we are not consumed

Wishing you each a happy and healthy New Year in 2021

we are not consumed
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Join Us Monday, January 18, 2021
7:00-8:30 p.m., online

Multifaith Service to Commemorate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
with the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer preaching.

Please join the Princeton Clergy Association’s annual Multifaith Service to Commemorate the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

Multifaith Service to Commemorate and Honor the Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

The Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer is the Founding Director of Salvation and Social Justice, a non-partisan Black faith-rooted organization that believes liberation should precede legislation and prophetic vision should precede public policy. He is a third-generation African Methodist Episcopal preacher, and the pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Woodbury, New Jersey.

YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/y9z88x3a

It’s Time to Update your Zoom!
Zoom keeps adding new features and so do we. Please make sure you have the latest version when you join our services, programs and events.
IS AMERICA DIFFERENT?
ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

PROFESSOR JONATHAN D. SARNA

Recently, we have witnessed an unexpected spike in antisemitic activities in the United States, including two deadly attacks on synagogues. Is this a new phenomenon? What role has antisemitism actually played in American history? Is it a pervasive phenomenon, a late and alien phenomenon, or something in between?

This lecture will trace the course of antisemitism in the United States and consider the question of American exceptionalism. Has America been different from Europe with respect to antisemitism? How worried should we be about the spread of the world’s oldest hatred to America’s shores?

Jonathan D. Sarna is University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, where he directs its Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. He also is the past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and Chief Historian of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. Author or editor of more than thirty books on American Jewish history and life, his American Judaism: A History -- recently published in a second edition -- won six awards including the 2004 “Everett Jewish Book of the Year Award” from the Jewish Book Council. Sarna is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Academy of Jewish Research. His most recent books are When General Grant Expelled the Jews, Lincoln & the Jews: A History (with Benjamin Shapell), and an edition of Cosella Wayne, by Cora Wilburn, the first (and hitherto unknown) American Jewish novel.

REGISTRATION NOW!

Open to the community free of charge.

For security reasons, Registration is required for all programs. To register, please send an email with your full name and the Course Code SARNA to:
info@thejewishcenter.org
A Message from Our Interim Rabbi

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg
609.921.0100  ext. 203
eschoenberg@thejewishcenter.org

One of the first casualties of the Covid crisis was the newly created Sulam curriculum for our older high school students. For the last years few years the program was a hands on lesson on comparative religion. Usually on Sunday morning the rabbi along with the 10th and 11th graders visits the churches, mosques and other religious institutions in our community. It was exciting. It was fun. It was informative. It was also indoors and beginning in the fall of 2020 would no longer be possible. The scramble of what to do was on. Working with Sharon Diamonstein we decided to implement a social justice curriculum specifically designed for high school students from the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The program's formal title is: Social Justice: The Heart of Judaism in Theory and Practice.

The first lesson for our high schoolers was definitions. I share them with you because these terms are often confusing for us as adults and certainly impacts what programs and initiatives we as a synagogue and a community might initiate. The authors of the curriculum state the goal of the program is “the intention that your learners come to embrace or deepen their involvement with a particular social justice cause or project where they can make a difference.”

We begin with definitions, but our end goal is informed activists who seek to make the world a better place.

**Social justice.** The equal and fair distribution of resources and opportunities, in which outside factors that categorize people are irrelevant. In Hebrew, social justice translates to “tzedek chevratim.”

**Tikkun olam.** Literally, “repairing the world.” It has a rich history in rabbinic literature and has become a popular term referring to a range of activities to make the world a better place.

**Tzedakah.** In biblical Hebrew tzedakah means justice or righteousness. In later Jewish thought, the term has come to refer especially to contributions of one’s wealth to others, or “charity.”

**Tzedek - Justice.** In the context of social justice, tzedek is usually exemplified by advocacy, community organizing, or political activism seeking to address root causes.

**Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg**

**Our High School Students and Social Justice**

Advocacy. An activity by an individual or group intended to influence political, economic, and/or social systems and institutions.

Chesed - Loving-kindness. A voluntary act of caring for someone else. In the context of social justice, chesed is usually exemplified by direct service addressing immediate needs.

Service. Work that is done without pay to help other people.
Tu Bishvat: The New Year of Trees and Our Legacy

January 27, 2021 (15th of Shevat) is erev Tu Bishvat, also called “Rosh Hashana La’ilanot” or the New Year of Trees. In Israel, it begins the celebration of spring and is a holiday with an ecological focus – on renewal, preservation and reclamation. The holiday is often associated with the planting of trees but in a broader sense, it celebrates our recognition of legacy. By preserving our environment and reclaiming that which has been damaged, we are enabling future generations to enjoy a richer, fuller life.

