**Group Hike**  
Sunday,  
Feb 13th,  
1:30 - 4:00

For more information about these programs please check your email and/or contact Ethan Weg at [eweg@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:eweg@thejewishcenter.org)  
FACEBOOK.COM/YOUTHOFJC   
@YOUTHOFJC

All Religious School parents—and anyone who wishes to join us—is invited for our next hike!

Sunday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Lake.

*Drop off your kids at 9:00 a.m. and meet at the main parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Hike will finish with enough time to pick up your kids back at TJC.*

Lead by Meredith Sherman.

Dogs invited as well.

**MONTHLY**  
**info@thejewishcenter.org**

 The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY



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

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The Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein  
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The birth of Wilma Solomon and David Goldberg's grandson, Benjamin Emmett  
*from Judy and Mike Leopold*

## In memory of

Jay Craig  
*from Gal Lavid and Jenny Zide,  
Marsha and Eliot Freeman*

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Stephanie Berger, may she fill the world  
with music and smiles  
*from Mark Mervovitz*

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Susan "Susi" Yvonne Idstein Warschauer  
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### In memory of

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from Alison and David Politziner\*  
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The birth of Wilma Solomon and David Goldberg's grandson, Benjamin Emmett

Irwin  
*from Cynthia and Jake Sage  
Louise Sandburg's dedication and  
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from Betsy and Darma Ie*

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The Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein  
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The birth of Honey Rosenberg's first great  
granddaughter and fourth great grandchild  
*from Marsha and Eliot Freeman*

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### In honor of

Naomi Reich on her 100th birthday  
*from Cynthia Sage*

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TJC for providing access to online services  
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The Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein  
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\*This gift is from a Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer.

The Jewish Center's

# GREAT MINDS SALON

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.

Honi the Circlemaker (*Honi Ha'Me'agel*) is a colorful character in the Talmud. His requests to G-d take the form of drawing a circle around himself and refusing to leave the circle until G-d answers his prayers. Despite being an outsider (even a sorcerer!) the rabbis not only feel compelled to pay attention to him, but eventually include him in the resolution of a thorny halachic challenge. Join Eleni for a brief account of Honi and the visual midrash she created as she wrestled with this Talmudic text.

Eleni Litt is a teaching artist and longtime member of The Jewish Center and its Library Minyan. She is the Artist in Residence for The Athena Advisors, a consulting firm working in social justice. She teaches at the National Havurah Committee's annual summer institutes, at Limmud and locally at the West Windsor Arts Council and the Princeton Adult School. She has Certificates in Fine Arts from the Parsons School of Design, and Creative Arts Therapies from The New School, as well as a PhD in Social Anthropology (from the LSE, UK). She is about to retire from The New School, where she works as Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs. She shows her work in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

**Wednesday, February 23  
8:15 p.m.**

**Artist and Teacher  
Eleni Litt**

**Visual Midrash:  
An Artist Reads the Talmud**



**8:15-9:15 p.m. Via Zoom**

**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY! RSVP REQUESTED TO [INFO@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG](mailto:INFO@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG)**



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INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

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Drop &  
Dash

SATURDAY, FEB 26TH

DROP THE KIDS AT TJC AFTER 6:30 PM

GO OUT FOR DINNER!  
DO YOUR LAUNDRY!  
GO AXE THROWING!  
OR TAKE A NAP!

