

Celebrating 75 Years!

May 4, 2024
Sail the Chai Seas!



Lori and Michael Feldstein



Linda and Michael Grenis



Arlene and Henry Opatut



1949-2024



Alison and David Politziner

Honoree Highlights - see page 3
Sponsorship and Gala Information - see page 20



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The Jewish Center Princeton

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DIAMOND JUBILEE
75
1949-2024

Save the Date
for our Main Event

May 4, 2024

"Sail the Chai Seas"
Sponsorships available
- see pages 20-21

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



DIAMOND JUBILEE
1949-2024

Our 75 Anniversary Honorees

Lori & Michael Feldstein



Celebrating TJC's 75th anniversary fills us with gratitude and nostalgia. For Michael, it's been a lifelong presence from Hebrew School to his bar mitzvah. Years later, Lori was warmly welcomed to TJC and this community would go on to shape our family's journey. Our children grew up at TJC and formed enduring friendships. TJC is our anchor, offering support in joy and sorrow. Serving on the board gave us both an opportunity to give back, and for Michael, the honor of serving as President was a privilege. As the TJC turns 75, we extend heartfelt wishes to its current leaders, hoping TJC's flame burns bright for 75 more years.

Linda & Michael Grenis

We joined The Jewish Center in 1990. We jumped into TJC with two feet, becoming actively involved in the school, volunteer roles in shul and participating in oodles of adult education, social events and trips. TJC became the center of our lives, and it is where we met the majority of our friends!

There hasn't been a better decision we could have made upon moving to Princeton. From baby namings, to B'nai Mitzvot, to Aufrufs, TJC has been there for us. It has been an especially comforting place during our darkest and most challenging times. Each member of our family would tell you that The Jewish Center has helped shape their life. Our family's strong love of Judaism was etched, nurtured and cultivated at TJC and we are forever grateful.



Arlene & Henry Opatut



We became members in 1979, soon after we moved to Princeton and the birth of our daughter, Jessica^{z"l}. And yes, we remember services for the High Holidays taking place in a tent. When our son Daniel turned 2, he joined the pre-nursery school play group, and then spent the next 15 years growing up in this building.

Over the years we've participated in many programs and activities, both educational and charitable.

We're grateful for all that The Jewish Center has given us and cherish the family we've acquired since becoming members.

David & Alison Politziner

The rhythm of our lives is played out at The Jewish Center Shabbat after Shabbat, Yom Kippur after Yom Kippur. The melody holds long measures of Sammy and Sarah's Hebrew School experiences leading to the crescendos of their bar and bat mitzvahs.

Listening back on our 40 years of membership, we hear ourselves adding the high notes of many friendships and appreciating the opportunities to add more, the blessing of an unfinished symphony.





MESSAGE from the Rabbi

Rabbi Andrea Merow
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RAM@thejewishcenter.org

Celebrating the Land, the Earth, and a Miracle

Our ancient rabbis designated the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat as the way that the Jewish people would count the birthday of the trees. This was originally enacted so that people would know when one could harvest fruit from a new tree. The Torah only allows us to eat fruit from a tree after the 3rd birthday of the tree. Though it is mid-winter in the United States, the bulk of the winter will have passed in Israel and rain-soaked land is the right time to begin to prepare to plant in the spring. Many of you remember Tu Bishvat as the holiday from your youth when you would plant trees in Israel using funds from the tzedakah that you put into the little blue Jewish National Fund Boxes that you had in Hebrew school or at home. The date of the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat has morphed into a holiday where we celebrate the birthday of the trees, our connections to the land of Israel, and more broadly, our care and concern for the environment in general.

In Deuteronomy 20:19 we learn that even in war we are not allowed to destroy trees. The Torah rhetorically notes, “are trees human?” Meaning, if a tree were human, it would be able to retreat in war. Since trees are immovable and necessary for life, we are taught not to destroy them – even in war. One of my favorite Hebrew poems by Natan Zach is a play on this verse, *ki haAdam hu etz hasadeh*, “For the Human is the Tree in the Field.” Zach compares the life of a tree to our lives. He notes that like a tree a human can be chopped down, can burn, but also thirsts. I add that like a tree we need to breathe and to feel connected to the land.

As city dwellers who do not live on farms, it is often hard to feel that deep connection to the land and its cycles. This year during the war in Israel we were yet again reminded how we as humans critically depend upon the produce of the land. Much, though not all, of the produce of the Land of Israel comes from the farms in the south of Israel. After the war began, many farms that were right near Gaza were evacuated leaving no one to harvest the land. Farms all over the country did not have enough workers because most foreign workers left after the war began and many Israelis were called up to reserve duty, leaving not enough people to harvest the produce that would feed the people of Israel and provide income to farmers. And then, a miracle happened. People showed up to harvest. There are an incredible number of stories of Israelis and others who just started volunteering



on farms near Gaza and all over Israel to make sure the harvest occurred. There are WhatsApp groups where people from all over the country would be notified of where harvesting and farmers were needed, and just like that regular citizens mobilized and made sure that the farms were covered. They went knowing that they were in harm’s way as there would only be eight seconds to get to a shelter if bombs fell. They went to make sure that Israel was fed and that farmers could survive. During this terrible war, there are also so many instances where individuals from Israel and around the world have just shown up as volunteers to help each other. This is one of

the small bright lights during a very dark time.

This year we invite you to celebrate Tu Bishvat with us at TJC and with our new sister congregation in Israel. On Sunday, January 21 we will hold a joint learning opportunity and “meet and greet” in honor of Tu Bishvat on Zoom with members of the Magen Avraham congregation in Omer, Israel. As a way to create deeper connections with Israel, TJC is now partnering with a beautiful Masorti (Conservative) congregation in Omer, Israel through a partnership program with United Synagogue. Congregation Magen Avraham is a wonderful shul that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Omer is a town near Be’er Sheva and close to Ben Gurion University. Our own Barak Bar-Cohen became bar mitzvah at this shul. My last congregation also had a relationship with this shul, so I have had the pleasure of spending a Shabbat with this extraordinary community. To learn more about Magen Avraham go here: www.magenav.org. Check your email in January for a sign-up.

Also, remember to honor Tu Bishvat by thinking of the environment. Locally, visit Sustainable Princeton, led by our own Eve Coulson and Alexandra Bar-Cohen, to see how we can help the environment right here: <https://www.sustainableprinceton.org>. For information about environmental work and study in Israel, visit my friends at The Arava Institute housed at Kibbutz Ketura at <https://arava.org/>. To plant a tree in Israel and to remember the blue Tzedakah boxes of your youth, visit The Jewish National Fund at jnf.org.

Rabbi Andrea Merow



MESSAGE from the President

Heidi Joseph
tjcpresident@thejewishcenter.org

Each Friday night at services, Rabbi Merow asks us what our blessings have been for the past week. Many of us sit quietly and reflect, others raise their hands and share their blessings. Blessings of all types - from my children are visiting to we celebrated a special anniversary to we got a new refrigerator are shared.

There is something very special about recognizing the positive things in your life—from the very little things to the bigger ones. It feels good. It's great to go to the doctor and get a clean bill of health or to be able to celebrate your child's accomplishments or to finish a book you have found challenging. We need to stop and do this with more frequency.

