The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

February 2023
Shevat/Adar 5783
thejewishcenter.org

CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY · היה שותף בקהילה

The Jewish Center

Renowned international singer, musician, and composer

Sarah Aroeste

LADINO CULTURE FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY: A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Sunday, February 5th at The Jewish Center
Doors open at 3:30 pm for Sephardic food tasting
Performance at 4pm
435 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ

REGISTER AT BIT.LY/SARAHAROESTE

TJC members:
$12 Adult

Non Members:
$18 Adult

$25 at the door

Daughter of TJC congregant Jane Silverman

In honor of Tu B'Shevat

Children's programming from 4 - 5:30 pm
Grades 2 and below: Birthday Party for the Trees (Youth Lounge)
Grades 3 - 5: Tu B'Shevat Tussle (Adult Library)

Questions? Email info@thejewishcenter.org or call (609)-921-0100

Sponsored by Arts & Culture, TJC Religious School,
Men's Club, Jewish Center Women, Religious Affairs and Lifelong Learning

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

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The Jewish Center Princeton

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FEBRUARY 2023 ZOOM LINKS

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

Erev Shabbat Services – 6:30 PM
February 3, 10, 17, 24
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613292983
Meeting ID: 886 1329 2983
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Shabbat morning services – 9:30 AM
February 4, 11, 18, 25
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81874292908
Meeting ID: 818 7429 2908
Dial by your location+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Sunday Morning Minyan – 9:00 AM
February 5, 12, 19, 26
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765294784
Meeting ID: 847 6529 4784
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Wednesday Morning Minyan – 7:00 AM
February 1, 8, 15, 22
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871488326
Meeting ID: 878 7148 8326
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Live Stream our services:
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

JOIN US FOR THE

2023 World Wide Wrap

Learn about tefillin and wrap with Jewish men and women's clubs around the world

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
8:45 AM - WRAP
9:00 AM - MINYAN
(PLEASE COME A FEW MINUTES EARLY SO WE CAN HELP YOU GET WRAPPED UP!)

IN PERSON + VIRTUAL
TJC MAIN SANCTUARY

Coffee & Bagels will be provided

Locally sponsored by The Jewish Center Men's Club

co-sponsored by Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) and Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ)

WWW.FJMC.ORG/WRAP

MESSAGE from the Rabbi

Rabbi Andrea Merow
609.921.0100 ext. 203
RAM@thejewishcenter.org

On A Cold Day

You are probably reading this on a cold winter day. While I appreciate some aspects of winter, including making homemade soup, I am someone who does not like winter. I find it hard when Shabbat begins in the afternoon hours and I miss the light, warmth and longer days of spring and summer.

Seven years ago, while on my way to lead a shiva minyan on a cold and icy early February night, I slipped on black ice and broke my leg in seven places. Ice in February continues to scare me and I yearn for spring, but celebrating Tu B'Shevat gives us the first hint that spring is around the corner.

The week I broke my leg was also Tu B'Shevat; I returned to synagogue four weeks later for Purim. I missed Tu B'Shevat that year, and I needed the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. Each year I need the reminder that the cold earth will come back to life. On the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat we celebrate the earth and its possibilities for regrowth. On Tu B'Shevat we honor our connection to the Land of Israel, we honor the connection that we have to the earth, and we are reminded of our responsibility to be stewards of the earth.

The Torah teaches that fruit from new trees should not be eaten it its first three years, the fourth year the fruit would be a gift to the ancient priests and in year five of a tree's life fruit could be eaten. The 15th of the winter Hebrew month of Shevat was chosen as the date to calculate the birthday of the trees. In the rabbinic period the 15th of Shevat was considered one of four New Years, a New Year for the Trees. The medieval mystics added layers of meaning by creating rituals and seders for Tu B'Shevat. Modern Zionism has helped to establish Tu B'Shevat as a type of Jewish Arbor Day, a time to consider the earth and how we care for this planet.

On Tu B'Shevat we celebrate the earth in ritual ways by saying blessings over various foods. Go here for ways to lead your own family Tu B'Shevat Seder https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/a-tu-bishvat-seder/. Tu B'Shevat is a time to dedicate ourselves to the work of a sustainable environment. Locally, you may wish to check out the work of Sustainable Princeton at https://www.sustainableprinceton.org/ Many of our congregants help steward the earth there, including their new president, Eve Coulson, and their vice-president, Alexandra Bar-Cohen. You also might want to explore the work of our congregant, Dr. Ben Strauss, at Princeton based Climate Central at https://www.climatecentral.org. Additionally, this is a time to think about the land of Israel. Explore The Jewish National Fund and The Arava Institute to learn about Israel and the environment.

On that cold day in February I learned to walk to walk slowly on ice, to lean forward so as not to fall back – a good metaphor for all of life and to remember to celebrate the winter holiday of Tu B'Shevat, which is the harbinger of spring. Happy Tu B'Shevat! I hope to see you at the Sarah Aroeste concert here on February 5th in honor of the holiday!

Rabbi Andrea Merow
RAM@thejewishcenter.org

MESSAGE from the President

Alexandra Bar-Cohen
president@thejewishcenter.org

Dear TJC Family,

Let's face it, Tu B'Shevat isn't a marquee holiday. There are no costumes or incentivized drinking *"ad lo yadah."* It's not one of the "Big Three" pilgrimages of Passover, Shavuot, or Sukkot, and certainly not a heavy hitter like Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. Nevertheless, I would argue that it is one of the most relevant in today's changing world.

Observed in ancient days to mark timing for the tithing of trees, today Tu B'Shevat is celebrated as an ecological awareness day. Trees are planted, people hike, groups clean up woodlands. With this modern interpretation, Tu B'Shevat is easily relatable in the current climate (both concrete and abstract) of our everyday lives.

As president of TJC and vice president of Sustainable Princeton, Tu B'Shevat is a holiday I love because it places Jewish value on and underscores the clear connection between people and nature.

Think about it: humans and trees have a lot in common. Both stand upright, are topped by a "crown," and have mobile limbs which stem from a central trunk. The root system of many trees is similar in pattern to the bronchi of our lungs, which look like branches. Trees and humans are mostly water and have a life span of approximately 80 years. Each tree, like each human, is at once the same as all others and yet completely unique. Not least of all, we exist in a symbiotic relationship with trees; they provide us oxygen and we provide them with carbon dioxide. Humans rely on trees to survive through the gifts of their fruit, wood, shade, clean air, carbon-sequestration and soil stabilization; we must help them thrive by planting, nurturing and utilizing them in sustainable ways.