PICK UP THE KIDS BEFORE 10 PM

*Kids K-7th. \$30/child.*

*Can be paid through ShulCloud.*

*Includes dinner, supervision, & lots of fun!*

*All COVID protocols enforced.*

*To reserve your spot email Ethan Weg at  
[eweg@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:eweg@thejewishcenter.org)*



The Jewish Center  
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY



*Please Join Us For The*

— INSTALLATION OF —

**Rabbi Andrea Merow**

Sunday, May 1 at 11:00 am

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GALA CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm

# FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org		Rosh Chodesh Adar I 7:00 PM Intro to Mishnah	1 Rosh Chodesh Adar I 12:15 PM Talmud Study
9:00 AM Religious School 7:00 PM Honoring our Teachers	6	7	7:00 PM Intro to Mishnah
9:00 AM Religious School	13	14	Purim Katan 7:00 PM Intro to Mishnah 7:30 PM Book Club
9:00 AM Religious School	20	President's Day	21
9:00 AM Religious School 12:00 PM Adult Ed. Poland	27	28	8:00 PM Inclusion - Guest Speaker Pamela Schuller
			12:15 PM Talmud Study 7:30 PM House Committee 8:15 PM Great Minds

# SHEVAT-ADAR 5782

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Study Gr.	2	3 5:02 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	4 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Adam Kaplan 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha 6:12 PM Havdalah
Gr. Committee	9 7:00 PM EC Meeting	10 5:11 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	11 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Vermut 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 6:20 PM Havdalah
Gr. Climate	16 9:30 AM Nosh and Drosch 7:00 PM Board Meeting	17 5:19 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30 PM Zamru Shabbat	18 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha 6:28 PM Havdalah
Gr. Committee Salon	23 7:30 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM School Committee	24 5:27 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	25 Shabbat Mevarchim Parshat Shekalim 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 6:37 PM Havdalah
			26



# JEWISH CENTER WOMEN

JCW started off the New Year with the return of the Scavenger Hunt thanks to Co-Chairs Ray Kaufman and Roberta Sternthal who planned a fun and exciting event for all involved.

The evening began with Rabbi Merow and Cantor Jeff leading Havdallah which was warm and beautiful to experience together as a community. Rabbi Merow then asked each family to share their blessing for the week. Health, contentment, calm and community were among many thought felt blessings mentioned.

After making pizza with ingredients from our goodie bags Zoom Masters Ellen Pristach and Linda Milstein divided the group into breakout rooms where participants enjoyed eating dinner together, conversation and getting to engage with new and or old friends.

Once back all together you could really feel the excitement to start the Scavenger Hunt through the zoom connections of screens.

Roberta and Ray had a surprise up their sleeves; they had riddles for us to decipher in order to know which items we needed to find. There were giggles and laughter and it was so interesting to watch the wheels spin in the minds of the young and young at heart as items where brought to the screen. For example, "Show us something that has 4 legs." While most were picking up puppies and dogs one young, creative participant held up a chair. So smart!

Each goodie bag included a button and many were curious as to why. Spaced amongst the clues specific buttons were identified and if you had that button you were the recipient of a \$25 gift card to Amazon. Congratulations to the Swallow, Margolis and Peikes-Wertheimer families.

Roberta and Ray didn't just Co-Chair the Scavenger Hunt but they created it, originally for their local Brandeis Alumni Association. They were kind enough to make a few tweaks and thus started this very popular JCW activity. Ray and Roberta many thanks for taking on this task from organizing, shopping, creating goodie bags, distributing prizes and so much more for year #2. Thank you to Rabbi Merow and Cantor Jeff for your participation and involvement which added to the warm and sense of community we experienced. Special thanks to Ellen and Linda whose Zoom expertise and experience made the evening possible. To all who participated we thank you so very much for your support and interest in being involved and also for your cooperation in picking up your goodie bags especially when we had to make a last minute time change due to the expected inclement weather. We thank you ALL!!!

Warmly,

Lauren and Claude

Next Nosh & Drosch  
Meeting  
February 17



Joyce Eisenberg & Ellen Scolnic are

## The Word Mavens

two ladies who know the difference  
between a nudnik and a nosh

The Word Mavens will entertain you with their humorous, fact-filled look at Jewish holidays, favorite foods and more. They will share funny stories, Yiddishisms, beloved traditions and little-known facts they uncovered while writing their best-selling *Dictionary of Jewish Words* and their book of stories, *The Whole Spiel: Funny essays about digital nudniks, seder selfies and chicken soup memories*.

