



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

June/July 2023
Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5783
thejewishcenter.org

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Happy Summer!





The Jewish Center

PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

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The Jewish Center Princeton

IN THIS ISSUE

Shabbat of Appreciation	3
Message from the Rabbi	4
Message from the President	5
Message from the Dir. of Cong. Learning	6
B'nai Mitzvah	7
Message from Dir. of Programming and Cong. Engagement .	8
Thank you to Concert Sponsors	9
Membership	10
Book of Remembrance Form.....	11
New Members	12
Gil Gordon Congregant of the Year	13
HHD Greeting Cards.....	14
Shabbat Under the Stars	15
Tisha B'Av Service.....	16
Richard Fishbane Award Recipient.....	17
Calendars.....	18-21
Israel & US	22
JCW	23
Contributions.....	24
Book Club.....	27
Synagogue Spotlight.....	28



The Jewish Center Celebrates 75 Years in 2024!

Save the Date for The Main Event May 4, 2024

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



Watch Livestream

Shabbat of Appreciation

Friday, June 16

6:30 PM

Friday Night Services

7:30 PM

Dessert Reception & Ceremony

Thank our volunteers, decommission the outgoing board, install the new board and acknowledge this year's Gil Gordon Congregant of the Year and the Richard B. Fishbane Leadership recipients.

ALLTJC volunteers are invited to Shabbat of Appreciation





MESSAGE from the Rabbi

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

Gratitude for our Congregational Leaders and Volunteers

Every synagogue community has its own culture, and each synagogue has some commonalities. While there are great similarities between American liberal (non-orthodox) synagogues, each shul is unique by virtue of the history and culture of that place. Our shuls are communities that are partnerships between dedicated lay leaders, volunteers, members, staff and clergy. Together we make up a *kehillah kedosha*, a holy community. TJC is a strong community because of our dedicated and diverse volunteers and leaders.

Part of what makes our TJC community blessed is our strong volunteer culture. A little over two years ago I was fortunate to become part of the Jewish Center family where I am blessed to work with talented staff and lay leaders as we continue to build upon TJC's strong history and bring our community to new heights. It has been so inspiring to see a past, current and future president work in such dedicated ways for The Jewish Center. The structure where TJC board presidents serve a year learning before their presidency, and a year after in an advisory capacity creates an important sense of continuity. It has been an honor to serve with Randy, Alexandra and Heidi. Each brings a deep commitment to our synagogue and the Jewish People and has spent a great deal of time, thought and energy helping our community to grow. Thank you, Randy, Alexandra and Heidi. Thank you to each person in our community who works to make TJC a warm and welcoming place. Thank you to each board member and every volunteer for the care that you give to TJC. Thank you to those who put forth new and bold ideas and to those who uphold long held traditions - we need both.

Over the last year our synagogue board read parts of a book entitled, *Creating Sacred Communities*, by Dr. Ron Wolfson and Rabbi Brett Kopin. In their work we are reminded that the synagogue is not a building; it is a sacred community made up of people who are committed to Jewish continuity through the building of covenantal relationships with each other and with God. We just celebrated the holiday of Shavuot where we not only remember the receiving of Torah at Sinai, but we recommit ourselves to a brit, a covenant, to uphold Torah by engaging in sacred Jewish communal life. Wolfson and Kopin remind us that one of

our sacred tasks is to help each other to build opportunities for meaning and belonging, and to create ways to do *tikkun olam*, to build a better world because of our community.

Each soul in our community is sacred and needed. There are so many ways to connect and to engage in our TJC community. Come take a class or teach a class, participate in a social event, or run one, come to a religious service, or help lead one, participate in our chesed work, or our many projects and activities. I would love the opportunity over the summer to share a coffee with you and consider ways for you to expand your involvement in the community or to think about your own spiritual life. Please reach out if you would like to schedule some time. And please join us on Friday night June 16 for our Volunteer Appreciation Night, a festive Shabbat service and program.

In our *Lev Shalem* prayer book, we read a Prayer for our Congregation: May our TJC members be blessed:

“May the One who blessed our ancestors bless our congregation, together with all other holy congregations: they, their families, along with all who devote themselves to establish synagogues for prayer, those who enter them, those who provide for their maintenance, wine for Kiddush, food for guests, bread for the hungry, tzedakah for the poor, shelter of the homeless, and all who faithfully devote themselves to the needs of the community.”

Rabbi Andrea Merow
RAM@thejewishcenter.org



MESSAGE from the President

Heidi Joseph
tjcpresident@thejewishcenter.org

Please note the NEW EMAIL address!

I have always loved the summer. It brings back memories of fun times at camp, playing with neighborhood friends, family vacations, visiting my grandmother in the bungalow colony, and the freeing feeling of having more than two months off from school.

My birthday also happens to be in the summer. While I didn't get to celebrate my birthday with the kids in school, I had parties with camp friends, school friends, and relatives. My sister and I share a birthday, so that just made for more parties!

As an adult, I've always loved summer because of the opportunity to play in the garden, to enjoy barbeques with friends and swim in the ocean. I am fortunate to be able to still share my birthday with my mom, sister and extended family, and we do so every year.

At The Jewish Center the start of summer coincides with the end of one fiscal year and the start of another. It is the time when our board terms end and new chairs take on new portfolios. June 1st is also the start of the new two-year term for President. This year I am so honored to be elected President and begin my term.

It's a pivotal time for The Jewish Center. We will be celebrating our 75th anniversary. We are proud that TJC has thrived for so long in an ever-changing world. We are grateful for our past leaders who have guided us through many challenges and triumphs.

Now it's time to set the foundation for the next 75 years. We need your help. No one can do this alone. Please let us know what you would like to do to ensure our future success. Let us know how you would like to be involved. If you aren't sure what opportunities exist, please call or email me. My mobile is 609-613-1663. My email is tjcpresident@thejewishcenter.org. I look forward to working with you as we plan for our future.

Wishing you a healthy and sun-filled summer.

B'shalom

Heidi

Klezmer Fans: A TJC congregant and novice accordionist is seeking musicians to play klezmer together -- just for the fun of it. All ages, skill levels, and klezmer instruments (especially violin and clarinet) are welcome. Email marilynmarkstal@gmail for information.





MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

I can't believe the year is coming to an end. We've had many highlights this year, and our students had many opportunities to enjoy being together. As we wrap up the year, I would like to recognize the unsung heroes of our religious school: our *madrichim*.