The Babylonian Talmud tells the story of Honi HaMe’agel (Khoni, Choni, or Honi; lit. Honi the Circle-drawer), a Jewish scholar of the 1st-century BCE., in which Honi slept for 70 years, before awaking and then dying:

One day Honi was journeying on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked, “How long does it take [for this tree] to bear fruit?” The man replied: “Seventy years.” Honi then further asked him: “Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?” The man replied: “I found [already grown] carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me so I too plant these for my children.”

Honi sat down to have a meal and sleep overcame him. As he slept a rocky formation enclosed upon him which hid him from sight, and he slept for seventy years. When he awoke, he saw a man gathering the fruit of the carob tree and Honi asked him, “Are you the man who planted the tree?” The man replied: “I am his grandson.” Thereupon Honi exclaimed: “It is clear that I have slept for seventy years.” He then caught sight of his ass which had given birth to several generations of mules, and he returned home. There he inquired, “Is the son of Honi the Circle-Drawer still alive?” The people answered him, “His son is no more, but his grandson is still living.” Thereupon he said to them: “I am Honi the Circle-Drawer,” but no one would believe him.

He then repaired to the beit hamidrash [study hall] and there he overheard the scholars say, “The law is as clear to us as in the days of Honi the Circle-Drawer,” for whenever he came to the beit hamidrash he would settle for the scholars any difficulty that they had. Whereupon he called out, “I am he!” But the scholars would not believe him, nor did they give him the honor due to him. This hurt him greatly and he prayed for mercy, and he died. Raba said: “Hence the saying, ‘Either companionship or death.’”

The lesson of this story is that if you give something you will not be alive to see, you are still giving. But what does this mean in relation to our own stories at The Jewish Center? Since my family and I came to the Princeton area in 1992, our obligation has been clear – we are responsible to those who come after us. By our involvement in the life of TJC, we are establishing our legacy. Our predecessors planted seeds, through their financial donations and personal efforts to build this community, and those seeds have matured. The Jewish Center is their legacy, and we can do no less.

The seeds we plant here today might not become mature until long after our departure, but they will be here for those who follow. In the words of Rabbi Richard F. Address, founder and director of www.jewishsacredaging.com and the former senior rabbi of Congregation M’kor Shalom in Cherry Hill, NJ, “How we are remembered is determined by what we leave, or to paraphrase this story [of Honi], by what we plant.”

Your commitment to our community, through donations to TJC programs, our Annual Fund, the Life and Legacy program, and your own involvement in committees and through leadership, will contribute to your legacy. To quote Rabbi Address once more, “Like strong trees, if we create deep roots of caring, understanding, empathy and love; and model these values, we can leave behind an example of a life well lived as well as a life worth modeling. And that is a gift, a legacy that truly can bind us “from generation to generation.”.

B’shalom,

Randy Brett
MESSAGE from the Cantor

Cantor Jeff Warschauer
609.921.0100 ext. 213
Cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org

Dear TJC Friends,

Hanukkah is past, and we are now in the midst of winter. Though things at TJC are always buzzing, it’s a relatively quiet time of the year. Nevertheless, we look forward to one of the most interesting, yet lesser known, holidays on the Jewish calendar: The New Year of the Trees, Tu Bishvat, which begins this year on the evening of January 27, and ends the evening of January 28.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, Tu Bishvat (the 15th day of the month of Shvat) was the date chosen as the end of one tax year and the beginning of the next. Taxes were calculated based on the value of the previous year’s fruit. It was not until the 16th century that the Kabbalists (Jewish mystics) of Tsfat began to observe Tu Bishvat with a seder that included wine, questions, specific foods and storytelling. The Kabbalists sought to elevate the spiritual significance of this date by honoring the “four worlds” in which we live simultaneously. The Kabbalists would eat different types of fruit, each corresponding to a different sphere – the physical world, the world of feelings and emotions, the world of the mind, and the world of spirituality. Today, many different communities celebrate this centuries-old tradition in a variety of ways. One popular custom is to drink four cups of wine or juice, with each one representing a different season of the year. Some begin with a cup of white wine or grape juice, symbolizing the barrenness of winter. Then with each cup, a little more red wine or juice is added, culminating in a full cup of red wine or juice (with just a drop of white), signifying the fullness of the fall.

In preparation for writing this article, I interviewed one of TJC’s most important and beloved members, Ziona Silverman. Among Ziona’s many other contributions to our congregational family, Ziona is definitely TJC’s “go-to” person when it comes to Tu Bishvat. Whenever I raise a question about TJC’s past activities around the holiday, I’m always advised, “Ask Ziona!”

So I did. I asked Ziona.

Ziona graciously put aside the time to meet with me on Zoom, and we had a lovely conversation.