The Word Mavens will have you reminiscing about seders past, craving some rugelach and laughing out loud.

**Join JCW for a funny, fabulous program!  
Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 pm via Zoom**

RSVP to [thejewishcenterofprinceton.shulcloud.com/payment.php](http://thejewishcenterofprinceton.shulcloud.com/payment.php)



## Talmud Study Group

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.

Available via Zoom

Meeting ID: 839 3103 7869

Passcode: 643177

## Havurah Minyan:

Havurah Minyan will be meeting via Zoom on these days:

February 12

February 26

at 10:00 a.m.

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

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!

### RETURNING SOON!



### Shabbat Katan

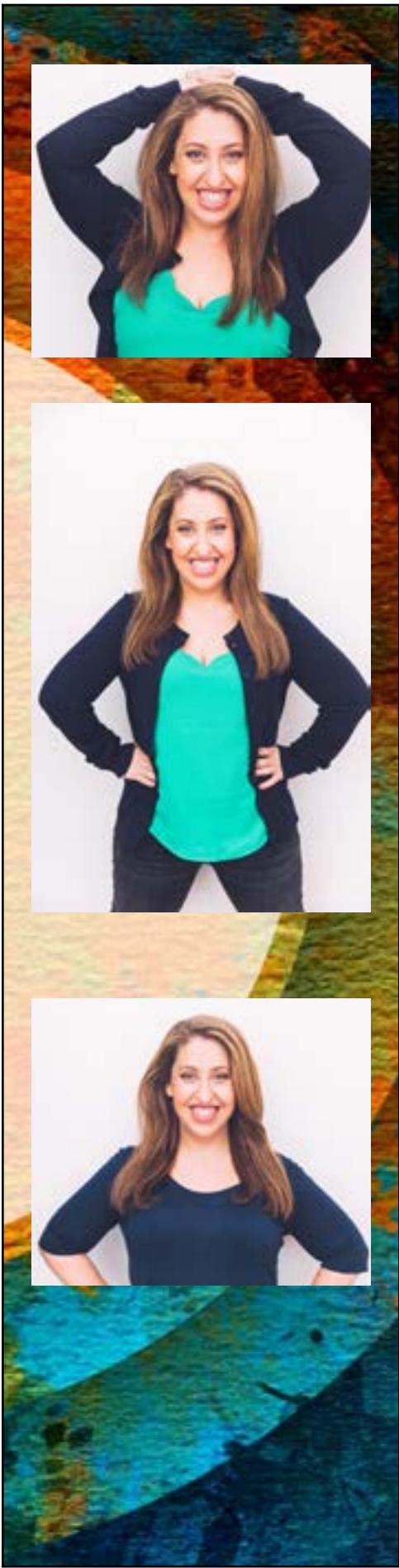
This spirited service is designed for preschool-aged children and their families. Led by music teacher Susan Sacks and parents, this interactive Shabbat experience includes stories, prayers, songs, and a brief Torah reading. Ages: K and below.

Open to the community!

February 19  
11:00 am



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



## TJC Women Prudly Welcomes Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller February 22 • 8 p.m. • Via Zoom

Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller is relentlessly funny. Her observations on disability, mental illness, dating, family, and past misadventures have led to brutally honest confessions about what it's like being 4 foot 6 (and a half) and having a whole lot of Tourette Syndrome.

As a teen, Pamela had the worst-diagnosed case of Tourettes in the country, a touch of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and a whole lot of pent-up anger. She spent years depressed, suicidal, and wishing her differences away. Over time, she started looking at her life differently and turned her obstacles and challenges into the very fuel that propels her.

Now an internationally known disability and mental health advocate and professional stand-up comedian, Pamela's stories of growing up in a body she had no control over are engaging, powerful, a little bit heart-wrenching, and unapologetically funny.