Our *Madrichim* come in on Sundays and Wednesdays to help out in the classroom and get to know our students. I asked them to share some meaningful memories with me, and I am excited to share some of them with you in their own words.

Shay: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was when this child was very upset when she was away from her parents, so we took a walk and I helped her cool down, we played some games, and we went back to class and everything was all good.

Liam: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was during one class in particular, the class was being rowdy and difficult so the teacher and I decided to turn it into a game throwing the ball in a circle...we have repeated this several times and they really enjoy it.

Paula: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was with a student as her shadow, comforting her when things were loud. It felt like good bonding.

Sam: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was when a student I was working with one on one said he enjoyed the Hebrew reading game I made up for him, and said that he liked reading Hebrew (that day).

Eric: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was when I to dance with the some of the students in my class on Simchat Torah night.

Sophie: When I saw a kid from my class on a trip to Vermont with my friends and we had a good laugh and a



nice shared memory.

Jake: A meaningful interaction I had with a child this year was when I was umpiring a TJC student at baseball, and he asked if I was teaching him next year. I said I was going to college, and he said, "I'm gonna miss you."

Gabriel: One thing I noticed this year was students started getting very interested in learning Hebrew and therefore got a lot better and enjoyed it more!

Cooper: Something memorable from this year was when we did the escape room on the iPads. It was very fun for me and the kids and it showed how much they have learned from Hebrew school.

Eli: Something memorable from this year was how enthusiastically the students sang *Adon Olam* as the year went on.

Phoebe: One thing I noticed this year was that kids learn Hebrew easily and can pick up new letters and vowels relatively quickly. They also are very open to new ideas and are very opinionated.

I also would like to wish a huge Mazal Tov to our graduating seniors. These students worked as *Madrichim* and attended Sulam classes, and watching them grow over the past five years has been my honor and privilege.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

L'Shalom,

Sharon



Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Jacob Zacks
June 3, 2023

Jacob Zacks is in 7th grade at Princeton Middle School and is passionate about the performing arts, especially musical theater. He sings, acts, and tap dances and has performed in community, school, and camp productions. Recent roles include Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka Jr*, Hubie in *Do Re Mi*, Ryan in *High School Musical*, and Tom in *Schoolhouse Rock*. When not in rehearsal or belting songs from the basement, Jacob enjoys skiing, spending time on the lake, hanging out with friends and family, and being an expert on all-things-Broadway. Just like big sister Noa, Jacob started his Jewish education in Yad b' Yad and graduated from The Jewish Center nursery school. He's grateful to all his TJC teachers and mentors through the years, especially Gila, Cilla, Avi, Rabbi Merow, and Rabbi Feldman of blessed memory.



Jack Farrington
June 10, 2023

Jack is in 7th grade at Princeton Day School. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family, playing lacrosse, skiing, biking and fly fishing. He also loves to cook and bake. For his *Chesed* project, he volunteered as a chef for Lasagna Love, an organization that delivers homemade lasagnas to those in need.



Peter Longo
June 17, 2023

Peter is a 7th grader at Princeton Day School. He loves the outdoors and some of his favorite activities include skiing, hiking, rock climbing, white water rafting, biking, and gardening. Often times, you can find Peter on the soccer field. He plays for the Princeton Day School Middle School team and his club team at NLSA. He is also an avid guitar player who likes to play all types of music. Peter enjoys spending time walking and playing with, Fred, his Bernese Mountain dog.

For his *Chesed* project, Peter worked in the garden at The Jewish Center last summer. He planted vegetables, watered and weeded, and harvested vegetables and herbs. Along with his brother Alex, and his Mom, he delivered what he harvested to the food bank at Jewish Children and Family Services in Princeton, New Jersey. Peter really enjoyed working in the garden knowing that he would also be helping families in need. Peter would like to express his gratitude to his parents and his brother for their support and guidance. He would also like to thank Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Sharon Diamondstein, Gila Levin, Avi Chesler, and Ronit Rackowski for their time and patience, and helping him to prepare for this day.



MESSAGE from the Director of Programming & Engagement

Emilie Kovit
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ekovit@thejewishcenter.org

Hello TJC-ers! I wanted to reach out to update you all about what I've been doing in my capacity as Director of Programming and Engagement since I started this past September, and to let you know some of my plans for the upcoming year.

One key thing I've been trying to do since starting here is to get to know as many people as possible. With that in mind, I have been attending most programs, and have been trying to introduce myself. I must say that the TJC nametag endeavor has been extremely helpful for me as I meet people and realize that the person or persons in front of me are the same I have been emailing back and forth with about one event or another – it gives me the chance to put the name to the face and helps me to start forming a real relationship. I would say it may do the same for many of you as well! So please continue to wear your nametags when you come in for services and events – it really helps to create and solidify bonds between you and other congregants (and staff!) and build community.

I have gradually been inserting myself as the one running the program details for many programs since I've been here. I'm now the "owner" of Shabbat Under the Stars and Cocktails in the Corridor. I *highly* recommend your attending these, especially if you haven't had a chance to yet. Shabbat Under the Stars is one of my favorite events for the month, when I see congregants come together and jointly create a "hamische" feeling, both in the service, and afterwards during the lovely potluck dinner. The services with Rabbi Merow and Avi Paradise are always warm and welcoming. And then it's so nice to get to sample foods made by others in the comfort of their homes that are then lovingly shared with fellow congregants. Everyone mixes it up with who they sit with, and I have seen people checking out TJC for the first time warmly absorbed into the group and made to feel as comfortable as possible. If you would ever like to be a "host" for an upcoming one, please reach out to me to let me know - all you need to do is prepare the salmon and invite your

network of friends – we do all the rest, so super easy! And for Cocktails in the Corridor, these are wonderful chances to have a drink and some cheese and crackers in celebration of a congregant's simcha, like with the recent ones sponsored by Allison and David Politzner in honor of David's birthday, or the one hosted by Linda and Arthur Meisel. And we are so lucky to have Becca Meurer, Gabrielle Markand, Roberta Sternthal and Polly Strauss curate our lobby art gallery and to get to see that art at one of our gallery openings.

Several other events stand out for me since I've been here that I was intimately involved with. The first was the Craft Fair on December 11, at which I had the honor of working closely with Abigail and Alex Welscher to bring as many vendors in to our spaces as our table inventory would allow! The amount of congregants who rolled up their sleeves to help out in every capacity was incredible, and it made me see how lucky I was to be a part of this community. Incidentally, we got great feedback from both the vendors and attendees and have already scheduled our next one – please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 19, 2023 for our next Craft Fair.

