



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

October/November 2026

Tishrei-Cheshvan 5787

thejewishcenter.org

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

*Gather With Us
This Fall at The Jewish Center*

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Vimeo Livestream links

Erev Shabbat:
vimeo.com/event/4775460

Saturday Morning:
vimeo.com/event/4775456

Congregation event:
vimeo.com/event/4775452

Funeral:
vimeo.com/event/4783396





The Israel and Us
Committee presents

Mission in Captivity

with Guest Speaker,
Dr. Shoshan Haran

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026
7 P.M. AT THE JEWISH CENTER**

Shoshan was kidnapped from her house during the October 7th massacre along with her daughter Adi, her young grandchildren Naveh and Yahel, her sister-in-law Sharon, and Sharon’s daughter Noam. Her son-in-law, Tal Shoham, was also kidnapped and held separately. Her husband Avshalom, her sister Lilach, her husband Eviatar, and her caregiver Paul were all murdered. Shoshan was released 50 days later in the first hostage deal. Her Israeli publisher describes the memoir as “a story of physical and psychological survival, with death lurking at every moment and in every place, and of determination to look directly at pure evil, revealed through long conversations with the captors.”



Shoshan is the founder and president of Fair Planet, a global NGO, whose mission is to help farmers in Africa exit the cycle of hunger and poverty. The harrowing ordeal she experienced in captivity reaffirmed her resilience and unwavering dedication to humanitarian causes and to helping other hostages around the world. She is a co-founder of ReHome, which helps rehabilitate survivors of the Oct. 7th attacks, and a member of the advisory body of Hostage Aid, an organization fighting for the release of hostages worldwide.

Please RSVP via Shulcloud or scan this QR code!
Books availble to purchase!





MESSAGE from the Rabbi

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

Join Me on a Mission to Israel — May 6-14, 2027

I am excited to invite you to join me on a Mission to Israel this May. This is a service mission. We'll volunteer, hear geopolitical briefings from multiple perspectives, and connect with trauma intervention work on the ground. Our time will take us to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and the regions of S'dot Negev and Netivot. At a moment when our support and our presence are needed, this Mission is a way for us to stand with our sisters and brothers in Israel — and, as a community, to witness both the resilience of Israelis and the real challenges they face.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, three Philadelphia-area synagogues, and TJC are sponsoring the Mission. Since October 7th, synagogues and Jewish organizations across the region have partnered to run missions together, because a larger group means access to a wider range of speakers and experiences than any one congregation could offer alone. I'm deeply grateful to Rabbi David Glanzberg-Krainin — my friend and the rabbi I used to work with — and to my friend from Young Judaea, Jeff Lasday, Senior Chief of External Affairs at the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, for inviting TJC to join this trip. The trip already has the critical mass to make it a go, so we know it's happening: you can commit with confidence, not wait and see. A limited number of subsidies are available to help people who might not otherwise be able to participate. No financial documents are needed — just your request — and they're offered on a first-come, first-served basis. This trip is not geared toward first-time visitors to Israel: it's a Mission, and it won't include the major sightseeing stops. However, if you've

never been and would still like to come, I'd suggest arriving a week or a few days early or staying later to do more touring. The Philadelphia Federation's travel department is happy to help you plan those details. I remain deeply committed to our own Princeton Mercer Bucks Federation, where I currently serve ex officio on the board as the local Board of Rabbis' representative. I've been in touch with our Federation's president, immediate past co-president, as well as our Executive Director — all TJC members — about this opportunity from the very start. They're glad to see TJCers travel to Israel, support Israelis, and see the Federation's work up close. Though we are going with the Philly Federation, we will have an opportunity to learn about the work of our local Federation and TJC's work. I hope this Mission is a first step toward one day offering a Mercer County community Mission of our own — and I'll be the first to sign up.

Join our virtual info session: **Monday, October 12, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** via Zoom (details below). To RSVP for the info session, ask logistics questions, or find out about subsidies, contact Erica N. Miller, Missions Manager at The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, at erica.miller@jewishphilly.org or 215.832.0629.

Please consider joining me. This is an opportunity not simply to visit Israel, but to show up — to serve, to listen, to learn, and to stand with people we care about. I would love to experience it together.

Rabbi Merow



Join fellow community members on a mission of service in Israel. This journey of hope and resilience will culminate with the observance of Yom Hazikaron — Israel's Memorial Day — and Yom Ha'atzmaut — Israel's Independence Day. Learn, give back and connect to Israeli culture while making a direct impact for the people of Israel.

Speaker announcements coming soon!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome Shabbat in the Old City of Jerusalem and enjoy a festive meal with the Greater Philadelphia community.
- Volunteer to help provide immediate relief in the land and to the people of Israel.
- Participate in high-level conversations and geopolitical briefings with thought leaders and stakeholders.
- Stand with the citizens of the Jewish Federation's Partnership2Gether (P2G) regions of Sdot Negev and Netivot to memorialize and honor those affected by Oct. 7.
- Celebrate Israel's 79th birthday and the Jewish Federation's P2G city of Netivot's 70th birthday.
- Connect with the individuals and organizations whose lives are impacted by our funded programs, including vital trauma intervention and resilience programs.
- More information to come!

COST

- \$5,999 (does not include airfare)
- There are a limited number of \$2,000 subsidies available for those who may need assistance, thanks to the generosity of a private foundation.

Cost includes:

- Four nights in Jerusalem and four nights in Tel Aviv at star accommodations
- Most meals
- All admission fees and guided excursions
- Tips and gratuities
- Full-time security detail
- Luxury, air-conditioned coach bus (includes refreshments, water and bathroom)

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Please join us for a virtual information session on Monday, Oct. 12 from 7-8p.m.

To RSVP for the information session or for travel logistics, please contact Erica N. Miller, Missions Manager of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia at erica.miller@jewishphilly.org or 215.832.0629

WANT TO BECOME A MISSION PARTNER?

Congregational partners are still information! For information about how your congregation can be included as a Mission Partner please contact Jeffrey Lasday, Senior Chief of External Affairs of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia at jlaskday@jewishphilly.org.

All mission participants will be expected to make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's 2027 Annual Campaign.



Main Line Reform
Temple-Beth Elohim
BETH EL, GLASSBORO, NJ

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

—125 YEARS—
Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia



MESSAGE from the President

Lew Gantwerk
lg.presidenttjc@gmail.com

Friends,

In a recent column in the NY Times, Roger Rosenblatt began his essay with the following: "The older I get, the more I appreciate the wonders around me." I was struck by the simplicity of this sentence but also by how strongly I identified with it. I was sitting in our backyard just staring at the trees and leaves and the sun came out from behind a cloud and the brightness totally changed how everything looked. I felt grateful that I noticed this tiny change and wondered how much I might be missing regarding the wonders around me.

During Friday night services at The Jewish Center Rabbi Merow takes a moment to ask members of the congregation to think about a blessing they could share with us. Congregants respond and tell us of a visit with a family member, of a successful event, an anniversary of something important to them. We all respond by acknowledging their story and wishing a Mazal Tov.

This got me thinking about the notion of appreciation. At its core, appreciation is the act of recognizing, understanding, and savoring the goodness in one's life, in other people, or in the world at large. The opposite is, I think, taking things for granted. Would our lives be enhanced if we could decide to resist taking things for granted and replace those moments by appreciating something related to the taken for granted moment? I am not suggesting that we ignore problems we face, disappointments we experience, or worries that overwhelm us. But I am suggesting that we actually might have a way to choose to see things a bit differently and thereby brighten our lives through appreciation.

We've all had the experience of saying to our kids when they come home from school and we ask them how was school today and they say fine. Or The Jewish Center Princeton

asking our partners how was your day and they say fine. What if we changed the greeting and said something like "Tell me something good (or nice, or pretty or - you get it) that you noticed today? What made you smile today? There must have been something today that resulted in your being happy or feeling good. What was it? Can we actually change the experience of our lives by focusing on our ability to choose appreciation? I think it's worth thinking about.

When people find out I'm serving as President of The Jewish Center, their reaction is often something like "oh, you have my condolences" or "how much longer do you have to serve" or some other response indicating that it must be unpleasant. I have become determined to respond by letting these folks know that I really appreciate serving this community, and helping to contribute to making TJC a joyful place. It's true!

I'm increasingly aware of the wonders around me – the joy I get from recognizing and appreciating the people in my life, the opportunities I have and the simple change of the sun on the leaves. I know you'll be reading this after the High Holidays and I hope that your participation in all the simchas during these last few months has left you feeling appreciative for all that we have. I hope that your membership in The Jewish Center adds to your appreciation of, and gratitude for, all of our blessings.

Lew



MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger
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jberger@thejewishcenter.org

Time to Take a Breath

I am writing this as we are nine days before Rosh Hashanah. You are reading this, after the holidays have passed by. I think it's time to take a breath.

Our holiday prep begins in April when I make the first phone call to rent the outside tent. Then we gather all of our checklists and go one by one, to make sure your holiday experience is a good one. What did we miss? What did we not account for? The questions are endless and yes, cause sleepless nights.

