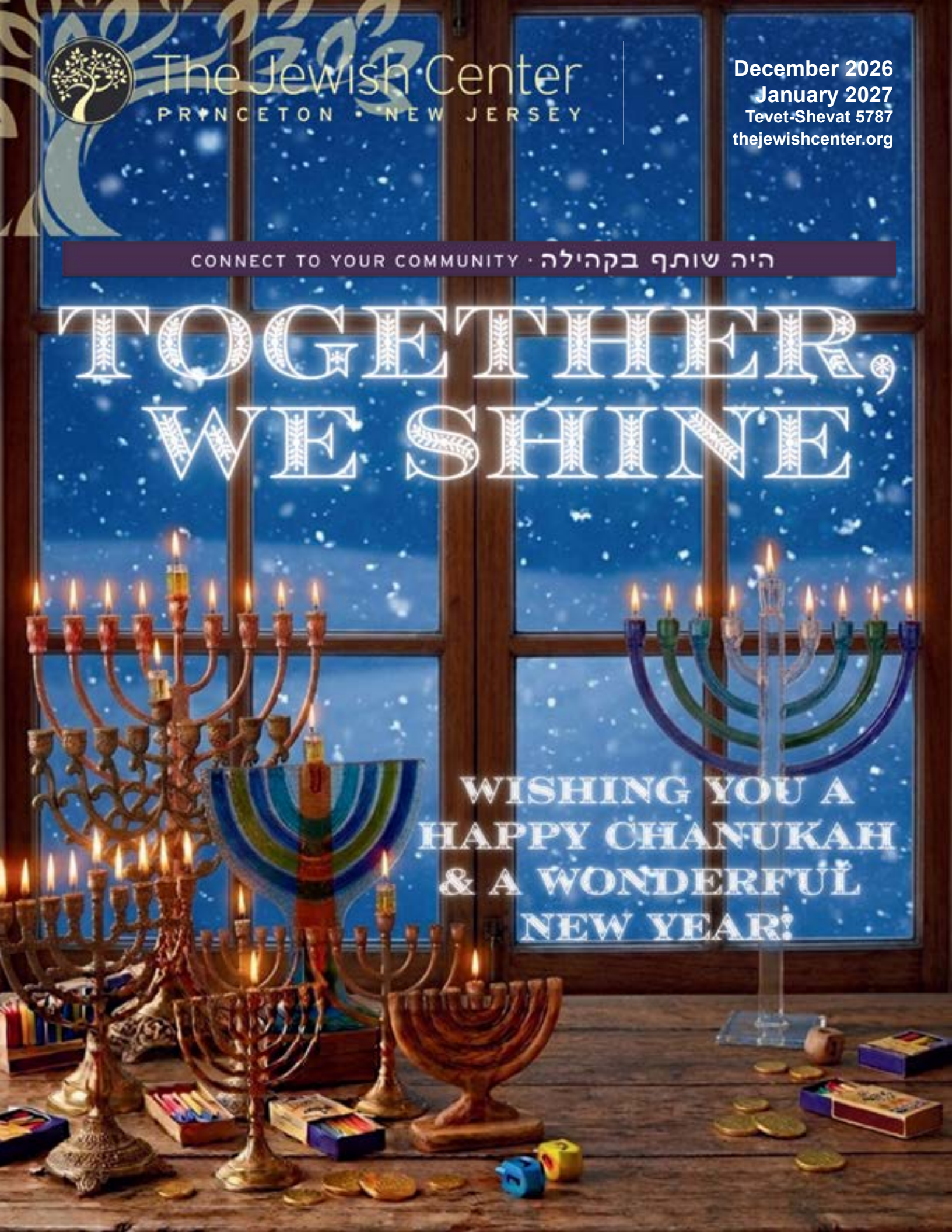

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY
December 2026
January 2027
Tevet-Shevat 5787
thejewishcenter.org
CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY · היה שותף בקהילה
TOGETHER, WE SHINE
WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHANUKAH & A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY

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Rabbi 2005-2019	Adam Feldman z"l
Shaliach Tzibur	Avi Paradise
Rabbi Emeritus	Dr. Dov Peretz Elkins
Cantor Emeritus	Murray E. Simon
Executive Director	Joel Berger
Interim Religious School Director	Ellen Pristach
Service Coordinator	Rabbi Bob Freedman
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Programming	Ed Simon
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School. Youth and Family	Beth Glasberg-Katz
Social Action	Lynne Ross

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The Jewish Center Princeton

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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







MESSAGE from the Rabbi

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

The Miracles That Are With Us Every Day

On Hanukkah, we celebrate miracles. Two very different kinds. The miracle of the battle: a small band of Maccabees stood against an empire and won. And then the miracle of the light: one small cruse of oil, enough for a single day, burned for eight.

Some may ask: Why two stories? Which one is right? I believe that having two very different stories reminds us that we do not all have to believe the same things or even have the same reasons for being part of the Jewish people. One story may speak more deeply to us than the other, depending on who we are or the times in which we live. Some embrace both. For others, neither story resonates, but they celebrate because this is what we do as Jews: we gather with family, remember our history, and kindle lights at the darkest time of the year.

For me, one of the greatest miracles is the survival of the Jewish people. We are here because generations of our ancestors lived through difficult times and still chose to remain part of our sacred community. Perhaps you yourself chose to join the Jewish people. These are miracles worth celebrating.
When we add *Al HaNisim*, a prayer of thanksgiving for miracles, to our prayers on Hanukkah, we remember both stories. But our tradition doesn't wait for Hanukkah to notice miracles. Three times a day, in the *Modim* blessing of the *Amidah*, we thank God *v'al nisecha sheb'chol yom imanu*, *"for Your miracles that are with us every day."* Every day. With us.

Here is an invitation: Each day, say those words: "We thank You, God, for Your miracles that are with us every day." Then pause and name one miracle in your life. Perhaps it is something you might otherwise have taken for granted: a moment of connection, an unexpected kindness, the embrace of family, friends, or our community.

You might begin this daily practice on Hanukkah. Before or after lighting the candles, take a moment to name a miracle you experienced that day. Share it with those gathered around you or quietly acknowledge it yourself. Perhaps this habit can stay with us throughout the year, even after the Hanukkah menorah is put away.

This Hanukkah, as the lights grow brighter night by night, may we open our eyes to the miracles that are with us every day.

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 a ected 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 jlasday@jewishphilly.org.

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

HAR ZION TEMPLE
Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim
The Jewish Center PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY
125 YEARS Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia



MESSAGE from the President

Lew Gantwerk
lg.presidenttjc@gmail.com

The fall foliage this year seems to me to be especially colorful and vibrant. The beautiful panorama, the crisp autumn air have made me aware of, on 1 hand, the beauty that surrounds us and also the passing of time. I have lived in the northeast for most of my life and have always appreciated both the season I'm in as well as the season to come.

The passage of time has become more of a focus as I get older. This year I am experiencing this passage both viscerally and Jewishly (not sure this is a word - but you know what I mean). For me, the holidays this year have been especially intense, personal and joyful. By the time you read this the elections in Israel and the US will have taken place -another marker of time passing. I'm looking forward to Hanukah, then Pesach, and beyond. As I look forward to our next holiday, I'm always reminded of moments from previous holidays and feel so grateful for them.

As I experience time passing, I have become aware of a significant change in how I calculate this passage. I used to think about holidays as a measure of time passing - through the lens of an American Jew – New Years eve, Memorial Day. Fourth of July. Labor Day, Thanksgiving. More and more I now experience the passage of time through the lens of a Jewish American – Shabbat, Rosh Hashannah, Yom Kippur, Sukkoth, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Pesach, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Tisha B'Av....etc.

I think, that for me, this is a function of both age and the current wave of antisemitism we are in the midst of. Rabbi Merow always asks us, at the start of Shabbat services to take a breath, let go of the complications of the week and focus on our blessings, our families and our community. In this way. Friday night services help me measure the passing of time with a feeling of peace and joy. How lucky we are to have a weekly holiday to help us accept and appreciate the passing of time. My concerns about the effects of antisemitism are both heightened and eased when I come to TJC. I am comforted by being surrounded by friends and congregants. One can't help be reminded of time passing when we read Torah, sing melodies from centuries past and engage in rituals that our parents, our grandparents and families going back centuries have practiced. This offers me reassurance that we Jews have been around for a long time and it's in our DNA to find ways to move forward.

The Jewish Center helps to center me in my Jewish life, my excitement about our future and the joy I experience as time passes. How do you experience time passing?

Lew



MESSAGE from the Executive Director

Joel Berger
609.921.0100 ext. 205
jberger@thejewishcenter.org

A New Year, A New Beginning: What Does It Mean to Be Part of a Jewish Community?

As the New Year begins, we each take time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to what's in store for us. What things went well last year? What things do we need to improve on? How can I get more involved in my community?

I think The Jewish Center gives all of us a tremendous array of opportunities to be a bigger part of our Jewish Community. And it's not about coming to synagogue on a Friday night or a Saturday morning. But we really want you to do that! Have you experienced our Shabbat with Musicians? Join us the 1st and 3rd Fridays of **EVERY** month. Have you joined us on a Saturday morning and stayed for Kiddush? Do you just come JFK? Just for Kiddush? How about reading Torah or doing a Haftorah? We have plenty available.