The Sarah Aroeste corps of volunteers absolutely blew me away, strongly led by Roberta Sternthal and Polly Strauss. The next notable event was the incredible Purim Party, "Purim in Hollywood," held here on March 6. Even though I was a little skeptical that people would turn out on a Monday night, the place was packed! The theme was inspired by Heather Salkin, an active member of our party committee, who offered up the many décor items left over from her daughter's Gatsby-esque bat mitzvah! She and Debbie Orel took charge of decorating the social hall and transformed the atmosphere to party central. The party organizing committee was fabulous, and everyone's talents were used. Volunteers shared their expertise and energy, which made the party a success. And I got to witness in awe as 11 skilled talented women whipped up an array of spreads, bruschetta toppings, crudité and more in record

time. We'll see what we come up with for next year, when Erev Purim falls on a Saturday night!

I have also been working closely with the committee for the Civil Rights Trip to visit important sites in the Civil Right movement in Georgia and Alabama on November 5 – 7. As of press time in April, we have reached our *minimum* of 20 attendees, which means the trip is definitely a go! The price of the trip for each attendee will go down as soon as we reach 25 attendees, so if you have been considering whether or not to join, this is a great time to sign up, and it will make the trip more affordable for everyone! So if interested, or you need more specifics, please email me. We have room for up to 50 attendees, so don't hesitate to sign up!

A goal for myself for the near future, in addition to running our programs, is to find more ways to engage our congregants. I am interested in developing lists of people with certain interests, and have already begun collecting information about types of programs people are attending, and tagging their interest in our Shulcloud database. Please be aware I am interested in putting together lists of the following – if you could share this information with me, I would greatly appreciate it:

- List of congregants who are veterans or active duty
- List of Holocaust survivors or children of Holocaust survivors

Then we can recognize you going forward and perhaps involve you in our programs for Veterans Day or Yom Hashoah.

If you are interested in volunteering in a certain area, or if you have an idea for a program or starting an activity that you would like to share with fellow community members (a great example is the TJC hike, which has been initiated by various congregants!), please reach out to me. Since I generally work in the office only on Thursdays and Fridays, and am working from home on the other days, I can best be reached by email at ekovit@thejewishcenter.org. I hope to see many of you soon!

Thank you to Our David Broza Concert Sponsors

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Committee

Riva Levy, Co-Chair | Debbie Soffen, Co-Chair
Alexandra Bar-Cohen, President
Debbie Orel | Gila Levin | Naomi Richman Neumann

Todah Rabah

to Sharon Tabor for your invaluable event
planning and to the ushers and volunteers for
helping to make it possible!

TJC Staff

Rabbi Andrea Merow
Joel Berger, Executive Director
Avi Paradise, Shaliach Tzibur
Sharon Diamondstein, Director of Congregational Learning
Emilie Kovit, Director of Programing and Engagement
Rabbi Bob Freedman
Roni Garrison, Executive Assistant
Cynthia Richman, School Executive Assistant

MEMBERSHIP



Mazal Tov...On Your Great News!

Email your news to us: mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org

To Leah Zeitler on the birth of her grandson, Harrison Brooks.

To Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman on the birth of their great-grandson, Harrison Brooks.

To Bobbi and Barry Freedman who are very happy to share that their newest granddaughter, Jocelyn Yael Steeil, arrived on April 26th! Melissa, Mike and big sister Sammi are thrilled to have Jocelyn join their family. Joss is named in loving memory of all four of Melissa and Mike's grandfathers.

To Myra Weiner, whose granddaughter, Lucy Bee Smolar, became a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, MD.

To Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman who were blessed with the birth of their first great-grandson (they have five great-granddaughters). The parents Moriah and Jason Sirotkin and sister Josie Rae were thrilled to welcome Harrison Brooks to their home. Grandmother Barbara Zeitler is also thrilled with Harrison's birth. The Bris took place on Monday, April 10. Fran kvelled when she learned that Harrison was named for her father, Arthur, and his Hebrew name is Aharon.

To Eliza Rosenthale, granddaughter of Ellen and George Pristach, on her induction into Phi Beta Kappa. Ellen and George were thrilled to attend the induction ceremony.

To Mollie (Malka) Stadlin, granddaughter of Maxine (Miryam) and Rabbi Emeritus Dov Peretz Elkins, who was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

To Alexandra Bar-Cohen for making TJC a center of community and social connection.

To Gefen Bar-Cohen for being accepted to Magen David Adom's First Responder course.

To Gabriel Bar-Cohen for being awarded a commendation of excellence as a commander in his IDF paratrooper brigade!

To Rabbi Andrea Merow and Rabbi Bob Freedman in appreciation of their warm welcome.

To Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Joel Berger, Sharon Diamondstein and the dedicated staff at The Jewish Center.

To this great community!

To Donna Rosenberg, Martha Friedman and the *Havurat Chesed*.

To Dr. Joan Goldstein, TV Host/Producer of "Back Story with Joan Goldstein," who chatted with Dr. Myra Weiner about her recent spiritual journey to Israel on Princeton TV30 and FIOS45. The show appears on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

To Dr. Joan Goldstein, Host/Producer of "Back Story with Joan Goldstein," taped a TV show with her guest Dr. Ruth Goldston on Goldston's work as a psychologist and her active leadership in meditation. The show will appear in May on TV30 and FIOS45.

To Bible BaBoker! This April marks the 10-year anniversary that Bible BaBoker has continued as a self-run group after Rabbi Annie Tucker (who founded Bible BaBoker) left TJC to move on in her rabbinical career.

To Congregant Eleni Litt who is showing art in two local shows and another in NYC. Two of her pieces are currently in the "Color My World" show at The Gallery at Lower Bucks from March 27th to May 25th. Another piece is at the West Windsor Arts Center "2023 Juried Members' Show: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" from March 28 to June 3. Her NYC Artist Beit Midrash (which meets at Temple Emanu-El's Streiker Center to study text and share artwork inspired by the text study) had a week-long show which recently closed. Be in touch with Eleni via email [ezlitt@gmail.com] if you are interested in receiving the catalogue, once it is available.

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 ekovit@thejewishcenter.org



**COMMEMORATE A LOVED ONE
YIZKOR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 5784**

Every year TJC produces an annual Yizkor Book of Remembrance. This booklet is used at services four times during the year when Yizkor is recited, beginning with Yom Kippur. To commemorate a loved one in this booklet, please list their name(s) below and return the bottom portion, together with a check or credit card payment of \$30 per name (through September 1 only). After September 1, the price increases to \$36 per name.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING:

The TJC Book of Remembrance is prepared **solely from your responses** – the **FINAL** deadline to order is September 8.