People have been coming by and ask, "Are you guys busy?" It's kind of an easy question to answer. We are non-stop leading up to the holidays. Does everyone have tickets? Have you placed your Book of Remembrance ad? Have you ordered your Lulav and Etrog? Where are the gardeners? Is the security all arranged for? It goes on and on and on. So now it's time to take a breath.

Having lived in Miami for over 30 years, you never really get to experience fall. I did growing up on Long Island but I had missed it for so many years. And now that I have been here for the past 7 years, it's time to appreciate this fall season. It's time to take a breath.

Leaves changing colors. Crisp, Cool Air. Sweater or Jacket season. Apple picking for those who enjoy. Looking forward to Halloween and Thanksgiving. It's Football season and so begins another year as a Jets fan. It's also college football season and being a Miami Hurricanes fan. Baseball moves into the playoffs. Basketball and Hockey are starting up. Fireplaces and bonfire smells are in the air. It's just an amazing time of year. A time of year where we all need to take a breath.

Find time for yourself. Find time to relax, read a book, take a hike, reach out to family and friends, and enjoy what we have around us. Look back on

the holidays and look forward to the next holidays. They seem to come around all the time. Look at our calendar of programs and maybe attend a program you would not even have thought to attend. You'll never know what you might hear or learn.

Get involved. Join a committee. Prepare our Kiddush lunch with the Krew. Find out how you can do more for our community. The opportunities are endless.

"Breathe. Let go. And remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure" by Oprah Winfrey

I'm taking a breath this fall. I hope you do as well.

Joel





MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning

Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

To My Beloved Jewish Center Community,

It's hard to believe that this is my final bulletin letter. Since announcing in July that I would be leaving my position in early October, my family and I have felt an outpouring of love from so many of you. While I am excited for this next step, the friends and memories from The Jewish Center will be treasured in my heart.

On the last day of Religious School, I read a story to our teachers and madrichim based on Leo Tolstoy's *Three Questions*. It seems appropriate that I share it again here, as I shared it on the last day of school every year when I was in the classroom.

In this adaptation by Jon J. Muth, a young boy named Nikolai sought advice from Leo, a wise old turtle, to answer three questions: When is the best time to do things? Who is the most important one? And what is the right thing to do?

When Nikolai arrived at Leo's house in the mountains, he found the old turtle digging in the garden. He asked his questions, but Leo didn't answer. Nikolai figured that Leo was tired, so he took the shovel from him and continued digging until the work was done.

As he finished, the weather changed, and Nikolai heard a cry for help. He ran toward the sound and found an injured panda. Nikolai carried her to Leo's house, and when the panda woke, she asked where her child was. Nikolai ran into the woods and found the panda's child, cold and shivering. He brought her back to her mother.

Leo smiled. Nikolai again asked his questions, and Leo told him they had already been answered. He reminded Nikolai about the digging, the panda, and how he found her child. He then said, "Remember then that there is only one important time, and that time is now. The most important one is always the one you are with. And the most important thing is to do good for the one who is

standing at your side. For these, my dear boy, are the answers to what is most important in this world. That is why we are here."

For nine years, at one point or another, each of you has been the most important one to me. Each of you has given me opportunities to do good for you, reminding me what is important in this world. You have reminded me why I am here.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve this community for the past nine years. Thank you for trusting me with your children, your families, your celebrations, your questions, your ideas, and so many meaningful moments along the way.

On a deeply personal level, I will always be grateful for the support and warmth that surrounded my family and me after my mother died. Your kindness, your calls, your meals, your hugs, your presence, and your love carried us through a very difficult time. You have welcomed not just me, but Marc, Eric, and Jason, and made us feel like part of a much larger family.

And while this may be my final bulletin letter, it is not quite goodbye. I am so fortunate that we still have one very important family milestone ahead of us here, and I am especially looking forward to celebrating Jason's Bar Mitzvah with our community in October. Eric and Jason will also continue as madrichim, so the Diamondsteins are not disappearing from The Jewish Center anytime soon.

Thank you for nine unforgettable years. It has truly been my honor to be here, to learn with you, to celebrate with you, to grow alongside you, and to call The Jewish Center home.

With much love and gratitude,

Sharon



Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



PARKER COHEN - OCTOBER 24

Parker is an 8th grader at Princeton Middle School who loves spending time with friends, playing basketball and tennis, riding his bike, and trying new foods. He also enjoys cooking and following his favorite teams, players, stats and trades.

For his Chesed project, Parker volunteered as a ballperson at the Philly WTA tennis tournament, combining his love of tennis with service.

Parker is funny, caring and social, and he loves making people laugh. He's also a great big brother to Ellie, with whom he enjoys shooting hoops and being silly. We're excited to celebrate Parker as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah.

JASON DIAMONDSTEIN - OCTOBER 31

Jason Diamondstein is an 8th grade student at Highland Park Middle School. He enjoys learning and in addition to playing percussion in the middle school band, he also plays in the HPMS percussion ensemble and jazz band. He brings curiosity, humor and determination to everything he does. He has attended The Jewish Center religious school since kindergarten, and feels very much at home when he is here. In his spare time, Jason loves cooking, spending time with friends, and catching a Somerset Patriots game. Jason is looking forward to participating in Sulam, TJC youth programs, and being a madrich. He is grateful to his parents, brother, and dogs for their support as he celebrates becoming a Bar Mitzvah.



BECKETT WILLIAMS - NOVEMBER 14

Beckett Williams is an eighth grader at Princeton Middle School. His family moved to Princeton from New York City and joined The Jewish Center in 2020.

Beckett has trained with Princeton Judo for four years, earning his green belt and competing in several regional tournaments. He also plays bass, plays tennis, and recently joined the PNRA/Mercer Juniors rowing program. When he is not on the mat or the water, he is usually reading mythology and natural history.

Beckett is excited to serve as a Madrichim this fall, and would like to thank Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Gila Levin, his family, and everyone else who helped him prepare to become a bar mitzvah.



Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah

GRAYSON ALLEN - NOVEMBER 21

Grayson Eli Allen is a seventh grader at The Center School in Somerset, New Jersey and a lifelong member of The Jewish Center of Princeton. He is proudly the third generation in his family to celebrate becoming a B'nai Mitzvah here at TJC. He enjoys hiking, biking, chess, playing games, and being creative. Grayson would like to thank his family, Gila Levin, Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, and all of his religious school teachers for helping him prepare for his Bar Mitzvah.



Mercer County Youth Programs 2026-2027 Calendar Subject to Change

Chaverim 3rd-5th Graders	Kadima 6th & 7th Graders	USY 8th-12th Graders
Sunday, Oct 18, 2026 Pre-Kadima Kick Off Fall Crafts & Snacks at Beth El	Sunday, Oct 25, 2026 Escape Room 3:15pm-4:45pm	Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026 USY Kick-Off Fall Fest at Shady Brook Farm After Shabbat
Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 Movie Day Out: The Cat in The Hat Time TBD Based on Movie Times	Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026 Urban Air 1pm-3pm	Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026 Eagles vs Steelers Tailgate & Watch Party at Princeton 4pm-End of Game
Sunday, Dec. 20, 2026 Ice Skating 3:00pm-5:00pm	Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026 Ice Skating After Shabbat	Saturday, Dec. 19, 2026 Movie & Chinese at Beth El after Shabbat
Sunday, Jan. 24, 2027 Pre-Kadima Game Day & Indoor Activities at Beth El	Sunday, Jan. 31, 2027 Tie Dye Day at Princeton 2pm-4pm	Saturday, Jan. 23, 2027 USY Game Night at Princeton After Shabbat
Sunday, Feb. 7, 2027 DIY Snowglobe at Princeton	Sunday, Feb 21, 2027 Movie Afternoon at Beth El 12:30pm-2:30pm	Saturday, Feb 20, 2027 USY Food Competition at Beth El After Shabbat
March 5-6, 2027 Youth Shabbat at Beth El	March 5-6, 2027 Youth Shabbat at Beth El	March 5-6, 2027 Youth Shabbat at Beth El

Mercer County Youth Programs 2026-2027 Calendar Subject to Change

Chaverim 3rd-5th Graders	Kadima 6th & 7th Graders	USY 8th-12th Graders
Sunday, March 14, 2027 Mishloach Manot Packing at Beth El	Sunday, March 21, 2027 Beth El Purim Carnival	Sunday, March 21, 2027 Beth El Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 21, 2027 Beth El Purim Carnival	Wed, March 24, 2027 Princeton Purim Carnival 4:00pm-7:00pm	Wed, March 24, 2027 Princeton Purim Carnival 4:00pm-7:00pm
Wed, March 24, 2027 Princeton Purim Carnival 4:00pm-7:00pm	Sunday, April 4, 2027 Good Deeds Day with JFCS at Beth El	Saturday, April 4, 2027 Good Deeds Day with JFCS at Beth El
Sunday, April 18, 2027 Off-Site Trip TBD	Sunday, April 18, 2027 Off-Site Trip TBD	Saturday, April 17, 2027 USY Paint & Nosh at Princeton
Fundraisers Dec. 10 th - Challah Bake May 10 th - Babka Bake		June 6, 2027 End of Year USY Trip To Hershey Park
Beth El Synagogue The Jewish Center Sarah Densky youth@bethel.net		Date TBD Phillies