In these difficult times, it's too easy to get caught up in bad news. It's depressing, sad, stressful, anxiety-producing, and seemingly everywhere. While we have little control over the news, we do have control over taking account of the good things in our lives.

As Jews, we get to celebrate New Years twice a year. On the High Holidays we have the opportunity to repent and to start the new year with a clean slate. On December 31, we celebrate the New Year again—in secular style. While we may not repent, we do get to make resolutions. This is a hopeful way to define our future - to try to improve upon our current situation.

I recommend you try Rabbi Merow's technique and think about your blessings each week. Write your blessings down. Place them in a jar or box—and next December, when you open it, you will be able to reflect on all the good you experienced in 2024!

May your New Year be filled with Good Health, Much Happiness and Peace!

B'shalom,

Heidi



Interfaith Stitchers



Upcoming meetings of Central New Jersey Interfaith Stitchers for Peace:

January 21 at Harlingen Church in Belle Mead from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

February 18 at the Islamic Society of Central New Jersey,
4145 US-1 Monmouth Junction from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

All knitters, crocheters, quilters and anyone interested in participating with an interfaith group are most welcome! For more information, please contact Judy Leopold at: judyleopold@yahoo.com



MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger
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jberger@thejewishcenter.org

Another Year, Another Number

Happy New Year. By the time you receive this, we will be headstrong into 2024. An election year. An Olympic year and of course, at the beginning of every New Year, my digit changes as well. Happy 61 to me. So of course, I decided to delve into the meaning of 61 and what I could find about that number. Aside from Roger Maris, which was too obvious.

61 is the 18th prime number. That's a nice Jewish connection. Life (Chai) begins at 61? I'll take that any year. It is also the sum of two consecutive squares: $5^2 + 6^2$. Cool if you like numbers.

If you want to call Australia, 61 is the country code. Billy Crystal made a play entitled 61. 1 Liberty Place is one of Philadelphia's tallest buildings at 61 stories. Ain't Wikipedia great??

By the way, Roger Maris hit 61 homeruns in 1961, but you knew that.

Nolan Ryan and Tom Seaver each had 61 shutouts. I grew up with Tom Terrific so I am very honored to share this number with him. Wayne Gretzky, for you hockey fans, holds 61 NHL records. I grew up loving

hockey as an Islander fan and let's just say, not a big fan of Gretzky. Hockey fans will understand.

And I could go on and on but there are other articles to read and flyers to see in the bulletin.

It's going to be a great 2024. I just feel it. Our 75th Anniversary is in May. Many other programs and adventures await us. And even though our New Year resolutions are a good effort, we know that many more things, both good and not so good, are ahead of us.

From my family to yours, wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year 2024!

Joel

MEETINGS in JANUARY and FEBRUARY	January 11	EC	February 8	EC
	January 25	Board	February 22	Board

TJC WELCOMES

BORIS HANIN AND
AMANDA HECKER
AND THEIR CHILD,
DANIELA

SUSAN AND SETH
LEVINSON, PARENTS
OF
ABIGAIL WELSHER

RACHEL AND JEFFREY
MILLER
AND THEIR CHILD,
MOSES

EHUD YARIV AND
SIVAN YARIV ASHER
AND THEIR CHILDREN,
YONI AND DANIELLE

DO YOU WANT TO HELP
INTEGRATE ONE OF
THESE 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.

GOT AN IDEA FOR
A NEW PROGRAM?

CONTACT EMILIE KOVIT AT
EKOVIT@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG

MEMBERSHIP

THROWBACK TO FEBRUARY 2023

Looking back to one year ago when Andrea Hoberman Martinez and Alan Martinez hosted a warm and wonderful Havdalah gathering for new members in their home. Here are a few photos from that event. They are currently planning another event to be held in February or March 2024 - we will be in touch as soon as we have a date!



WE ARE EXCITED THAT SO FAR SINCE JUNE 2023 WE
HAVE GOTTEN 33 NEW MEMBER FAMILIES!



MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein
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sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

I am writing to you in the spirit of Tu Bishvat, though we are about to celebrate Chanukah. I was fascinated to learn, after doing a little research, that the national tree of Israel is none other than the olive tree! This comes in especially handy as I pull out my vats of olive oil and commemorate the miracle of light! I really wanted to learn more about the Olive Tree, so I set up a zoom session with none other than Zai (Short for Zayit, pictured here) to ask it some questions. Below is the transcript from our interview:

S: When did you become the National Tree of Israel?

Z: I was voted on in 2007, I think. It seems to be quite a few rings ago. I did have some tough competition - the Tabor Oak came in second behind me (not sure why, it's not even one of the seven species). There were some others, but I know you have limited space.

S: Yes, sadly I do. I'm sure I could write a whole book just about you!

Z: You have no idea. I've been around for THOUSANDS of years. LITERALLY. I can live to be THAT OLD! Do you know that on the Mount of Olives (my favorite mountain, by the way) there is a group of monks that take care of eight of my cousins? It's a good thing. They're the elders of the family - about 2,000 years old! I can't even begin to imagine what THEY'VE seen in their lifetime.

S: I should probably interview them.

Z: Definitely. They'd have some great stories to tell!

S: What would you say is one of your favorite defining features about yourself?

Z: My olives. They are SO good. And when they are pressed into oil? They can do wonders! They can provide light and also really great pasta sauce!

S: I think I saw something about branches somewhere?

Z: Oh, yeah. Right. My branches. Did you know they are a metaphor for peace? I think it dates back to the Dove from Noah's Ark. But now I am SO famous. My branches are on the national symbol of Israel and also the Great Seal of the United States (which is actually an eagle and not a seal, but what do I know, I'm just a tree).

S: Is there anything else you want to share with our readers?

Z: I'm in the Torah. That's pretty cool. My oil specifically. And also Chanukah. Did I mention that?

S: No, but you're right! Especially since we are about to celebrate Chanukah!

Z: Uh oh- I better go shed some olives so they can be pressed into oil! But please wish your readers a happy Tu BiShvat, and please remind them to bring their 3-6th graders to the Tu Bishvat Seder on January 24 at 4:30! They can meet my friend Tamar and the other symbols of the day! We are actually ALL in the Torah together. Please make sure they know that, too!

S: Will do. Thank you Zai - I really appreciate your time!

Z: Glad to have been able to chat! I should probably do these interviews more often.



Dear Jewish Center Community,

I want to express my gratitude to the people who helped me complete my Eagle project here at The Jewish Center of Princeton. My Eagle project was the set of movable planters that are in the driveway blocking the front parking lot of the religious school. I had a great amount of help from religious school students, teachers, parents, and administration and I am greatly appreciative of their contribution.

I want to especially thank the following students who volunteered their time and energy to help beautify the Jewish Center community: Jason, Eric, Ben, Lucas, Sebastian, Shay, Liam, Tim, Bryce, Toby, Joelle. Your participation made this project a success!