If you would like to be notified of future yahrzeit dates (**a few weeks before they occur**) and you currently are not receiving this information, please include the full English date of death and relationship when you return your form.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Roni Garrison at The Jewish Center office, (609) 921-0100 Ext. 200 or e-mail at info@thejewishcenter.org.



5784 YIZKOR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE ORDER FORM
Final Deadline, September 8
Return Form to TJC – 435 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540 Attn: Roni Garrison

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation: \$30 Per Name THROUGH September 1 only – AFTERWARDS \$36 per name. Use the form below.

___ My donation of \$_____ is enclosed by check payable to The Jewish Center.

___ Please charge my credit card (MC/VISA/AMEX) for my donation of \$_____.

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

 (Your name as Donor as you would like it to appear in the Book of Remembrance)

I wish to honor the memory of the following: (PLEASE PRINT FULL NAMES IN ENGLISH) If a past TJC congregant, please place an asterisk * next to the name If same as last year, check here <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

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NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT



AN INTERVIEW WITH RENEE AND TED ALTMAN

Background: The Altmans were both born and raised in New York City. They moved to East Windsor shortly after they were married. Ted is an electronics engineer and worked on bringing back the first pictures from the moon. Renee was a teacher and computer programmer/analyst. Ted still works part-time for a small company in Skillman and Renee is retired.

They have two children and three grandchildren. Their son, his wife and daughters live in Denver and will be moving to New Zealand this summer. Their daughter and grandson live in New York City and hopefully will stay in the area.

Ted is an avid tennis player and also enjoys playing guitar. Renee takes classes in Jewish Ethics and Talmud and is an active member of Community Without Walls. They both like working on puzzles, enjoy theater and dining out, especially with friends.

We interviewed Renee to find out more about them:

TJC: How did you decide to join TJC?

Renee: We were impressed by the lively services led by Avi Paradise and Rabbi Merow, the abundance of programs and opportunities to learn, the social events to enable us to meet and socialize with other community members, and the warm welcome we received from so many people.

TJC: What is your favorite Jewish Holiday?

Renee: Passover is our favorite holiday. Although it is the most work for me, it is a wonderful opportunity for family and friends to gather, retell the story of the Exodus, and enjoy a festive meal.

TJC: What has been your favorite TJC event so far?

Renee: Purim - the shul was filled with people projecting joy and fun to each other. It was also the time I read a small part of Megillat Esther. Thank you, Avi, for your help and encouragement! Ted has enjoyed playing guitar with the "Friday Night String Ensemble".

TJC: Is there something you are looking forward to at TJC?

Renee: We are looking forward to making new friends and participating more in services.

Congratulations to our Gil Gordon Congregant of the Year

Martha Friedman

We are pleased to announce that Martha Friedman has been named the 2023 Gil Gordon Congregant of the Year!

Martha Friedman has been a member of The Jewish Center since 1990 and her volunteerism spans many years.

She currently co-chairs *Chavurat Chesed*, the committee that calls our most senior congregants and reaches out to those who are ill or have specific needs and Martha was one of the co-creators of the Holocaust Remembrance Daffodil Garden. Additionally, she participates in planting and maintaining plantings around our grounds.

She recently hosted a TJC New Member luncheon for seniors and is part of the Kiddush Krew who prepares the Kiddush lunch for Shabbat.

Martha assisted with the arrangements for hosting High Holiday services at the Riverside School.

Sounds like Martha's very busy, right? Well, she also served on the region's *Chevra Kadisha* for more than 25 years, and was an early advocate and creator of *havurahs*, some of which are still in existence over 30 years later! In this endeavor, Martha organized meetings of interested congregants, grouped them by life cycle, and guided them on how to create a *havurah*.

Martha was also a member of the Religious School Committee in the 1990s, the Religious Affairs Committee in the early 2000s and has also served on several Nominating Committees.

Thank you for your volunteerism, Martha, and congratulations on receiving this honor!





High Holy Days 5784

The Jewish Center

New Year's Greeting Card

PLEASE JOIN JEWISH CENTER WOMEN (JCW) in wishing our congregation, family and staff a Shanah Tovah this year.

With a \$36 contribution your name will be included on a beautiful TJC New Year's card and support JCW.

Please complete form below.
Questions? jcwgreetings@thejewishcenter.org
Roberta Sternthal and Pam Zaifman



Please complete form by Sept. 1, 2023 with \$36 credit card or check payable to The Jewish Center.

Mail form to: The Jewish Center, Attn: JCW
435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Clearly Print Name(s) as you would like them to appear on the card:

Email: _____

I am enclosing _____ credit card _____ check payable to JCW

Credit Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Order Online at <https://bit.ly/3HVhGZy>

Shabbat Under the Stars

July 21

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

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

9:00 PM

MA'ARIV SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY THE
READING OF EICHA

THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

AT THE JEWISH CENTER

THOSE WHO PLAN ON ATTENDING IN
PERSON PLEASE BRING A FLASHLIGHT

ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

Congratulations to Our 2023 Richard B. Fishbane Award Winner

PHIL CARCHMAN

We are pleased to present the Richard B. Fishbane Award to the honorable Phil Carchman. Although we considered several excellent choices, Phil is the one who stood out to us this year for his service not only to The Jewish Center, but also to the greater Princeton community and beyond. Here is a small recap of his accomplishments:

After moving to Princeton in the Fall of 1966, JoAnn and Phil joined The Jewish Center. Phil joined his first TJC Board in 1969, and in 1975-1977, Phil served as President of TJC. He has continued his service on many TJC boards and has served on or chaired rabbi and cantor search and review committees and remains an active participant in both TJC religious and governance activities. Both of JoAnn and Phil's daughters were educated and celebrated their Bat Mitzvah at TJC

While active at TJC, Phil also had an active professional career. Following a judicial clerkship and service as a Deputy Attorney General, he was a member of the West Orange and Princeton law firm of Carchman, Annich, Sochor & Shuster from 1967 to 1981.

Phil began his judicial career in 1973 when he was appointed to the part-time position of Municipal Court judge of Princeton Township and Princeton Borough. In 1981, Governor Brendan T. Byrne appointed him to the office of Mercer County Prosecutor, and he served in that position until 1986 when Governor Thomas Kean appointed Judge Carchman to the Superior Court of New Jersey. He was reappointed by Governor James Florio in 1993.