**6th Annual
JFCS
WHEELS
& HEELS
for MEALS**

**SUNDAY MORNING
OCTOBER 11, 2026**
**Mercer County Community
College, West Windsor, NJ**

**FOR
CYCLISTS**

**FOR
WALKERS**

**FOR
COMMUNITY**

Ride Options for All
50 Mile • 25 Mile
10 Mile • 3 Mile
and Kids' Zone Drop & Ride

Walking Route Option!
2 Mile Walk
Strollers & Wagons welcome

**EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT
JFCS HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAMS
SERVING GREATER MERCER COUNTY**

**Register / Donate
on your own OR JOIN
Team TJcyclers
or
Pam's Superteam 3.0**

www.jfcsWheels4Meals.org

Event Committee
Anne Berman-Waldorf
Andrea Goral
Liz Klein
Arnold Wilman
Rachel Myhrum
Pamela Zarfman
Ken Zemel

**THE JEWISH CENTER
INVITES STUDENTS IN
GRADES 2 TO 5 TO**

JR. CONGREGATION

Upcoming Dates
October 10
November 14
December 19

**Saturdays from 10:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. | Bet Midrash
Lead by Ronit Johnson
Parents and Caregivers are welcome!**

**JOIN TJC FOR
2026-2027**

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
SHABBAT DINNERS**

**OPEN TO ALL GRADES AND FAMILIES
STARTS WITH SERVICES AT 6PM. SHABBAT MEAL TO FOLLOW**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

OCT 16

RSVP VIA SHULCLOUD!

**MERCER COUNTY KADIMA
(6TH & 7TH GRADERS)**

**ESCAPE
ROOM**

**Gather your team and test your wits in an immersive,
adrenaline-pumping adventure.**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026
3:15pm-4:45pm

**The Amazing Escape Room- Princeton, NJ
3498 US Highway 1 North (Across from Whole Foods) Front Building
Suite 15a Just North of Quaker Bridge Mall, Princeton, New Jersey NJ**

**EARLY BIRD & PAYMENT BY OCT. 1: \$35 PER PERSON
REGULAR & PAYMENT BY OCT 15: \$40 PER PERSON
LAST CALL & PAYMENT BY OCT 21: \$45 PER PERSON
REGISTRATION FEES NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER 10.21.2026**

HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/EQCHNB011W0YMUKT6

Sarah Densky youth@bethel.net 609-233-2236

SHIRA B'TZIBUR

You do not need to know Hebrew to enjoy!

Thursday, October 1
7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
At The Jewish Center

Open to the community

Join us for a Hebrew sing-along in the Sukkah!

Questions? Email info@thejewishcenter.org

JOIN THE JEWISH CENTER FOR SHABBAT KATAN

2026 DATES	2027 DATES
SEPTEMBER 26	JANUARY 9 JANUARY 30
OCTOBER 24	FEBRUARY 20 FEBRUARY 27
NOVEMBER 14 NOVEMBER 21	MARCH 13 MARCH 20
DECEMBER 5 DECEMBER 19	APRIL 3 APRIL 24
	MAY 1 MAY 15

Add these dates to your calendar!

Saturday mornings
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
in the Teen Lounge

Open to children ages 5 and under
WITH their caregivers

The TJC Szanto-Kutin Library presents a program on:

EMMA LAZARUS'S "THE NEW COLOSSUS" AND "THE STATUE OF LIBERTY LAW OF THE LAND"

Sunday, November 15 at 10:30 A.M.
at the Szanto-Kutin Library at The Jewish Center



With Professor Esther (Starry) Schor

ESTHER (Starry) SCHOR, the John J. F. Sherrerd '52 University Professor and Professor of English, chairs the Humanities Council at Princeton. She is a scholar, biographer, poet and essayist. Her 2006 biography Emma Lazarus won the National Jewish Book Award. She has published a cultural history of Esperanto, Bridge of Words and three books of poems. She is currently at work on a biography of the philosopher Horace M. Kallen, who coined the term "cultural pluralism" and advocated for it as foundational to American Democracy.

Open to the community!

RSVP via Shulcloud or email info@thejewishcenter.org

DOES YOUR COMPANY PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR DONATIONS?

IS THE JEWISH CENTER LISTED AS ONE OF THOSE NON-PROFITS?

If you are looking to increase your support for TJC, please inquire if your company has a matching funds program. A few congregants take advantage of this. Why not you?

If you need more information, please contact Joel Berger at jberger@thejewishcenter.org



YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMS

AT THE JEWISH CENTER
SUNDAYS 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

2026-2027 DATES:

- 10/4/2026 - SIMCHAT TORAH
- 11/22/2026 - HARVEST & GRATITUDE
- 12/6/2026 - CHANUKAH LIGHTS & LATKES
- 1/17/2027 - TU B'SHEVAT GROW TOGETHER
- 2/6/2027 - PAJAMAS, PIZZA & HAVDALAH
- 3/14/2027 - PURIM PIE - PALOOZA
- 4/11/2027 - PASSOVER PLAYTIMES
- 5/2/2027 - CELEBRATE ISRAEL

FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 AND BELOW AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CRICHMAN@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG

*DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Fun & Exciting Drop-Off Sunday Programs 2026-2027

Ages 3-5

Holidays ★ Shabbat ★ Bible Stories ★ Alef-Bet ★ Music
Rituals ★ Art ★ Song ★ Games ★ Snack

Your children will make new friends and learn through play & hands on activities.

Ganon: 3-4 year old Drop Off Program

One Sunday per month:
9:00 am - 11:55 am
The Jewish Center Members: \$178
Community Members: \$357
11 classes throughout the year

Gan Katan: 4-5 year old Drop Off Program

Sundays Weekly:
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
September - May
The Jewish Center Members: \$917
Please call for community rates

Open to the Community!

For more information, contact Cynthia Richman, 609 921 7207 x318
or crichman@thejewishcenter.org

The Religious School of The Jewish Center | 435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540
609.921.7200 | www.thejewishcenter.org

ANCIENT WISDOM; MODERN TAKES

5 SESSIONS STUDYING PIRKEI AVOT (ETHICS OF OUR ANCESTORS) WITH RABBI MEROW
TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM ONLY | 7:00-8:15 PM
OCTOBER 13, 20, 27 & NOVEMBER 3, 10

Pirkei Avot are short rabbinic teachings about how we treat one another, build community, and grow as human beings. Some will resonate; others may challenge us.

Bring ancient teachings into conversation with the questions and challenges of our own lives.

No previous study of Hebrew text or Hebrew is necessary. Bring curiosity and a willingness to join the conversation.

We will use Pirkei Avot Lev Shalem, with commentary by Rabbis Tamar Elad-Appelbaum and Gordon Tucker and translation by Rabbi Martin S. Cohen.

JOIN JCW AND THE LIFELONG
LEARNING COMMITTEE ON A
PRIVATE TOUR OF

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Join us for a special guided tour highlighting works by Jewish artists, as well as art, objects, and artifacts connected to Jewish history, culture, and tradition.

The tour will be led by The Jewish Center's own Linda Meisel, a Princeton University Art Museum docent, who will share fascinating stories and insights throughout the afternoon.

Meet at the beautiful new Princeton University Art Museum located in the heart of the historic campus along McCosh Walk between Elm Drive and Chapel Drive.

NOVEMBER 15
1:30 AT THE FRONT DESK
SPACE IS LIMITED!

RSVP VIA SHULCLOUD OR SCAN THE QR CODE

THE 39TH ANNUAL Amy Adina Schulman Memorial Lecture

TIVNU: BUILDING JUSTICE

Innovative program for young adults to understand and support social justice from local, national, and moral perspectives.

Featuring
Steve Eisenback-Budner
Executive Director

Sunday, November 1, 2026

The Jewish Center, 435 Nassau Street, Princeton NJ

Starting 2:00pm. Doors open at 1:30pm

Please pre-register here to reserve your seat.

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/amy-adina-schulman-memorial>

 **let's do LUNCH**

85+ Senior Lunch Group
October 21, 2026
Featuring Dave Saltzman playing and singing from the Great American Songbook

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Upcoming Dates:
 December 16
 March 17
 May 19

Rides Available Upon Request

Bring your lunch. We'll provide drinks and dessert.

If you have an idea for a program or guest speaker, email us at info@thejewishcenter.org

Let's Do Lunch is sponsored by The Jess and Marion Epstein fund

Looking to sponsor a Let's Do Lunch? Email jberger@thejewishcenter.org

The Jewish Center's
GREAT MINDS SALON

Thursday, November 19
8:00 P.M.