But what does it really mean to be a part of a Jewish Community. Sure, you can attend programs (we have so many), or attend Rabbi Merow's classes, always worth your time, but there is so much more.

Did you know we offer rides to our older congregants to they can participate in activities? We are always looking for more drivers. Did you know we take a meal to one of our 100-year-old congregants every Shabbat? Did you know we plant vegetables in our garden and take the food to the local food pantry? Did you know we did clothing drives, and feminine supply drives, and soup drives and so much more! What about our award-winning Kiddush Krew? Fridays at 11 and we can always use more help. Not every Shabbat but get on our email list and we will let you know when the next Krew is. Yoga, Mah Jongg, Klezmer, Great Minds, Israel Programs, we can go on and on.

I think there is truly something for everyone here at TJC. But it's truly up to you to step forward and find out how you can be more a part of our community. I would love to order more food for meals. I would love to move programs to bigger venues. I would love to keep making peoples lives better. It can all happen here.

As the New Year begins, think about how you can be a bigger part of our Jewish Community. I am happy to have that conversation with you. And if it's something we do not offer, step up and lead it yourself! We can always find a way to do more, and get more people involved.

On behalf of Gloria, Stephanie and Lauren, we wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!

Joel



MESSAGE from the Interim Religious School Director

Ellen Pristach
609.921.0100 ext. 220
epristach@thejewishcenter.org

Chesed: Making a Difference, One Kind Act at a Time

This past summer, my granddaughter Eliza was married at Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island. George and I hosted brunch the morning after the wedding. I, of course, went a bit overboard when ordering the food, wanting to be sure there would be enough, in spite of the caterer's advice that I was ordering more than was necessary. She was right, and there were 5 extra large, unopened food platters. There was not an inch of space for storage, but the thought of disposing of the food was unacceptable. My daughter suggested trying to find an organization on the island that would distribute it to those in need in the community. After doing a quick search, it took just 1 call to the Saint Francis Community Center to find a place to donate the food. The gratitude they showed when we delivered the platters was so sincere and appreciative and it felt so good.

One of the most important values we teach our students in Jewish education is chesed — loving-kindness. Chesed is at the heart of what it means to be part of a Jewish community. It reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in someone else's life.

Throughout the Torah, we see examples of people who demonstrate chesed through their actions. Abraham welcomes guests into his home, showing us the importance of hospitality and caring for others. These lessons remind us that chesed is not just something we talk about; it is something we practice every day through our choices, our words, and our actions.

As our upcoming B'nai Mitzvah students prepare for this important milestone in their Jewish lives, they are also preparing to take on the responsibility of becoming more active members of the Jewish community. An important part of this journey is choosing a Chesed project — a meaningful way to give back, help others, and make a positive impact.

Students will have the opportunity to choose a project that reflects their individual interests, talents, and passions. Possibilities include collecting food for families experiencing food insecurity, volunteering with organizations that support people in need, helping animals at local shelters, visiting or connecting with older adults, supporting children and families facing challenges, participating in environmental projects, or creating their own initiative to address a need in the community.

The goal is not simply to complete a project, but to help our students understand that each of us has the ability and responsibility to make the world a better place. By identifying a cause they care about and taking action, students learn the value of empathy, responsibility, and giving of themselves to others.

As a community, we can support our students by sharing ideas, connecting them with local organizations, and encouraging them to explore causes that are meaningful to them.

May our B'nai Mitzvah students discover that chesed is more than a project or a requirement. It is a lifelong commitment to kindness, compassion, and *tikkun olam* — helping to repair the world, one act at a time.

Ellen

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Levi Shore - December 5, 2026

Levi is in 7th grade at Thomas Grover Middle School in West Windsor. He loves playing video games, being with his family, playing with his sibling, and being the dungeon master for Dungeons and Dragons games. He has gone to Camp Galil for 4 summers. Camp Galil is a Habonim-Dror camp where he has learned a lot about himself.

His Chesed project was working with the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice. He participated in planning committees and made a neuro-divergent sensory table at the Princeton Pride Parade.

Levi's other interests are Taekwondo, collecting items like toy swords and Pokémon, Kirby, and the show Murder Drones. Levi is excited to be an active member of the Jewish Center. He wants to thank Gila, Rabbi Merow, and Avi for all of their help.



Alexander Longo - December 12, 2026

Alexander is a seventh-grade student at Princeton Day School. He is a hockey goalie and also enjoys playing lacrosse and golf. Alex loves skiing with family and friends, spending time outdoors, and playing with his Bernese Mountain Dog, Fred. He spends his summers at various sports camps and Overland, an outdoor adventure program where he has explored New England and the Grand Tetons through biking, hiking, whitewater rafting, and kayaking. He is excited for his next adventure this summer when he treks through the Dolomites in Italy. For his Chesed project, Alex volunteered with the Greg McDonald Foundation, an organization that is very close to his heart. Greg McDonald was one of Alex's hockey coaches who fought courageously but ultimately lost his battle with cancer. The foundation continues Greg's legacy by supporting the hockey community and providing opportunities to those in need through scholarships, equipment donations, leadership development, and community service. Alex is proud to be part of an organization that honors someone who had such an impact on his life. Alex would like to thank Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, and Gila Levin for helping prepare him for his Bar Mitzvah, his religious school teachers for their support, and, most of all, his family for their love and encouragement throughout his Bar Mitzvah journey.

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Makenzie Dalewitz - December 19, 2026

Makenzie is an eighth grader at Princeton Middle School and is excited to be called to the torah as a bat mitzvah. Makenzie joined TJC in 2025, after moving to Princeton from New Hope, PA.

For the past 7 years, Makenzie nzie has been an avid equestrian, competing throughout the east coast with her horse Birkin. When she is not riding, Makenzie enjoys art projects, baking and spending time with her friends and dog Coco. She also loves to travel with her family.

For Makenzies Chesed project, she chose to combine her love for horses and mentoring young children. She decided to volunteer as a summer camp counselor at Hunter Farms, right here in Princeton. Throughout the summer, the barn welcomes local children as well as those visiting from other countries. During the course of the summer, she encouraged the kids to overcome their hesitancy around horses and gain confidence in themselves.

Makenzie would like to thank her parents and Gila Levin, Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise and all the countless others who supported and guided her throughout her preparation for her bat mitzvah.





THE JEWISH CENTER'S OFFICIAL

Chanukah Guide

Blesssings

BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES
FIRST PRAYER

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU MELECH HA-OLAM, ASHER KID'SHANU B'MITZVOTAV V'TSIVANU L'HADLIK NER SHEL HANUKKAH. (AMEN)

bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-nye eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh ha-oh-lahm ah-sher ki-deh-shah-noo beh-mitz-voh-tahv veh-tzee-vah-noo leh-hahd-lik nayr shel ha-noo-kah

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who made us holy through Your commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

BLESSING FOR THE HANUKKAH MIRACLE
SECOND PRAYER

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU MELECH HA-OLAM, SHE-ASAH NISIM LA'AVOTEINU V'IMOTEINU BAYAMIM HAHEIM BAZMAN HAZEH. (AMEN)

bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-nye eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm sheh-ah-sah nee-sim lah-ah-voh-tay-noo v-ee-moh-tay-noo bah-yah-mim hah-haym bahz-mahn hah-zeh

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in those ancient days in this season.

SHEHECHEYANU BLESSING
FIRST NIGHT ONLY

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI, ELOHEINU MELECH HA-OLAM, SHEHECHEYANU V'KIY'MANU V'HIGIYANU LAZMAN HAZEH. (AMEN)

bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm sheh-heh-kheh-yah-noo veh-kee-mah-noo ve-hee-gee-yah-noo lahz-mahn hah-zeh

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

Chanukah Gift Ideas

Chanukah Recipes

Song and Prayer Sheet

Dreidel Game Explained

TJC STAFF UPDATE



CYNTHIA RICHMAN

Community Life Coordinator

Cynthia was born and raised in New York City, Brooklyn, Staten Island and then moved to Manhattan where she began her married life.

Cynthia moved to West Windsor, NJ to raise her children, Alex and Samantha. Cynthia has been with TJC in many roles, beginning as nursery parent in 1998. She began teaching in the nursery school in 2004 until 2015 and then on to working in the religious school office. She also teaches our youngest learners in the Ganon class. Being affiliated with TJC has greatly enhanced Cynthia's Jewish experiences for which she is grateful.

Cynthia loves spending time with her family and friends. Enjoys traveling, dancing, concerts, Broadway shows, cooking and entertaining. She is an avid tennis player with a new hobby, pickleball. She lives with her husband, Tom and furry daughter Jessie.



JILL SLAVIN

Bookkeeper

Jill Slavin is excited to join The Jewish Center as its bookkeeper. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA and brings extensive experience in corporate accounting and small-business bookkeeping. Through her business, Bookkeeping Rephreshed, she works closely with organizations to keep their finances organized and support their day-to-day operations. Jill lives in Newtown, Pennsylvania, and enjoys spending time with her daughter and two dachshunds, staying active, and cheering on the Phillies and Eagles. She looks forward to getting to know The Jewish Center community!