Many TJCers (including your Rabbi and President) are connected to Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava Desert. There, at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies flourish several date palm trees of a species previously extinct but brought back into existence by Dr. Elaine Solowey from 2,000 year old seeds found at Masada. Observe the holiday by reading the story at the Arava Institute's Website or at Moment Magazine: https://momentmag.com/methuselah-the-tree-that-defied-time/

Want to celebrate by planting an olive tree in Israel? You can make the Negev desert bloom while supporting invaluable agricultural research for the increasing number of people living in deserts and drylands. Check out Wadi Mashash, the experimental farm of Ben Gurion University: https://americansforbgu.org/donate/plant-an-olive-tree/ for more info.

Let me know what you do, but however you celebrate, may your holiday be meaningful.

Chag Tu B'Shevat Sameach!

Alexandra Bar-Cohen
President@thejewishcenter.org

MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger
609.921.0100 ext. 205
jberger@thejewishcenter.org

It all started with a note someone handed to me. Give her a call. She thinks you would be a good match. So, I called her. We went out for dinner and a movie: *Jerry Maguire.* It was our first date and we really never looked back. Seven months later I proposed. Five months later we got married!

This February 7, Gloria and I will be celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary. It's been quite a challenge these last few years, and the few years before that. Job opportunities took me to Orlando in 2016 and to New Jersey in 2019. Gloria stayed in Miami with Stephanie graduating first from high school, and then Lauren graduating from high school. We certainly do not like living apart but it does make the times we see each other even better. Thank goodness for technology. We have celebrated anniversaries over Zoom and Facetime and speak quite often during the day.

Our honeymoon took us to San Francisco, Carmel California, and then Vegas. The Carmel part got rained out so we stayed on extra day in San Fran and went to Vegas a day earlier. But our bigger honeymoon took us to Alaska that summer. We flew to Anchorage. Took day tours, whale watching adventures, Denali bus rides and a plane ride to Barrow, the northernmost city. We then boarded our Celebrity Cruise in Seward and cruised south for 7 days. We then spent four days in Vancouver to finish the trip. It was an amazing trip and highly recommended for everyone.

Then we had kids! Stephanie in 2000 and Lauren in 2004. Our children became our focus. We spent as much time as we could with them. Got them involved in all sort of activities but it seemed that the love that both Gloria and I shared in theater was certainly passed on to them. Gloria actually had theater season tickets before we even met. My love came from living on Long Island and my parents taking us on weekends to see shows.

We traveled by car on vacations doing long drives to fun places. We drove to Montreal from Miami one time. Gloria, originally from Montreal, still had family there who we visited. We did Disney plenty of times as it was close enough from Miami. We still have plenty of places to go and we hope to do more traveling now that the girls are older.

But best of all is the love we share with each other. There have been good times and not so good times but at the end of the day, we love each other and I am glad to have had these past 25 years with her.

May our next 25 years and beyond be just as great as the first 25. Here's to you Gloria. Especially for putting up with me! *L'Chayim.*

Joel

February 2023
7:00 pm
EC Meeting: 2/9
Board Meeting: 2/23

MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein
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sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

Tu B'Shevat is coming! One of the things I love most in this holiday that celebrates the trees is studying the seven species of Israel that The Torah tells us about in Deuteronomy 8:8. Israel is "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey" Shivat Haminim, as they are called in Hebrew. In honor of Tu B'Shevat and my upcoming trip to Israel, I would like to share with you some insights into each of the seven, and perhaps share my connection to The Land.

1. Wheat: Midrash Bereishit Rabbah 15:8 says, "Of which tree did Adam and Eve eat? Rabbi Meir says it was wheat. When a person is bereft of knowledge, it is said of that person that he has never eaten bread in his life."

I once had an uncle who said "The bread in America is cleaner, but the bread in Israel tastes much better. The last time I was there, I definitely agreed with that statement. Although there are some pretty good bakeries here…

2. Barley: Talmud Berakhot 57A tells us that when a person sees barley in a dream, it is a sign that their transgressions have been removed, for it is said, "Your iniquity is removed and your transgression is expiated..."

I don't ever recall having dreamed of barley, though I know it makes for a good soup. I also have read that hulled barley contains fiber and is beneficial for health.

3. Grapevine: The teaching about the grapevine is one of my favorites. Shemot Rabbah 44:1, one of our Midrashim, compares the Israelites to a grapevine, "because when you want to improve something, you dig it up and replant it elsewhere. When G!d wanted to make Israel known to the world, G!d uprooted them from Egypt and brought them to the wilderness when they flourished. They received the Torah and became known in the world."

From my own experience, I can say that each time I have moved from place to place, whether physically, mentally, or professionally, I have grown and improved. I've learned and stretched myself, and become stronger.

4. Fig: Another midrash, BaMidbar Rabbah 21:15, asks "Why are the words of the Torah compared with a fig tree? Because the fruit of most trees, such as the olive tree, vine, and the palm tree, is harvested all at the same time, while that of the fig tree is harvested little by little. Thus it is with the Torah. One studies a little each day and eventually learns much, because the Torah is not to be learned in one year, nor in two."

This tells us that just like the Torah, in the rest of our lives, we do things little by little, worry about the small details, and eventually the big picture will take care of itself. In fact, I just had this conversation last night with Eric and Jason as I reminded them about what they learned on their swim team this past summer: focus on learning the strokes, and your times will take care of themselves. If we try to hold everything at once, we will end up with nothing.

5. Pomegranate: Talmud Eruvin 9B tells us "Even the worthless among you are as full of good deeds as a pomegranate [is with seeds]."

Ahh the pomegranate. A fruit favorite in our house, and a reminder that even if the pomegranate does not have 613 seeds to represent the 613 mitzvot (commandments) in the Torah, we all still have the potential to do good, and much like the fig, one seed (or act) at a time!

6. Olive: Talmud Mekhanot 53B says, " R. Joshua b. Levi said, Why is Israel likened to an olive tree? To tell you that as the olive tree loses not its leaves either in summer or in winter, so Israel shall never be lost either in this world or in the world to come."

Maybe that is my homecoming. Israel has been my constant, and even when not there, I am drawn to being there. Israel has never been lost to me. To quote Benny Anderson, et al, from the musical Chess, "I cross over borders but I'm still there now...My land's only borders lie around my heart"

7. Date: Bamidbar Rabbah 3:1 says, "No part of the date palm is wasted: The dates being eaten, the young branches (*lulav*) used for the Four Species of Sukkot, the fronds for covering the sukkah, the fibers for ropes, the leaves for sieves, the trunks for roof beams. So are no worthless in Israel: some are versed in Tanakh, others know Mishnah, some do good deeds, and some work for social justice."