"How your immune system learns" with Dr. Ned S. Wingreen

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.

NOSH & DROSH **Please join us for our meeting in October:**
with facilitator Ellen Pristach

Topic: The Jewish Melting Pot - A Cultural Mosaic

Join us for A presentation on the exquisite cultural diversity of the Jewish people.

Join Up!
Open to the community!

Thurs, October 15
9:30-11 A.M.
on Zoom

Zoom link will be sent from Cynthia Richman at TJC

Please save the following dates:
 December 17
 February 18
 April 15

Email info@thejewishcenter.org to RSVP!

Ned Wingreen is the Howard A. Prior Professor in the Life Sciences at Princeton University, where he is Associate Director of the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics. Ned received his Ph.D. in theoretical condensed matter physics from Cornell University in 1989, and did a postdoc at MIT before moving, in 1991, to the NEC Research Institute in Princeton. At NEC, he started research in biophysics which grew into a general interest in problems at the interface of physics and biology. Ned joined Princeton University in 2004, where his current research focuses on modeling of bacteria, their viruses, and other microorganisms, as well as studies of intracellular phase separation, and topics in immunology. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a recent winner of the Tel Aviv University International Prize in Biophysics.



8:00-9:00 In Person at The Jewish Center
Open to the community
Please register via Shulcloud or email info@thejewishcenter.org to RSVP

TASK

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

The Social Action Committee is restarting its Casserole Project for The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK).

Here's all that you need to do:

- Make a simple casserole (see QR code for recipes).
- Put it in a full size disposable aluminum casserole pan (12 or 13 by 20 or 21 inches).
- Bring it to TJC dairy kitchen and put it in the freezer.
- Make sure to label it with your name, the kind of casserole, the ingredients.
- If you decide to use your own recipe, pasta bakes or starch-based casseroles are recommended and freeze well (not protein-based casseroles- too expensive). Vegetable- based don't freeze well. Everything must be pareve or dairy.

The casseroles will be delivered to TASK. They will be greatly appreciated, thank you!



WHO TO EMAIL IF...

Had a baby, or someone is in the hospital or want to make an appt. with the Rabbi?
Cynthia Richman at extension 218 or
crichman@thejewishcenter.org

Want to register a child in school or talk about a B'nai Mitzvah date?
Sharon Diamondstein at extension 220 or
email sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Celebrating a milestone or a simcha and want an Aliyah on Shabbat?
Nancy Lewis, email her at
Nancy.nehama@gmail.com

Have questions about a yahrzeit date, want to make a donation, or questions about your account?
Roni Garrison at extension 200 or
vgarrison@thejewishcenter.org

Want a flyer made or have a general Gen-Z question?
Stephanie Berger at extension 201 or
sberger@thejewishcenter.org

Would like to learn more about leading services, or singing at services?
Avi Paradise at extension 213 or
aparadise@thejewishcenter.org

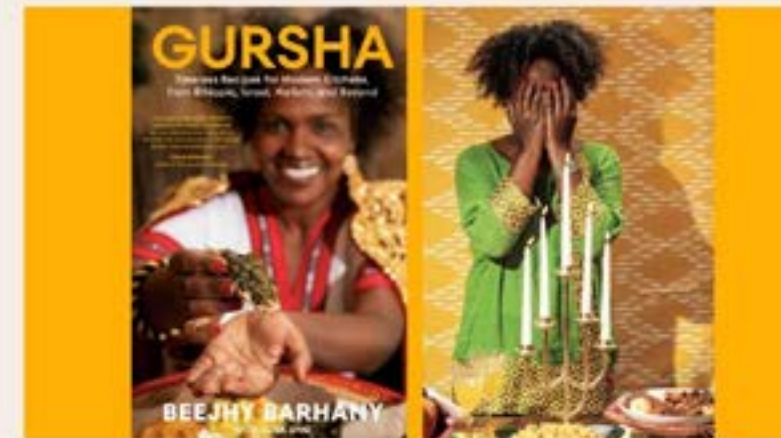
Do you know someone who would be interested in membership at TJC?
Joel Berger at extension 205 or
jberger@thejewishcenter.org

Need council or had a death in the family?
Rabbi Merow, email her at
ram@thejewishcenter.org

JEWISH CENTER WOMEN PRESENT AN EVENING OF The Jewish Ethiopian Experience

Dinner and discovery with guest
Beejhy Barhany who will discuss Jewish Ethiopian food,
culture and history

Thursday, October 15, 2026
6:00 PM
THE JEWISH CENTER



\$36 PER PERSON
ATTENDANCE IS
LIMITED!
MUST RSVP BY 10/5

COOKBOOK IS DISCOUNTED
ON AMAZON; BRING YOUR
COPY AND BEEJHY WILL
SIGN IT!

SCAN TO RSVP OR VISIT
THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG

ALL TJC MEMBERS ARE INVITED!



The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY



LIFE & LEGACY

Despite many obstacles along the way the Jewish community in Princeton has grown and today The Jewish Center of Princeton the home base for Jews from all around the area and even for visitors from overseas. Our congregation first met in a rented ballroom on Witherspoon St and has steadily grown. We moved to our current site on Nassau Street in 1956. From humble beginnings the Jewish Center campus is now a significant presence in Princeton.

But it is much more than just the brick-and-mortar physical address for the Jewish community. For the past 26 ½ years, Beatrice and I have made The Jewish Center the place for our family to find nourishment for our spiritual well-being. Our kids learned about Shabbat and other holidays in nursery school and they learned to make challah and read Torah in Hebrew School. It was the place I found comfort after escaping New York City on September 11, 2001. We celebrated family simchas with the community as our children celebrated B'nai Mitzvot. It is the place we said kaddish when we mourned the passing of our parents. Today we regularly attend Shabbat services. If you are inclined you can also learn to play Mah Jongg, tend to the vegetable garden or maintain the nature trail.



At a time when many synagogues are shrinking and facing financial challenges, The Jewish Center has been a consistent resource. To ensure the vitality and strength of The Jewish Center for future generations, we gladly donated to the Life & Legacy Program. It is so rewarding to know that with our pledge, we are directly contributing to the community that has supported us in many ways. It has been the source of many deep connections, new friendships and it has been our touchstone during our life in Princeton. With continued contributions to the Life & Legacy program, we believe that The Jewish Center will continue to enhance and expand its role in the greater Princeton Jewish community.

- Beatrice and Michael Bloom

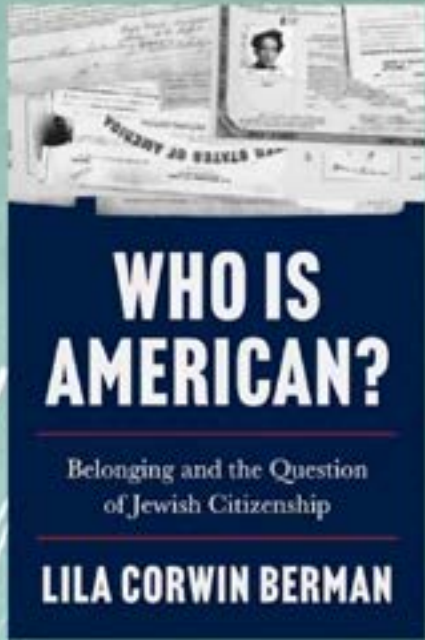


LIFELONG LEARNING AT TJC

2026-2027: ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

A Book Talk with NYU Historian Lila Corwin Berman

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 | 7 P.M.
AT THE JEWISH CENTER



In *Who Is American?*, historian Lila Corwin Berman challenges the common assumption that Jewish immigrants quickly gained full citizenship and equal rights upon arriving in the United States. Through legal cases and historical debates, she explores how American law repeatedly grappled with whether Jews were considered a race, a religion, a nationality, or some combination of these identities—and how those definitions shaped their rights and sense of belonging. The book offers a timely look at who gets to be considered fully American.

Lifelong Learning programs are made possible by donations to the Adult Education Fund.

RSVP via Shulcloud or scan the QR Code!

Open to the community!





Israel & Us

Personal Reflections: Our Israel and Us Committee-

For many of us, Israel is not an abstract policy question — it is family, memory, joy, pride, hope, fear, and grief, sometimes all at once. Our committee members and congregants are connected to Israel in varied ways and have differing opinions, yet we work together to bring a variety of programs and cultural events to our community.

Over the past year, committee members have been writing about their personal connections to Israel. In this issue, we share three of those reflections — written a few months ago, so their views may have shifted since. These are dear congregants who all care about Israel and about TJC. They will not agree with one another. You may not agree with any of them either. You don't need to. We are family, and families can disagree — sometimes deeply — while still listening, still caring for one another, and remaining in community with each other. As we noted at the High Holidays, encounter an opinion you might not agree with, even over a cup of coffee — curiosity is not the same as agreement. We invite you to read these reflections in that spirit: not to win an argument, but to understand, and to get to know one another more deeply.

And don't forget to sign up for our Israel Mission this May, featuring speakers from many viewpoints.