LIGHT ALWAYS FINDS A WAY
CHANUKAH IN PALMER SQUARE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8 2026 | 4:30 P.M.
ONE PALMER SQUARE EAST, PRINCETON, NJ 08542
COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING WITH CHANUKAH GELT, SNACKS & MUSIC
PALMER SQUARE
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!
The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY


Join us at The Jewish Center for
COMMUNITY CANDLE LIGHTING
6TH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
DECEMBER 9, 2026
5:45 P.M.
THE JEWISH CENTER
SINGING & SNACKS
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!
The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY


The Jewish Center invites you to
KLEZMER JAM
UPCOMING DATE
December 10
in The Jewish Center Lobby
7:00 P.M.
Join Anna Meisel and Marilyn Tal for a klezmer play-along at TJC! All instruments and all levels are welcome. If you're advanced, help lead. If you can only play one note, play that note. Klezmer is music of celebration, so let's celebrate! We look forward to you joining us for a fun, stress-free musical event.
Scores will be provided at the jam; if you'd like them in advance, email Marilyn at marilynmarkstal@gmail.com. Bring a music stand if you have one
Open to the community!


Shabbat Under the Stars
1st Night of Chanukah
December 4
Cocktails in the Corridor - 5:00 PM
Services with Musicians - 6:00 PM
Dinner - 7:00 PM
Celebrate the first night of Chanukah with us!
FISH DINNER
Beverages and Latkes provided by The Jewish Center
Bring a side dish or dessert!
Please RSVP via ShulCloud & let us know what dish you are sharing
RSVP by 11/27/26
Families and Kids are more than welcome!
Open to the community!


JOIN TJC FOR
2026-2027
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SHABBAT DINNER
OPEN TO ALL GRADES AND FAMILIES
6TH GRADE WILL BE INVITED TO LEAD THE SHEMA AND V'AHAVTA AT SERVICES THAT NIGHT
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
JAN 29
SERVICES AT 6PM, MEAL TO FOLLOW!
RSVP VIA SHULCLOUD!


The Jewish Center
YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMS
AT THE JEWISH CENTER
SUNDAYS 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
UPCOMING DATES:
12/6/2026 - CHANUKAH LIGHTS & LATKES
1/17/2027 - TU B'SHEVAT GROW TOGETHER
FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1 AND BELOW AND THEIR CAREGIVERS
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CRICHMAN@THEJEWISHCENTER.ORG
*DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

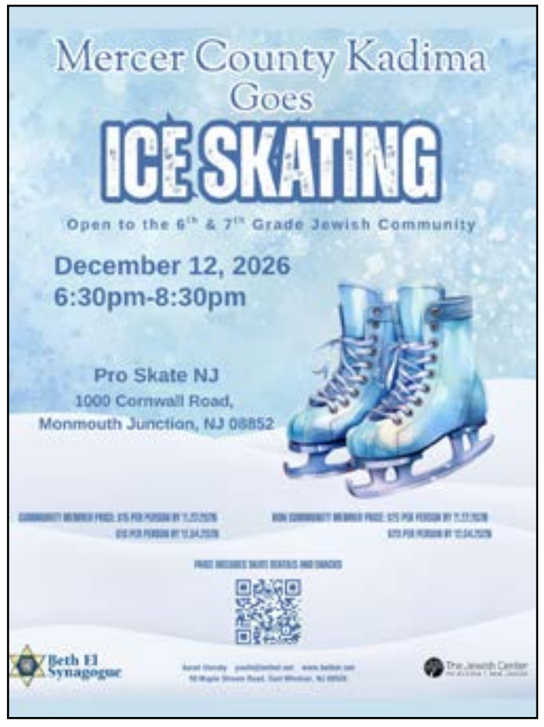

The Sounds of
SHABBAT
Live music on Shabbat! All are welcome
6:00 P.M. Service
Dates:
December 4
December 18
January 1
January 15
Open to the community!
Join our Professional and Congregational musicians for our Friday night services!
The Jewish Center


JOIN US!
Cocktails in the Corridor
Friday, December 4, 2026
5:00P.M.
Before Shabbat Services
Drinks, Snacks and Schmoozing!
Sponsored by Joyce and Clive Usiskin in honor of the engagement of their grandson Benjamin Lee to Lucia Muntadas-Prim
Open to the community!


THE JEWISH CENTER INVITES STUDENTS IN GRADES 2 TO 5 TO
JR. CONGREGATION
Upcoming Dates
December 19
January 23
Saturdays from 10:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. | Bet. Midrash
Lead by Ronit Johnson
Parents and Caregivers are welcome!

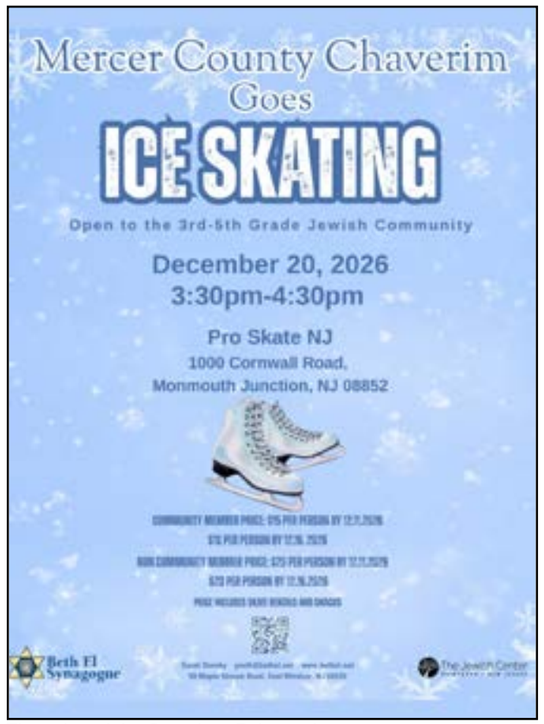

Open to the community!
START SHABBAT HERE
JOIN US AT TJC FOR
TOT SHABBAT!
Upcoming Dates:
December 11
January 15
March 5
April 9
May 21
SHABBAT SONGS, BLESSINGS & DINNER WITH RABBI MEROW
DINNER FOLLOWING SERVICES
5:30 P.M.
December RSVP
January RSVP
For any questions, email crichman@thejewishcenter.org


MERCER COUNTY USY
OPEN TO THE 8TH - 12TH GRADE JEWISH COMMUNITY
CHINESE & MOVIE NIGHT
ENJOY A NIGHT IN WITH FRIENDS, MOVIES, AND CHINESE FOOD
DATE: DEC. 19, 2026
TIME: 7:00PM-10:00PM
PLACE: THE JEWISH CENTER
435 NASSAU STREET, PRINCETON, NJ 08540
COMMUNITY MEMBER PRICE: FREE WITH REGISTRATION BY 12.04.2026
$18 PER PERSON BY 12.11.2026
NON-COMMUNITY MEMBER PRICE: $18 PER PERSON BY 12.04.2026
$23 PER PERSON BY 12.11.2026


Mercer County Kadima Goes
ICE SKATING
Open to the 6th & 7th Grade Jewish Community
December 12, 2026
6:30pm-8:30pm
Pro Skate NJ
1000 Cornwall Road,
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
Beth El Synagogue
The Jewish Center