Yours In Scouting,

Sam Orshan - Eagle Scout Troop 850

TJC Religious School Events

January - February 2024

Wednesday, January 3

Classes resume

Saturday, January 6

5th Grade Shabbat Lunch immediately following services

Sunday, January 14

Religious School Day of Service **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Friday, January 19

All School Kabbalat Shabbat **6:30 p.m.**

Dinner following services at **7:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, January 24

Tu BiShvat Seder for students in grades 3-6 **5:00 p.m.**

Saturday, January 27

Young Family Haudalah Pajama Program **5:30 p.m.**

Friday, February 2

Young Family Shabbat Dinner **5:30 p.m.**

Sunday, February 18

No Religious School - President's Weekend

Friday February 23 - Sunday February 26

9th and 10th grade Trip to L'Taken



TJC YOUTH EVENTS

1/7

GRADES 8-12 EAGLES VS GIANTS WATCH PARTY

REGIONAL USY EVENT @ TJC TIME TBD

1/19

ALL SCHOOL SHABBAT DINNER

TJC @ 7:30 PM

1/24

TU'BSHVAT SEDER

TJC DURING RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

1/28

GRADES 3-12 AMAZING ESCAPE ROOM

AMAZING ESCAPE ROOMS PRINCETON - **TENTATIVE DATE** - 2:00-3:30PM

1/31

8TH-12TH GRADE CHESED PROJECT

TJC @ 7-8PM DURING SULAM BUT ALL ARE WELCOME

2/4

GRADES 3-7 AFTERNOON MOVIE

STAY AFTER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FOR LUNCH AND A MOVIE 12-2PM @TJC

2/10


PROM 11TH AND 12TH GRADE

B'NAI TIKVAH NORTH BRUNSWICK 7:30-10:30PM

2/21

PRE-RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HANG

TJC @ 3:00-4:30



The Jewish Center Religious School
in partnership with JCW
presents

DAY OF CHESED (ACTS OF LOVINGKINDNESS)

Come join us as we honor the legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday,
January 14, 2024

The Jewish Center
435 Nassau Street

10:00 a.m. -
12:00 p.m.

Projects include writing letters to U.S. and
Israeli soldiers, preparing soup, making
blankets, creating stressballs and more!

Register by scanning the QR code below



RABBI'S TUESDAY CLASS CONTINUES

WITH RABBI MEROW ON ZOOM

**“Together and Apart – The Future of
Jewish Peoplehood”**
An iEngage Course from The Shalom
Hartman Institute

JANUARY 9

JANUARY 23

JANUARY 30

FEBRUARY 13

FEBRUARY 20

FEBRUARY 27

TUESDAYS
7:00 - 8:15 PM

**ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO EACH CLASS FOR
THOSE WHO HAVE REGISTERED**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED, PLEASE EMAIL
EKOVIT@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG**



Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Ian Brito

February 3, 2024

Ian is currently a seventh grader at Princeton Middle School and has been learning at TJC since Nursery School. He enjoys competitive soccer, cross-country running, and track and field. He has been playing the flute since third grade. For Ian's Chesed project, he brought the "Joe Throw" back to his old elementary school...a basketball competition that raises funds for Littlebrook students in need. Ian is smart, funny, thoughtful, kind, and super smiley. He adores his dog (Jersey), his family, and his friends. Ian would like to thank Ronit Rackowski, Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Sharon Diamondstein and all his religious school teachers for all of their support and guidance in helping him prepare for this very special day.

TJC
YOUTH BAND

ALL LEVELS WELCOME **ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME**

INTERESTED? PLEASE EMAIL :
AVI PARADISE
APARADISE@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG

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

Bible BaBoker is a diverse community and carries on the Jewish tradition of Torah study in an open and respectful atmosphere. We strive for discussions based on reading Torah, other Jewish texts, and additional relevant resources from ancient to modern sources. Participants with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs deepen our understanding of Judaism, share insights and opinions, extract and develop wisdom, and consider our purpose in life, ethical principles to live by, and ways to be better human beings. Prior Torah knowledge or background is not necessary and new participants are always welcome. Study with us each week or whenever you can make it! We look forward to learning together.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570201257pwd=SncvMTMvNkJOQklGWWJrdDBFMlp2dz09>

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

The Jewish Center's
GREAT MINDS SALON

**January 18
8:15 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Michele Alperin
Writer & Editor
**How I Became a
Journalist**

THE JEWISH CENTER'S "GREAT MINDS" SALON IS A SPEAKER SERIES FASHIONED AFTER THE 1900'S ERA PARIS SALON HOSTED BY JEWISH AUTHOR GERTRUDE STEIN (PICTURED ABOVE), WHICH REGULARLY BROUGHT TOGETHER THE BRIGHTEST ARTISTS AND THINKERS OF THAT ERA TO DISCUSS THEIR LATEST WORK.

Michele Alperin, an Atlanta native, was lucky to go to what may have then been the best public high school in the South, and her 11th grade English teacher made sure they all knew how to write. Spending three years in Washington as coordinator of both Fabrangen, a big havurah, and a Jewish education center for unaffiliated adults, Michele realized she could write and edit, based on submissions of newsletter articles from very smart people whose articles needed a lot of editing. In 2000, she took a class in writing feature articles at Mercer County Community College, and following the class, her teacher, neighbor, and later mentor, Barbara Fox, invited her to write a freelance article for US1 (one of 712 revealed by a search on their website). Over Michele's career as writer and editor, she has edited many books for the Jewish Publication Society and written for other Jewish and secular publications, including the Jewish Center newsletter.



Michele's husband, Steven Sheriff, is a scientist; her son, Jacob, works in cryptography; and her daughter, Aliza, is a public historian. They have three grandchildren, Nava, Hannah, and Noam.



JOIN US!

Cocktails in the Corridor

**Friday, January 26
5:15 p.m.
Before Shabbat Services**

Drinks, Snacks and Schmoozing!

**Cocktails in the Corridor is being sponsored
by Barbara and Lew Gantwerk in honor of
their 59th Anniversary**





MISHLOACH

MANOT

LET'S ALL WISH EACH OTHER A HAPPY PURIM!

.....