RAM and the Israel and Us Committee

On my first visit to Israel nearly 6 decades ago, I came to understand that Israel is my spiritual home. As I descended onto the tarmac at then-Lod airport (since renamed Ben Gurion), my heart swelled with an unexpected sense of wellbeing and my eyes filled with tears of joy. I had come home. I was 14 years old traveling with my older sister and my parents, both survivors of the Shoah. "Home" had always been a confusing term. My parents recognized the US as a safe harbor but "home" referred to a mystical long-lost place seared into memory that had been filled with family, friends, love, and beauty before World War II. That was gone well before I was born. Now, all these years later, my husband and I have lived a full life in the US and are blessed with 4 children and 7+ grandchildren. We have visited Israel together multiple times and have family as well as friends who are like family there. Unfortunately, we have never lived there. Even so, Israel remains my spiritual home.



I believe the outcome of this election is of existential importance, not just for the Jewish state, but also for world Jewry. It matters not where one stands on the spectrum of religious observance. Choices made now by Israelis of all faiths will impact the safety of members of the tribe everywhere and determine whether a Jewish state of Israel can survive. And I fear that if Israel cannot survive, Jews will again perish en masse. Israelis and Jews of all stripes must figure out how to work together in new constructive ways. Call me naive, but I believe this can and must happen. Let us pray for shalom bayit or peace in the home(land) and around the world.

- Kathy Ales



Israel & Us

My feelings towards Israel contain a dour aspect. Born between the end of the Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel, I have always had a compelling interest in history. Though my extended family had zero individuals impacted by the Holocaust, from a young age I devoured whatever material I could find about that tragedy.

Before my bar mitzvah, it dawned on me that in Jewish history the Holocaust was severe but not unique—it represented the latest manifestation of endemic antisemitism that stretched back to Amalek.

From here it was a short trip for me to embrace Israel as a force that would ward off the next generation of Amalek. History has borne me out. Israel swiped Eichmann from Argentina, rescued Jews at Entebbe, and relentlessly tracked down the Black September terrorists who murdered Jewish athletes at Munich. My conclusion: Israel has my back as well as every Jew in the Diaspora.

While strongly supporting Israel, I didn't actually visit until I was in my 40s. When I did, I gravitated to Yehuda and Shomron— the West Bank. The town of Shiloh in particular drew me to it. Here the Tabernacle resided for almost 400 years before being transported to the First Temple. The geography matched what I imagined to be our biblical homeland.

- Nelson Obus

My ties to Israel go way back. In 1957 I remember taking my Bubbie to fly from Atlanta to New York and then sail to Israel to visit her siblings and nieces and nephews, all but two for the first time in 35 years. In 1969 my family visited Israel so my mother could meet her Israeli family. When I first saw Israel from the plane window, I experienced a visceral connection to the historic land of the Bible and over the course of that summer I fell in love with Israel. In 1975 I visited again and studied Hebrew in ulpanim at two Shomer HaTzair kibbutzim, following up with Hebrew classes at the Jewish Theological Seminary. In 1997 I returned again, this time to the highest level of ulpan at Hebrew University. But over time my own disappointment with Israel grew as I began to feel I did not share Israel's values. And the divisiveness that Israel created in my own community didn't help. So today I do still feel a connection to Israel—we continue to donate substantially to the New Israel Fund—but my love for Israel has dwindled into just having a strong belief that Israel has a right to exist.

- Michele Alperin



How do we talk to our kids about Antisemitism?

A Conversation with CNN's Bianna Golodryga -
Co-author of Don't Feed the Lion

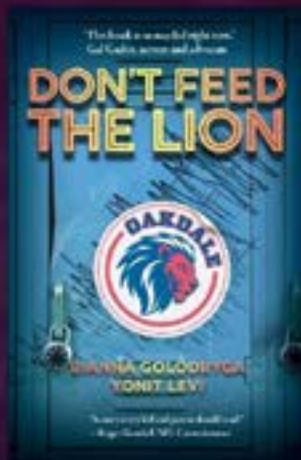
Join us for a timely conversation with Bianna Golodryga, Emmy Award-winning CNN journalist and co-author of *Don't Feed the Lion*, about antisemitism, its impact on young people, and how we can help our children respond with courage and confidence.

About DON'T FEED THE LION

When thirteen-year-old Theo's soccer idol posts an antisemitic message that goes viral, the fallout spreads through his family and school. *Don't Feed the Lion* explores how young people confront prejudice, allyship, and the courage to speak up.

About BIANNA GOLODRYGA

Bianna Golodryga is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, anchor of CNN's *One World with Zain Asher and Bianna Golodryga*, and CNN's senior global affairs analyst. She has reported extensively on the October 7 attack on Israel and its aftermath, Russia and Ukraine, and major international stories. Bianna also has a special connection to our community: her mother-in-law, Reba Orszag, is a member of The Jewish Center.



Sunday, October 25, 2026

10:00 AM — Coffee & Cake

10:30-11:30 AM — Book Talk for Adults & Kids

11:30 AM — Book Signing

Advance RSVP Required

at The Jewish Center
435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

Jewish Federation
Princeton Mercer Bucks

Open to the Community!



LIBRARY

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We're continuing to add new books to the collection. These books along with books purchased in the last year can be found on the New Acquisitions shelf to the right as you enter the library.

The Final Solution to the Jewish Question: A Love Story for the Living by Dara Horn Combining deep historical research, investigative reporting, and storytelling bravado, Horn's book is both diagnosis and prescription. She proposes a dramatic solution rooted in a new understanding of freedom and responsibility, and clears a path toward a shared future.

Porcupines: Novel by Fran Fabriczki A fresh and witty debut about a young immigrant mother and her increasingly inquisitive daughter, who wakes up one day and decides to find out who her father is.

Enormous Wings by Laurie Frankel At seventy-seven, Pepper Mills moves into a retirement community she didn't choose, makes new friends, falls in love, and discovers she's pregnant. *Enormous Wings* is a novel about female agency and bodily autonomy, morality and mortality. It's about what happens when you don't get to choose.

From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books by Arie Kaplan Jews created the first comic book, the first graphic novel, and the first comic book convention. Kaplan tells their stories and demonstrates how they brought a uniquely Jewish perspective to their work and to the comics industry as a whole.

November Author Program

On Sunday morning, November 15, Esther Starry Schor will speak on Emma Lazarus' *"The New Colossus"* and *"The Statue of Liberty Law of the Land."* Lazarus's poem has become a rallying cry for the rights of both immigrants and naturalized citizens. Esther/Starry Schor is the John J. F. Sherrerd '52 University Professor and Professor of English, chairs the Humanities Council at Princeton. Her 2006 biography *Emma Lazarus* won the National Jewish Book Award.

Honor System in the Library

We want to remind everyone that our TJC Library is based on the Honor System. Checking books out is easy. Just fill out the green slips on the shelf near the desk and place completed slip(s) in the large box on the shelf. We'll take care of the rest.

Bookplates

We encourage you to think of the Szanto-Kutin Library when honoring or remembering a friend or loved one. Each book bought by your donation will display a bookplate recognizing the donor and honoree.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Library.

Deborah Marinsky and Roslyn Vanderbilt

Library Committee Co-chairs



55+ UPDATE

During the academic year, the 55 Plus Club of Princeton presents two lectures per month at The Jewish Center, usually on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at ten a.m. These events are open to everyone free of charge, with a \$5 donation suggested. They are in-person and also available live via a Zoom feed at <https://princeton55plus.org>, unless indicated otherwise. The in-person events are easily accessible with ample free parking at the Center. 55 PLUS was organized in 1986 as a non-profit non-sectarian club and welcomes all attendees, regardless of gender, age, race, or religious affiliation. The all volunteer organization finds interesting speakers, manages the finances, outreach, and support information technology. If you would like to help, please contact our head volunteer coordinator, Sanjay Sehgal (sehgal@iname.com).

55 PLUS speakers for October & November 2026

October 1: Deborah Amos, Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence at Princeton University. A longtime international correspondent, Amos spent much of her award-winning career at National Public Radio. Her reporting on the Middle East and refugees in the U.S. regularly featured on NPR's Morning Edition, Weekend Edition, and All Things Considered. She recently covered the Syrian and Iraqi refugee crises, the economy in the Middle East, and the Arab youth surge. Amos is the author of two books: *Eclipse of the Sunnis: Power, Exile, and Upheaval in the Middle East*, and *Lines in the Sand: Desert Storm and the Remaking of the Arab World*. She has won several major journalism honors, including a Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation, a George Foster Peabody Award, an Edward R. Murrow Lifetime Achievement Award, and an Emmy.