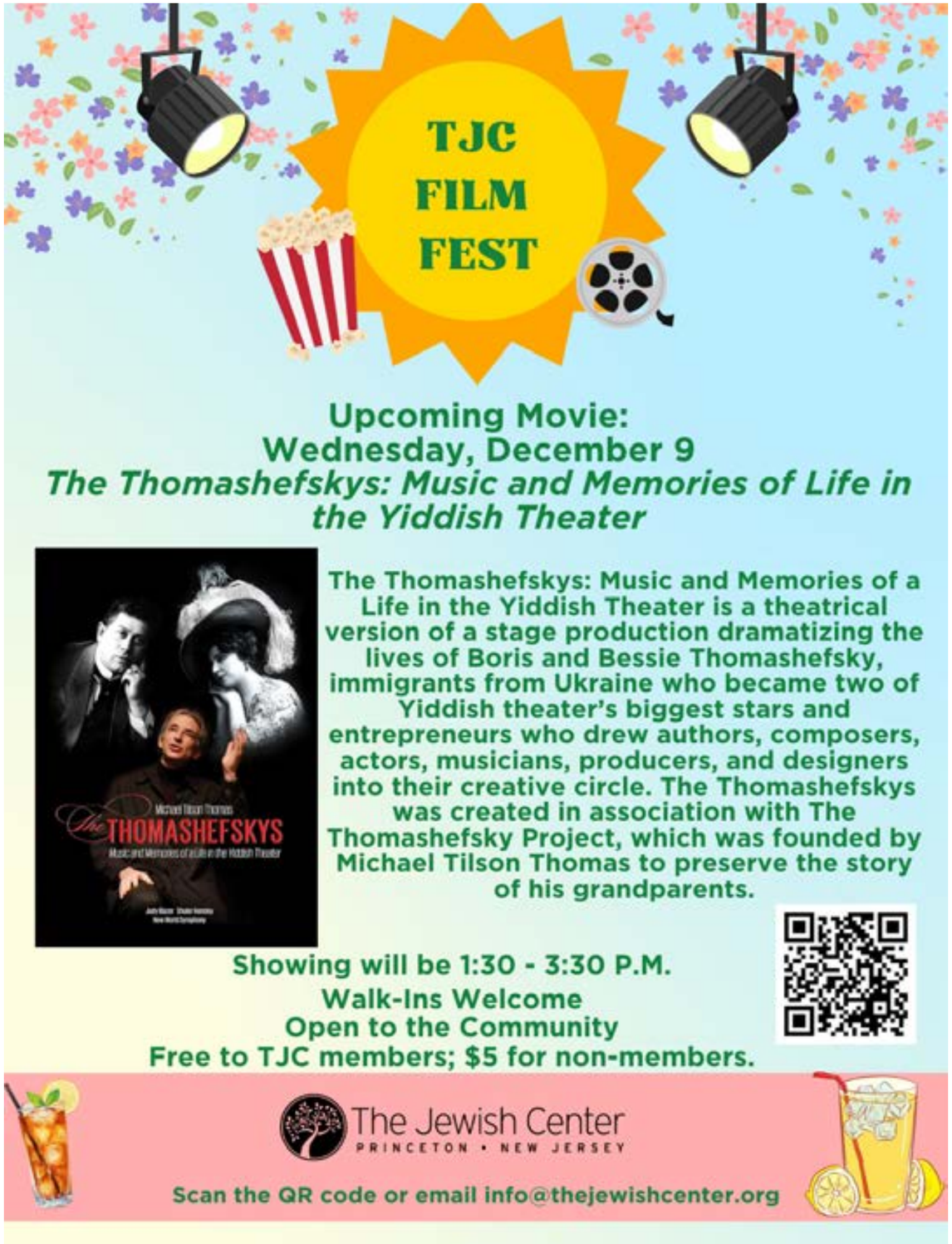

Community Challah Bake
SUPPORTING MERCER COUNTY CHAVERIM, KADIMA & USY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026
7:00PM-9:00PM
AT BETH EL SYNAGOGUE, EAST WINDSOR, NJ
50 MAPLE STREAM ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, NJ 08520
JOIN US AS WE PARTAKE IN THE MITZVAH OF BAKING CHALLAH FOR SHABBAT.
LED BY PAM KRIEGER
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
ALL FAMILIES & AGES WELCOME
ALL CHILDREN AND TEENS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
$36 per person
$300 per table of 10
REGISTER BY: WEDNESDAY, 12.2.2026
https://forms.gle/9J3vwpRR2BaD1m5d9
ALL FUNDS RAISED FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT MERCER COUNTY CHAVERIM, KADIMA & USY PROGRAMMING
Beth El Synagogue
Sarah Densky youth@bethel.net 609-233-2236


BETH EL GOES TO TOPGOLF
All Ages Welcome
Open to the Community
Children Under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult
JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON AT TOPGOLF. SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS WHILE PLAYING HIGH-TECH GOLF. FUN FOR ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026
2:00PM-4:00PM
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BY 10.16.2026- $12 PER PERSON
REGULAR REGISTRATION BY 11.06.2026- $15 PER PERSON
LAST CALL REGISTRATION BY: 11.18.2026- $18 PER PERSON
PLEASE NOTE THAT REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER 11.18.2026
TOPGOLF MT. LAUREL
104 Centerton Rd. Mt Laurel Township, NJ 08054
Sarah Densky youth@bethel.net www.bethel.net
50 Maple Stream Road, East Windsor, NJ 08520


Mercer County Chaverim Goes
ICE SKATING
Open to the 3rd-5th Grade Jewish Community
December 20, 2026
3:30pm-4:30pm
Pro Skate NJ
1000 Cornwall Road,
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
Beth El Synagogue
The Jewish Center

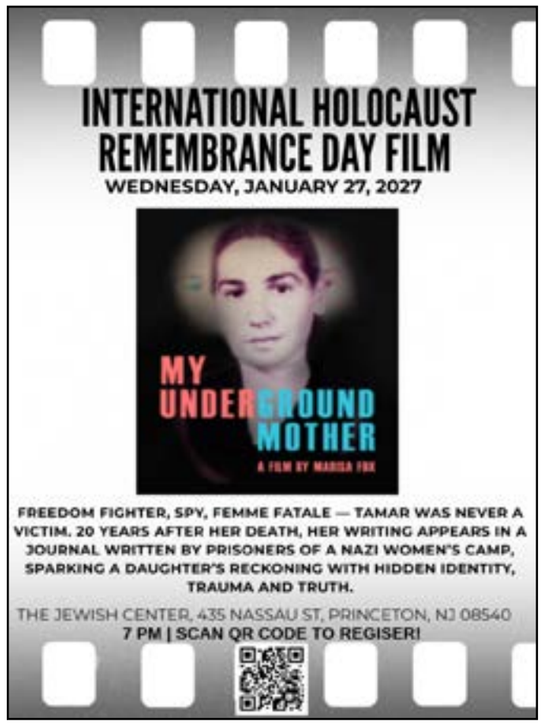

Fun & Exciting Drop-Off Sunday Programs 2026-2027
Ages 3-5
Holidays Shabbat Bible Stories Alef-Bet Music
Rituals Art Song Games Snack
Your children will make new friends and learn through play & hands-on activities.
Ganon: 3-4 year old Drop Off Program
One Sunday per month:
9:00 am - 11:55 am
The Jewish Center Members: $182
Community Members: $364
8 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: $935
Please call for community rates
Open to the Community!
For more information, contact Cynthia Richman, 609 921 7207 x218 or crichman@thejewishcenter.org
The Religious School of The Jewish Center
609.921.7100 - www.thejewishcenter.org


HAPPY
TU B'SHEVAT
THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES
WATCH YOUR EMAILS FOR MORE PROGRAMMING DETAILS!