Pamela has performed in six countries, almost every state in the US, and for more than 45,000 kids, teens, and adults. She holds a BA in Psychology and Youth Outreach Through the Arts and an MA in Child Advocacy and Policy, where she focused her studies on creating comedy and improvisational theater programs as a tool for youth with disabilities to improve self-advocacy skills. She has grown that skillset into a repertoire that teaches kids and teens to be proud of who they are, communities to be deeply inclusive, and corporate teams to be innovative and learn to make smart, bold moves. From squeaky clean to working blue, she gets audiences of every age comfortable and laughing through storytelling and humor.

She was recently honored alongside Ed Asner for her work with comedy and inclusion, and spoke alongside Matthew Broderick and Michael Douglas. Pamela opened for Pete Holmes, Lynne Koplitz, Joan Rivers, and in a weird turn of events, Fetty Wap (because God has a sense of humor). You can see her on BuzzFeed, hear her on SiriusXM, check out her writing on Mayim Bialik's *Grok Nation*, or catch her live on her upcoming tour of the US and Canada with her one woman show, "What Makes me Tic."

Pamela doesn't just "tolerate" what makes her different; she embraces it, loves it, and finds the funny in it...all while challenging her audiences to do the same.

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

# Purim 2022



## ShTikTok

Wednesday, March 16,  
2022

Costume Parades, Megillah Reading, and submit your  
ShTikTok Purim Videos! More details to follow.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Purim Carnival - Outside!**  
**Sunday, March 20, 2022**

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

**Patricia Anne Will, mother of  
Thomas (Stephanie) Will**

**Howard Siskowitz**

**Mark Mitchell Kaufman, brother of  
Jerry (Helen Ray) Kaufman**

**February  
Committee Meetings:**

February 2 - House Cmte.  
February 10 - EC  
February 15 - Green Team  
February 16 - House Cmte.  
February 17 - Board  
February 24 - School Cmte.  
February 24 - Finance

FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15

7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

*Introduction to  
Mishnah*

WITH RABBI ANDREA MEROW

A 4 PART CLASS

**Want to help support a  
Culture of Sustainability  
at TJC?**

Interested in helping us  
increase our reduce our  
carbon footprint, reduce  
waste, or increase local  
biodiversity on campus?

A Green Team is forming  
at TJC and we are looking  
for your input! Ready to  
get involved?

Contact Jenny Ludmer at  
[jennyludmer@gmail.com](mailto:jennyludmer@gmail.com)

THE JEWISH CENTER  
PRINCETON, NJ

# ADULT EDUCATION

## DAYENU: CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS & CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL COURAGE

RABBI JENNIE ROSENN

FOUNDER AND CEO OF DAYENU

Wednesday, February 16 | 7:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

Massive wildfires. Raging floods. Unseasonal tornadoes. What can we do?

Many of us never imagined living in a time of such great devastation, when the world is facing a climate crisis that threatens us now, the future of humanity and the lives of our children and grandchildren. Join Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Founder and CEO of Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, to explore what it means to live in such a time as Jews and the opportunities for collective action. Together we will learn from our tradition, explore ways to cultivate spiritual courage, and discuss ways to move from angst to action. This program is co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee.



Rabbi Jennie Rosenn is the Founder and CEO of Dayenu, a new organization mobilizing the American Jewish community to confront the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. She has spent more than two decades advocating for social change and creating dynamic new initiatives at the heart of the Jewish social justice movement through her leadership at HIAS, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and Columbia University Hillel. She also served as a founding board member of AVODAH and Repair the World. Ordained by HUC-JIR where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow, Rabbi Rosenn has twice been named one of the Forward's 50 Most Influential Jews in America.

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

Adult Education programs are made possible by contributions to the Adult Education Fund.  
Your support is greatly appreciated.