I asked Ziona about the history of Tu Bishvat seders at TJC, and I learned that, aside from events for the kids, her experiences of Tu Bishvat seders for TJC adults began during Rabbi Elkin’s tenure. Though there was a gap for a number of years, the seders resumed during Rabbi Feldman’s z”l time with us. Along with Ziona, seders have been led and coordinated by Michele Alperin, Suzanne Esterman, and our former member, Ellie Schweber, among others.

As we talked, what became clear was the deep spiritual and emotional connection that Ziona feels for trees.

As Ziona, in her elegant way, put it, “I love trees, because in life, and in nature, trees to me are like people. [With] people, there isn’t anyone like anyone else. Everyone is miyuchad (unique), personally fine, wonderful, in his or her own right, and there’s nobody else like [them]. Trees [are] the same way: You look at any group of trees. Every single one is different. Every single one has a job to do. And trees are like people […] because they nourish each other. It has now been found that through the underground process of what trees do […] they will take care of each other like people do! They actually do this through their leaves, and through their groundwork, the root system.”

When I asked Ziona why Tu Bishvat seders are important, she pointed out that Tu Bishvat is an especially meaningful and creative way to express our caring and support for each other, our love for the environment and our connection to the Land of Israel.

In these difficult times, it is more important than ever to find ways to connect with each other (just as trees do!). With that in mind, I am excited to report that TJC’s leadership, clergy and staff are planning a lively, spiritual, musical and interactive online Tu Bishvat seder later this month. Stay tuned!

May the meaning and rituals of Tu Bishvat bring a joyful hint of spring into the depths of winter. Deborah and I wish you a safe and healthy January!

Cantor Jeff

Think Like a Tree by Karen I. Shragg

Soak up the sun
Affirm life’s magic
Be graceful in the wind
Stand tall after a storm
Feel refreshed after it rains
Grow strong without notice
Be prepared for each season
Provide shelter to strangers
Hang tough through a cold spell
Emerge renewed at the first signs of spring
Stay deeply rooted while reaching for the sky
Be still long enough to hear your own leaves rustling.

From Tree Stories: A Collection of Extraordinary Encounters ed. by Warren Jacobs and Karen I. Shragg
Sunshine Press Publications
Hygiene, CO (2002)

Cantor Jeff
It's always nice to start the year with a birthday. But what happens the other 364 days of the year? As I look back on a crazy 2020, here are some things I am hoping for 2021.

Health and happiness for my family. For your family. To the special people going through difficult times. To everyone in our universes. I hope that is everyone's number one thing for this New Year. Wear a mask. Social distance and make sure you follow guidelines.

Memories. Of my mother that are as vivid this year as every year before. Her loss last June was another difficult part of 2020 but her memory will never be forgotten. I remember my dad every day as well. And all the other people who have passed this past year. May their memories be for a blessing.

Prosperity. I know many have struggled this past year. But your resilience will shine through and you will have a better year this year. Don't waiver and keep pressing on.

Time with Family. The blessing of the pandemic was having most of my family with me here in Princeton for the last few months. With school being virtual, it allowed me to be with them more than I ever thought I would when moving here. It's been a true blessing. I hope each of you find that extra time you need with your families. In person safely or virtually. Be there for them and they will be there for you. Hug them like you have never hugged them before. Even virtually.

Peace. To Randy Brett who has lead this Synagogue through a tumultuous 2 years which will end this June 1st. His vision, passion, and leadership during these difficult times will never be forgotten.

Strength. To Alexandra Bar-Cohen who will take over the realm of TJC this June. We have an amazing future ahead of us and you are next to lead this group.

Success. To the Rabbi Search committee. Your job is not an easy one and you have taken this project on with full force and vigor. We hope for you success in finding the next Rabbi to lead TJC into the future.

Friendship. To the wonderful staff, teachers and friends I have made working with here at TJC. Your commitment every day to making sure we are here for our members is wonderful. May we continue to reach new heights this year and hopefully celebrate together when the virus disappears.

Faith. To the members of The Jewish Center. You have hung in there with us. You have supported our programs. You have attended our services. You believed in us and we believe in you. You have stepped up when asked, volunteered your time, and gave generously. We will work through this year, and all the years to come together. Know that we appreciate your friendship, kindness and understanding as we navigate uncharted territories.

Healing. Many have struggled this past year. Both physically and mentally. Many will admit it but many won't. Reach out and ask for help. People are readily available for a phone call, a virtual hug or to just listen. There are many amazing people in this synagogue who will support you. But you have to ask.

Thanks. To every Doctor, nurse, first responder and ANYONE who has put their lives on the line this past year helping others. You envisioned the value of Pikuach Nefesh. To save another one's lives. You hide behind your masks and your super men/women robes and gowns. But we know you are there for us, your families and this community. We are forever thankful.