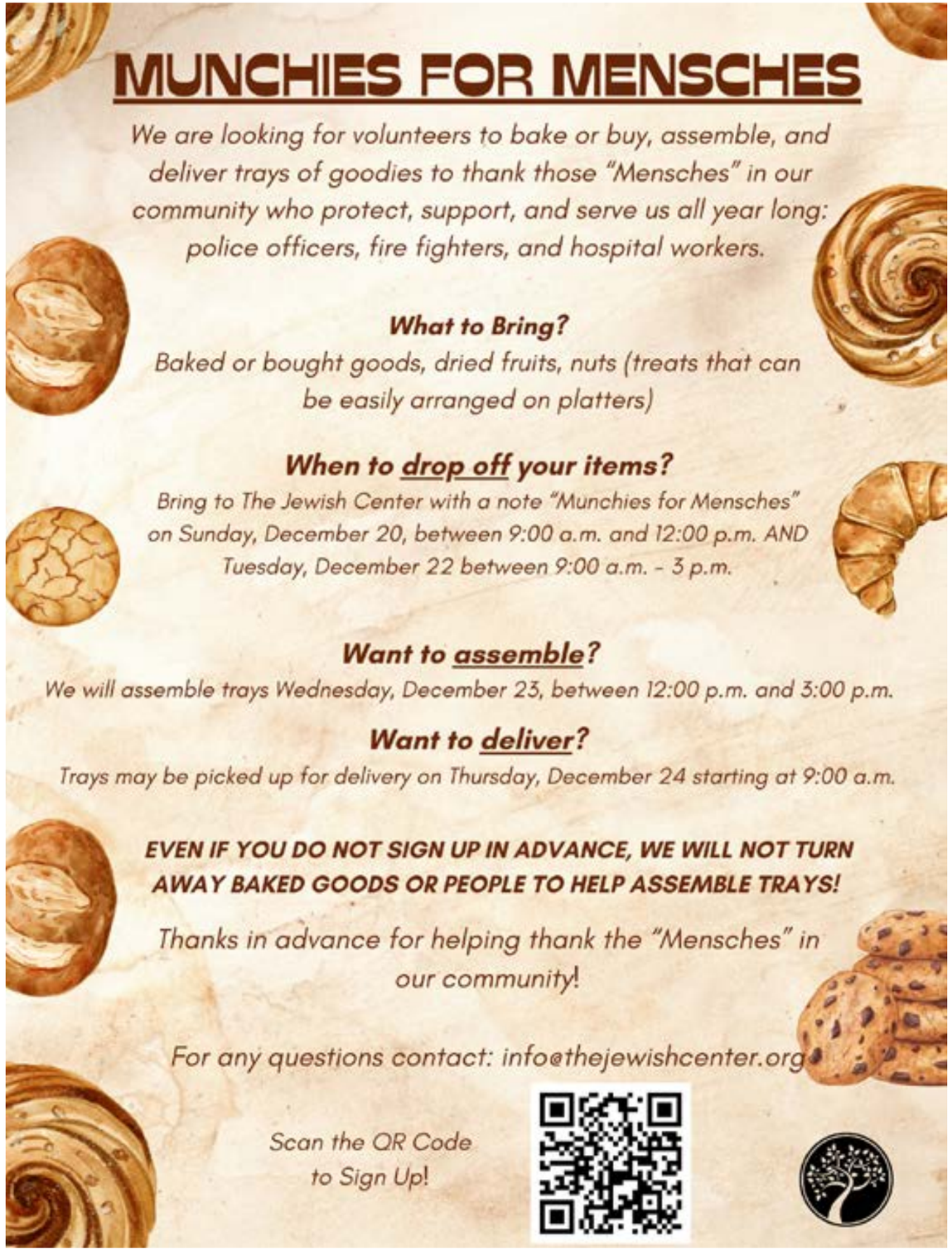

TJC
FILM
FEST
Upcoming Movie:
Wednesday, December 9
The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of Life in the Yiddish Theater
The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater is a theatrical version of a stage production dramatizing the lives of Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, immigrants from Ukraine who became two of Yiddish theater's biggest stars and entrepreneurs who drew authors, composers, actors, musicians, producers, and designers into their creative circle. The Thomashefskys was created in association with The Thomashefsky Project, which was founded by Michael Tilson Thomas to preserve the story of his grandparents.
Michael Tilson Thomas
THE THOMASHEFSKYS
Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater
Showing will be 1:30 - 3:30 P.M.
Walk-Ins Welcome
Open to the Community
Free to TJC members; $5 for non-members.
The Jewish Center
PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY
Scan the QR code or email info@thejewishcenter.org

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
DAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
JANUARY 18, 2027


International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 27, 2027


INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY FILM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2027
MY UNDERGROUND MOTHER
A FILM BY MARISA FOX
FREEDOM FIGHTER, SPY, FEMME FATALE — TAMAR WAS NEVER A VICTIM. 20 YEARS AFTER HER DEATH, HER WRITING APPEARS IN A JOURNAL WRITTEN BY PRISONERS OF A NAZI WOMEN'S CAMP, SPARKING A DAUGHTER'S RECKONING WITH HIDDEN IDENTITY, TRAUMA AND TRUTH.
THE JEWISH CENTER, 435 NASSAU ST, PRINCETON, NJ 08540
7 PM | SCAN QR CODE TO REGISER!


DOES YOUR COMPANY PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR DONATIONS?
IS THE JEWISH CENTER LISTED AS ONE OF THOSE NON-PROFITS?
you are looking to increase your support for TJC, please inquire if you 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



LIFE & LEGACY

In each newsletter, we have been highlighting Life & Legacy promise makers—those individuals in our congregation who generously invest in it's future via a Life & Legacy promise. If you would like to make a Legacy promise to the Jewish Center please contact Linda Meisel at landameisel@gmail.com



This month, we want to highlight Sandie Rabinowitz [z1] who was a member of The Jewish Center since the 1950s and who passed away at the age of 95 this Fall.

To say that Sandie Rabinowitz was multifaceted is an underestimation if we look at her experiences as a volunteer, her various jobs at nonprofits, wife, and mother. But Sandie regularly said that Judaism was always a central part of her life.

Sandie and her husband Irv [z1] joined The Jewish Center. "It was small and very friendly," Sandie says. Early on at TJC she volunteered in the library and taught Hebrew reading to adults.

Sandie and Irv were fortune to have opportunities to live in Israel in 1976 when Irv had an appointment to the Technion and again in 1986 when her daughter Sarah and son in law Arnie were in Israel during his rabbinic training.

At The Jewish Center, Sandie had many roles, she was a volunteer, served from 1978-1982 as Administrator, attended services, adult education, was a hospital visitor volunteer, and a member of the Kiddush crew.

In 2017 when she was 86 Sandie invested in the future of the Jewish Center by making a Legacy promise and then making a generous today donation to the Life & Legacy Fund. She decided to make the gift during her lifetime so she could witness the growth of the Legacy fund and know that members of the community were providing for the future sustainable of The Jewish Center.

I visited Sandie about 2 months before her passing, we sat and chatted on her porch. She was eager to know what was happening at The Jewish Center, was the membership stable and growing, how was the schul doing—although physically it was hard for her to participate, she was still engaged and connected.

May her memory be for a blessing.



Israel & Us

Recharging the Battery: L'Dor V'Dor

Author: Cathy Quartner Bailey

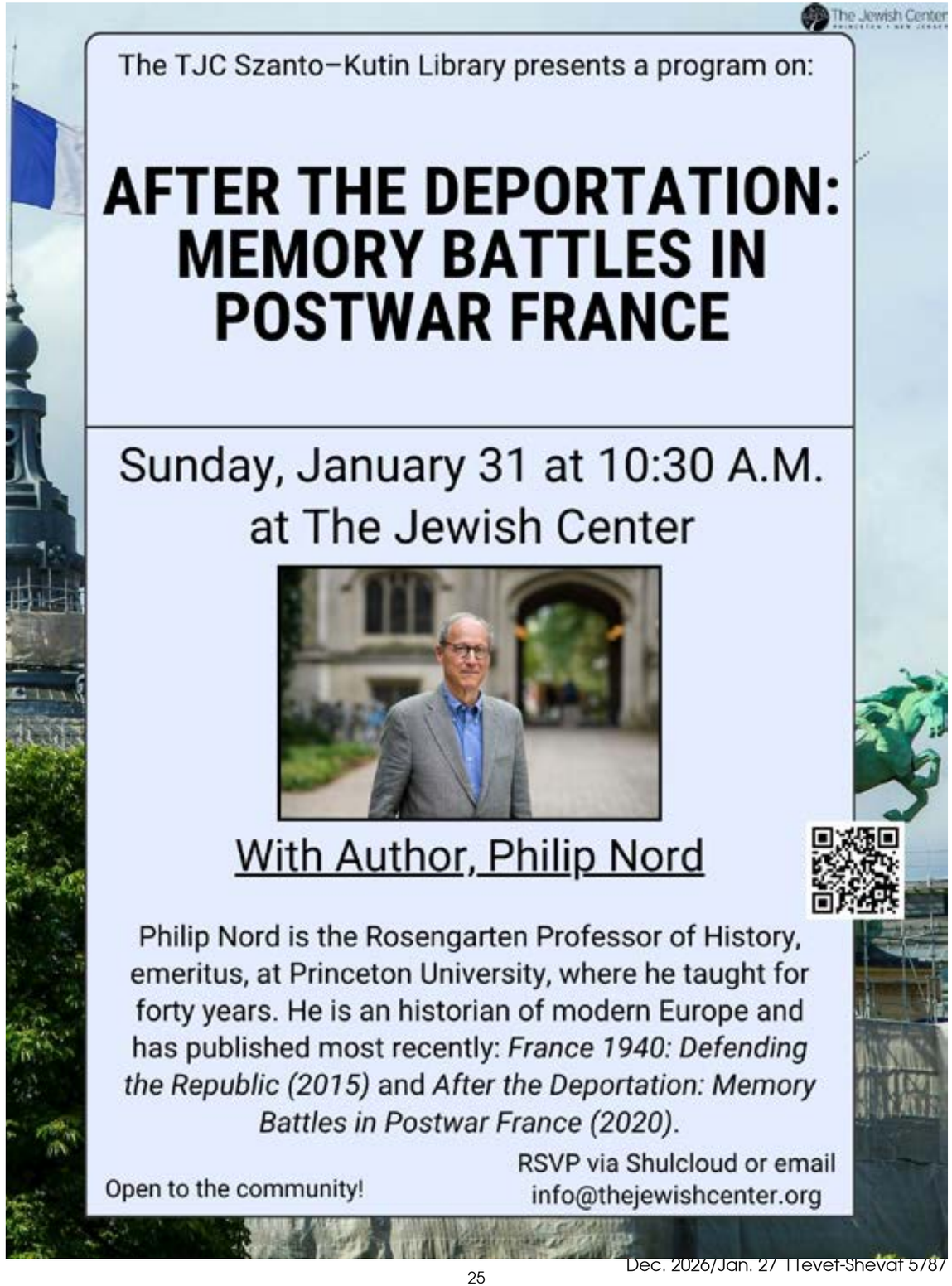
In 1989, I spent 10 months on 3 kibbutzim in Israel the year before starting graduate business school. Before leaving, I read Thomas Friedman's From Beirut to Jerusalem and wrote to him. To my delight, Friedman responded with a perspective that has stayed with me ever since: Israel need not be perfect for us to feel connected to it. Like life and our most meaningful relationships, it is alive with opportunities, excitement, challenges, and problems. When I first arrived on the kibbutz in Israel, I still remember being surprised to find pork chops on the Shabbat dinner menu. I quickly learned that for the secular kibbutzniks and many other Israelis, being Jewish was less about keeping kosher or attending synagogue and more about speaking Hebrew, celebrating Shabbat, serving in the army, and living in a Jewish country. That year expanded my understanding of Jewish identity and introduced me to a community where resilience, deep conversation, and joy flourished despite Israel's imperfections. The bonds I formed also broadened my understanding of family, extending it beyond blood relations to include those who cared for me, showed up for me, and made me feel that I belonged. That experience continues to shape my appreciation for the many ways we express Jewish identity in America, whether through religious observance, celebrating Shabbat, visiting Israel, or as part of the "JFK" crowd—just for kiddush (thank you, RAM!).