Each of us has a purpose. In fact, each of us has many purposes and roles which we fulfill. Each of us are necessary in this web of life, much like the date. Each of us plays a role in our Jewish Center community.

So as I plan my trip to Israel, even if it's only for a short while, I plan to explore who I am through the lens of these seven species. From afar, I think perhaps the fig speaks to me the most, but I also know that each time I read the above texts, I may see things differently.

To which of the seven species do you most relate? Why? I'd love to hear! Please share with me: sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

L'Shalom,

Sharon

(Please see page 25 for more Young Family activities).

Arts & Culture

Sarah Aroeste Live Concert - February 5

We are welcoming our very own international singer, musician, and composer, Sarah Aroeste, daughter of congregant Jane Silverman, on February 5 at 3:30 p.m. Sarah got her start on the TJC bimah at her Bat Mitzvah and has headlined music festivals all over the world. Her music is often referred to as Ladino rock. Sarah has many innovative ideas promoting Sephardic music and culture and will share stories of the history of Sephardic Jews with us. We anticipate a lively celebration in honor of Tu B'Shevat as well. Students in the religious school have been learning some of Sarah's melodies. Concurrent programming will be available for younger children so the whole family can come to TJC on the afternoon of Sunday, February 5th at 3:30.

Our Nosherei Havaurah of TJC volunteers Nancy Lewis, Sandy Wilson, Melissa Pankove, Joan Levin, Fran Amir, Pam Zaifman, Mindy Langer, Lynne Ross, Ellen Pristach, Debbie Orel, Judi Fleitman, Suzanne Esterman, Brad Bailey, Jay Schnitzer, Harry Cummins, and Linda Oppenheim has planned a delightful tasting menu for your pleasure to enjoy during Sarah's performance; along with the input from our staff, Rabbi Merow, Joel Berger, Ethan Weg, Avi Paradise, Sharon Diamondstein, Emilie Kovit, and Emily Kafas, we have a great program planned. We appreciate the co-sponsorship of this event by TJC Religious School, Men's Club, Jewish Center Women, and Religious Affairs and Lifelong Learning.

Next up: We are also excited to announce that, back by popular demand, Susie Fishbein, author of the Kosher by Design cookbook series, will do a Passover cooking demonstration and tasting for us on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. Susie's cookbooks will be available for purchase at the demonstration. They are a great gift idea for those family and friends. For more information and the link to sign up, please see the flyer on page 35.

Polly Strauss and Roberta Sternthal

Music QR code:

Article QR code:

WELCOME

welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Ted and Jess Deutsch and their children, Alexander and Madeline
Ron and Laura Sucher

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah

Adam Schwarz-Manocchio is a 7th grader at Princeton Middle School. Adam was born in Colorado before moving to Princeton when he was three and has been a member of The Jewish Center since 2014. He enjoys sports including cross country, wrestling and baseball He also plays the bass in orchestra and chamber groups at school. Adam enjoys reading, including books about baseball history and playing video games. He's very good at teaching himself new skills, such as speed solving Rubik's cubes and juggling. He's also interested in gardening, which led to his chesed project–growing vegetables in the TJC garden and donating them to JFCS.

Adam is looking forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah with family and friends coming from New York, Pennsylvania, Chicago, and Washington, among other places. He thanks the rabbi and all his teachers and tutors who helped him prepare for his big day!

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

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 11
11:00 am
Youth Lounge

Questions? Call Sharon at (609) 921-7207 or email her at SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Are you interested in taking a leadership role in TJC services?

Do you want to...

Have an *aliyah*?

Read Torah or Haftarah?

Be *gabbai*?

If you do, please get in touch with our Ritual Assistant Ethan Weg, at eweg@thejewishcenter.org

MEMBERSHIP

Mazal Tov...On Your Great News!

Email your news to us: mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org

To Naomi Reich, who is celebrating her 101st birthday.

To Joel Berger on his milestone birthday.

To Andrea and David Gaynor on the birth of their grandson, Eli Moses Gaynor.

To Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeff Mattes on the engagement of their daughter Margaret to John Sturm and the birth of their granddaughter, Lieba to Darya and Shahar.

To Susan and Jonathan Gross, whose eldest great-grandson, Yedidya Forgy, became a Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Vayishlach, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

To Ezra Shapiro, son of Leah Zeitler and grandson of Fred and Fran Zeitler Edelman, who married Katie Kelley.

To Keith Somers, son of Mindy Goldstein and Noah Horowitz, and nephew of Bruce Goldstein, who married Carly Sigel on Saturday night, December 17!

To Lauren Neufeld, whose son, Seth, was married to Stephanie Wolbransky on Sunday, December 4th, in Philadelphia. Mazel tov also to Seth's sister Brynne, grandparents Cynthia and Fred Neufeld and aunt, uncle and cousins Leah, Shawn, Adam and Mason Neufeld.

To Bruce Goldstein (Linda Goldstein z"l) and Sharon Ingber, on the birth of their granddaughter Lucy Jane. Lucy Jane was born December 20th to proud parents Sara Goldstein, daughter of Bruce and Linda, and Jordan Solomon, son of Sharon.

To Art Meisel and his successful career.

To Lenny Grossman on his retirement.

To Seth Fishman on his retirement. Seth had a 42-year career as a computer programmer/IT professional. For the last 30 years, he worked for Philadelphia's electric company in various roles. He now looks forward to putting more time and energy into Jewish Studies and into working on a book about the teachings of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi[z"l]. You can read some of his teachings on Seth's website http://JRhasidus.org

To Harold Heft, who will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah - commemorating a snowy 1962 day in Washington DC - by chanting haftarah at TJC on Shabbat morning on December 24th. He hopes his voice has changed since 1962.

To Sandie Rabinowitz, whose granddaughter Rabbi Shira H. Gluck was installed as Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Summit, NJ. It was a joyous service full of love and warmth as the community welcomed Shira. She is the daughter of Sarah and Rabbi Arnie Gluck who reside in Skillman.

To Ziona and Rabbi David Wolf Silverman[z"l], whose daughter Debora Silverman retired from the presidential chair in History and Art History at UCLA after 41 years.

To Jerry and Ray Kaufman, whose daughter, Keren Winkelman, just completed a Master of Science in Accounting with a 4.0 GPA at the University of Arizona Eller College of Management. She begins working at BeachFleischman PLLC in Tucson, AZ in January. Ray and Jerry are very proud of Keren!

To Michael and Carrie Swallow, who are so proud to share that their daughter, Hailey, with her Flemington Falcons cheer team, are Pop Warner's 2022 National Champions! They took first place in Junior Pee Wee Level 3 Large in Show Cheer.