In 1995, he was appointed by Chief Justice Robert Wilentz to serve as Assignment Judge of the Mercer vicinage. Chief Justice Deborah Poritz appointed him to the Appellate Division in 1997. From 2004 to 2008, Phil took a leave of absence from the Appellate Division and was appointed the Acting Administrative Director of Courts, where he served with three Chief Justices – Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, Chief Justice James Zazzali and Chief Justice Stuart Rabner. He returned to the Appellate Division in 2008. He has authored over 1200 written opinions. He has served in every judicial position in New Jersey including temporary assignments to the Supreme Court.

In August 2021, Phil was appointed by Chief Justice Rabner to serve as the independent 11th member of the New Jersey Apportionment Commission.

He presently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Penn Medicine – Princeton Health Center, the Princeton Senior Resource Center and the Evergreen Forum. He was recently

awarded the 2022 “Making Democracy Work Award” by the New Jersey League of Women Voters as well as the 2018 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law and the Mercer County Bar Association. He has lectured at the National Judicial College, the American Academy of Judicial Education, the New Jersey Judicial College as well as the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Princeton University, Rutgers University and Rutgers University Law School.



Two other notable volunteer activities included serving as a member of the State Working Group on Domestic Violence. The work of this group resulted in the enactment of the New Jersey Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. He was a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Gender Bias. One of Phil's present activities is as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Historical Advisory Board.

Phil graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He and JoAnn, the former Director of Community Relations at the Princeton University Art Museum, are the parents of two daughters and four grandchildren.

On a more personal note I remember how Richard would come home from Shabbat services and spoke about how he loved spending time talking with Phil between prayers, how he loved his intellectual depth and kindness. I also remember how helpful he was to my son, Alex, advising him on his legal career. Alex said that Phil was a great mentor, highly regarded in the legal profession and most importantly KIND to everyone he encountered. Alex said that working with Phil made him feel honored to be part of the legal profession.

- JoAnn Fishbane

JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org			
4	5	6 12:00 PM Bridge Club	7 12:00 PM Talmud 7:00 PM Cooking
11 1:00 PM Trenton Thunder Baseball Game	12	13 12:00 PM Bridge Club	14 12:00 PM Talmud
18 Father's Day	19 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	20 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 12:00 PM Bridge Club 7:30 PM Book Club	21 12:00 PM Talmud
25 1:00 - 4:00 PM Interfaith Stitchers	26	27 12:00 PM Bridge Club	28 12:00 PM Talmud

IYAR-SIVAN 5783

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 AM 55 Plus	2 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 8:05 PM Candle Lighting	3 Nasso 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Zacks 9:14 PM Havdalah
7 d Study Group ng Demo with Samira Ghani	8 9:30 AM Pikers	9 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 8:09 PM Candle Lighting	10 Beha'lotcha 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Jack Farrington 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 9:18 PM Havdalah
14 d Study Group	15 9:30 AM Nosh and Drosh 10:00 AM 55 Plus	16 Shabbat of Appreciation 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 8:13 PM Candle Lighting	17 Shabbat Mevarchim 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Peter Longo 9:21 PM Havdalah
21 d Study Group	22 7:00 PM Joint EC and Board Meeting	23 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Pr. 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:14 PM Candle Lighting	24 Korach 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 9:22 PM Havdalah
28 d Study Group	29	30 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Pr. 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:15 PM Candle Lighting	

JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org</p>			
2	3	Independence Day	4 12:00 PM Talmud Study Group
9	10	12:00 PM Bridge Club	11 12:00 PM Talmud Study Group
16	17	12:00 PM Bridge Club 7:30 PM Book Club	18 Rosh Chodesh Av 12:00 PM Talmud Study Group
23	24	12:00 PM Bridge Club	25 Erev Tisha B'Av 12:00 PM Talmud Study Group 9:00 PM Erev Tisha B'Av
30	31		

TAMMUZ-AV 5783

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Chukat-Balak 1 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 9:22 PM Havdalah
5	Fast of Tammuz 6	7 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:13 PM Candle Lighting	Pinchas 8 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 9:21 PM Havdalah
12		13 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:10 PM Candle Lighting	14 Matot-Masei Shabbat Mevarchim 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 9:18 PM Havdalah
19		20 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:30 PM Shabbat Under the Stars 8:06 PM Candle Lighting	21 Devarim Shabbat Hazon 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 9:13 PM Havdalah
26	Tisha B'Av 27	28 11:00 AM Kiddush Krew Prep 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:59 PM Candle Lighting	29 Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker 10:00 AM Kiddush Krew 9:06 PM Havdalah



Israel & Us

Dona, Dona has a lovely, haunting quality. The song was written by Sholom Secunda and Aaron Zeitlin. Check out the Joan Baez version here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQrsSvms8Kw.

Wikipedia explains the international life this song has taken since 1940 and examines how the words, “*Dona, Dona*” might have meant calf or might have been the sound of a carriage driver keeping horses moving along. For me, the lyrics tell a story of journey, as well as a cautionary tale. The song’s goal is to show how we can use our choices to progress towards or away from wisdom and freedom. For this reason, this song’s inclusion in our family Passover Seder repertoire infuses great spirit to the holiday’s finale.

Ever since I sang the song as a camper at the Ewing JCC, my connections to this song have grown and gained gravitas. My mom and I were once listening to music after dinner, singing about the swallow flying above a calf with a mournful eye on its way to slaughter. And over this sad calf, the Winds laugh. Not the Mahjong Winds, but the allegorical ones! So, where is the hope and magic towards transcendence? After my mom Linda (Fisher-Taub/Ozegowsky-Gunther) Edelman and I discussed our connections to this song, we consulted Google and learned the following: “*If you remain unconscious of the soul, you will be easily bound and slaughtered. You will live enslaved to your desires and your body will die without understanding the purpose of your life. But if you treasure freedom, the freedom of the soul, then you will learn to transcend the limitations of the body and small mind and you will understand your life from a higher perspective. You will be free.*”*

This moment with my mom several years back, unknowingly right before the end of the remission of her illness, gave us a sense of peace and brought us to consider the meaning of a life well-lived; we read that “*What the song is saying is that the character of G-d, the spiritual creative force of the universe, is primarily loving*

kindness.” We agreed on the enduring power of this force beyond the body and the persistence of spirit with its focus on ideals directing our life’s choices. Coincidentally, I went to buy a vase for my mom’s birthday and happened upon a

lovely glass swallow, just like in the song. I bought with it a watercolor of a tree wrapped in a ribbon and inscribed with a paraphrase of John Muir’s words similar in meaning to the following: The more one pulls on a thread in nature, the more one realizes everything is connected. Two gifts for the gifts of a wonderful mom and the acknowledgements that came from sharing this song. Moving forward and into July, a month commencing with the topic of freedom, *Dona, Dona* seems an apt inspiration on a personal and



communal level.