Technology. That our live stream keeps streaming. That our Zoom keeps zooming and that we continue to find ways to keep us all connected.

Love. That we all find new ways to love each other. To love our families more. To love our neighbors more. Just remember: Love is love is love is love is love.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2021. We're all in this together!

Joel
MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning
Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Dear Friends,

Over the past two months, we have been unpacking and settling into our new home. As I pulled out one box of stuff wrapped in newspaper, I found a supplemental section from the Sunday New York Times from May 24, 2020. The section was about joy, and different ways in which people find joy. We can easily argue that 2020 was a difficult year at best. We saw how quickly stores ran out of basic necessities, the cost of food skyrocketed, we locked down, unlocked, and relocked, and we now are looking forward to a COVID vaccine. Where was there joy?

One of the writers, Alex Williams, wrote about the Joy of Getting Lost and Finding Your Way, and experiencing a digital detox (we all could probably use one of those!) Brian Keith Jackson wrote about the Joy of Looking at Stranger’s Lives as he scrolls through the Instagram accounts of people he doesn’t know. Caity Weaver shared The Joy of Deleting My Many Mediocre Photos - I know there is a lesson for me in there somewhere. Sarah Miller wrote about The Joy of the Hate-Watch and how she confirmed her hunch that she would “hate” The Princess Bride - something completely unrelatable to me, as one of my greatest joys is watching Westley and Buttercup ride off into the sunset.

This article reminded me that joy is everywhere. In fact, Judaism has much to teach us about joy. Our Psalms (100:2) tell us that “Delight and joy must accompany your every spiritual endeavor. Only when you delight and rejoice in each fine and positive deed will you have the enthusiasm to act in the most ideal manner and add to your deeds every day.” We are obligated to find joy in our spiritual acts, whether it is involved with prayer or ritual.

There are other ways to find joy, however. A beautiful sunrise, or seeing an unusual flower, for example are experiences that may bring joy to you. Seeing others around you succeed may bring you joy. Hearing good news may bring you joy. All of these moments, however fleeting, are moments which we are able to reflect upon. We remember the joy we felt, and we carry that feeling with us. These feelings affect our actions, which invariably continue to spread joy around us. Through this, we are able to bring joy to others, and the chain reaction continues - much like the movie Pay It Forward.

As we venture into the new secular year, I invite you to find ways to create joy for yourselves, much like the New York Times section. Whether you are experiencing the Joy of Cooking Ancient Family Recipes or the Joy of Printing Photos From the Phone, I would love to have you share them with me.

Please take a moment each day and find something that brings you joy. I invite you to email me at sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org and I will make a list that we will share to the community in January. I too will find #JoyInJanuary, and I am looking forward to the Joy of Noticing Small Things. I will be aware of even the smallest ladybug hanging out on the ceiling in my kids’ bedroom. I will notice the kindness of strangers. I will pay attention to the smallest details in nature when we go out on our family walks. I look forward to spreading joy, and receiving it in return.

Joyfully yours,

Sharon
The Committee received a strong group of initial applications representing a welcome range of diversity with regard to gender, age, experience, personality, and ethnicity. We conducted our first round of interviews in November with all candidates who had applied by that point and selected a group of second round candidates for interviews in December. Each applicant was given an initial interview with the same questions for purposes of comparison. We will continue to interview any new candidates who apply. The Committee has set up a rigorous system for evaluating the candidates in line with the priorities established through our focus groups and congregational survey.

The policy decision of the Rabbinical Assembly requiring all interviews to be held virtually of course has drawbacks, but we are making the most of the benefits in flexibility this offers. While we will not get to interact with candidates in person, we are able to easily meet with candidates more than once and in different contexts through Zoom. Also, as we expect to continue with online services and programing for some time to come, we can appreciate how the candidates present in the virtual format.

We have designated some Shabbatot in the next couple of months when we expect to invite two or three finalists to interact with the congregation. The specific events have not yet been planned but should include teaching, leading services, interacting with different affinity groups, meeting with students, as well as simply schmoozing. Another benefit of doing this online is that the events need not necessarily be clustered into one weekend but can be spread out over several days.

Bible Baboker
Saturdays, 8:45 a.m.

Each week a reminder notice is sent. If anyone wishes to participate, they are welcome to join via Zoom. Email Michael Goldin, at mmgold18@yahoo.com to receive the zoom link.

Zoom video study session each week.