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

**Order online at bit.ly/purim2024
or send a check to The Jewish Center
Payment is due by Monday, March 11**

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

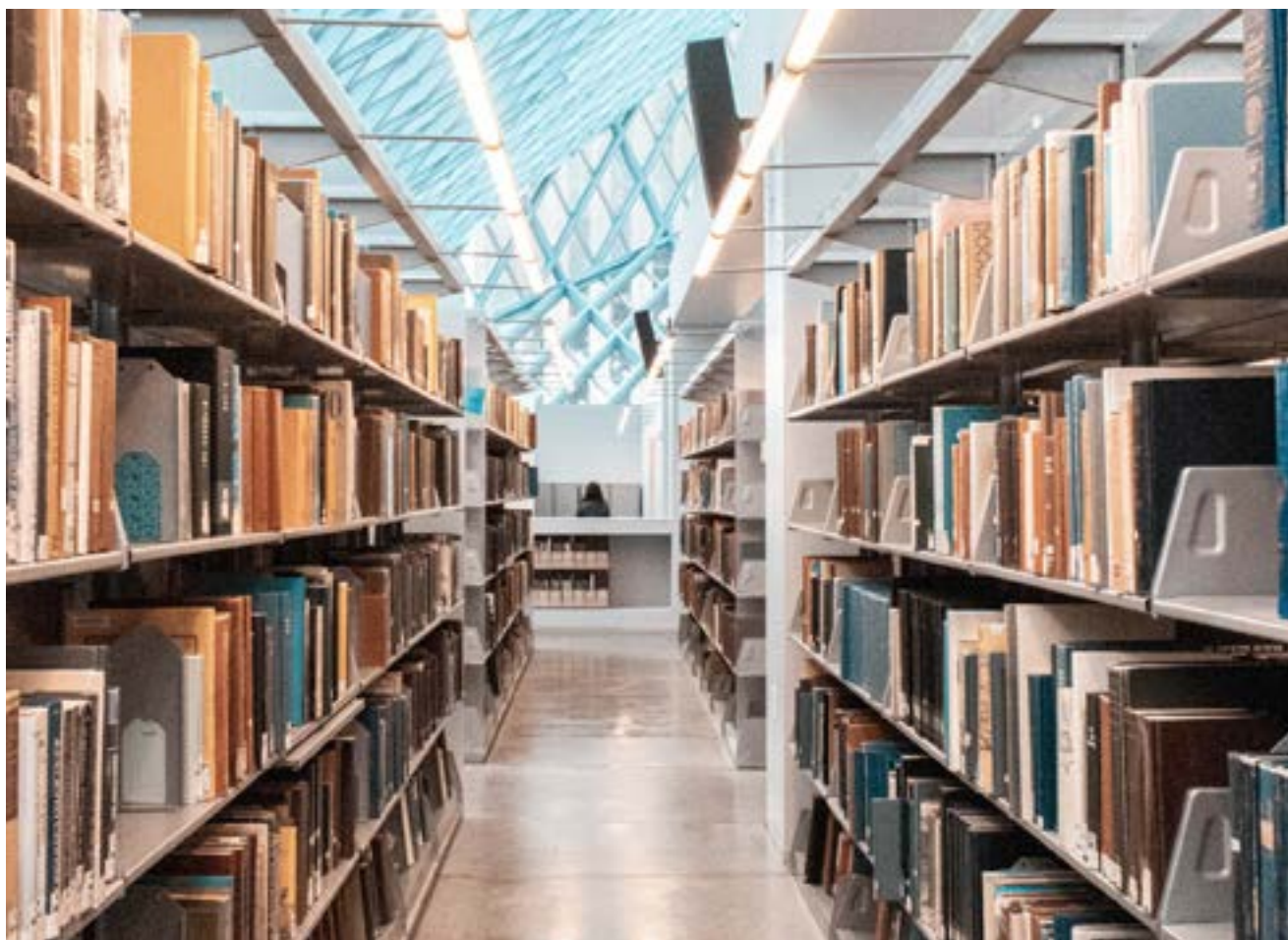


Library Update

If you've stopped by the Adult Library, you've likely noticed that it is looking more like a library than a storeroom. Our library committee has been working hard to weed out the collection, catalog, and organize the books. Once that is completed, we plan to update it with books on contemporary issues, new Jewish fiction, and whatever interests the congregation.

Soon, you will each be given an ID number to borrow books. In addition to the books, the OPALS Catalog System offers many online services, such as Jewish and Israeli news services and much more. You can access the book collection and these other services from anywhere.

We are very excited about the future of TJC Library and hope it will be an integral part of our community. There is still plenty of work to be done. If you would like to volunteer to help us, please contact Deborah Marinsky (debmarin@gmail.com), Roslyn Vanderbilt (Roslynvanderbilt@gmail.com) or Nina Wacholder (ninwac@rutgers.edu). We will happily train you in the various tasks that must be done.



Things are happening at TJC! Chanukah at Palmer Square



Photo credit: Lisa Jacobs

**Thank you to everyone
who came out to celebrate!**

Things are happening at TJC!

Game Night



Celebrating 75 Years!

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum - \$75,000

18 Admissions to the Main Event
18 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Name on a Platinum Sponsor Brick in the TJC Courtyard
Private meet and greet with entertainer
Full Page Platinum Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Diamond - \$25,000

12 Admissions to Main event
12 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Name on Diamond Sponsor Brick in TJC Courtyard
Private meet and greet with entertainer
Full Page Diamond Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Sapphire - \$10,000

10 Admissions to Main event
10 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Name on Sapphire Sponsor Brick in the TJC Courtyard
Private meet and greet with entertainer
Full Page Sapphire Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Pearl - \$5,400

8 Admissions to Main event
8 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Private meet and greet with entertainer
Full Page Pearl Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Celebrating 75 Years!

Sponsorship Levels

Ruby - \$2,700

6 Admissions to Main Event
6 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Full Page Ruby Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Emerald - \$1,800

6 Admissions to Main Event
3 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Full Page Emerald Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Opal - \$1,080

4 Admissions to Main Event
2 Cruise Raffle Tickets
Full Page Opal Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

Topaz - \$540

2 Admissions to Main Event
1 Cruise Raffle Ticket
Full Page Topaz Page in the Ad Journal
Listing on our Website
Listing in the TJC Bulletin

To sponsor or donate please scan this code and you will be take to the online form.



Magic at the Mikvah Recap

Magic at the Mikvah was the theme of the Lunch and Learn that was hosted by JCW on December 6. The event took place at Shir Ami in Newtown, PA and was led by Rabbi Merow. We began with a fascinating, guided tour of the Mikvah, getting to understand the intricate process of how one prepares for the sacred plunge.

Following the tour, we were immersed in an afternoon of exploring ancient texts that guided the 3000 year old rituals, intertwined with exploring the modern and elevated practices that the Mikvah experience offers today.

The time spent together was especially meaningful thanks to how interactive the learning was, with so many personal accounts of Mikvah experiences that were shared and discussed. What we came to understand from Rabbi Merow's facilitation along with our candid dialogues, was that the reimagined use of the Mikvah can serve as a vital force of healing, renewal and self-transformation.

Juxtaposing this ancient custom with the contemporary purposes it has come to fulfill, was truly informative and inspirational.

Please mark your calendar for the next JCW event on January 28, 2024 when we'll be taking a field trip to Beth Sholom (the Frank Lloyd Wright synagogue) in Elkins Park, PA.

Roberta Sternthal and Pam Zaifman JCW Co-Chairs



Sunday, January 28, 2024

Docent-led tour of
Frank Lloyd Wright
Beth Sholom Synagogue

Leave TJC at 12:00 p.m. to carpool
or meet at Beth Sholom at 1:00 p.m.

Tour starts at 1:30 p.m.

Check your emails
for more details.

Questions? Contact Roberta at:
Rhsterthal@gmail.com

Havurah Minyan

The Havurah minyan will be having study sessions in the Adult Library at 1:00 p.m. on January 13, March 9, April 13, and May 11; and at 10:30 a.h. on February 10.

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.

McCAFFREY'S FOOD MARKETS Receipts

Thank you for bringing your McCaffrey's receipts to TJC! We appreciate you thinking of us whenever you shop.