Sherry (Fisher-Taub/Ozegowsky-Gunther//Alper-Schechter/Herzberg-Edelman) Meyer has lived locally with her husband Gerard (Selzer-Rosenwasser/Riesenberg-Storper//Weiss-Ritter/Hanke) Meyer for the past 25 years. They were married at The Jewish Center 35 years ago while residing in Boston, unaware that they would raise three sons blocks away from their vows or walk their many dogs past the place of this union. For fun, they have written a few songs together that their sons can play on the piano or sing. Sherry, as a family heritage buff, is a fan of custom making and adding the matrilineal heritage when writing out family names in order to honor the spirit of all the family branches. Also, this habit is super useful to leave a trail for future generations who enjoy genealogy and searching through archives that this newsletter collection will fill one day. Sherry created the photo collage above (Timeless Grins) for her heritage tracking within a home-made, family tree mind-map. Anyone interested in finding, keeping or organizing family heritage is welcome to contact her for advice about how to begin. In closing, now Sherry’s dad Fred (Alper-Schechter/Herzberg) Edelman can be seen skipping along with Fran Turim Zeitler. If you do, you may see that aforementioned transcendent mindset at work.

*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dona,_Dona

** Commentary link for more interesting learning and the full lyrics:

http://www.jewishmag.com/144mag/dona_dona/dona_dona.htm



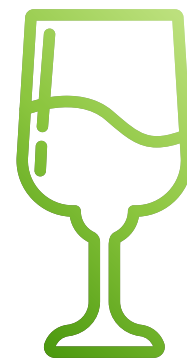
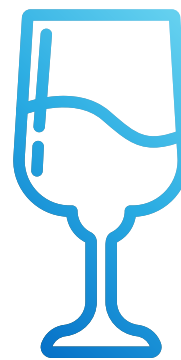
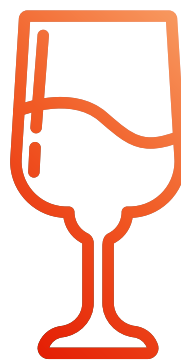
Join us: June 15 at 9:30 a.m.
Guest Facilitator: Adriana Saipe

The Modern Ketubah: How today's ketubah artists both honor tradition and bring a fresh perspective to this ancient custom

With the first known ketubah being almost 2,500 years old, this uniquely-Jewish wedding custom has been developed, refined and reimagined time and time again. Over the centuries, ketubot have ranged from elaborately-illuminated manuscripts hung with pride in the homes of the wealthy, to grainy photocopies that a Rabbi asks the couple to quickly sign before the wedding ceremony, to pieces of contemporary art that reflect the couple's personal values and artistic styles. Ketubah texts have also transformed over the years in fascinating and forward-reaching ways. Contemporary ketubah artist and Montgomery resident Adriana Saipe has hand-crafted over 4000 ketubot for couples around the world. She's excited to chat about the custom and artform of ketubahs from the past to the present, as well as discuss where this beautiful Jewish custom may be heading next.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/inkwithintent/>

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.

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

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

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



CONTRIBUTIONS

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

GENERAL FUND

In honor of

Rabbi Andrea Merow and Rabbi Bob Freedman in appreciation of their warm welcome

from Prof. Allan Tulchin

Ruth Goldston, thank you

from Donna and David Gabai

In memory of

Larry Berger

from Donna and David Gabai,

David and Lorraine Kveskin

Merle Rose

from Michael and Lori Feldstein,

Linda and Alan Levitt

Benjamin Robert Mohr

from Marilyn Zagorin

Rose Lackowitz

from Vickie and Jeff Solomon

Agnes Klein, adopted Holocaust child

from Vickie and Jeff Solomon

Merle Rose, a wonderful, caring

teacher, in and out of the classroom

from Judy and Mike Leopold

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In honor of

Betsy Ie

from Susanti Ie

In memory of

Benis Berger

from Sandra Sussman and

Ronald Schnur

ANNUAL FUND

In honor of

Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Joel Berger, Sharon Diamondstein and the dedicated staff at The Jewish Center

from Warren Mitlak and

Tirza Wahrman

Alexandra Bar-Cohen for making

TJC a center of community and social connection

from Debra Bass

This great community

from Seth Fishman and Anna Kitces

In memory of

Rabbi Adam Feldman

from Kenneth and Michelle Goldman,

Adam and Michal Scheer

Richard Fishbane

from Joanne Reiffe Fishbane

Merle Rose

from Neal and Carli Masia,

Melanie Stein

Beni Berger

from Ruth Goldston

ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

from Rebecca Meurer

In honor of

Becca Meurer

from Sara and Steven Just

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of

David Politziner on his special birthday

from Ellen Banash

Avi Paradise for your time, kindness and support for Talia's Bat Mitzvah

from Andrea and Alan Martinez

In memory of

Richard Hanson

from Chris Hanson Kaufman

ISRAELI AFFAIRS FUND

In memory of

Herman Lichtman

from Sheila Marrero

THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND

from Eileen Fraker and John McCaffrey

from Mary Furlong

from Anna and Michael Nolan

from Paul and Anne Disdier

In honor of

Leah Zeitler on the birth of her grandson, Harrison Brooks

from Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen

Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred

Edelman on the birth of their great-grandson, Harrison Brooks

from Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen

David Politziner on his special birthday

from Joan Levin

Alison Politziner

from Carey, Sammy and Kye,

Sarah Cheslock

Betsy Ie, aka Mom

from Andy Ie

Myra Weiner on her granddaughter, Lucy, becoming a Bat Mitzvah

from Fran Zeitler Edelman

and Fred Edelman

Betsy Ie

from Greg Stankiewicz and Julia Rubin

In memory of

Ezekiel Tulszy

from Joan Levin

Merle Rose

from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

Joan Alpert

from Richard Levine and Kathy Ales

JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND

In honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Georgina

Gitterman

from Judy and Mike Leopold, Helaine

and Hanan Isaacs

In memory of

Meryl Rose

from Cathy Quartner Bailey

LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

from Lynne Ross

In honor of

Gefen and Gabriel Bar-Cohen

from Marsha and Eliot Freeman

Rabbi Andrea Merow with gratitude on Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah

from Amy and Eran Zacks

Avi Paradise with gratitude on Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah

from Amy and Eran Zacks

Joel Berger with gratitude on Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah

from Amy and Eran Zacks

Gila Levin for all the tutoring – preparing Jacob to become a Bar Mitzvah

from Amy and Eran Zacks

In memory of

Merle Rose

from Amy and Eran Zacks, Marsha and Eliot Freeman

MARCHAND ESPIR FAMILY**HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND****In memory of**