Fridays in January:

8
15
22
29

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sharon Diamondstein in the TJC Religious School office at (609) 921.0100 ext 220 or sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org
We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support The Jewish Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through their generous contributions:

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from Jose Matiella  
from Peter Epstein

**In honor of**

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from Martha and Marty Rossman  
Michael and Susan Falcon on the engagement of Eric Falcon to Emily Ayuso  
from Carol and Mark Pollard  
Marissa and Jesse Treu on their grandson, Benjamin Shapiro's Bar Mitzvah  
from Carol and Mark Pollard  
The Bar Mitzvah of Shay Cheskis  
from Joe, Barbara, Sam and Kay Schwartz

**In memory of**

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Harold Broitman  
from Frances Finn Reichl  
Avram Bar-Cohen  
from Jon and Ruth Shavel  
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from Donna and Ruth Shavel  
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Dan Brent and Sally Steinberg-Brent on the marriage of Lily Brent to Jonathan Tescher  
from Jonathan and Susan Gross

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Heidi Joseph  
from Myra Weiner and Irv Newman

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The Bar Mitzvah of Lily Ludmer  
from Marsha and Eliot Freeman  
Deborah Strauss and Cantor Jeff Warschauer  
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from Joanne Reiffe Fishbane  
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from Joan Levin

**RABBI ADAM FELDMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

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The wedding of David Borsack and Stephanie Wiener  
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Rabbi Adam Feldman  
from Mary Lou Allen, Doug and Marcie Shavel  
Sheldon Reich  
from Lisa and Jack Wiener, Jill Lavitsky  
Merrye Shavel-Hudis  
from Doug and Marcie Shavel  
Eleanor Marvin  
from Joel Heymsfeld

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Marissa and Jesse Treu on their grandson, Benjamin Shapiro's Bar Mitzvah  
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Helan Auerbach  
from Maxine Gurk
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In memory of
Avram Bar-Cohen from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

THE SCHNITZER FAMILY
SHEKEL FUND FOR ADVENTURES IN ISRAEL
In honor of
The Bat Mitzvah of Miki Schnitzer from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs
The Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Claire Nuland from Mom and Dad

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
In honor of
The wedding of Alexandra Willig and David Helene from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs
Brent on the marriage of Lily Brent to Jonathan Tescher from Debbie and Randy Brett

In memory of
Avram Bar-Cohen from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

TORAH REPAIR FUND
In honor of
Benjamin Rosenthal and Dora Rosenthal from Maxine Lampert

YOUR LOVED ONE
ENGLISH DATE OF DEATH  HEBREW DATE OF DEATH
If you are interested in purchasing a memorial plaque for a loved one, contact the synagogue office at 609-921-0100 ext. 200 or email us at info@thejewishcenter.org.
Cost is $350.00

JANUARY LIVESTREAM SERVICE SCHEDULE
Erev Shabbat services for January 2021
Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021 06:30 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85072853236
Meeting ID: 850 7285 3236
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 850 7285 3236

Shabbat morning services for January 2021
Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021 09:30 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89674035338
Meeting ID: 896 7403 5338
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 896 7403 5338

Sunday morning minyan for January 2021
Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021 09:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89809761621
Meeting ID: 898 0976 1621
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 898 0976 1621

Wednesday morning minyan for January 2021
Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021 07:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83231291577
Meeting ID: 832 3129 1577
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 832 3129 1577

To Live Stream our services, go to www.thejewishcenter.org. Scroll down and in the gold box on the right, which says “go to livestream.” Click on that. On the next page, a gray box will appear. Click on that as well. You will then see our main sanctuary. If we are live, just click the play button. Cameras go live 10-15 minutes before services begin.

In Memoriam:
We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering

S. Edmund Berger,
father of Ruth Goldston
ETHAN SILVERBERG  
JANUARY 9

Ethan is an 8th grader at Montgomery Upper Middle School. He was born in Toronto, Canada and moved to the Princeton area when he was eight years old. Ethan is naturally empathic and kind towards others. Ethan is passionate about playing tennis and basketball. He is an adored older brother, son and grandson. He would like to thank Cantor Jeff, Sharon Dimondstein, Rabbi Schoenberg and Ronit Rackowski for helping him prepare for this milestone.

LEXI SAMBOL  
JANUARY 23

LEXI is currently a 7th grader at UMS in Montgomery. She started her education right here at The Jewish Center in the Yad b’yad class with Gayle Wagner as her very first teacher. She continued on through the nursery school before starting formal Hebrew School in kindergarten, so it’s very special to all of us that she is becoming a bat mitzvah in this congregation. Lexi is a very active girl. In the fall she plays on the field hockey team, in the winter she plays on the travel basketball team, and in the spring and summer she plays on the rec and travel lacrosse teams. She also goes to sleep away camp in the Poconos for the summer and looks forward to those 7 weeks all year. Lexi is a happy-go-lucky little lady and is still very excited about becoming a bat mitzvah despite the damper the pandemic has put on the celebration. She would like to thank all of her Hebrew School teachers (many of whom have been her teachers since she was 3), Nancy Lewis, Sharon Diamondstein, and Cantor Jeff who have all played an integral role in preparing her for this special moment.