## 21ST CENTURY MARRANOS: POLISH JEWRY TODAY

RABBI MICHAEL SCHUDRICH

CHIEF RABBI OF POLAND

Sunday, February 27 | 12:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Rabbi Schudrich has been working with Jewish community of Poland since 1990 and has seen the community grow from a stagnating dying community to a reemerging vibrant one. Who are the Jews of Poland today, where are they from and where are they going? Learn about the stories of discovery and return, their struggles and successes. Rabbi Schudrich will also touch upon the situation today concerning the current Polish government.



Rabbi Michael Schudrich was born in New York City. Schudrich was educated in Jewish Day Schools in the NY area. He graduated from SUNY at Stony Brook in Religious Studies. Schudrich received smicha through the Jewish Theological Seminary and then later through Yeshiva University. He earned an MA in Jewish Studies from Columbia.

Schudrich served as rabbi of the Jewish Community of Japan from 1983-89. As a student in the 1970's, Schudrich began his travels to East Europe by leading Jewish groups to those countries and meeting with the remnants of the Jewish communities. In 1990, Schudrich began working for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and spent 1992-98 residing in Warsaw, Poland. In June 2000, Rabbi Schudrich returned to Poland as the Rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz and in December 2004 was appointed Chief Rabbi of Poland.

Rabbi Schudrich is the recipient of several awards and medals including the Polish Presidential Medal of Honor and The Menorah Award for Dialogue.

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## READING THE TORAH THROUGH A WOMAN'S EYES

ELLEN FRANKEL, PHD

AUTHOR

Wednesday, March 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

Drawing from her book, *The Five Books of Miriam*, Dr. Ellen Frankel will present this ancient text through a prism of women's voices, including Our Mothers, Our Bubbies, the Rabbis, the Sages in Our Own Time, as well as a host of biblical women such as Lilith the Rebel, Mother Rachel, Wily Rebecca, and Dinah the Wounded One. In her talk she will explore how new questions can uncover ancient secrets, how modern biblical research, archaeology, and scholarship can shed new light on the past, and how today's women can engage in conversation with their biblical counterparts as well as their own contemporaries. Frankel's work is a blend of feminist revisioning, Jewish tradition, and what she calls "Folk Torah."



Dr. Ellen Frankel served for eighteen years as Editor in Chief and CEO of The Jewish Publication Society. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton.

She is the author of eleven books, including *The Classic Tales*; *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Symbols*; *The Five Books of Miriam*; *The Jewish Spirit*; and *The Illustrated Hebrew Bible*. Dr. Frankel has published three books for young people. Her *JPS Illustrated Children's Bible*, won the 2010 National Jewish Book Award.

Several of Frankel's portraits of biblical women have been set to music. Her next work, *Beyond the Binary*, with Andrea Clearfield, about robots, artificial intelligence, and gender, will premiere in Philadelphia on May 15.

Dr. Frankel is currently at work on a new series, *The Jerusalem Mysteries*, featuring Israeli intelligence agent, Maya Rimon. The first two books, *The Deadly Scrolls* and *The Hyena Murders*, will be published in 2022.

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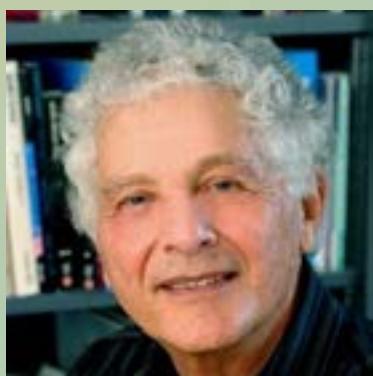
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## THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSLATING THE BIBLE

PROFESSOR ROBERT ALTER  
UC BERKELEY

Wednesday, March 30 | 7:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

The Hebrew Bible conveys its sundry visions of God, humankind, history, morality, covenant, and much else through a subtle and often complex literary vehicle, both in the prose narratives and in the poetry. Previous translations have not done much justice to this vehicle. What Professor Alter attempted to do is to represent as much as is feasible in English the rhythms, the word play and sound play, the expressive use of syntax and the strategic word choices of the Hebrew, honoring the formal conventions of the narrative poems.