Last month (October 2026), Brad and I returned to Israel for 8 days to visit our daughter Gabi and her fiancé, Shai (pictured above), in Tel Aviv and to reconnect with dear friends who have become family over the last 37 years. Once again, I was struck by the country's vitality: streets filled with people from around the world, passersby stopping to play with dogs, and babies and young families inspiring hope for the future. On Friday, the Shuk buzzed with people buying flowers and treats for Shabbat dinner as spontaneous dancing broke out in cafés and bars. Our reunions were equally joyful. At Moshav Ram-On, we enjoyed homemade meals with Tali, Ner, and Nurid, music at Moshe's with Tom, Yarden, and Hanael, and a vineyard visit with Ron. At Kibbutz Hazoreah, we reconnected over coffee with Philip, Sarah, and Elissa. In Tel Aviv, spontaneous meals



brought us together with our cousin Neil and friends Barak, Alexandra, Gabe, Ido, and Ifat. Especially touching was the kindness of Barak and Alexandra, who stepped in after we returned home, taking Gabi to dinner, helping her move apartments, and making sure she felt cared for and safe, becoming like surrogate parents to her in our absence. The sense of family and belonging I discovered decades ago was now extending to my daughter. Despite Israel's challenges, its resilience and determination to embrace life with joy continued to inspire me. After returning home, my friend Moshe from TJC described the experience as "recharging the battery." His words captured it perfectly.

What moved me most was seeing Gabi experience Israel at the same stage of life as I did in 1989—between college and graduate school. Through the Dorot Fellowship, Gabi is spending a year exploring the complexities of Jewishness and Israel before attending medical school. Watching her forge her own connection to Israel brought L'Dor V'Dor (from generation to generation) to life. Passing the baton isn't about expecting our children to follow in our exact footsteps but trusting them to find their own way. My hope is that Gabi and her generation will embrace Israel's strengths while grappling thoughtfully with its political divisions, security challenges, the painful realities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and its evolving place in the world. Above all, I hope they carry forward the Jewish values of community, compassion, resilience, and joy that have guided me, while finding their own ways to shape the future. I returned to Israel to spend time with Gabi and Shai and came home with something more: energy, a renewed sense of connection, and the joy of watching the next generation explore their Jewish identities and define their own relationship with Israel.



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.

Recent additions include:

Pretend You Believe by Noa Kushner Rabbi Kushner offers an invitation into faith and ritual practice that should appeal to both skeptics, seekers, and those uncomfortable with traditional dogma.

The Very Unremarkable Life of Mrs. Etty Bloom by Talya Jankovits Etty Greenberger grows up in the insulated Hasidic community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, the only child of Holocaust survivors. The novel follows the unexpected turns in the life of this headstrong redhead.

Auslander: 1 Family's Story of Escape and Exile by Michael Moritz A deeply moving and intimate story that reveals how the ravages of history that tore 1 family apart echo across continents nearly a century later. A New Yorker Best Book of the Year.

JANUARY AUTHOR PROGRAMS

On Sunday morning January 31 at 10:30 a.m., Philip Nord will speak about his book--*After the Deportation: Memory Battles in Postwar France.* Philip Nord is the Rosengarten Professor of History, emeritus at Princeton University.

EXHIBITIONS

And the Bush Was Not Consumed—The JTS Library Fire of 1966: Loss, Recovery & Renewal. September 15, 2026–March 18, 2027 at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. The exhibit is open during Library hours

On the morning of April 18, 1966, a fire broke out in The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The fire blazed for over 5 hours before it was brought under control by the Fire Department. The day after the fire, a massive effort began to remove books from the tower and to dry them before they became moldy and unusable. The exhibition documents the tragedy of the fire, the heroic response of the FDNY, and the inspiring efforts of the librarians, scholars, students, philanthropists, and everyday people who came together to rescue and restore The Library's holdings.

BOOKPLATES

We encourage you to think of the library when honoring or remembering a friend or loved one.

Each book bought by your donation will display a newly designed 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 2 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.
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 December & January 2027

December 3: Kim Lane Scheppele, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs and the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University and a faculty fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Topic: Can Hungary Start a Democratic Cascade?

December 17: Sabine Kastner, Professor, Princeton Neuroscience Institute and Center for the Neuroscience of Mind and Behavior at Princeton University.

Topic: On Perception and Visual Awareness

January 7, 2027: Valerie Neal, Emerita, curator in the Department of Space History at Smithsonian Institution.

Topic: On the History of Women Astronauts

January 21, 2027: Richard Bell, Professor of history at University of Maryland (THIS WILL BE A ZOOM-ONLY MEETING)

Topic: The American Revolution and The Fate Of The World



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:
  - The Head of IT at Princeton University discussing the future of AI and its impact on investing
  - 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!

Membership News

Sharing good news for and about our incredible members

Key Victories from 2026

As we cross the midpoint of TJC's calendar year, I wanted to share a brief update on several key victories on the membership front. Looking back at 2026 in total, it has been a remarkably stable and encouraging year for our community.

Below are three distinct milestones from the past calendar year that that highlight the strength of our growing community, along with practical ways for you to get involved to continue the momentum into 2027.

1

OVERALL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH – Our community grew in 2026, welcoming **33 new households to the congregation**. Every new membership represents a conscious decision to anchor a household within our covenantal community, and we are grateful that you have chosen to join us!

>>> **The on ramp**: The easiest way to help a new member feel at home is simply saying hello and introducing yourself when you see an unfamiliar face on our campus. Help us continue to build the warm and welcoming congregation we all want to be a part of!

2

GROWTH AMONG FAMILIES – Of those new households, **11 are families** who have a total of **22 children** eligible to enroll in our religious school and youth programming. Keeping our classrooms and playground buzzing with joyful Jewish noise is vital to the long-term continuity of our congregation.

>>> **The on ramp:** If your interaction with the TJC community is primarily through the Religious School, try to join us for one broader community event this winter, whether it be a community-wide Shabbat service, Shabbat Under the Stars, or one of our thought-provoking educational events.

3

IT TAKES A VILLAGE – Welcoming our new congregants takes coordination, and our staff and volunteers stepped up to personally offer a bit of TJC hospitality. In fact, so far this calendar year, our committee has welcomed new and prospective members at events like our annual ice cream social at Thomas Sweet, our Welcome Back Food Truck, and the Princeton Night Out sponsored by the local police department.

>>> **The on ramp:** Make the upcoming year the time you find your specific way to make your make your mark at TJC. Whether that means joining a committee (I know the Membership Committee would love to have you – see below!), volunteering for a social action event, or attending our fundraising event later this year (stay tuned!), getting involved both enriches your experience as a member of our community AND makes our community the place to be!

We welcome the following new and returning members to TJC:

Loel Hudis, Shoshannah Levitt & family
Daniel & Lana Switzer & family
Catherine Pfaff
Stephen Silverman
Gary & Mindy Pitofsky
Aaron & Dara Cohen
Molly Lependorf

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.

CHAVURAT CHESED
CARING * CONNECTIONS * COMMUNITY

Need a Ride to the Synagogue? Or Want to Drive a Neighbor?

Our Caring Drivers program ensures that every member of our congregation can comfortably attend events, services, and celebrations at The Jewish Center. Whether you need a helping hand to get here or have a few spare seats in your car, you can help keep our community closely connected.

🚗 In Need of a Ride?

Don't let a lack of transportation keep you away from the events and faces you love.

- **Reliable & Friendly:** Our dedicated volunteers provide safe, door-to-door transportation right to the synagogue.
- **Easy to Schedule:** Simply let us know which upcoming event or service you would like to attend.
- **We're Here for You:** This service is entirely free and confidential.

To request a ride for an upcoming event, please contact the main office at least 48 hours in advance.

Become a Volunteer Driver

A small journey for you makes a massive difference in the life of a fellow member. We are looking for compassionate volunteers to join our driver pool.

- **Total Flexibility:** No pressure, we'll reach out when a need arises.
- **Local Impact:** Help seniors and homebound members stay active and engaged in synagogue life.
- **Double the Joy:** Enjoy the event yourself while providing a vital mitzvah for a neighbor.

Ready to help out? Sign up today to be added to our volunteer driver roster.

Get Connected Today!

Call the Office: 609 921-0100 ext. 208
Email Us: chavuratchesed@thejewishcenter.org

Mishna / Talmud / Commentaries -
An Introduction to Learning Rabbinic Literature
with Rabbi Merow

Join us Tuesday Nights - On Zoom,
7 PM to 8:15 PM
January 12
January 19
January 26
February 2
February 9

RSVP via Shulcloud!

Edible Garden at The Jewish Center

Our TJC Vegetable and Flower Garden is resting now but unfortunately food insecurity in our community is wide awake.