To Camille Rosenthale, granddaughter of Ellen and George Pristach, for being awarded Best Actress at the New Jersey State Thespian Festival for her performance as Anne Frank in "The Diary of Anne Frank." Camille also won a rating of Superior for both of her monologues as well as two duet acting scenes. She will be attending the National Thespian Festival this summer.

To Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Dov Peretz Elkins, who just published his 60th book *Rabbi Alexander Goode and His Fellow 3 Chaplains Who Went Down on the S.S. Dorchester,* which coincides with his 85th birthday. The book is available on Amazon.

To Dr. Joan Goldstein, Host/Producer of Princeton TV30's "Back Story with Joan Goldstein," who has taped a show with Cheyenne Wolf, Director of "Stories and People," which is up now on FIOS45 and TV30. Her newest, upcoming show in January is with former air pilot, Richard Moody, who later became a peace activist and Quaker and has written his life story in the book, "Flying Through Life: From Fighter Pilot to Peace Activist." If you have or know an interesting potential guest, please contact Joan at jgoldstein609@gmail.com

To Louise Sandburg and everyone working on refugee resettlement.

To Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Joel Berger and the entire TJC staff for all your hard work and dedication.

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

Revitalizing the TJC Library -- Progress report, January 2023

The Library Committee is working hard to clean up the adult library and transform it into a welcoming space that promotes engagement with stimulating books on Jewish themes. Our first step is to remove outdated works and duplicates and catalog our valuable collection using up-to-date library software. For those who are wondering, the old catalog, which Jerry Kurshan z"l worked so hard to create and maintain, is lost. And if it still existed, it would be a technological dinosaur.

The committee respectfully requests that you not contribute any books while we remove duplicates and organize the valuable books that we are so lucky to have. We are developing an ecologically sound process for finding new homes for excess books. One step will be to have a book fair that will let TJC members take home the books they want. At a later stage we will figure out what we need to do to strengthen and update the collection.

The goal of the revitalization is to make room for a curated collection that supports thoughtful involvement with Jewish life today. This includes traditional and modern religious texts as well as fiction and non-fiction on issues relevant to Jewish life in the 21st century. Rabbi Merow is helping with the curation process.

Current members of the working committee are Deborah Marinsky, Roslyn Vanderbilt and Nina Wacholder. We expect to need lots of volunteers to help reorganize and catalog the books. If you'd like to be involved, contact any of us.

Deborah, Roslyn and Nina

DONATION NOTICE

Thank you to all who have donated items in the past to The Jewish Center.

The Jewish Center can no longer accept donations of books, Judaica or art.

If you have any questions or concerns about items you wish to donate, please contact the office at info@thejewishcenter.org or call (609)-921-0100 and they can direct you to other sources.

Thank you for your cooperation!

TJC Youth Programming

Upcoming Feb Events

Nitzanim @ BounceU | **Sat, 6:30-8:00 PM**

Feb 24 You are invited to join your 3rd & 4th grade friends at the BounceU bounce park in West Windsor!

JCUSY @ BounceU | **Wed, 7 PM-8:30 PM**

Feb 8 You are invited to join your 8th through 12th grade friends at the BounceU bounce park in West Windsor!

Nitzanim Escape Room | **Sat, 6:30-8 PM**

Feb 18 Come join your TJC 3rd & 4th grade friends for pizza and an awesome escape room experience!

Kadima @ BounceU | **Sat, 7:30-9:00 PM**

Feb 18 You are invited to join your 5th through 7th grade friends at the BounceU bounce park in West Windsor!

Kadima Escape Room | **Sun, 11 AM-12:30 PM**

Feb 26 Come join your TJC 5th through 7th grade friends for pizza and an awesome escape room experience!

JCUSY Escape Room | **Sun, 6 PM-7:30 PM**

Feb 26 Come join your TJC 8th through 12th grade friends for pizza and an awesome escape room experience!

RSVPs are required to Youth Director Ethan Weg at *eweg@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 OVER THE WINTER, AND WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE SOME NEW FACES!

DO YOU WANT TO HELP INTEGRATE ONE OF OUR NEW FAMILIES INTO OUR COMMUNITY?

YOU CAN BECOME A NEW MEMBER SPONSOR TODAY!

CONTACT EMILIE KOVIT, AT EKOVIT@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A NEW MEMBER SPONSOR.

WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR NEW MEMBERS?

AN UPDATE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Next time you're in the building, take a look for people wearing a green badge. We've given these new badges to board and committee members to be ambassadors of TJC. They are great people to come up to so you can meet some new people or if you have any questions about TJC, events, whatever.

Our members who have joined TJC since the summer are being invited to a new member gathering on the evening of Saturday, February 4 at the home of Andrea Hoberman Martinez. This will be another chance to meet lay leadership, other recent members, and member sponsors. We want our newer members, and our entire membership, to know how much they are valued. Please be on the lookout for an email invitation soon!

Finally, have you filled out the Engagement form yet? This form enables us to help make connections among our members with similar interests or lets us know who might be interested in leading or participating in future programming or helping to organize a future project. To fill it out, please go to **forms.gle/H3SvDCwwnVeFfHpNA.**

Synagogue Spotlight

Lew Gantwerk loved his Bensonhurst block, where there were always plenty of kids to play with. He lived in a two-family house with three younger sisters, and his immigrant grandparents living upstairs. The kids played stickball, stoopball, and handball, and parents watched out for everyone. "I loved it," he said. "I had no idea there was anything else. … It was a childhood without trauma," he said.

Lew went to shul with his father and grandfather, synagogue president, every Shabbat through high school. For a couple years post-bar mitzvah Lew put on tefillin daily and said the morning prayers. He attended Hebrew school four days a week plus Sunday. "I always felt both Jewish and proud of being Jewish," he said.

At Lafayette High School Lew acted in high school productions. "I had a fantasy at one point that I could be a real actor, but I wasn't able to act on that—it would have meant a life that would be too unpredictable for me."

Lew graduated from Brooklyn College in 1963 while living at home. On the suggestion of a professor, he pursued psychology, with a theater minor, but, Lew said, "I had no idea what that meant in terms of a future and no idea that I'd have to go to grad school—I didn't think of these things until I graduated."

Lew ended up at the University of South Carolina for grad school, but was not prepared for the overt racism he found, first on his drive south. At a gas station when he approached a water fountain he was told: "No, you can't drink at that one, see the sign." The sign said "Colored only."

Later a misunderstanding over laundry made him a laughing stock. Accustomed to his mom's careful separation of dark and light laundry, Lew assumed that the "whites only" sign at the laundromat meant that he could only wash his light clothes. When he got home, he would dutifully rinse out black socks and dark shirts in the sink and hang them on a towel rack. When he explained his reasoning to his roomies, they ran into the hall blasting, "Y'all know what this Yankee is doing?"