Topic: "Why Journalism Matters: A conversation about the Autocrats Playbook"

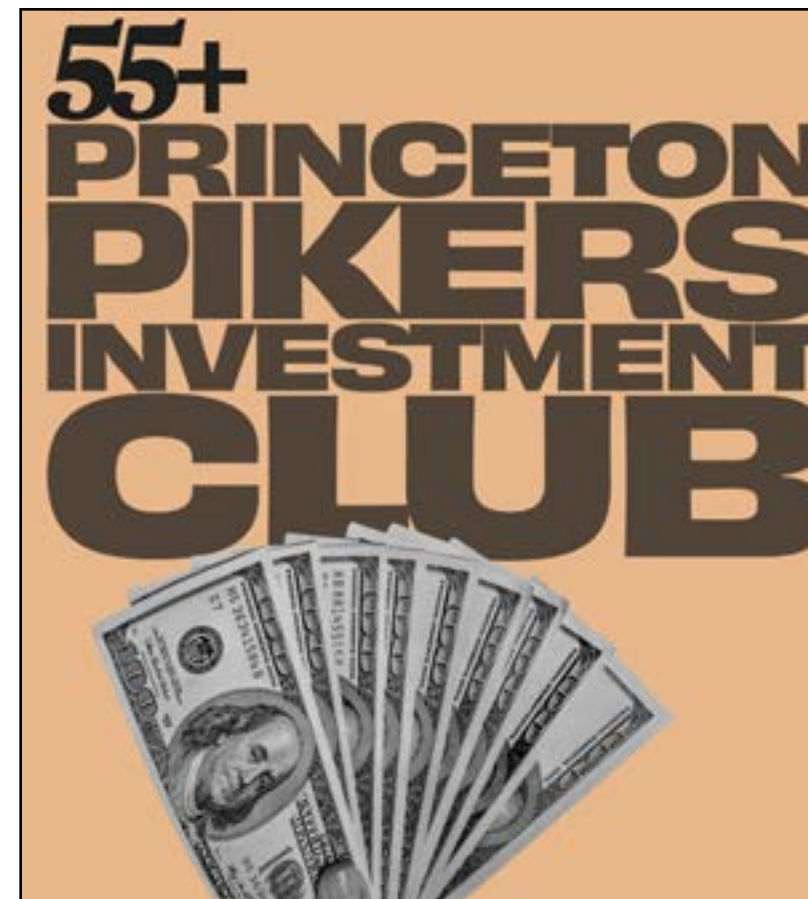
The Jewish Center Princeton

October 15 Steve Kornacki, National political correspondent for NBC News. Kornacki is an American political journalist, writer, and television presenter. He is a national political correspondent for NBC News. He has written articles for Salon, The New York Observer, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, New York Daily News, New York Post, The Boston Globe, and The Daily Beast. Kornacki was the multimedia anchor for much of MSNBC's The Place for Politics campaign coverage, having led the network's analysis of voting results for Election Day in the United States from 2014 to 2024.

Topic: "On forthcoming elections"

November 5 Frederick Wherry, Townsend Martin Class of 1917 Professor of Sociology; Vice Dean for Development and Inclusion; Director of the Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty. He is currently writing a book *What We Owe: How Debt Came for All of Us and How We Get Free* that examines the rise of mass debt, which now rivals mass incarceration in scale, and exposes the predatory tactics of debt collectors and the court system. He founded the Debt Collection Lab (debtcollectionlab.org) where he works on issues of economic justice. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of ten books, including *Viral Debt: The Production and Reproduction of Economic Vulnerability*, *Credit Where It's Due: Rethinking Financial Citizenship* (with Kristin Seefeldt and Anthony Alvarez), *The Oxford Handbook of Consumption* (with Ian Woodward), and *Money Talks* (with Nina Bandelj and Viviana Zelizer).

Topic: "On Debt Collection"

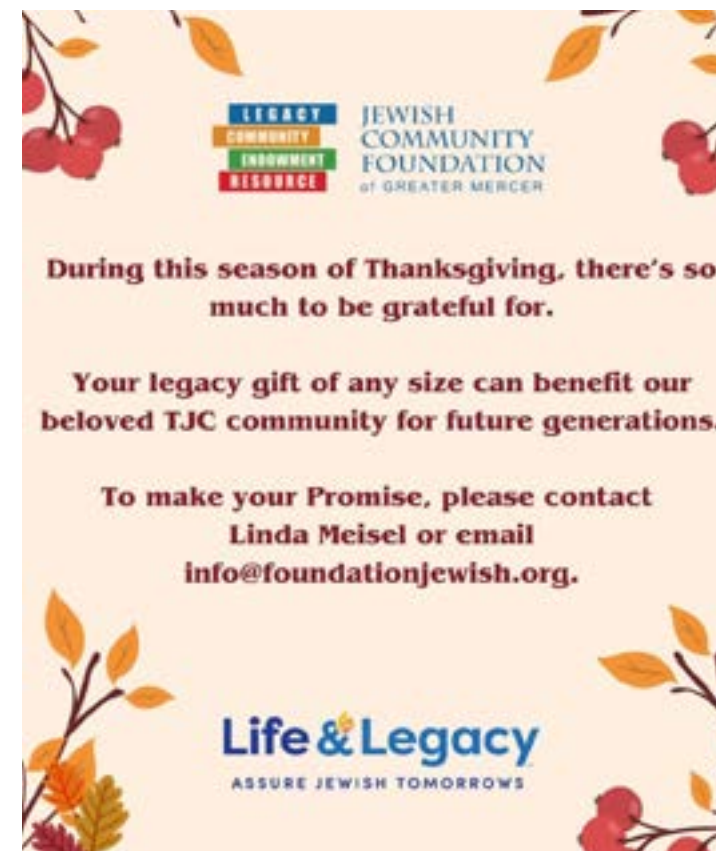


Interested in stock market investing? At the Princeton Pikers, our goal is simple: earn while you learn! Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting out, our friendly, supportive environment is the perfect place to enhance your investment skills and knowledge.

What We Offer:

- Insightful discussions on investment strategies
 - Expert guest speakers, including:
 - o The Head of IT at Princeton University discussing the future of AI and its impact on investing
 - o A representative from the Federal Reserve of Philadelphia sharing insights on the current economy
 - Opportunities for friendship and camaraderie
 - A chance to share experiences and tips
- Don't miss out on this chance to grow your wealth and wisdom together!

Join us and make your money work for you! For more information, contact Bob at robert.levine19@gmail.com. Use the subject line: Pikers. See you there!





The mission of the Chavurat Chessed committee is to cultivate a caring and connected community at The Jewish Center, by supporting members during life cycle moments and times of need.

This year, our committee is focused on communicating one simple message: We are a small group of caring volunteers who stand ready to be helpful and supportive to any member of the congregation in times of need. If you (or someone in your family) could benefit from a meal, a visit, or support during illness, recovery, bereavement, or another challenging time, **please let us know.**

Jewish tradition teaches that communities are strengthened not only by those who give, but also by those who allow others the privilege of giving. Your trust in our support will be a gift that allows fellow congregants to fulfill the mitzvah of *chesed* (loving kindness).

This is our third year for a renewed Chavurat Chessed committee! We are grateful that so many of you have already volunteered on one or more of our four subcommittees.

Chavurat Chessed matches TJC member volunteers with individuals and families in need of support in the following areas:

- Meal Trains** – Zvia Schoenberg & Judy Leopold.
- Friendly Visits and Phone Calls**– Lynne Ross & Jess Deutsch

Shiva Support – Mindy Langer & Roberta Sternthal
Caring Drivers – Seeking Co-Chairs

How to contact Chavurat Chessed to request support:

- **Call TJC phone line 609 921-0100 extension #8**
- **Send an email to chavuratchessed@thejewishcenter.org**
- **Contact Rabbi Merow 609 921-0100 extension #203**

Examples of mitzvot organized last year:

- Meal Trains for families with newborns and individuals recovering from surgery or an illness
- Support to congregants' preparing for Shiva
- "Friendly visits" and follow up phone calls Rides for services/programs at TJC

If you are interested in joining us, contact Pam Zaifman or Martha Friedman at chavuratchessed@thejewishcenter.org.

Let's keep the kindness growing!



2026

Happy Thanksgiving

The Jewish Thanksgiving Guide: Torah to Turkey

1. Jewish Thanksgiving Recipes -

Links Below for any last-minute cooking!

- Apple Honey Challah Stuffing:** This version blends challah with sweet apples, honey, dried cranberries, herbs, and pecans—perfectly seasonal and just a bit sweet.
- Sweet Potato-Pecan Kugel:** A sweet potato kugel topped with a crumbly pecan streusel—rich, festive, and perfect for Thanksgiving.
- Braised Brisket in Apricot and Cranberry Sauce:** Braised in a flavorful sauce featuring apricots, cranberries, preserves, and holiday spice—garnering both sweet and savory notes.