Now collecting for January-March 2024.

Please do not bring in older receipts.

Receipts with discounts cannot be accepted.

Thank you!

Would you like to sort? We are looking for volunteers to help sort receipts. Contact Roni at vgarrison@thejewishcenter.org



Shema Yoga with Eleni Litt

January 5, 12, 19, 26 | February 2, 9, 16, 23
10:00-11:00 am at TJC

Shema Yoga, developed by Eleni, infuses the practice of yoga (breath practice and postures) with a Jewish sensibility. Yoga is (among other things) about listening to one's own body, noticing sensations, thoughts, and feelings as they come and go. You are invited to enter the practice from a place that works best for your body and temperament. While the practice is open to all, you are encouraged to consult with your doctor if you have any concerns about the appropriateness of yoga for your situation.

Eleni is a longtime member of The Jewish Center and a registered yoga teacher with Yoga Alliance (RYT, 200 hrs). Contact Eleni with any other questions: elitt@gmail.com

In Memoriam:

We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering:

Susan (Weingard) Hoffman,
aunt of Debra Bass

Ron Gold,
husband of Arlene Gold, father of Ginger (Jay)
Schnitzer and grandfather of Miki Schnitzer

Seymour Friedman,
husband of Dorothy Friedman

Seymour Kanter,
father of Larry (Susan) Kanter and
grandfather of Katie, Kevin and Allison

Joan (Weiselberg) Kellett,
mother of Lori Weir

Jerome (Jerry) Goodkin
Helene (Korostoff) Shapiro,
wife of Paul Shapiro



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY



2024

SAFETY SERIES

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 7**



STOP THE BLEED

1-3 p.m.
With guest teacher,
Ari Meisel

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 4**



SELF DEFENSE TRAINING WORKSHOP

1-3 p.m.
Being taught by Ed
Maisonet of the
School of Life
Defense Krav Maga.
This class will be \$18
per person.

**SUNDAY
MARCH 3**



CPR AND FIRST AID

1-3 p.m.
With guest teacher,
Ari Meisel

CONTACT

Emilie Kovit at: ekovit@thejewishcenter.org

SAFETY SERIES: BREAKDOWN



STOP THE BLEED

Sunday, January 7
1-3 p.m.
With guest teacher
Ari Meisel

This class will cover:

- The fundamental techniques to control bleeding during emergencies.
- With hands-on guidance, you'll become equipped with the skills to assist in traumatic situations until professional medical help arrives.
- No prior medical experience is required; simply bring your willingness to make a difference in someone's life.



SELF DEFENSE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 4
1-3 p.m.
Being taught by Ed
Maisonet of the School of
Life Defense Krav Maga

This class will cover:

- Natural and improvised tools for striking.
- There will be detailed discussion about mindset with some foresight about violent encounters for those who have never seen or experienced violence.
- The difference between fighting and saving your life.
- Techniques that are geared toward the situations women are put in.
- Discuss how to deal with weapons.



CPR AND FIRST AID

Sunday, March 3
1-3 p.m.
With guest teacher,
Ari Meisel

This class will cover:

- The basic knowledge and skills to respond confidently during medical emergencies.
- This class will introduce participants to essential techniques for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and foundational first aid procedures.
- While this session does not offer certification, it aims to equip every participant with the confidence and know-how to potentially save a life or assist someone in distress until professional medical assistance arrives.

The Sounds of Shabbat

LIVE MUSIC ON SHABBAT! ALL ARE WELCOME!

January 19 & February 2, 2024

6:30 p.m. Service led by
Rabbi Merow and Avi Paradise
Guitarist: Matt Davis
Percussionist: Daniel Johnson

AT THE JEWISH CENTER

435 Nassau Street Princeton, NJ 08540

Order your copy of
WELCOME TO OUR TABLE
a cookbook at TJC
congregant recipes
compiled by
Judy Margolin,
Ellen Gordon,
and Deborah Marinsky.
\$36 – order at the
jewishcenter.org/table



Welcome To Our Table



The Jewish Center, Princeton, NJ



2024

PRESIDENTS' DAY

FEB DAY 19

HONOR ALL PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENTS OF UNITED STATES

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAYS AND LIVES OF ALL US PRESIDENTS

FROM THE JEWISH CENTER

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!

January 20
February 10
11:00 am
Youth Lounge

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

Men's Club Invites You!

Wednesday, January 17
7:00 p.m.
at The Jewish Center

All are welcome!

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON - NEW JERSEY

The Soulful Judaism
MINDFULNESS SPIRIT

Shabbat Meditation

Led by **Ruth Goldston**

January 6
February 3
1:00 PM 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.

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.

RSVP not needed - please email ruth.goldston@gmail.com with any questions.

SAVE THE DATES!

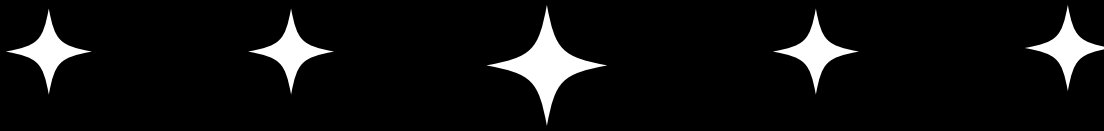
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

✦ Purim 2024 ✦

In Honor of our 75th Anniversary

Purim Carnival - Wednesday, March 20 - 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Purim Megillah Reading - Saturday, March 23 - 7:30 p.m. and beyond



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

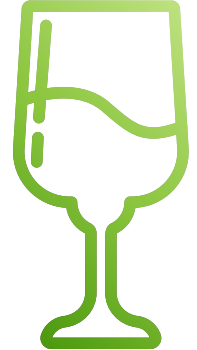
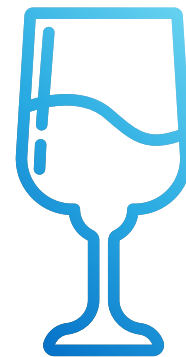
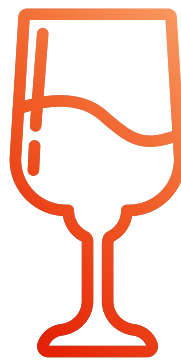
Contact the office for more information:
info@thejewishcenter.org



Please join us for
Nosh and Drosh on
Thursday, January 18, 2024
&
Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

Kiddush Community



Kiddush Community is a way to build more connection 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:

- Adding a source of alternative revenue
- Increasing participation in Shabbat: services or social
- Allowing us to celebrate more *simchot* together

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

• 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.)