- Consider making a donation to or volunteering with the Jewish Family and Children's Service Food Pantry or other hunger prevention services. https://www.jfcsonline.org/
- Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah students— Make the garden your Chesed Project! Help plant, harvest, and deliver produce.
- All Ages--Participate in the 2027 TJC Garden Season--No experience needed and all your experience wanted!



Contact obarsky@gmail.com or wsolomon84@gmail.com

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5787
FOOD DRIVE

2026 Edition

Once again, my gratitude goes out to all of you who contributed so generously to our annual High Holiday Food Drive. We received a literal ton of food that was distributed to Arm-InArm and the Food Pantry @ Jewish Family & Children's Services.In addition, we received $4,300 dollars in gift cards that was split between the two organizations.

Food insecurity has spiraled in the last couple of years and unfortunately continues to do so.

Last year, Arm-in-Arm served 59,000 food and mobile pantry visits and deliveries, which is 11,000 more than the prior year.
The Kosher Pantry serves many meals to residents all throughout the county year round.

I know I say this every year, but I'm proud to be a member of The Jewish Center for your generosity in opening up your hearts, your wallets and your time. Every little bit helps and The Jewish Center's efforts are going a long way towards helping families in need.

My thanks to all of you wonderful volunteers. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Maria Abrahamsen
Renee Altman
Ted Altman
Vicki Bergman
Ira Chudnow
Sara Cohen
Debbie Freedman
Arlene Gold
Sara Gordon
Susan Gross
Heidi Joseph
Ray Kaufman
Jerry Kaufman
Mindy Langer
Judy Leopold
Mike Leopold
Nancy Lewis
Ellen Pristach
Eric Roberts
Linda Rosenberg
Rick Rosenberg
David Saltzman
Carol Schwartz
Alicia Schwarcz
Lori Simon
Ed Simon
Lisa Spiegel
Pam Zaifman

If I unintentionally left someone out, please forgive the omission.

Many thanks to Stephanie Berger who also doubles as our official photographer and all-around "if we need it, she gets it" person.

Also, thanks to our custodians, Nikita Agyei, Marc Sene Charles, James Itomo and Jeremy McKeegan for making sure that the hundreds of bags of groceries were stored, moved and set up for distribution fo Arm-In-Arm and Jewish Family & Children's Services in the lead-up to Yom Kippur, the day after and the day after that when the organizations come for pick-up.

My special thanks to Henry Opatut, my partner in this endeavor & elsewhere. Hen, you continue to organize me, usually with a sense of humor.

And of course, Joel Berger for all of the flyers and directing the traffic flow of groceries and the safe keeping of gift cards during the weeks prior to, during and after the holidays.

Again, my thanks to all of you.

Wishing you all peace,
Arlene Opatut

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

GENERAL FUND

from Steven Sheriff and Michele Alperin

from Lynne Ross, Cocktails in the Corridor sponsor Sept. 18

from Robert Miller

from Anne Paskow

from Ellen Gordon

from Andrew Moers

from Joseph Mandelbaum (Matching Gift donation)

In honor of

Art Meisel on his special birthday
from Alison and David Politziner, Judy and Mike Leopold

Clive Usiskin and the new TJC Garden shed
from Keith Usiskin

Lynne Ross on her special birthday
from Beth Sue Weissman, Alison and David Politziner

Nancy and Neil Lewis on the birth of their grandson, Matthew Boaz Lewis
from Judy and Mike Leopold

Amy Becker-Mattes and Jeffrey Mattes on the birth of their granddaughter, Alma Miriam
from Judy and Mike Leopold

Donna Gabai's Yom Kippur Mincha Aliyah
from Donna and David Gabai

Rabbi Merow, Avi Paradise, Sandy Kutin and Bob Lebeau for making our High Holiday experience so meaningful
from Joe and Barbara Schwartz

Irv Rose on his special birthday
from Dr. and Mrs. Julius S. Richter

Linda and Michael Grenis on the engagement of Caroline Grenis to Yoav Ezra Gaffney
from Marcie and Marc Citron

Galina Kotovets
from Allen and Galina Dikker

Barbara and Bernard Abramson on the marriage of Galia Abramson to Teddy Davidson
from Marcie and Marc Citron

Linda and Art Meisel on their 57th wedding anniversary
from Marcie and Marc Citron

Bob and Carol Schwartz on their 48th wedding anniversary
from Marcie and Marc Citron

Stephanie and Tom Will on their 40th wedding anniversary
from Betsy and Gary Silverman, Alan and Audrey Straus, Liz and Jerry Zuckerman

In memory of

Jerome Turk
from Suellen Wexler

Elias Shylit
from Sharon Shylit

Sidney Zagorin
from Marilyn and Howard Zagorin

Sylvia Zagorin
from Marilyn and Howard Zagorin

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey
from Donna and David Gabai, Sandy Sussman and Ronald Schnur, Brett Davis, Lew and Barbara Gantwerk, Alison and David Politziner, Ron and Cindy Bansky, Ginger and Jay Schnitzer, Rosemarie Cresti Holton and Family and Linda Jo DiStasi and Family, Joe and Barbara Schwartz, Debbie, Steven, Alison and Leff Cohn, The Tepper Family, Marcia Lundy, Rhona Bernstein, Cynthia Bailey Landis

Betty Shaffet
from Ginger and Jay Schnitzer

Sydel and David Fishman
from Seth Fishman

Jose Manuel Matiella
from David and Nadivah Greenberg

Daniel Weisberger
from Judy and Mike Leopold

Eugene Blau
from Leslie Blau

Henia Shylit
from Sharon Shylit

ADULT EDUCATION FUND
In memory of

Gladys Ullman
from Jane Milrod and Bill Jemas

ANNUAL FUND
In memory of

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey
from Dina Shaw, John Costas, Rebecca and Jan Meurer

ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
In honor of

Rabbi Bob Freedman for your participation in making our services beautiful
from Myra Weiner

In memory of

Jose Matiella (father)
from Sher and Jeanne Leiman

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND
In honor of

Avi Paradise for nurturing Adina's love of music and trope and for guiding her so thoughtfully to this milestone
from The Martinez Family

IRVING N. RABINOWITZ CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW FUND
In memory of

Sandie Rabinowitz
from Mary Jacobson and James Laskey, Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman, Brenda and Avraham Zlatin, Judy and Mike Leopold, Martha Friedman and Harold Heft

ISRAEL & US FUND
In honor of

Irv Rose on his 90th birthday
from Susan and Albert Hepner

In memory of

Joyce Shallom
from Joshua Shallom

THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND

from Paul and Anne Disdier

from Anonymous

from Jeffrey Mattes and Amy Becker Mattes

from Anonymous

In honor of

Grayson Eli Allen on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
from Fran and Fred Edelman

Brent and Heather Walker
from Linda and Rodger Chapman

In memory of

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey
from Avi Paradise and Debbie Freedman

Samuel Becker
from Kevin Charles Trayner

JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND
In memory of

Merrye Shavel-Hudis
from Steve Hudis

KIDDUSH COMMUNITY

from Myra Weiner

In honor of

our granddaughter Maya's baby naming
from Harriet Kass and Alan Medvin

LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND
In honor of

JoAnn and Phil Carchman on their 60th Anniversary
from Steven and Florence Kahn

Irv Rose on his 90th birthday
from Marsha and Eliot Freeman

In memory of

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey
from Linda and Art Meisel

Sandie Rabinowitz
from Marsha and Eliot Freeman

RABBI ADAM FELDMAN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of

Marc Surrey and Frieda Weiss
from Samantha Surrey

RABBI MEROW'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

from Bob and Carol Schwartz

from The Prenner Family

In honor of

Rabbi Merow for her guidance, wisdom, and support in helping Adina reach this meaningful milestone. Thank you for making her Bat Mitzvah journey so special!
from The Martinez Family

Rabbi Merow for offering the Rosh Hashanah Spiritual Experience and the Alternative Yizkor Service
from Jeff and Ida Margolis

Rabbi Bob Freedman
from Stephen Hudis and Suzanne Tepper

Rabbi Merow and her class "Ancient Wisdom; Modern Takes"
from Beverly Rubman and Mark Goldfus

Rabbi Merow for her thoughtfulness
from Sandy Bishins

In memory of

Betty Shaffet
from Susan Kanter

Sandie Rabinowitz
from Francine Engler

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey
from The Bailey Family, Abigail Rose

Ann Wax Hudis
from Stephen Hudis

Pearl Stein Podell
from Jotham and Melanie Stein

Allen Porter
from Rhona, Shara and Julie

CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND
In memory of
Lenore and Irwin Gordon
from Sara Gordon

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUND
In memory of
Joshua Milstein
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David S. Bishins, Lily Mae Bishins and Eileen Wolfson
from Sandy Bishins

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
from The Educational Initiative Fund

from Jane Kleiner (Matching Gift donation)

In honor of
Ellen Pristach becoming Interim Principal of the Religious School
from Judy and Mike Leopold

Avi Paradise for making our holiday and shabbat services so beautiful
from Myra Weiner