Although the psychologists at the state hospital where he worked who had a multiracial training group presented a counterpoint, it wasn't enough. A day came that disturbed Lew to the core.

On the day the university was to be integrated, students gathered in the big quadrangle in expectation of federal marshals escorting four black students to class. "They walked across a gauntlet of people spitting at them, yelling at them, using the most horrible words," Lew said. He moved off campus.

"All of these experiences really changed the way I understood the world and turned on the social consciousness that I had not paid much attention to and changed the way I felt and understood things. It was a very significant time for me although I couldn't wait to get out of there."

Lew met Barbara through her older sister, Taro, who was cheerleader captain and a student in Lew's acting class on whom he had a big crush. Invited to her house one day to practice a scene, he recalled, "We were on the couch together talking about life; to me, this was a dream come true, and there was no way I could concentrate on my lines." So Taro invited her little sister Barbara to prompt him.

Three years later when Barbara came to Brooklyn College they started to date, marrying in January 1965. While Barbara worked on her master's in speech and hearing pathology, Lew was a counselor in a Job Corps antipoverty program. But the young couple was looking beyond Brooklyn and decided to join a three-year program in Israel designed to recruit young professionals for *aliyah*. They opted against staying, realizing that they "had never experienced the US as fully formed adults."

Lew matriculated in a doctoral program in psychology at Rutgers; he had submitted a dissertation proposal and was doing an internship as school psychologist in Princeton when he changed course. "I decided the only way to have an

effect on changing schools was to be a teacher or a principal; otherwise you have to deal with messes other people made." However, after getting certified as a principal and serving six years at the Roosevelt Public School, he saw that his heart was not in administration. "The parts I liked were talking to kids, helping people solve problems, helping teachers with difficult kids. I realized that I really liked and wanted to be a psychologist."

So Lew returned to Rutgers at age 42, earned his doctorate, and ended his career as executive director of the Center for Applied Psychology. Lew has been an active volunteer at TJC and Princeton Hospital Ministries and he acts in community theater productions.

The Gantwerks have two daughters, both Jewish professionals. "Our kids [and grandkids] have all, in some magical way, found their own connection to a Jewish life, which is very rewarding for us; it was not a secret aim of ours, but it's happened and we couldn't be happier."

THE GREAT DEBATES OF JEWISH HISTORY

SESSION IV

RELIGION AND RACE: JUDAISM CONFRONTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Rabbi Dr. David Starr

Thursday, March 2 , 2023

We will focus on the post World War II American rabbinate as it confronted the great challenge of social change in American life. Principally we look at the civil rights issue, that is the struggle for racial equality. That struggle had a sectional dimension to it: What began as a struggle against Jim Crow in the American South by the mid-late 1960s had become a national struggle, extending to the Northeast and to the Mid-west. Those struggles often times took place in large urban areas like Chicago and Detroit which also contained significant Jewish communities.

This session will consider the ways in which rabbis and their communities and their religious denominations struggled with philosophical and practical questions about the relationship between Judaism and American social life.

David Starr is a Research Associate of the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, Brandeis University. He teaches at Hult International Business School. He served as Scholar in Residence for Israel Education & Programs at Gann Academy, the pluralistic Jewish high school in greater Boston. He was the founding Dean of Me'ah and Vice President at Hebrew College. He lectures on topics related to history and religion. David is currently writing a biography of Solomon Schechter, and a study of adult education and its impact on religious life. He holds a doctorate in history from Columbia and rabbinic ordination from JTS.

Register at bit.ly/3CSaD1d

THE GREAT DEBATES OF JEWISH HISTORY

SESSION V

THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARGUMENT ABOUT ISRAEL

Dr. Dov Waxman, UCLA

Thursday, March 30, 2023

More than ever before, American Jews are arguing about Israel and debating what it means to be pro-Israel—whether one can be a supporter of Israel and criticize its governments. Growing numbers of American Jews are becoming more critical in their attitudes toward Israel and most now believe that supporting Israel no longer necessarily means supporting its government's policies. Consequently, the pro-Israel consensus that once united American Jews is eroding, and Israel is becoming a source of division rather than unity for American Jewry. In this talk, Dov Waxman discusses the current American Jewish conflict over Israel--why it is happening, what its consequences are, and what we should do about it.

Dov Waxman is the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Chair of Israel Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the director of the UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. from Oxford University. He is the author of four books: The Pursuit of Peace and The Crisis of Israeli Identity: Defending/Defining the Nation (2006), Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict With (2011), Trouble Within the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel (2016), and The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2019). His writing has also been published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times and The Atlantic.

Must have attended two of the previous four sessions in order to attend.

Shabbat Meditation

TJC Soulful Judaism

Led by ***Ruth Goldston***

February 4 at 4:00 p.m. In TJC Adult Library

Shabbat is a time for rest and renewal. Our busy lives make it hard to slow down, not just physically, but mentally as well. Join us as we use mindfulness meditation techniques to savor our moment-to-moment experiences, and to connect with our Jewish souls in the richness of silence in each other's company. The Jewish calendar, the liturgy, or the parshah will provide the focus for our practice. You will leave relaxed, refreshed, and centered as you enter the next week.

Appropriate for beginners as well as more experienced mindfulness practitioners. And if you've tried mindfulness or meditation before, and think you've "failed," you are especially welcome to join us.

Open to the Community!

Ruth Goldston is a long-time congregant, as well as a psychologist in private practice in Princeton. She has been leading Shabbat Meditation (aka Meditation Mincha) for the past 6 years at TJC. She has used mindfulness techniques successfully with her clients for many years, and has drawn on them to create meaningful prayer experiences in TJC's Havurah Minyan.

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

February 1 - 28, 2023

Join The Jewish Center in February as we raise awareness for Jewish Disability & 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. Continue to watch your emails as we announce new initiatives:

1) Large Print Siddurim. We have a collection of large print Siddurim for those who need this. Ask an usher when you arrive.

2) Magnifying sheets. Maybe you just need a little help. We will have magnifying sheets available on Shabbat.

3) Audio Hearing System. We have installed a hearing device system for any members who need audio assistance to hear our services or programs.

4) We have partnered with Kulture City to cater to those with sensory needs. We now have a sensory cart, sensory inclusive bags, 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.

Shabbat Under the Stars

February 17

Services – 6:30 PM
Dinner – 7:30 PM

POTLUCK DINNER
Fish entree and beverages provided by
The Jewish Center
Bring a dish! Bring a friend! Bring Kosher wine!