Book Club

Tuesdays, January 16 & February 20

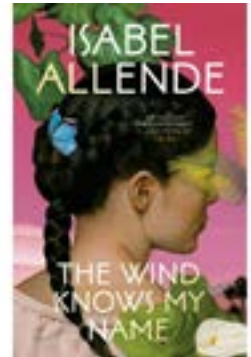
7:30 p.m.

via Zoom.*

On Tuesday, January 16, at 7:30 pm we'll meet by Zoom to discuss:

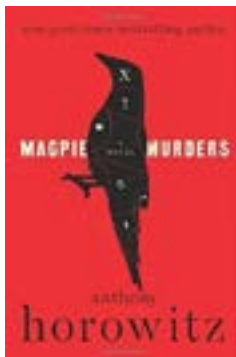
The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende

“characters come together in an emotionally satisfying arc, the solution turns out to be the kindness of strangers who become family. That, at least, is the story Allende is telling. In the real world, the solution is to protect the vulnerable by not tearing families apart in the first place — a less dramatic story, but a much preferable reality. (New York Times)



On Tuesday, February 20, at 7:30 pm we'll meet by Zoom to discuss:

The Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz



“Magpie Murders” is the name of the latest novel by the fictional mystery writer Alan Conway. (The title also alludes to Christie’s love of nursery rhyme structures, with chapters based on “One for Sorrow,” about magpies.) Conway’s editor, Susan Ryeland, sets up the Russian nesting doll structure of the novel: “You can’t beat a good whodunit: the twists and turns, the clues and red herrings and then, finally, the satisfaction of having everything explained to you in a way that makes you kick yourself because you hadn’t seen it from the start,” she observes. “But ‘Magpie Murders’ wasn’t like that,” (New York Times)

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

March 19, 2024

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

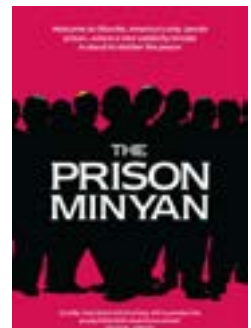
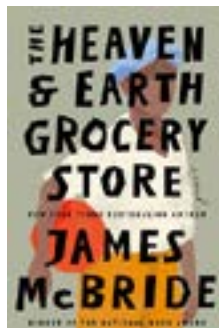
by James McBride

April 16, 2024

The Matzah Ball by Jean Meltzer

May 21

The Prison Minyan by Jonathan Stone



All are welcome to join our Book Club Discussions.

Please contact Louise Sandburg for more information: louise@sandsmith.com

Daffodil Planting in October 2023. Thanks to all who helped to plant 500 Daffodils!



Photos: Courtesy of Summer Pramer
Please watch your emails for our Daffodil dedication day in March or April when the Daffodils bloom.



CONTRIBUTIONS

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

75TH ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND JUBILEE

from Dina Shaw

SECURITY

from Gerald Seid

from Amelia Willson

from Allon and Allison Bloch

GENERAL FUND

from Joe and Barbara Schwartz

from Gil Steinlauf

from Marjorie Chernikoff

In honor of

Janet and Steve Cohen on your granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah

from Myra Weiner

the Daffodil Project

from Norma Saks, Joyce and

Mike Rapoport, Diane and

Mitch Schwartz

Carol and Bob Schwartz on the birth of their grandson, Benny Shai Schwartz

from Marcie and Marc Citron

Fran and Assaf Amir on the marriage of Orly Amir to Kyle Wilkinson

from Joan Levin

55plus programming

from Dr. Krakauer

Those making the world a better place

from Jim Gunton

Emilie Kovit for organizing this year's Craft Fair

from Jaimie Orland

In memory of

Joseph Kohn

from Donna and David Gabai

Holley Eveland Zeigler

from Donna and David Gabai,

Jon and Ruth Shavel

Henia Shylit

from Sharon Shylit

Samuel Goldfarb

from Thomas Navin

Marvin Charen

from Jon and Ruth Shavel

Ruth Rosen and Sidney Greene

from Marilyn and Joe Rosen

Sam Goldfarb

from Allen and Rhona Porter

Joe Kohn

from Allen and Rhona Porter

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

from Denise and Arnold Landy

In honor of

Fran Zeitler on her special birthday

from Myra Weiner

In memory of

Ruth Fath

from Susan and Brian King

ADULT LIBRARY FUND

In memory of

Hayim Katsman, nephew of Nina Wacholder

from Deborah Marinsky

ANNUAL FUND

In honor of

Rabbi Merow and the dedication of our TJC staff

from Tirza Wahrman

All our presidents on behalf of the congregation

from Seth Fishman and Anna Kitces

Suzanne Esterman for her generous contributions to The Jewish Center

from Susan Chermak

and Allan Silverman

Sam and Sophie

from Lara Winn

Avi Paradise

from Adrienne and Jason Longo

Joel Berger

from Mark and Wendy Merkovitz

APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION FUND

In honor of

Fran Zeitler's 90th birthday

from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

The 32nd birthdays of Esau and

Yonaton. Yom Huledet Sameach

from Avi Paradise and Debbie

Freedman, Lewis and Lynn

Coopersmith

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of

Janet Horvath

from Ruedi Oswale

ISRAELI AFFAIRS FUND

In honor of

Helaine and Hanan Isaacs on the marriage of Stuart Isaacs to Sarah Bowler

from Myra Weiner

The marriage of Neil Wise and Lincoln Harding

from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

Joyce and Clive Usiskin's 90th Birthdays!

from Neil Sader

Dina Shaw on her special birthday

from Gila and Gad Levin

In memory of

Eugen Blau

from Leslie Blau

ISRAEL IMPACT FUND

In honor of

Hersh Goldberg-Polin

from Scott Klein

Barak, Alexandra, Heidi and Rabbi Merow

from Riva Jaffe-Levy and Howard Levy

Gabriel and the IDF units, his parents Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen in supporting and influencing others to support Israel and its people.

from Ed and Lori Simon

Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen

from Amanda Rose, Tovah Reis

Raanan Bar-Cohen

from Dave Pell

the Zuckerman family's hard work, love and dedication to Israel

from Lee Soffer

Gabriel Bar Cohen and the rest of the Bar-Cohen's in your service to all of our friends and family

from Brad and Cathy Bailey

The Haber Family

from Renee Blank

Michael Zuckerman

from Jon and Jaime Zuckerman

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zuckerman.

Amy and I are very impressed with the Israel Impact Fund. We thank you for performing these wonderful mitzvahs.

*from Amy and Steven Erlbaum/
Tzedakah Foundation*

The efforts of the Israel Impact Fund on behalf of those in need

from Walter and Mary Bliss

Our IDF soldiers

*from Brennan Donachie,
Judy and Sandy Kutin*

Walter and Rachel Miller

from Ruth Kummings

Anat Bar-Cohen

from Ruth Kummings

The Bar-Cohen Family

from Dena Hirsh

Gabriel Bar-Cohen

*from Barak and Alexandra
Bar-Cohen, Cara Cragun*

In honor and commemoration of Floyd and Marian Barger and Michael and Celia Engel

from Donna and Ken Engel

Dina Shaw on her 60th birthday and for her generosity of spirit, leadership in the community and care for the Jewish Community and Israel

from Brad and Cathy Bailey

Arlene and Henry Opatut on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

from Myra Weiner

Helene and Uri Levy

from Judy Camisa

Dina Shaw

*from Lisa Mandelblatt, Denise
Frechette, Elyssa Hurlbut*

Anthony Peterson

from Jesse Pauker

Rabbi Merow's advocacy on behalf of the Jewish Community and Israel

*from Warren Mitlak
and Tirza Wahrman*

Avram Bar-Cohen

from Adam Litle

Dina Shaw who works tirelessly for the benefit of others in her community. She opens the doors of her faith to others and helps everyone around understand what it means to be a woman of the Jewish faith—educating, granting opportunities, and educating others through her love. I am privileged to donate in her honor to the Jewish Center of Princeton.