2. Humor: A Dish Best served with a side of Shmaltz

- What sound does a limping turkey make? “Wobble, wobble!”
- Why didn’t the turkey want dessert? It was stuffed!
- What are turkeys thankful for on Thanksgiving? Vegetarians

3. The Gift of Tzedakah: Please think of others at this time of thanks. Consider donating to one of our local organizations, they include:

- Princeton Cornerstone Community Kitchen
- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- Jewish Family and Children’s Services
- Arm-in-Arm

2026

Happy Thanksgiving

The Jewish Thanksgiving Guide: Torah to Turkey

4. A Thanksgiving Prayer by Rabbi Naomi Levy

For the laughter of the children,
For my own life breath,
For the abundance of food on this table,
For the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast,
For the roof over our heads,
The clothes on our backs,
For our health,
And our wealth of blessings,
For this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends,
For the freedom to pray these words
Without fear,
In any language,
In any faith,
In this great country,
Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.
Thank You, God, for giving us all these. Amen.

5. Closing Thoughts

On this Thanksgiving, we wish you:

- Enough leftovers to send everyone home with a “little something”
- Enough compliments to justify all that cooking
- And just enough chaos to keep it interesting.

May your turkey be juicy, your mashed potatoes be crispy, and your family be slightly less Meshuga than last year!

From,
The Staff at The Jewish Center



Edible Garden at The Jewish Center



Our TJC garden season is coming to a close but not quite! Many thanks to our multi-generational garden team who planted veggies, herbs and flowers, and watched over them with care-- watering, weeding, pruning, harvesting, and delivering them to patrons of the Jewish Family and Children's Service food pantries and the United Methodist Cornerstone Community Kitchen. And some even made its way to Shabbat kiddush! Much appreciated is the support of the TJC administration team and for the work of our congregants on rebuilding the garden gates. Starting in June, volunteers regularly delivered a selection of radishes, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants, squash, chives and various herbs. Now fall crops are emerging. And just as a reminder, there usually will be horseradish in time for Passover! If you would like to help in any way—now or in the future—no experience needed. For help with watering, clean-up, or harvesting, please sign up here. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F49AAAD2BAA8-64430315-helping/8246208#/>

If you are interested in working with the compost effort or with creating a mural on the garden fence, or for any other ideas or questions, please contact obarsky@gmail.com or wsolomon84@gmail.com.



Enter the garden and just enjoy!



SULAM
2026-2027
TEEN LEADERSHIP | COMMUNITY | ACTION

What to expect:

- Experiential Jewish learning programs
- Community service and social action through a Jewish lens
- Intergenerational programs
- Opportunity to serve as a Madrich (student leader)
- Meal served for each session

SUNDAY DATES

2026	2027
September 27	January 31
October 25	February 28
November 22	March 21
December 20	April 18
	May 23- 6-8PM

Sundays 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Open to students in grades 8-12

Scan here to Register!

Scan here for the full Sulam Calendar!

HAVEN'T REGISTERED YET?
Sign up today and join us for an exciting year of Sulam!

START SHABBAT HERE

JOIN US AT TJC FOR

TOT SHABBAT!

SHABBAT SONGS, BLESSINGS & DINNER WITH RABBI MEROW

5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP!

Membership News

Sharing good news for and about our incredible members

Besides the turkey and football, followed by the menorah and sufganiyot, this time of year is often a time for gratitude and reflection. In many ways, Thanksgiving is often referred to as the most Jewish of American holidays. Inspired by *Town Topics*, we posed a new question to our most recent members, so we can all get better acquainted with one another.

“What are you most grateful for in the past year?”

My greatest gratitude this year is for something I probably should have appreciated more all along: the power of having people. People to celebrate with, people to call when life is hard, people who make me laugh and people who welcome you even when they've only just met you. Joining this Princeton Jewish Center has reminded me that community isn't something you inherit—it's something you continue to create throughout your life. And I'm very grateful to be creating a little more of mine here.

– Amy Rose

We are most grateful for our 3rd child and 1st daughter, Naomi, joining our family in June!

– Augusta Powell, Harrison Silver & family

Last year I was most grateful for the same thing that I have been grateful for many years, my family.

– Gayle & Barry Weisberg

Gratitude for the pleasure of spending time alone and the independence that it confers.

– Ellen Vaknine

We are deeply grateful for dear family and friends on whom we depend and in whom we delight.

– Joanne & Jonathan Adar

We welcome the following new and returning members to TJC:

Gayle & Barry Weisberg

Emily Adar & Matt Schiffman

Joanne & Jonathan Adar

Elissa Weinberger Lew & Michael Lew

Amy Rose

Arnold Landy

Augusta Powell & Harrison Silver

Alyssa & Alex Greenfield & family

Eden Richman

Sara & Michael Coren

Ruth Orenstein

Ellen Vaknine

Ran Adler & Milos Best

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD....MEMBERS: If you're interested in joining the Membership Committee in welcoming new members and continuing to engage our entire community, please email Edye @ ekamenir@gmail.com.

The Sounds of SHABBAT

Live music on Shabbat! All are welcome

6:00 P.M. Service

Dates:

October 2
October 16
November 6
November 20

Open to the community!
Join our Professional and
Congregational musicians
for our Friday night
services!



Thank you veterans,
for dedicating your life
to serving our country.

HAPPY VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2026

WE OWE OUR FREEDOM TO YOU!



Join us at The Jewish Center for

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

How Americans Can Talk About Tough Issues
And Remain United



BILLY PLANER

BOOK TALK & DISCUSSION

WITH SPEAKER, BILLY PLANER
IN CONVERSATION WITH SAM DALEY-HARRIS

December 1, 2026

7 PM

The Jewish Center

We're excited to welcome Billy Planer to The Jewish Center to speak about his new book, *Conversations That Matter: How Americans Can Talk About Tough Issues and Remain United*.

In a time when politics, current events, identity, and other difficult topics can divide families, friendships, and communities, Billy offers practical tools for having meaningful conversations—even when we don't see eye to eye.

Join us for an engaging and timely conversation about how we can disagree with clarity, curiosity, and respect—and find our way back to dialogue.



Billy Planer is the founder and director of Etgar 36, a Jewish educational organization that empowers people to explore history, politics, social justice, and Jewish identity. With more than 30 years of experience in experiential Jewish education, Billy has led thousands of teens, families, and adults on journeys that inspire meaningful conversations and encourage people to find their own voices.

Books available for purchase at event!

RSVP via Shulcloud or scan the QR Code



Looking ahead to Chanukah

The dates of Chanukah are December 4–12, 2026

December 4

Shabbat Under the Stars: Chanukah!

December 8

Chanukah in Palmer Square

December 9

Community Candle Lighting



CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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In memory of

Gloria Shavel, Matthew Shavel,
Merrye Shavel-Hudis, Rabbi Adam
Feldman
from The Shavel Family

GENERAL FUND

from Ruth and Philip Holmes
from Jose Matiella

In honor of

Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth
of their grandson, Matthew Boaz
Lewis
from Marcie and Marc Citron

Carly Silverman's Art Exhibition
and Cocktails in the Corridor
from Richard and Sheryl Feinstein

Donna Gabai's Aliyah on
September 5th
from David and Donna Gabai

In memory of

Ben Shylit
from Sharon Shylit

Morris Goldshore and Lea
Goldshore
from Lewis Goldshore

Josh Milstein
from Joan Bourdon, Michael
and Naomi Goldin, Sofia Parish,
Donna and David Gabai, Judy
and Mike Leopold, Pamela and
Howard Dorman, Myra Weiner,
Marilyn Marks Tal and Reli Tal,
Rachel Klein-Kircher, Marcie and
Marc Citron, Lew and Barbara
Gantwerk, Arthur and Dina
Epstein, Sandie Rabinowitz,
The Jewish Center Princeton

Scott and Charlene Borsack,
Change Board of Directors and
Staff, Jen and Jeremy Black

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Sandie Rabinowitz
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Alison and David Politziner

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Harry Jacob Leiman
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Josh Milstein
from Shoshana Silberman, Steven
and Judy Richman, Judi and
Bernie Fleitman, Ned Wingreen
and Rachelle Simon

my daughter, Rebecca Annitto,
whose light continues to shine
from Michal Saraf

ANNUAL FUND

In memory of

Josh Milstein
from Denise Feder

Carol Alpert, thank you for being a
bright light for my children
from Dina Shaw

David Heymsfeld and Susan
Heymsfeld
from Joel Heymsfeld

ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
In memory of

Niso Guvenis
from Hasan Kudret and Louise
Celebi and family

Josh Milstein
from Sher and Jeanne Leiman

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In honor of

Michael and Beatrice Bloom on
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Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth
of their grandson, Matthew Boaz
Lewis
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In memory of

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from Tirza Wahrman
and Warren Mitlak

Barbara Krupkin
from Moshe and Judy Margolin

THE JEWISH CENTER
REFUGEE FUND

from Anonymous (3)
from Steven Sheriff and
Michele Alperin

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Louise Sandburg and Peter Smith
for all of their hard work on behalf
of the refugees
from Phyllis Teitelbaum and
Anthony Lunn

Peter Smith's ongoing kindness and
generosity
from Kendra DiPaola

In memory of

Josh Milstein
from Fran Zeitler Edelman and
Fred Edelman

KIDDUSH COMMUNITY

from Ellen and George Pristach

LIFE AND LEGACY
ENDOWMENT FUND
In honor of

Arlene and Henry Opatut on the
birth of their grandson, Brodie
Eben Opatut
from Linda and Art Meisel

Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth
of their grandson, Matthew Boaz
Lewis
from Linda and Art Meisel

Art Meisel on his special birthday
from Joan Levin

In memory of
Josh Milstein
from Linda and Art Meisel, Evy
and Lenny Grossman, Marsha and
Eliot Freeman

Sandie Rabinowitz
from Linda and Art Meisel

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In honor of

Diane and Allan Richman on their
65th Wedding Anniversary
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In memory of

Josh Milstein
from Brad and Cathy Bailey

RABBI ADAM FELDMAN
MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of

The celebration of the engagement
of Talia Feldman and Noah Spector
from Amy Vogt

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Cheifetz
from Ira and Linda Cheifetz

Marc Surrey
from Samantha Surrey

Stacy Cheifetz Marino
from Ira and Linda Cheifetz

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DISCRETIONARY FUND

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from Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman

Rabbi Merow for the beautiful and
joyous aufruf for Eliza and Paul
from Ellen and George Pristach

Rachel Markowitz's granddaughter
Laura Perlstein on her marriage to
Josh Cohen
from Allan and Diane Richman

Rabbi Andrea Merow and her
wonderful High Holiday Services
from Jody Sysler

Rabbi Andi Merow on her special
birthday
from Jen and Jeremy Black

In memory of

My beloved grandmother, Fannie
Goldfarb
from Ruth Koizim

Carol Alpert
from The Alpert Family

Josh Milstein
from Marci Alboher, Jane, Jennifer
and John Altman

Rabbi Raymond Leiman
from Sher Leiman

Todd Richman
from Diane and Allan Richman

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND

from Larry and Madlen Mayer

In honor of

Gail Gendler and Mitch Gladstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Alice Ruby Arno

from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth of their grandson, Matthew Boaz Lewis

from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

Rabbi Bob Freedman for his kindness and generosity

from Lois Safer and Family

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUND

In honor of

Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth of their grandson, Matthew Boaz Lewis

from The Kamenir Family

In memory of

Shirley Neumann

from Anonymous

Josh Milstein

from Joseph Schwartz, Jonathan and Susan Gross, Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of

The Martinez Family on Adina's Bat Mitzvah

from Michael and Beatrice Bloom

Ellen and George Pristach on the marriage of Eliza and Paul

from Anonymous

Ellen and George Pristach on the aufruf and wedding of their granddaughter

from Myra Weiner

In memory of

Carol Alpert

from Cynthia and Tom Richman, Lana and Elliot Sambol, Joe and Barbara Schwartz

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND

from Joe and Barbara Schwartz from Jerry Seid

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In honor of

Zoe's baby naming

from Laura Zwanziger and Jacob Schwartz

Arlene and Henry Opatut on the birth of their grandson, Brodie Eben Opatut

from Joan Levin

Diane and Allan Richman on their 65th Wedding Anniversary

from Sofia Parish

Suzanne Esterman and her D'var about community

from Judy and Mike Leopold

Ed Soffen for all that he does and how much he cares

from Carol Schwartz

In memory of

David Heymsfeld

from Joel Heymsfeld

Reuben Klaben

from Norma Papier

Steven Bacall

from Beth Bacall

Sandie Rabinowitz

from Joe and Barbara Schwartz

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In memory of

My adored father, Samuel Goldfarb

from Ruth Koizim

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from Debbie Freedman and Avi Paradise

Josh Milstein

from Debbie Freedman and Avi Paradise, Missy Peck

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Nancy Lewis on her special birthday

from Lynne Ross

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Book Club

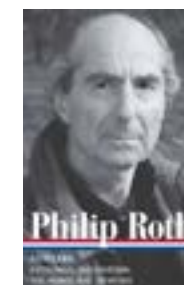
Tuesdays, October 20 & November 17

7:30 p.m.

via Zoom.

**Tuesday, October 20, at 7:30 pm
we'll meet via Zoom to discuss:
Nemesis by Philip Roth**

Philip Roth's...protagonist is not one of his self-conscious writer-heroes, like Nathan Zuckerman or Peter Tarnopol, who spend their lives turning sentences around and contemplating the equation between life and art. No, he's a simple Newark gym teacher who in the summer of 1944 is supervising the neighborhood playground, watching the boys play ball and the girls jump rope. In Mr. Roth's...novel, "Nemesis," it's the summer when a polio epidemic sweeps through the city, spreading anxiety and suspicion. (*New York Times*)



**Tuesday, November 17, at 7:30 pm
we'll meet via Zoom to discuss:
In the Time of our History by Susanne Pari**

"Every family has secrets. Try as we might to keep them hidden, secrets have a way of being revealed—sometimes resulting in utter devastation, sometimes in forgiveness and understanding. Susanne Pari took me deep into these conflicts in her beautifully written novel, *In the Time of Our History*. Days later, I'm still thinking about the women—mothers and daughters, sisters, aunts and nieces—who inhabited these pages, the choices they made, and the love between them." (Lisa See)



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

COMING UP NEXT!

December 15 – *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult

January 19 – *The Only Daughter* by A.B. Yehoshua

February 16 – *Heart of a Stranger* by Angela Buchdahl



All are welcome to join our Book Club Discussions. Please contact Louise Sandburg for more info: louisesandburg@gmail.com



THE ANNUAL FUND 5787 GIVING LEVELS

<i>Me'orot</i>	Luminaries	\$54,000
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Other: _____

☐ I wish my gift to be anonymous

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
☐ Securities

Please make checks payable to: The Jewish Center

Account Number _____
Exp. Date ____ / ____ CW _____
Signature _____

☐ I/We want to make a gift of stock or mutual funds. Please have someone contact us.

☐ I/we want to make a gift with an IRA Charitable Roller (the donor must be at least age 70 ½ at the time of transfer and the funds must pass directly from the donor's IRA custodian to TJC)
Please have someone contact us with specific instructions.

☐ I/We are interested in including The Jewish Center in my/our estate planning.

☐ Please have someone contact us about setting up a Life and Legacy gift.

Thank you in advance for your philanthropy.
Questions? Please contact Executive Director Joel Berger at jberger@thejewishcenter.org
or at 609.921.0100 ext. 205.

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

Show your support:

- ☐ 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.)

Did you know TJC has a hearing-impaired system in our Sanctuary?

The next time you visit, look for the card below and connect via your Bluetooth!

Wi-fi Network: TJCoP
Password: Tjc435457 [note only the first letter is capitalized]

2. Download the Listen EVERYWHERE app from Listen Technologies Corporation. It's available on both the Apple App Store and Android/Google Play stores.

3. After you've downloaded the app, you'll have an icon on your phone that looks like this:



4. Click it and it will open the app. The app will perform a quick venue scan to find the available audio channels (you need to do this at TJC when the PA system is turned on).

5. The app will display a Welcome screen and may play a Welcome video. You can skip this by tapping the 'Skip Ad' button at the top right of the screen.

6. It will then show the audio channel. Tap the channel and the sound should come through the app.

7. From there, however you integrate audio with your hearing aid, you should be able to adjust volume and choose your preferred equalization curve via your hearing aid app.

.....♥.....

*Do you have a
Simcha or happy
occasion to celebrate?*

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

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

Carol Alpert,
longtime teacher at
The Jewish Center Religious School

Joshua Milstein,
Husband of Linda Milstein

Sandie Rabinowitz,
longtime congregant

*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/87570201257p-wd=SncvMTMvNkJOQkIGWWJrdDBFMIp2dz09>

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



Shema Yoga with Eleni Litt
at The Jewish Center

Weekly on Fridays 10:00 - 11:00 am

Shema Yoga, developed by Eleni Litt, infuses the practice of yoga with a Jewish sensibility. Shema Yoga enhances balance, strength, and flexibility with multiple options for all movements and poses.

Eleni is a longtime member of The Jewish Center and a 200hr. Registered Yoga Teacher (Yoga Alliance). She has advanced training in chair yoga, with Kripalu teacher Rudy Peirce <https://www.gentle-yogis.com/>

She is currently in advanced training with other Jewish Yogis as part of Julie Emden's Embodied Jewish Learning Network <https://embodiedjewishlearning.org/>

LET US KNOW!

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

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

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TALMUD STUDY GROUP

Every Wednesday at noon via Zoom:
Talmud study in translation.

No previous experience necessary.
For more information, email Neil Litt at neillitt@outlook.com.

Meeting ID: 839 8013 7869
Password: 643177

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AT TJC!

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435 Nassau St
Princeton, NJ

\$20 per pair collected at the door

Refreshments provided

Beginner/intermediate

Separate section

Attendance Permitting

Beginner classes being offered. Contact Judy!

Need help finding a partner? Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Thank you for supporting our bridge club.

Judy Eulin

(609) 921-0332

princetonbridgegame@gmail.com

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Now collecting for October-November 2026.

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

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

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Send donation acknowledgement to: _____

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