Please RSVP via ShulCloud & let us know what dish you are sharing

Stay after dinner for Chess! All levels welcome

Want to host? Contact Emilie Kovit at ekovit@thejewishcenter.org or call 609.921.0100 x 209

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn
			12:00 PM Talmud Stu 7:00 PM RAC Meet
5 9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM A Fresh Look at Pirkei Avot 11:00 AM B'nai Mitzvah Trope Class 3:30 PM Sarah Aroeste	Tu B'Shevat 6	7 7:00 PM The Mitzvah Initiative	12:00 PM Talmud Stud 7:30 PM Lifelong Lea Doubt
12 8:45 AM World Wide Wrap 9:00 AM Religious School 11:00 AM B'nai Mitzvah Trope Class	13	14 12:00 PM Bridge Club	12:00 PM Talmud Stud
19	Presidents' Day 20	Rosh Chodesh Adar 21 12:00 PM Bridge Club 7:00 PM The Mitzvah Initiative 7:30 PM Book Club	Rosh Chodesh Adar 12:00 PM Talmud Stud
26 9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM A Fresh Look at Pirkei Avot 11:00 AM Bnai Mitzvah Trope Class	27	28 12:00 PM Bridge Club 7:00 PM The Mitzvah Initiative	

Shevat/Adar 5783

esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 dy Group ing	2 7:00 PM Atidaynu Listening Session	3 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 5:01 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Zamru	Beshalach 4 Shabbat Shira 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 4:00 PM New Member Event 4:00 PM Shabbat Meditation 6:10 PM Havdalah
8 y Group rning Presents Jewish	9 7:00 PM EC Meeting	10 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 5:10 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Yitro 11 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan 6:19 PM Havdalah
15 y Group	16 9:30 AM Nosh and Drosh 7:00 PM Mah Jongg	17 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 5:18 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:30 PM Shabbat Under the Stars	Mishpatim 18 Shabbat Mevarchim Parshat Shekalim 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 6:27 PM Havdalah
22 y Group	23 7:00 PM Board Meeting	24 5:26 PM Candle Lighting 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30 PM Zamru Service	Terumah 25 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah for Adam Schwarz-Manocchio 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 6:35 PM Havdalah
			All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org

Presented by the

Lifelong Learning Committee

A Fresh Look at Pirkei Avot

led by Joe Rosenstein

9:30 AM on February 5 and February 26

Pirkei Avot is the only tractate of the Mishnah that teaches no laws and tells no stories. Instead, it introduces ethical and judicial principles and advises scholars, would-be scholars, and the rest of us how our tradition was transmitted and how to interact with our contemporaries in both intimate and communal settings. Following a lifetime of studying and teaching this text, Joe Rosenstein recently completed a book entitled Reflections on Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers): Not Just What My Rebbe Taught Me, in which he examines each teaching, as is usually done, but in which he also looks at the text from a broader perspective—identifying the primary ethical principles that are contained therein and musing on their continuing relevance.

There will be three sessions. The first session will provide an overview of Pirkei Avot and will review selected teachings. The second session will focus on the major innovations in Judaism that took place in the first two centuries of the common era, as reflected in Pirkei Avot. In the third session, we will read and discuss a selection of the 88 ethical instructions Joe has extracted from Pirkei Avot. You are welcome to attend any or all of these sessions.

Copies of the book are available at joerosenstein.com -- there is a 20% discount for purchases of this book until (and at) first session on January 22.

Joe Rosenstein was a founder and chair of the National Havurah Committee. He, along with Michael Strassfeld and Elaine S. Cohen, organized the first National Havurah Conference in 1979. Annual week-long summer institutes have been conducted by the NHC each year since 1980 and have attracted an average of 250 adults (plus many children) of varying Jewish backgrounds and observance. Joe is also the author of Siddur Eit Ratzon, which has been the siddur used by the Havurah Minyan at the Princeton Jewish Center since its publication in 2003, and Machzor Eit Ratzon for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, both of which are available at joerosenstein.com.

A Special Request from the Lifelong Learning Committee

Dr. Rosenstein is concerned about protecting himself against Covid and the Flu. We completely understand Joe's concerns and encourage you to wear a mask during the teaching portion of the program. Refreshments will be served in the lobby before the program.

THE LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

JEWISH DOUBT

AYALA FADER, PhD
WITH
LEORA BATNITZKY, PhD

Ayala Fader

Leora Batnitzky

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023
7:00 PM IN PERSON + ON ZOOM

Ayala Fader, author of *Hidden Heretics: Jewish Doubt in the Digital Age*, will be talking with Leora Batnitzky about Professor Fader's research in ultra-Orthodox communities, focused on Jewish men and women who secretly explored the outside world, in person and online.

They will consider as well how this particular historical moment impacts not only the ultra-Orthodox, but all manner of Jews--how we are dealing with the moral ambiguities we confront as we attempt to live ethical lives in the digital age. The Times Literary Supplement said, "It is the personal stories in particular that makes *Hidden Heretics* so compelling."

Ayala Fader is a professor of anthropology at Fordham University, In addition to *Hidden Heretics*, she is the author of *Mitzvah Girls*.

Leora Batnitzky is the Director of the Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University, a member of The Jewish Center, and the author, most recently, of *How Judaism Became a Religion: An Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought*.

REGISTER AT BIT.LY/JEWISHDOUBT

The Jewish Center
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LET`S ALL WISH EACH OTHER A HAPPY PURIM!

MISHLOACH MANOT

With a $36 donation, you can send EVERYONE a Purim basket (Mishloach Manot) containing hamantaschen, groggers, and more. Your name will be included on the Purim card!

Order online at bit.ly/purimbaskets2023 or send a check to The Jewish Center

Payment is due by Monday, February 27

"Of course Hamentashen are not good for my diet, but Purim only comes once a year!" - Bunny Bloom

Hamentashen provided by Michael & Beatrice Bloom in Loving Memory of Michael's mother, Bunny

Save the Dates!

Purim Carnival - Sunday, March 5th at 11:00 am

Super Seder Story - Sunday, April 2nd at 12:30–1:30 pm

TJC Trike-A-Thon - Sunday, May 7th at 2:00–5:00 pm

TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION!

COME CELEBRATE THE TREES!
Sunday, February 5, 2023
Doors open at 3:30 pm
Programming starts at 4 pm
At The Jewish Center

GRADES 2 & BELOW

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE TREES

Register at bit.ly/3QBBeoY

GRADES 3 - 5

TU B'SHEVAT TUSSLE

Register by emailing eweg@thejewishcenter.org

Don't Miss Sarah Aroeste's Ladino Performance!
Same day & time on February 5
FOR ALL AGES
$12 Adults Kids are FREE

Questions? Email sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Next Meeting:
February 16 at 9:30 a.m.
Virtual Grafitti Tour of Tel Aviv

MENS CLUB

Watch your email inbox for upcoming dates!