from Lynne McKinnon

In memory of

Gil Gordon

from Ellen Gordon

Matan Leor, murdered by Hamas at the dance party on October 7 in Southern Israel

from Alan Warshaw

Merle Rose

from Irv Rose

Regina Meredith Thorne

from Irving Thorne

Avi Bar-Cohen

from Janet Horvath

Martin Winn

from Lara Winn

THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND

from Michael and Anna Nolan

In honor of

Joyce and Bruce Afran on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Samuel Afran

from Myra Weiner

Brent and Heather Walker

from Linda Chapman

Fran Zeitler Edelman on her special birthday

from Sally Steinberg-Brent

Rabbi Robert Freedman

from Joel Deitz and

Barbara Berko

In memory of

Vera Goodkin

from Sally Steinberg-Brent and

Dan Brent

Fannie R. Kirstein

from Philip Kirstein

**JEWISH CENTER WOMEN
FUND**
In honor of

Dina Shaw on her special birthday

from Paula Friedman

and Jeffrey Gross

**KIDDUSH COMMUNITY
FUND**

Fran Zeitler Edelman's 90th birthday

from Fran Zeitler Edelman and

Fred Edelman

The 60th anniversary of my Bat Mitzvah

from Susan Gross

Our trip in support of the people of Israel

from Joe, Barbara, Kay and

Sam Schwartz

**LIFE AND LEGACY
ENDOWMENT FUND**
In honor of

The marriage of Neil Wise and Lincoln Harding

from Marsha and Eliot Freeman,

Linda and Art Meisel

Dee Gonzonsky on her special birthday

from Marsha and Eliot Freeman

Florence Kahn on her special birthday

from Linda and Art Meisel

In memory of

Dr. Vera Goodkin

from Myra Weiner, Marsha and

Eliot Freeman

Joseph Kohn

from Marsha and Eliot Freeman

Robert Freeman

from Eliot and Marsha Freeman

Daniel F. Weisberger

from Judy and Mike Leopold

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

The committee's hard work for the Daffodil Project

from Bruce Goldstein

Summer Pramer for the beautiful photos taken at the Daffodil Project on Sunday, October 29

from Heidi Joseph

In memory of

Joseph J. Kohn

from Sy Marchand

PRAYERBOOK FUND**In memory of**

Vera Goodkin

from Sarah Ganz

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

Rabbi Adam Feldman

from Steven Grey

My beloved brother, Rabbi Adam Feldman

from Lisa Feldman

**RABBI MEROW'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**

from The Estate of Jack Belitsky

In honor of

Rabbi Merow for her leadership during crisis

from Polly and Rick Strauss

With thanks to Rabbi Merow for continuing to make The Jewish Center our home. Praying for peace and safety in our world and especially Israel.

from Bill and Gail Rose

Carol and Bob Schwartz on the birth of their 4th grandchild, Benny Shai Schwartz

from Heidi Joseph and

David Saltzman

Rabbi Merow for your service to our family and leading our father's unveiling

from Ron and Linda Borkan

In memory of

Kate Serge

from Larry Serge

Michael Curtis on his unveiling

from Judith Brodsky

**RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE
FUND**
In honor of

Suzanne Esterman

from Sara Gordon

In memory of

Lenore and Irwin Gordon

from Sara Gordon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

from Rob and Samantha

Hirschberg

**SAPOFF ART PURCHASE &
RESTORATION FUND**
In memory of

Vera Goodkin

from Lynn Joy Sapoff

**THE SCHNITZER FAMILY
SHEKEL FUND FOR
ADVENTURES IN ISRAEL
In memory of**

Ron Gold

from Jessica Gross and Chad Mynhier, Jill Langman Blyn and family, Suzanne and Barry Langman, Nancy Becker, Linda Kassekert, Judith Hoffman, Joe and Barbara Schwartz, Helene and David Raush, Linda and Art Meisel, David and Edye Kamenir, Josh and Rebecca Sarett

Ron Gold

from Friends and Family of the Schnitzer Family. This donation represents the leftover money collected for shiva meals.

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND

from Sandra Sussman and Ronald Schnur

In honor of

Yonaton and Esau's birthday's
from Martha Friedman and Harold Heft, Linda and Art Meisel, Myra Weiner, Renee and Ted Altman, Gail Gendler and Mitchell Gladstein, Barbara and David Vilkomerson, Judi and Bernie Fleitman, Deborah Marinsky

Bernard and Barbara Abramson
from Al Shamash

Judi Fleitman for mothering Esau and Yonaton so beautifully!

from Alison and David Politziner

Fran Zeitler's 90th birthday

from Barbara and Joe Schwartz

In memory of

Isaac and Rebecca Shamash

from Al Shamash

Arthur Turim

from Frances Zeitler Edelman

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In honor of

The marriage of our daughter Margaret Mattes to John Sturm
from Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeffrey Mattes

The marriage of Margaret Mattes to John Sturm

from Judy and Mike Leopold

The birth of our grandson, Berk Sawyer

from Joel Deitz and Barbara Berko

Marci Meixler earning multiple awards in her field

from Beatrice and Michael Bloom

YOUTH AND FAMILY

PROGRAMS FUND

In honor of

Helaine and Hanan Isaacs on the Aufruf of Stuart Isaacs to Sarah Bowler

from Abbye and Joshua Cornfield

Gaby Schreiber for thinking of us and donating a beautiful rug to our Youth Lounge

from Heidi Joseph

The wedding of Neil Wise and Lincoln Harding. We are so happy for you.

from Abbye and Joshua Cornfield

Fran Zeitler's 90th birthday

from Ellen and George Pristach

Fran and Assaf Amir on the marriage of their daughter Orly to Kyle Wilkinson

from Ellen and George Pristach



Presents
Professor Melissa Lane

**Saturday,
February 10**



**After the
Kiddush Lunch**

“Moses and the Ancient Greek Lawgivers”

How was Moses understood in the world of ancient Rome? And, specifically, by the two greatest Jewish thinkers of antiquity, Philo and Josephus, who wrote in Greek and lived in imperial Rome? This talk will explore how Philo and Josephus understood the biblical figure of Moses in relation to the giant lawgivers of the ancient Greek-speaking world, Lycurgus of Sparta and Solon of Athens. We will explore the similarities and differences which Philo and Josephus respectively perceived between Moses and these Greek figures. Particular attention will be paid to the act of lawgiving in relation to education, ethics, prophecy, and political rule.

No background needed: a handout will be distributed with background and quotations.

Melissa Lane is Class of 1943 Professor of Politics and Director of the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University. A scholarly expert on the history of political thought, Professor Lane's most recent book is *Of Rule and Office: Plato's Ideas of the Political* (Princeton University Press, 2023).