Meta Arnold and the wonderful art projects she does with our Religious School students
from Heidi Joseph

Sharon Diamondstein on her 9 years as Director of the Religious School
from Debbie and Randy Brett

Ellen Pristach becoming Congregant of the Year and Principal of the Religious School
from Martha Friedman and Harold Heft

Sandy Bishins on her new home
from Suzanne Esterman

Jason Diamondstein on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
from Donna and David Gabai

SECURITY FUND
from Anonymous

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND
from Jerry Seid

from Jerry and Ray Kaufman

In honor of
Allan Richman on his special (90th) birthday
from Anne Weidler, Sofia Parish, Steve and Judy Hurok, Belle and Arthur Schwartz

Carol and Bob Schwartz on their 48th wedding anniversary
from Debbie and Randy Brett

Sofia Parish on her granddaughter Emma's engagement to Uri
from Allan and Diane Richman

In memory of
Albert Kaplan
from Bobbi and Barry Freedman

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Clara Bergman
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In honor of
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Bob Lebeau for your beautiful participation in the High Holiday and Shabbat services
from Myra Weiner

In memory of
Sandra Rabinowitz
from Avi Paradise and Debbie Freedman

SZANTO-KUTIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND
In memory of
Ina and Paul Gilbert
from Roslyn and David Vanderbilt

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND
In honor of
Grayson Eli Allen on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
from Ellen Levy Silow

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

Book Club

Tuesdays, December 15 & January 19

7:30 p.m. **via Zoom.**

Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. we'll meet via Zoom to discuss:

Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan.



Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over... She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start... Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.
(Good Morning America)

On Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. we'll meet via Zoom to discuss:
The Only Daughter by A.B. Yehoshua

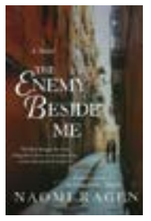


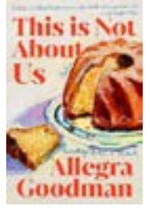
"The Only Daughter...urges a return to civility, compassion and the many other basic human virtues we learned in grade school, from our books, our families and our teachers — virtues we might have forgotten over time. It is an old-fashioned book, free of cynicism, encroaching technology and intricate plotting, but imbued with a heartfelt and optimistic view of humanity — in other words, a book filled with feeling and moral values." (NY Times)
For future planning, save these dates and read these books:

COMING UP NEXT!

February 16 – *Heart of a Stranger* by Angela Buchdal
March16 -- *The Enemy Beside Me* by Naomi Ragen
April 13 – *This is not About Us* by Allegra Goodman









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

The Jewish Center

ANNUAL FUND 5787

Growing Together

THE ANNUAL FUND 5787 GIVING LEVELS

Me'orot	**Luminaries**	**$54,000**
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Haverim	**Friends**	**$180 & above**
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I/We want to contribute to The Jewish Center's 5787 Annual Fund.

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Enclosed is my/ our gift:

☐ $54,000 ☐ $36,000 ☐ $18,000 ☐ $10,000 ☐ $5,400 ☐ $3,600 ☐ $1,800
☐ $900 ☐ $500 ☐ $180 ☐ $100 ☐ $72 ☐ $54 ☐ $36
Other: _____

☐ I wish my gift to be anonymous

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
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Please make checks payable to: The Jewish Center

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Exp. Date _____ / _____ CVV_____

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:

Betty Shaffet,
Mother of Susan (Larry) Kanter

Lawrence (Larry) Bailey,
Father of Brad (Cathy) Bailey

Estelle Argaman,
Mother of Avi Argaman

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=SncvMTMvNkJOQklGWWJrdDBFMlp2dz09

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 200 hr. Registered Yoga Teacher (Yoga Alliance). She has advanced training in chair yoga, with Kripalu teacher Rudy Peirce https://www.gentle-yogis.com/

She recently completed advanced training in Yoga & Jewish Text 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.

photography by Jen Davis

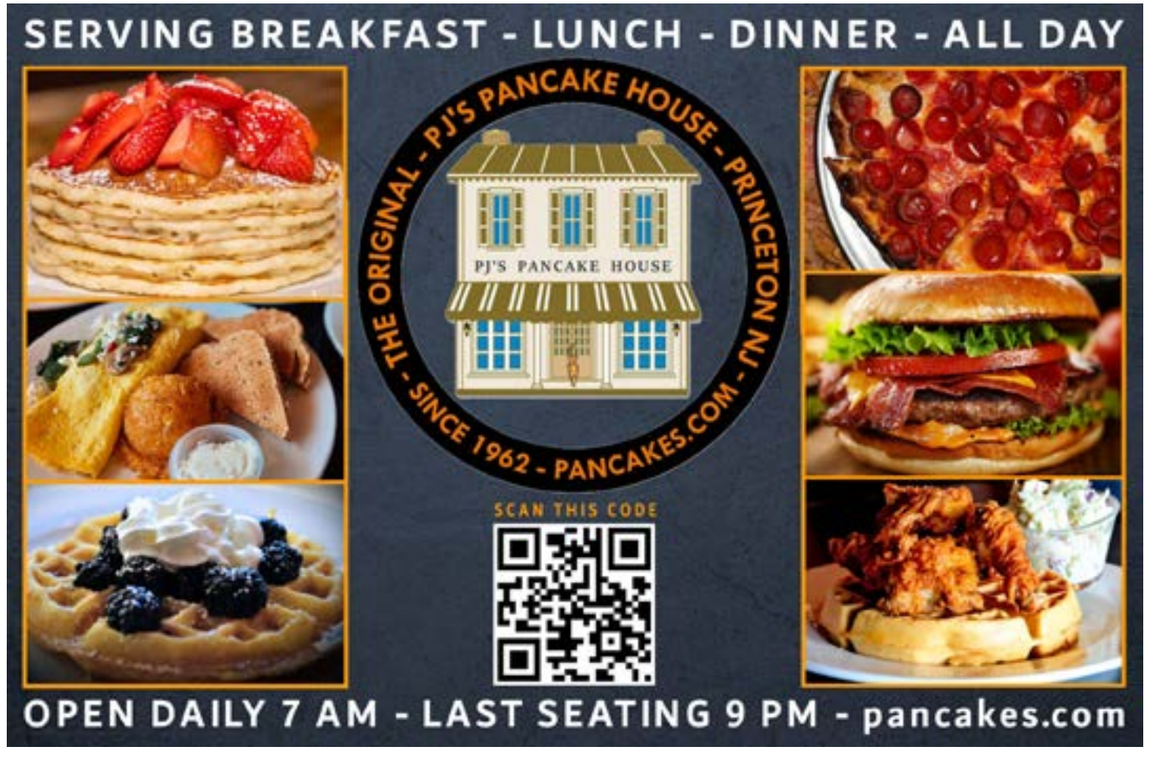
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	Website/Social Content	



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.



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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 December 2026-January 2027. 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



The Jewish Center
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TIME VALUE

Contributions

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

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

Donor's Address: _____

Occasion: ☐ In memory of: ☐ In honor of: Name(s) as you would like it to appear in newsletter:

_____

Send donation acknowledgement to: _____

_____

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

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please indicate your choice below and mail this form and a check to The Jewish Center, 435 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540. If you are interested in planned giving opportunities, please call The Jewish Center office, 609.921.0100 ext. 200.

Funds

- ☐ Annual Fund 5787
- ☐ Adult Education Fund
- ☐ Arts & Cultural Affairs Fund
- ☐ Chavurat Chesed Fund
- ☐ General Fund
- ☐ Hachutzah Exploratory Trail Fund
- ☐ Hazzan's Music Fund
- ☐ Irving N. Rabinowitz Conversational Hebrew Fund
- ☐ Israel and Us Fund
- ☐ Jess Epstein Lunch & Learn Fund
- ☐ Jewish Center Refugee Fund
- ☐ Jewish Center Women
- ☐ Life and Legacy Endowment Fund
- ☐ Marchand Espir Family Holocaust Education Fund
- ☐ Maxine Elkins Israel Artist Fund
- ☐ Men's Club
- ☐ New Siddur ($36) New Chumash ($75) New Machzor ($36)
- ☐ Rabbi Merow's Discretionary Fund
- ☐ Rabbi Feldman Memorial Fund
- ☐ Rabbi Tucker Life Cycle Fund
- ☐ Religious Affairs Fund
- ☐ Religious School Fund
- ☐ Sapoff Art Purchase & Restoration Fund
- ☐ The Schnitzer Family Shekel Fund
- ☐ Shabbat Luncheon Fund
- ☐ Silver Circle Scholarship Fund
- ☐ Social Action Fund
- ☐ Szanto-Kutin Library
- ☐ Torah Repair Fund
- ☐ Youth and Family Programs

Plaques and Remembrances

- ☐ Memorial Plaque $350
- ☐ Tree of Life Leaf $216 (to commemorate a simcha)

Kiddush Community

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

Brick Pavers

- ☐ Small - $250
- ☐ Medium - $500
- ☐ Large - $750

Scan code to donate via phone or tablet.

***Now you can donate through our website. Go to thejewishcenter.org and follow the instructions!**