Havurah Minyan: Study Service  
10:00 a.m. on January 9 & 23 via Zoom

Minyan members prepare and lead an in-depth discussion of a range of material that is usually, but not always, related to the themes of the weeks’ Torah portion. Newcomers welcome. To receive a Zoom invitation, or for more information, contact neillitt@outlook.com.

Adult Hebrew Sunday Zoom Classes Are Back!

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. Intermediate Hebrew
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. Advanced Hebrew
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Beginners Hebrew

For further information contact: Edna Bryn-Noiman at edna.bryn@gmail.com
Kabbalat Shabbat Katan

January 15
5:45 pm  via zoom

Open to the Community!

Please join us for Kabbalat Shabbat Katan and greet Shabbat with young families from TJC!

We will sing songs, tell stories, and make new friends!

This spirited service is designed for preschool-aged children and their families. Led by music teacher Susan Sacks and parents, this interactive Shabbat experience includes stories, prayers, songs, and a brief Torah reading.

Questions? Call Sharron Diamondstein at (609) 921-7207 or email at SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org
All programs are held via Zoom until further notice. All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</td>
<td>4:00 PM Religious School</td>
<td>12:00 PM Coffee, Conversation and Connections</td>
<td>12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting</td>
<td>12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study</td>
<td>4:00 PM Religious School #Sulam</td>
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<td>4:00 PM Religious School</td>
<td>7:30 PM Religious Affairs Committee</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Safety and Security Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 PM AC Peter Smith Bowl Making</td>
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<td>12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:00 PM Community MLK Service</td>
<td>12:00 PM AE Lunch and Learn - Maimonides w/RES</td>
<td>4:00 PM Religious School #Sulam</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Religious School - Day of Service</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>7:30 PM Tu B'Shevat Seder</td>
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|           |          | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service /
|           |          |                             | Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Silverberg |
|           |          |                             | 10:15 AM Havurah Minyan |
|           |          |                             | 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan |
|           |          |                             | 4:00 PM Mindful Prayer/Meditation |
|           |          |                             | 5:40 PM JCW - Scavenger Hunt |
|           |          |                             |                         |
|           | 7:00 PM Great Minds Salon Alex Sherman |                             | 8:45 AM Bible Baboker |
|           | 7:30 PM AE Jonathan Sama |                             | 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service |
|           |          |                             | 4:00 PM Mindful Prayer/Meditation |
|           |          |                             | 5:40 PM JCW - Scavenger Hunt |
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|           |          |                             | 5:40 PM JCW - Scavenger Hunt |
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All programs are held via Zoom until further notice. All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org.
Bowls have been around for as long as people. They are so useful for holding things and can be made from a variety of materials - ceramic, metal, wood, glass, gourds and more. This talk will focus on bowls turned from wood, and Peter will describe both the technical and design elements of these bowls - how they are made and the factors that make them attractive as functional or decorative pieces.

Peter has been turning bowls for many years encouraged by the development of modern lathes, tools, and techniques. His bowls and vases are in kitchens and on shelves across the country. With examples of his work from his Princeton studio, using local woods, the aesthetics of a bowl that can make it a work of art will be discussed. The next time you meet a salad or fruit bowl you can appreciate its craftsmanship.

The Jewish Center is proud to present a Zoom session with Executive Chef Alex Van Dyke from The Perch, the new restaurant at the Peacock Inn. Chef Alex will educate our community on how to make any home-cooked dish taste like what professionals would cook.

Join in as we share the fundamental building blocks showcased in all the top restaurants; and the commonalities of how each chef creates them. Chef Alex will demonstrate these essential fundamentals to bring excitement to vegetables such as Baby Carrots with Carrot Top Pesto, Feta + Puffed Grains and Seeds, Charred Cauliflower with Duck Fat Vinaigrette and Grilled Vegetables with Castle Valley Mills Emmer. Along with a live demonstration and recipes, Alex will teach us how to apply basic culinary formulas to our own creative pursuits.

Chef Alex is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University. His past experiences include an internship with Daniel Boulud at Restaurant Daniel, working as a sous chef at The Black Bass in Lumerville, and serving as Executive Chef at the Yardley Inn. Alex is the grandson of the late Linda Edelman, Fred Edelman and Fran Zeitler.

All programs via Zoom.
Happy Birthday to the Trees!
Sunday January 24
Via Zoom.
bottom left. Join your fellow Religious School families as we have a birthday party for the trees in honor of Tu B’Shevat.