Questions? Contact Emilie Kovit at ekovit@thejewishcenter.org

Promise Form



The Talmud says “As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me.” I/We declare this commitment to help sustain a vibrant Jewish community for generations to come. With this Promise, I/we instruct the designated partner organization(s) to deposit my/our gift into its Life & Legacy Fund, held at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer.

Donor Information

Name _____ Birthdate _____
 Additional Name _____ Birthdate _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email(s) _____
 Mobile Phone(s) _____ Home Phone(s) _____

Commitment

- I/We have already committed to a legacy gift and it is legally documented.
- I/We make a commitment and will legally formalize it within the next 6 months.

Organizations

Legacy gifts will be placed in the Life & Legacy Fund at JCFGM of the organization(s) selected:

- Aduath Israel Congregation
- Beth El Synagogue
- Congregation Beth Chaim
- Greater Trenton Jewish Cemetery Project
- Greenwood House
- The Jewish Center
- JCC Princeton Mercer Bucks and Abrams Camps
- Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer
- Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Greater Mercer County
- Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks
- Other _____

Gift Information

My/Our legacy gift will be made in the following way:

- Gift in Will (or Codicil)
- Beneficiary of Retirement Plan
- Beneficiary of Life Insurance Policy
- Beneficiary of Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer
- Beneficiary of other Donor Advised Fund
- Israel Bond
- Today gift of cash, securities or other assets (such as IRA Required Minimum Distribution)
- Other _____

Optional

The approximate value of my/our legacy gift will be \$_____ or _____ % of my/our estate.

Privacy Statement

To encourage others to make Life & Legacy Promises, names of all legacy donors are occasionally listed in print and digital materials.

- My/our name(s) should appear as: _____
- I/we prefer to remain anonymous.

Signatures

I/We understand that this legacy gift will be placed into the Life & Legacy Fund held at JCFGM of the designated organization(s).

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Please complete and return this form to the designated organization(s) or to the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer, 457 Nassau Street, Suite 101, Princeton, NJ 08540. For assistance, please contact a member of our professional team at info@foundationjewish.org or 609-240-9511.

For Partner Use Only: Date of Formalization _____ Method of Formalization _____

CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP IMPRESSIONS

by Emilie Kovit

A number of us who went on the Civil Rights Trip from Sunday, November 5 to Tuesday, November 7, recently gathered to share some of our thoughts, impressions, and feelings from our incredible experience. Since I was taking notes of everyone's comments, I didn't voice any of my own. In part, that was due to my preoccupation with absorbing everyone else's comments and recording them accurately. But also, it was because when I feel something strongly, I sometimes find it difficult to articulate my feelings coherently in a more public setting. However, I felt a little bereft for not having shared my thoughts, and I would like to convey to all of you some of the highlights (for me) of what this group of 26 experienced.



Entire group with Rosa Parks statue, Montgomery, AL

Our group, led by our passionate and highly knowledgeable guide, Scott Fried, from Etgar 36, mainly was TJC congregants, with a few additional friends and family members added in. None started knowing everyone in the group, but by the end, we had become a cohesive unit, having gone through this moving journey. Many in the group had strong connections to the Civil Rights movement and a lot of their historical understanding, but they said they still got a lot out of the trip. I knew I had a lot to learn. We started in Atlanta with a visit to the King Center, where we saw the beautifully preserved colonial-style house where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr grew up and the street he lived on, Auburn Avenue. We paid our respects at the tomb of MLK & Coretta Scott King, lit by an eternal flame, listening to the Ner Tamid,

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and contemplated King's concepts of non-violence in counterpoint to everything currently going on in the world.

Then we made our way to the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King was co-pastor from 1960 until his assassination in 1968, where we were warmly welcomed to services by an expert group of greeters. We took away ideas of how to better welcome those coming for services at TJ. Then, we were delighted to find that Rev. Senator Warnock was in attendance that day to lead the service. The technological marvels of the service and his powerful sermon were something out of an Oscars production. We stopped for lunch at Ponce City Market and then headed to Montgomery.



The Kings' tomb in reflecting pool at the King Center



Rev. Senator Warnock preaching at Ebenezer Baptist Church

Montgomery was one of my favorite parts of the trip. We saw two museums that Sunday afternoon that may have been the most emotion-provoking of any museums I have ever visited in all my travels around the world. The first was the Equal Justice Initiative's

National Memorial to Peace & Justice, also known as the “Lynching Museum,” where the lynchings of more than 4,400 black people killed between 1877 and 1950 are remembered. I tear up as I’m writing this, remembering the walk along the path leading you deeper and deeper into the memorial as you are increasingly surrounded by steles showing all the lynchings that occurred in each county in the country, with names and dates of each one if known. We were given the assignment of looking up any names that particularly struck us, and we learned of the horrible and often wholly petty “reasons” given for the lynching. Since my words can’t adequately



View inside Lynching Museum

describe what I saw, I strongly encourage you to make a point of visiting the museum if you ever have a chance. Possibly even more affecting was the Legacy Museum, which we went to that same afternoon. No pictures were permitted, but some of that museum’s images were seared into my brain so that I may never forget them. You are taken literally through the middle passage ocean transit as you enter the museum through to the mass incarcerations of today. Holograms of enslaved people and prisoners tell their stories directly to you in such a way that makes you feel them internally. I couldn’t believe all that we had been through on only our first day of touring. The following day, we learned about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott, then went to lunch at Martha’s for some authentic southern buffet. And then we got to Selma. As we drove into the town, we saw the utter devastation and poverty – it felt like a ghost town. I was struck by how such a significant historical site could possibly have gotten to that level of seeming despair. We were honored to be able to hear the story of Lynda Blackmon Lowery, who we were introduced to as Miss Lynda, who was only 14 when she took part in Bloody Sunday, the day of an aborted march in 1965 when law enforcement officers brutally attacked 600 unarmed marchers with billy clubs and tear gas. Miss Lynda also related how she got permission from her

parents to join the subsequent 57-mile march from Selma to Montgomery as part of the non-violent protest to gain their constitutional right to vote. I felt drawn in by her story, and she helped me understand what took place far better than if I had simply read about it. I was so emotionally overwhelmed at the end of her talk that I went out onto the street and had to sob privately.

Then, we all walked over the Edmund Pettis Bridge. We have all seen the images of the bridge in Selma in movies and television, and I can tell you I was struck by the beauty of the reflections in the water as we retraced the steps of the activists on the bridge that Bloody Sunday. The knowledge of the horror of what the marchers experienced as a quickly deputized mob beat them down contrasted with the sun starting to set over the water as we crossed the bridge.

Birmingham, for me, on our final day, was a blur as I was still processing everything I had experienced the prior two days. But what stood out the most to me was the friendships and connections I had cemented with my awe-inspiring group of learned fellow travelers. I hope our connection will stay with us for a long time. On Martin Luther King weekend, our group is planning to share some of our experiences from the trip as the sermon on Saturday, January 13, during the Shabbat Service.



Our group crossing the bridge

We hope you will join us that Shabbat weekend to hear the impressions of my trip-mates, who can express their impressions and feelings far better than I have. But I am so grateful to The Jewish Center for sending me on this trip. Thank you to Heidi Joseph and Joel Berger for enabling me to go.

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