Robert Alter is Professor in the Graduate School and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley. He has written widely on the European novel from the eighteenth century to the present, on contemporary American fiction, and on modern Hebrew literature. He has also written extensively on literary aspects of the Bible. His twenty-four published books include two prize-winning volumes on biblical narrative and poetry and award-winning translations of Genesis and of the Five Books of Moses. His translation of the Hebrew Bible with commentary is considered a masterpiece of scholarship. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Council of Scholars of the Library of Congress, and is past president of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. He has twice been a Guggenheim Fellow, has been a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, and an Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton University.

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## JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY: PAST AND PRESENT

RABBI GESA EDERBERG

ORANIENBURGER STRASSE SYNAGOGUE IN BERLIN AUTHOR

Sunday, March 13 | 12:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

The Jewish Community in Germany has grown from 30,000 members in 1989 to 120,000 affiliated Jews in 2000. Who are the Jews living in Germany today, what does Jewish life look like, and what are the challenges and perspectives facing the Berlin Jewish Community from the viewpoint of a Masorti (Conservative) Rabbi? Please join us on an exciting virtual journey.



Gesa Ederberg's status as the first woman rabbi to serve in Berlin since the Holocaust has helped her reinvigorate the German community that once represented the cutting edge of liberal Judaism. Born a Lutheran, Ederberg first visited Israel at age thirteen and slowly fell in love with Judaism. She studied religion in Germany and Israel before converting to Judaism at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1995. After returning to Berlin, she taught Hebrew school and organized an alternative minyan at the prestigious Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue, slowly taking on more of a leadership role in the community that has been the center of Berlin's liberal Jewish community for 150 years. Ederberg then entered rabbinical school at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, earning her ordination in 2003, and in 2007 she returned to the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue as their new rabbi. Working to create local networks for liberal rabbis, she was a founding member of the General Rabbinic Conference of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and in 2006 she helped found the European Rabbinical Assembly of Masorti/Conservative Rabbis.

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# Israel & Us

The Israeli song of the month I felt most compelled to share with you is “In the Beginning” by Idan Raichel. Raichel is a prolific composer, producer, songwriter and singer who writes songs in Hebrew, Arabic, Amharic, Spanish and other languages representing the diversity of Israeli society and the Jewish diaspora. Of the many songs I could have chosen, I chose “In the Beginning” for three main reasons. The first is the Middle Eastern musical style and rhythm which I hope will transport you to your favorite place in Israel. Secondly, I wanted to choose a song whose lyrics are accessible. Like many of Raichel’s songs, “In the Beginning” references Biblical verses, so when you listen you should be able to pick out some familiar Hebrew words. Lastly, I wanted to share the message of “In the Beginning” with all of you: that love is the predecessor to our entire existence. Growing up in the Israeli desert city of Beer Sheva, in a new country where so much did not yet exist - it was a love for the idealist vision of a Jewish State that laid the foundation for us “Sabras” to grow. It was love that was the foundation of the home my parents, survivors and immigrants from Poland and Romania, made for us. They came to this just-established Jewish State with nothing other than love and hope. And it is this message that I strive to impart to my own daughters, Adi and Liron, my grandson Ben, and now I am happy to share with all of you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlIrd-EAs3U0>

Hebrew Lyrics: <https://lyricstranslate.com/en/idan-raichel-project-%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%AA-beresheet-lyrics.html>

English translation:  
<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/%D7%91%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%AA-beresheet-beginning.html>

More on Idan Raichel: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idan\\_Raichel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idan_Raichel)