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AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Follow these easy steps:

- Sign in to smile.amazon.com
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Please note this program will end February 28.

Jewish Themed Civil Rights Trip

Sunday, November 5 - Tuesday, November 7

Let us know if you're interested by end of February!

Join TJC friends for a 3-day Civil Rights trip to important sites of the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia and Alabama.

If 25-50 people -$995 per person

If 20-24 people- $1130 per person

The prices above include all meals, ground transportation, hotels, admission and programming costs. Does not cover airfare, Monday dinner, and driver's tip.

For more info & to confirm interest

Please email tjctrip@thejewishcenter.org

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

CONTRIBUTIONS

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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from Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz

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Harold Heft for chanting Haftorah on the 60th anniversary of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah
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Andrea and David Gaynor on the birth of their grandson, Eli Moses Gaynor
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Ginny Mason and Bobby Willig z"l on the birth of their grandson, Jordan Benjamin
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Josh Zinder for receiving the HAKARAT HATOV Award from the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks
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Roslyn and David Vanderbilt on the wedding of Karen and Marc and the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Rose
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Heidi Gantwerk becoming President and CEO of Federation for San Diego County
from Judy and Mike Leopold
Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeff Mattes on the engagement of their daughter Margaret to John Sturm and the birth of their granddaughter, Lieba to Darya and Shahar
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The Neufeld Family on the marriage of Seth and Stephanie
from Judy and Mike Leopold
Rabbi Merow for the wedding of Brandon Shapiro and Shruthi Sridhar
from Neil and Lucy Shapiro
Art Meisel and his successful career
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from Peter Harnett, Adele Agin, Allen and Rhona Porter, Judy and Mike Leopold, Yaron Inbar and Areta Pawlynsky, Community Without Walls, House 4
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from Ruth Goldston

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Emilie Kovit, Lynne Ross, Joel Berger and Alexandra Bar-Cohen. Thank you for your support.
from Jessica Adler Kuznick
Harold Heft on the 60th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
from Bernie and Judi Fleitman, Judy and Mike Leopold

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In Memory Of
Chaim (Hymie) Schreiber
from Dr. and Mrs. Julius S. Richter

ANNUAL FUND
In Honor Of
All the hard work and dedication of Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Joel Berger and the entire TJC staff
from Warren Mitlak and Tirza Wahrman
Our loving children and grandchildren, Ayelet, Mickey, Jake and Arya Lehtman, Gidon, Andrea, Ethan and Romi Margolin, Noa Margolin and Shaun Russell
from Moshe and Judy Margolin
Joel Berger on his milestone birthday
from Polly and Rick Strauss

In Memory Of
Samuel and Ethel Lehrer and Sylvia and Max Alpert
from Paul and Phyllis Lehrer
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from Sheila Marrero
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from Amy Vogt, Amy Rubin

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from Kimble Funeral Home

In Honor Of
Rabbi Merow's 25th year in the rabbinate and receiving an honorary Doctor of the Divinity Degree from The Jewish Theological Seminary
from Heidi Joseph and David Saltzman, Judy and Mike Leopold, Marsha and Eliot Freeman, David and Edye Kamenir
The collaborative relationship between TJC and Zamru
from Pamela Edelman
Sara Goldstein and Jordan Solomon on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Jane Solomon
from Bruce Goldstein
In support of Ugandan refugees
from Bernie and Judi Fleitman
Rabbi Merow with thanks for the outdoor alternative and musical services on the high holidays
from Amy Borovoy
TJC and their Continued Jewish Learning programs
from Jen Freedman
TJC for their continued access to online services
from Arthur Steiger
My children's *Aufruf*
from Lauren Neufeld

In Memory Of
Evelyn Saldick
from Barbara and Diane Saldick, Lew and Barbara Gantwerk, Bob and Eileen Garber
Hymie Schreiber
from Betsy, Darma, Andy and Tommy Ie, Mr. and Mrs. William Besser
Daniel Weisberger
from Judy and Mike Leopold
Harold Borkan
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Gary Poecker
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In Honor Of
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SOCIAL ACTION FUND
In Honor Of
Louise Sandburg and everyone working on refugee resettlement
from Amy Borovoy

In Memory Of
Sylvia Swartz Dobkin Feldman
from Peter and Seva Kramer

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

In Memoriam:
We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering:

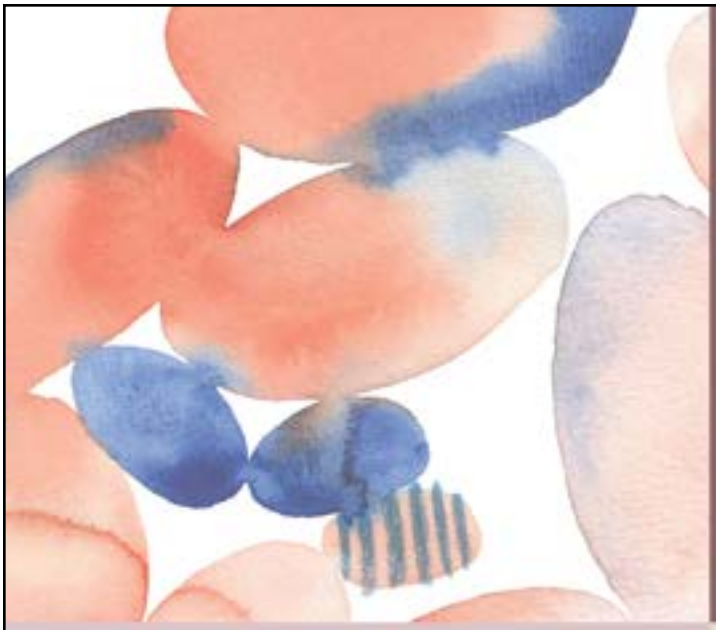
Sylvia Swartz Dobkin Feldman,
mother of David (Suzanne Gespass) Dobkin

Selma Fisher,
mother of Debbie (Jeff) Gross

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=SncvMTM-vNkJOQklGWWJrdDBFMlp2dz09
To be added to the BBB mailing list or for questions, contact Michael Goldin at mmgold18@yahoo.com.



HELP SUPPORT OUR

Kiddush Community

Kiddush Community is a way to build more connections between congregants and eat good food. It involves re-imagining how we organize Kiddush luncheons.

This re-imagining of the Kiddush Luncheon BUILDS our community by:
1. Adding a source of Alternative revenue
2. Increasing participate in Shabbat: services or social
3. Allowing us to celebrate more simchot together

- □ Friend $180
- □ Contributor $360
- □ Supporter $540
- □ Macher $1000

Each week multiple congregants can mark simchot at TJC by donating towards the kiddush luncheon. The spread stays the same (with some options for upper levels or additional donations).