Sidney and Ann Blair

from Lewis and Lynn Coopersmith

Hyman and Gertrude Coopersmith

from Lewis and Lynn Coopersmith

PRAYERBOOK FUND**In memory of**

Ray Unger

from Myra Weiner

RABBI ADAM FELDMAN**MEMORIAL FUND****In memory of**

Jacinto (Jack) Marrero

from Sheila Marrero

RABBI MEROW'S DISCRETIONARY**FUND**

*from Michael and Lori Feldstein**

In honor of

Arya Tamar Lehtman's baby naming, April 1, 2023

from Ayelet and Michael Lehtman

Rabbi Merow for your time, kindness and support for Talia's Bat Mitzvah

from Andrea and Alan Martinez

Rabbi Merow for making our celebration of the 5th anniversary a joyous occasion

from Fran Zeitler Edelman and

Fred Edelman

Rabbi Merow for your kindness

from The Sternbergs

In memory of

Phyllis Schneider

from Ron and Laura Sucher

Rose Golub

from Judy and Howard Wiener

Merle Rose

from Lew and Barbara Gantwerk,

Evy and Marc Simon

Ralph T. Heymsfeld

from Joel Heymsfeld

Maurice M. Levy

from Beverly Levy Beer

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**In honor of**

Georgina Gitterman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

from Cynthia and Tom Richman

Cilla, Ellen, Carol, Cynthia, Sharon

and all the TJC teachers who have supported Jacob since Yad b'Yad

from Amy and Eran Zacks

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND**In honor of**

Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman on their 5th wedding anniversary

from Joe and Barbara Schwartz

The B'not Mitzvah Class of 1997

from Irene Goldfarb

In memory of

Joan Alpert

from Fran Zeitler Edelman

and Fred Edelman

SOCIAL ACTION FUND**In honor of**

Donna Rosenberg, Martha Friedman and the Havurat Chesed

from Rebecca Gurk

In memory of

Merle Rose

from Linda and Art Meisel, Sara and Steven Just

Benis Berger

from Shoshana Silberman

SOCIAL ACTION – HOUSING FUND**In memory of**

Merle Rose

from Fran Zeitler Edelman and

Fred Edelman

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND**In memory of**

Merle Rose

from Merrie Guyton

**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:**

Deborah Schneider, mother of Barry (Allison) Schneider
Merle Rose, mother of Abigail (Adam Seiden) Rose

Benis Berger, stepmother of Ruth (Rob) Goldston
Longtime member Joan Alpert

Intro to Hebrew Reading Course

FREE at TJC



Sunday mornings starting in
September 2023
during religious school.
Stay tuned for details.

Interested?
Please email Sharon
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Judaism's Best Kept Secret

Jewish tradition asks of us to honor our loved ones, even after they pass on. The volunteers who take on this task of preparing our loved ones for a proper Jewish burial are called the Chevra Kadisha—Holy Society. Women care for women, men care for men.

Judaism embraces the reality of death giving the Chevra Kadisha the opportunity to be the last ones to attend to these memorable people. Jews caring for Jews... a most beautiful tradition, one that must be cherished and continued.

We invite our Jewish community, women and men, to learn more about participating in this Ultimate Mitzvah. Please contact Laurie at rablau@comcast.net

GIVE AN EVERLASTING GIFT

Personalize a

BRICK PAVER

on our

"TJC community walkway"

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

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

**Contact the office for more information:
info@thejewishcenter.org**



Book Club

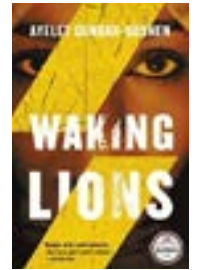
Tuesday, June 20

7:30 p.m.

via Zoom.*

Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

“Gundar-Goshen is adept at instilling emotional depth into a thriller plot, delivering the required twists and turns along with an incisive portrayal of her characters’ guilt, shame and desire, fluidly shifting between their perspectives. Although the tension slackens midway through as the narrative becomes burdened with elaborate back stories and lengthy musings, readers will be rewarded by its exhilarating, cinematic finale. Skillfully translated by Sondra Silverston, *Waking Lions*” is a sophisticated and darkly ambitious novel, revealing an aspect of Israeli life rarely seen in its literature.” (New York Times)



On **Tuesday, July 18**, we'll meet at a member's home at 6:00 p.m. for an outdoor Potluck Dinner and Book Swap, weather permitting. Email Louise Sandburg at louise@sandsmith.com for details.

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

August 15 – *Portrait of an Unknown Woman* by Daniel Silva

September 19 – *The Latecomer* by Jean Koretz

October 17 – *The Calculating Stars* by Mary Robinette Kowal

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

Havurah Minyan
June 10 & 24
10:00 a.m.

Havurah Minyan will meet the second and fourth Shabbat in June and will be on hiatus in July and August.

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.

Synagogue Spotlight



Vera Herman Goodkin arrived in New York from Czechoslovakia in 1947, at age 16, after four years in innumerable hiding places, safe houses, and holding facilities. Through luck, clever decisions, and the help of Raoul Wallenberg, both Vera and her parents survived the Holocaust.

But despite her achievements—a PhD in English; a professorship in English literature at Mercer County Community College; her husband, Jerry; two daughters and three grandchildren—Vera



says, “[The Holocaust] lives with me. I’m not an optimist. I worry too much and take everything apart, and I’m much too sensitive.”

Early on, Vera had a passion to share her Holocaust experiences. “But it didn’t work well because nobody understood what I was saying. They would say, ‘Oh, you must be exaggerating; human beings don’t do that to other

human beings.’ So I shut up for 37 years.”

A phone call and a request to share her experiences at a celebration of Wallenberg’s life changed. Her talk to 800 people was “my coming out. I never stopped talking.”