*For those of you who don't know me, my name is Edna Bryn-Noiman and my family and I have been members at The Jewish Center for over 30 years. We first joined TJC in 1990 when my youngest, Liron, started pre-school and I started what would be a 21-year role as a teacher of Hebrew, Jewish Philosophy, Mishna, Israeli Culture and Literature in The Jewish Center. To this day, I still teach Hebrew for adults from beginners to advanced and occasionally teach Israeli Literature in translation. We came to Princeton from Omer when my husband, Shai, accepted a job as a Senior Principal Chemical Engineer at FMC and I began working as a lecturer of Hebrew and Israeli Literature at Princeton University and later on at Rutgers University. Both my daughters, Adi (an epidemiologist) and Liron (an Alzheimer's Disease researcher), attended the Hebrew School through Tichon. Through teaching and enrolling my daughters at the Hebrew School, I got to know so many of the families that comprise our vibrant community.*



Photo, left, My husband Shai and I attending an Idan Raichel concert at the Beacon Theater in Manhattan (February 2018).



# Book Club

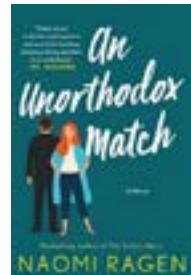
**Tuesday, February 15**

**7:30 p.m.**

via Zoom.\*

*An Unorthodox Match* by Naomi Ragen

California girl Lola has her life all set up: business degree, handsome fiancé, fast track career, when suddenly, without warning, everything tragically implodes. After years fruitlessly searching for love, marriage, and children, she decides to take the radical step of seeking spirituality and meaning far outside the parameters of modern life in the insular, ultraorthodox enclave of Boro Park, Brooklyn. There, fate brings her to the dysfunctional home of newly-widowed Jacob, a devout Torah scholar, whose life is also in turmoil, and whose small children are aching for the kindness of a womanly touch.



While her mother direly predicts she is ruining her life, enslaving herself to a community that is a misogynistic religious cult, Lola's heart tells her something far more complicated. But it is the shocking and unexpected messages of her new community itself which will finally force her into a deeper understanding of the real choices she now faces and which will ultimately decide her fate.

*An Unorthodox Match* is a powerful and moving novel of faith, love, and acceptance, from Naomi Ragen, the international bestselling author of *The Devil in Jerusalem*.

*"Reading Naomi Ragen is like having a warm visit with an old friend, complete with tea and rugelach....In An Unorthodox Match, as the title implies, a little rebellion goes a long way, and Ragen deftly guides us through these moral quandaries. Whether love or the law prevails, her novel and its conclusion is a worthy study in the richness and variety of our enduring people."*- Jewish Book Council

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

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

**COMING SOON!**

March 15 – Invisible City by Julia Dahl

April 19 – The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles

May 17 -- The Venice Sketchbook by Rhys Bowen

Sunday, February 6

7:00 - 8:15 pm

## Honoring Our Teacher and Past NHC Chair, Bob Goldenberg

Rabbi, Professor, Chaver

A Zoom Program presented by  
The Past-Chairs of the  
National Havurah Committee

Co-sponsored by the Adult Education Committee  
of The Jewish Center

Speakers: Rabbi Lenny Gordon, Dr. Adele Reinhartz,  
Dr. Shaye Cohen

Group Conversation: How Bob Taught Us  
to Read Talmud

The conversation will focus on Bob's reading of Berakhot 2a,  
in the essay "Talmud," Back to the Sources, ed. Barry Holtz  
(pp. 143-158).

In preparation, we ask participants to read and reread this  
part of his wonderful essay.

Rabbi Goldenberg was a member of TJC for all the years he  
lived in Princeton. He taught Talmud Study on  
Wednesdays at 12:15 for several years, in addition to  
offering Adult Ed evening programming. Rabbi Goldenberg  
was a founder and the first chair of the NHC and the  
program is the creation of several past-chairs.

No advance registration required

To receive the Zoom link, email Neil Litt at  
[neillitt@outlook.com](mailto:neillitt@outlook.com)



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