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

Who doesn't love The Eurovision Song Contest? Happening once every year, this international song contest organized by the European Broadcasting Union sets the standard for other broadcasts such as American Idol and The Voice. From the extravagant costumes, cheesy lyrics, and over the top performances, it's clear that this song contest provides some of the best musical entertainment for not just the spring, but for the entire year.

While the modern day song entries have a special place in my heart, one history making song stands out to me among the rest. In 1978, "Abanibi" became the first Israeli song to win Eurovision. Since the winner gets to host the next year's contest, Israel became the first non-european country to host Eurovision.

Aside from the historical significance of "Abanibi" it is a total ear worm. I was nine years old when I first heard this song in 2016 on a podcast about the history of Israeli music. I looked it up on YouTube afterwards to hear it again and remember watching Izhar Cohen and the "Alphabeta" rock it out in bedazzled white disco outfits. I am embarrassed to say how many times I have watched it!

"Abanibi" is about saying "I love you" in a secret language. In 2020, my parents added another level of meaning to that message by including it in my bat mitzvah video montage while showing pictures of us during our three trips to Israel. As a result, when I hear the song today, I don't just think about white disco suits in a YouTube video; instead, I am floating in a raft down the Jordan, horseback riding in the Golan, hiking to a waterfall at Ein Tina, and eating the best falafel with friends in a far away place that is very near to me.

Miki Schnitzer is a sophomore at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South. She is a lifelong TJC member having celebrated her *Simchat Bat* on the bima and her pandemic Bat Mitzvah over Zoom. She is a 2022-23 Shalom Hartman Institute Teen Fellow.

YouTube Link: *https://youtu.be/3ch5rEYB0-M*
Lyrics: http://www.hebrewsongs.com/song-abanibi.htm

Do you have an Israeli song you would like to share?
Contact Edna Bryn-Noiman at edna.bryn@gmail.com

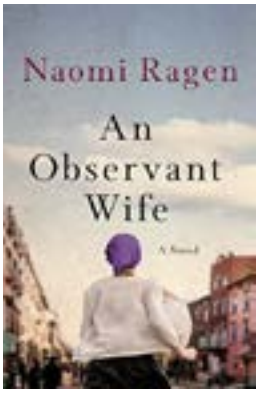
Book Club

Tuesday, February 21

7:30 p.m.

via Zoom.*

February 21 – *An Observant Wife* by Naomi Ragen



This sequel, which works well as a stand-alone, begins with an Orthodox Jewish wedding, where Leah's mother—wearing a red dress with shockingly high red patent leather heels—walks her up the aisle. To say the least, Leah does not come from an Orthodox background. In the first chapter, Ragen gives us what we need to know to understand the dynamics of the Lehman family. Yaakov's first wife, Zissele, died shortly after giving birth to her fifth child… AN OBSERVANT WIFE centers on Leah; Shaindele, Zissele's 17-year-old daughter; and Fruma Esther, Zissele's mother, who still sorely misses her daughter. (Bookreporter)

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

March 21 – *Origin* by Dan Brown
April 25 – *Mr. Perfect on Paper* by Jean Meltzer
May 16 – *Run You Down* by Julia Dahl

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

Havurah Minyan
Feb 11 & 25
10:00 a.m.

The Havurah Minyan will meet every second and fourth Shabbat of the month.

Contact Neil Litt (neillitt@outlook.com) closer to the date to inquire whether these will be hybrid services or Zoom only.
The Zoom link remains the same:
Meeting ID = 861 4274 5562;
Passcode: = 311195.

Talmud Study Group

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.
Available via Zoom

The Talmud Study Group continues via Zoom every Wednesday at 12:00. The Zoom link remains the same: Meeting ID = 839 3103 7869; Passcode = 643177.

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The Mitzvah Initiative

Mitzvah, Meaning

Tuesdays - 7:00pm
February 7, 21 & 28
via Zoom

Join us for a Text based class about the idea of mitzvah:
Commandment? Good deed? Jewish action? All of the above?

A guided course of study for adults from The Jewish Theological Seminary, taught by Rabbi Andrea Merow

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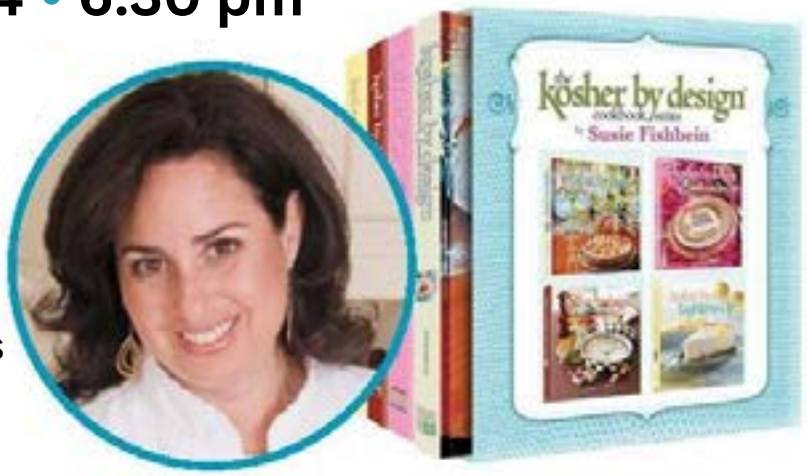
Passover Cooking Demonstration

with Susie Fishbein, Author of the *Kosher by Design cookbook* series

Tuesday, March 14 • 6:30 pm



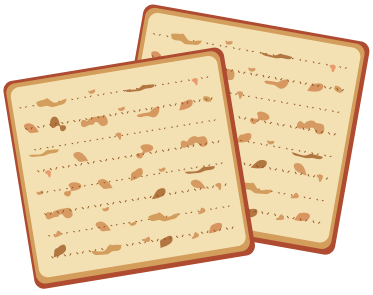
Join us for a cooking demonstration and tasting with Susie Fishbein, author of the Kosher by Design cookbook series, as she creates a Passover-themed dinner. Susie's books will be available for sale and will make great gifts for you or the cooks in your life.

Register now. Space is limited.

Open to the Community!

Jewish Center Members: **$36** Community Participants: **$54**

For more info, contact The Jewish Center office at **(609) 921-0100** or **info@thejewishcenter.org**



Register online at bit.ly/3WQbRBX

or scan the QR code

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Do you know someone who is ill or in the hospital?

Email Rabbi Merow at RAM@thejewishcenter.org to let us know.

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