Prewar her family lived well, her father a doctor and medical director. But for nine-year-old Vera that life ended when, after “a very gradual introduction to dehumanization,” the Nazis marched into town on March 15, 1939, and “everything changed.” Her very patriotic father did not try to use his US visa number until he “realized things were not what they used to be” and it was too late.

Between 1939 and 1943 her family of “professional escapees” initially used vacation homes of friends and colleagues, until this endangered their owners. “We had spent time in more attics and cellars and hidden walls and underground, you name it, than you could possibly imagine, but we were together.”

One night they were awakened by Nazis and marched to a medieval fortress outside Budapest. When the dungeon’s 2,000 inhabitants left for Auschwitz, her group replaced them. “The most dramatic, most horrible feeling was that, for the first time in all those years, we lost touch with my father,” Vera recalled, adding that the walls crawled with bedbugs and “we were their major food supply.”

Later, in an old armory, the warden gathered mothers and children to meet with undercover Wallenberg reps, who had

agreed to take out any children ages 5 to 15, but only with their mothers’ permission. “My mother looked at me and passed out,” Vera recalled, and immediately the men grabbed Vera and carried her away bodily. Her mother later explained her thinking that night: “If you were going to sleep in something that was like a bed and given nourishment that would pass for food and if you were going to tell the story, I had no right to keep you.”

During a scarlet fever epidemic in her orphanage, Vera was



hospitalized with a bout of the disease that saved her life. While she was hospitalized, 26 children in her group were murdered by “a bunch of drunken black shirts [Hungarian Nazis].”

In the meantime, her father, on a death march with his nephew, convinced a Hungarian secret service man to

bring them to Budapest, where Vera’s uncle, an attorney, would ransom them.



Her mother was put on a train to Auschwitz that unexpectedly stopped at a prison in a former military installation, where the Nazis searched for the Jewish daughter-in-law of a high-ranking Hungarian official. Her mother saw a man who looked like (and was) her husband, who was the “camp physician.” Thinking quickly, he brought her mother a small vial of liquid, and upon drinking it, she fainted; two attendants then took her to have her stomach pumped. Her parents were among four who survived this transport of 2,000; the rest were lined up against the wall and shot.

Vera’s parents escaped the prison during a partisan uprising, and they walked the difficult distance to Budapest. At the Swedish Embassy, her father met with Wallenberg, who told him, “We

Synagogue Spotlight



have your little girl.”

When Vera met her parents, she said, “I didn’t believe it; I thought I was going crazy. I was holding onto them because I thought they would disappear.”

Eventually they made it to safety, but the young Vera was a deeply changed person. When her parents gave her a beautiful, tailor-made suit, she responded, “Oh, that’s nice.” When her mother asked, “Don’t you appreciate it?” Vera replied, “I’ve forgotten how to be pleased—[I’m] the girl who can’t be happy anymore. I was 14, going on 50.”

Back together, the family eventually found refuge and her father resumed work. But as he saw his beloved country turning communist, he decided to use his US visa number: “One terrible experience in a lifetime is enough.”



Meeting - June 2023

June 22 at 7:00 p.m.
Joint EC and Board Meeting

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-vNkJQkIGWWJrdDBFMlp2dz09>

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



Welcome Home House



וְהָיָה בְשִׁבְטֵי אֲשֶׁר-גָּר הַגֵּר אִתְּךָ שָׁם תִּתְּנֶנּוּ נַחֲלָתוֹ נֶאֱמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: (פ)

"You shall give the stranger an allotment within the tribe where s/he resides declares the Adonai our God." - Ezekiel 47:23



Support our community initiative to help create housing for our Ugandan political asylum seekers and future refugees coming to Princeton.

Be a part of our welcoming community and donate today.

This program is sponsored by The Jewish Center.

Thank you



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TJC SOCIAL ACTION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TJC HAS BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO SECURE A REGULAR VOLUNTEERING SPOT AT CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY KITCHEN (CCK). LOCATED IN PRINCETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN PRINCETON, CCK IS A FANTASTIC ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES REGULAR MEALS TO THOSE IN NEED, AS WELL AS OPERATES GROCERY AND CLOTHING "SHOPS."

TJC IS ABLE TO SEND A SMALL GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, STARTING MAY 3RD.

DETAILS:

WHEN: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, FROM ABOUT 4:30-6:45

WHERE: PRINCETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7 VANDEVENTER AVE

WHAT: VOLUNTEERS WILL BE HELPING SERVE FOOD AND BUS TABLES IN THE KITCHEN AND/OR WORK IN THE GROCERY OR CLOTHING STORE BY ASSISTING PEOPLE SHOPPING, MANAGING CROWD FLOW, AND STRAIGHTENING UP. MASKS MAY BE REQUIRED.

HOW MANY: 3 VOLUNTEERS OR A FAMILY OF FOUR FOR EACH DATE

WHO: OPEN TO THE TJC COMMUNITY TO VOLUNTEER. NO MINIMUM AGE FOR VOLUNTEERS BUT ANY CHILD UNDER 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

GO TO THE SIGN-UP BELOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
MORE QUESTIONS? EMAIL LISA ROGOL AT LMROGOL125@GMAIL.COM

NOTE: THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK) VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY, WHICH TAKES PLACE ON THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME FOR THAT AS WELL. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THAT OPPORTUNITY, PLEASE EMAIL SARA JUST AT SARAJUST@GMAIL.COM

Do you have a
Simcha or happy
occasion to celebrate?

Email us at mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org so we
can celebrate with you!

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

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

Jewish Themed Civil Rights Trip

Sunday, November 5 - Tuesday, November 7
Space is still available!



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

25-50 people - \$995 per person

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.

Deposit is \$250.

Please email ekovit@thejewishcenter.org to indicate interest or to confirm your spot!



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—Avot De Rebbe Natan



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The Jewish Center is grateful for the many donations that you give both in honor of joyous occasions and in memory of beloved family and friends. To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices clearer, a donor form is printed on the back of each monthly newsletter. Donor forms are also available in the Main Office. We thank you for the generosity that goes into each of these donations!

Your name(s) as you would like it to appear in newsletter: _____

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Send donation acknowledgement to: _____

(A beautiful new tribute card will be sent for contributions of \$18 or more. A listing will be posted as you would like it to appear in the newsletter for any donated amount.)

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Please indicate your choice below and mail this form and a check to The Jewish Center, 435 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540. If you are interested in planned giving opportunities, please call The Jewish Center office, 609-921-0100 ext. 200.

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- Contributor \$360
- Supporter \$540
- Macher \$1000

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- Small - \$250
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