More details to follow.

Tu B’Shevat Seder
Wednesday, January 27 • 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom.

Led by Deborah Strauss.
An interactive evening of fun and learning as we learn about the seven species mentioned in the Bible and eat fruits and other interesting delicacies.
More details will follow.
Alex Sherman has been a media and technology reporter for CNBC for three years after nearly a decade as a reporter at Bloomberg. He regularly appears on CNBC and writes for CNBC.com. His main focus is the cross-section between media and technology, including streaming video services, the slow decline of cable television, TikTok, online gambling and digital media. He is originally from Lexington, Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard in 2004 before getting his masters in journalism at Northwestern in 2007 and later his MBA at NYU Stern at night while working at Bloomberg in 2014. He moved to Princeton in 2017 with his wife, Meredith. They have three kids -- Caleb, 7, who attends Littlebrook Elementary School in the first grade; Luca, 4, who is in pre-school, and their most recent addition, Colin, who was born in May.

8:00-9:00 p.m. Via Zoom - OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

Program will be held via Zoom. Please register by emailing info@thejewishcenter.org

A Zoom link will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.
SCAVENGER HUNT
January 9, 2021
5:40 p.m. (For Havdalah)

In the comfort of your home –
singles, couples, families, we want you ALL!
JCW will be providing ingredients to prepare your own
pizza and sharing dinner online before the scavenger hunt.
Along with your pizza ingredients, each family will receive
fun snacks to be enjoyed during the evening.
There is no charge for this event!
All food will be kosher dairy.
Cantor Jeff will lead us in Havdalah,
followed by pizza making and dinner,
after which the hunt will officially begin.

But hurry! Attendance will be limited to the first 50 RSVPs!

RSVP before January 2 to JCW@thejewishcenter.org

Include your name, email address, phone number and number
of temple member participants who will be attending.
Co-chairs Ray Kaufman and Roberta Sternthal

Looking forward to sharing this event with you!

Well Done!
The TJC Men’s Club helped
deliver 400 boxes
of Latke to our
community
for Chanukah.
Special thanks
to Ed Simon
for organizing
and chairing
the program.
Special thanks as
well to all of the
volunteers who
took multiple
latkes to many
of our elderly
members.

JANUARY 21
From Tehran to the Torah
William Mehrvarz is an apostate who, having
renounced Islam in favor of Judaism, was forced
to flee Iran under threat of execution. He talks
about his experience growing up in Tehran and
his journey to the Torah. For women only.

FEBRUARY 18
Linda Milstein joins us as facilitator.
For women only.
We'll be meeting by Zoom to discuss:

**Kristy Manning’s Song of the Jade Lily**

*Kirsty Manning makes her US debut with this gripping historical novel that tells the little-known story of Jewish refugees who fled to Shanghai during WWII.*

1939: Two young girls meet in Shanghai, also known as the “Paris of the East.” Beautiful local Li and Jewish refugee Romy form a fierce friendship, but the deepening shadows of World War II fall over the women as they slip between the city’s glamorous French Concession district and the teeming streets of the Shanghai Ghetto. Yet soon the realities of war prove to be too much for these close friends as they are torn apart.

2016: Fleeing London with a broken heart, Alexandra returns to Australia to be with her grandparents, Romy and Wilhelm. Her grandfather is dying, and over the coming weeks Romy and Wilhelm begin to reveal the family mysteries they have kept secret for more than half a century. As fragments of her mother’s history finally become clear, Alexandra struggles with what she learns while more is also revealed about her grandmother’s own past in Shanghai.

The Song of the Jade Lily is a lush, provocative, and beautiful story of friendship, motherhood, the price of love, and the power of hardship and courage that can shape us all.

If you have a Princeton Public Library card, you can reserve the upcoming books. The library has multiple copies of these titles. They can also be ordered online, and you can click on the synagogue link (below) to order a book from Amazon to earn a commission for the Synagogue:

https://thejewishcenter.org/Participate-With-Us/Our-Commitees/Book-Club.aspx

All are welcome to join our Book Club. Please contact Louise Sandburg for more information:

louisesandburg@sandsmith.com

For future planning, save these dates and read this book:

**February 16 Talia Carner’s The Third Daughter**
Mazel Tov ...On Your Great News!

To Maryann Yarin on the birth of her granddaughter, Julia Eryn Holloway
To Ginny Mason and Bobby Willig on the wedding of Alexandra Willig and David Helene
To Charlene and Scott Borsack and Lisa and Jack Wiener on the marriage of their children, David Benjamin Borsack to Stephanie Alyse Wiener
To Helen Ray and Jerry Kaufman who celebrated their grandson Zev Isaac Winkelman’s Bar-Mitzvah
To Jay Schnitzer on his birthday
To Naomi Reich on her special birthday
To Lauren Neufeld and her JCW friends for organizing TJC’s first “Pad Parade” on October 25. A total of more than 2400 period products and adult incontinence products were donated, plus cash donations, that will allow the Princeton Period Project to distribute these needed items to Arm in Arm, HomeFront, and other agencies where girls, women and men can use them
To Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins on publishing his new book: Jewish Ethical Wisdom from Pirkei Avot: Modern Commentaries and Moral Guidance from the Sages
To Sam Daley-Harris who had his op-ed “I’ve Voted, Now What? How About Rejuvenating Democracy?” published in three newspapers and his letter to the editor “Urging Princetonians to Support Global Child Act Amendment” published in Town Topics
To Lisa Jacknow, who created a new online magazine for our community. Princeton Perspectives, who has seen its readership grow 74% since it launched in March
To Joan Goldstein who is host/producer of Princeton TV 30’s “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” has just taped a show with Virologist and author Dr. Ann Skalka on what is a virus and what public health practices do we need respect
To Harrell Kirstein, son of Mindy and Phil Kirstein, who managed a hard-fought and victorious U.S. Senate political campaign in New Hampshire this month
To Rick Rosenberg who completed his first marathon. Rick dedicated the 26.2 mile run in memory of his father-in-law Stan Rand
To Isaac Gantwerk Mayer whose composed piece was selected by the Jewish Music Foundation’s Hanukkah Festival of Music
To Sharon Diamondstein, Marc, Eric and Jason on moving into their new home in Highland Park
To Bryce Johnson (Heh student at TJC) who qualified for both the Northeast and New England National Ninja League Regional Championships! Bryce is currently ranked 10th in the country for 9-10 year old boys

Welcome!

TJC Welcomes These Members:

Jeremy Spiegel and Maia Jachimowicz and their kids, Liora (10) and Ilan (8)

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Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee

UNRAVELING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISRAELI LEGAL SYSTEM: 
THE ROLE OF RABBINIC COURTS AND SUPREME COURT 
IN THE ARENAS OF PERSONAL STATUS AND REPRODUCTIVE LAW 

ZOOM LECTURE WITH QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 PM 

Suzanne Last Stone, J.D.

Israel’s judicial system consists of religious courts (including rabbinic courts) and secular courts. Their respective arenas are relatively well-defined: the rabbinic courts deal with personal status, including marriage and divorce and ancillary issues, based on halachic procedure and precedent. The civil secular courts deal with most other matters, based on statute, common law, and precedent. But there are overlaps and conflicts between the two court branches.

In her presentation, Professor Stone will examine the roles of rabbinic and secular courts in controlling and deciding matters related to the long-standing customs of marriage and divorce and the traditional status of women. She will also discuss how the secular courts have developed the much newer area of reproductive law, independent of the rabbinic courts. Professor Stone will compare the traditional and modern perspectives if each court and their impact on society, as well as comparing the development of Israeli reproductive law with its development in other countries, including the United States.

Suzanne Last Stone, J.D. is professor of law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University. She is also an affiliated visiting professor of Jewish law at Hebrew University Law and Tel Aviv University Law School. Professor Stone writes and lectures on the intersection of Jewish legal thought and contemporary legal theory. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University Law School. Before joining Cardozo, she clerked for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and then practiced litigation at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

* * *

This is the second in a series of IDIC presentations focusing on facets of contemporary Israeli law, Understanding the Legal System in Israel and Its Impact on Israeli Society. We will examine the interaction of religious law, civil law, military law, and international law, and specific outcomes of those interactions.

The Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee of The Jewish Center is charged with providing congregants with programming that examines in depth those aspects of Israel and Israeli society that are sometimes controversial or confounding to American Jews and seldom broached in other TJC programming. Donations to support these efforts are appreciated.

This program is open to the community free of charge. Registration is required.
To register, please send an email with your name and course code “IDI-2” to: idic@thejewishcenter.org
Over two sessions, on November 30 and December 7, the Jewish Center was proud to host Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Blanks, Pastor of the Mount Pisgah AME Church in Princeton. Her topic was Christian Faith and how it Applies to the Major Issues of our Time.

Rev. Blanks gave a thoughtful lecture and presentation on the history of the AME Church from its founding in 1816, and a retrospective on Mount Pisgah, the oldest AME Church in Central New Jersey. Rev. Blanks educated us about the unique roots of the AME Church, as a bulwark against racial discrimination. She spoke about her congregation and its place in the community, its outreach efforts, its commitment to social justice, and plans for the future.

**GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED: BANNED, BURNED AND BLESSED**

**WITH**

**RABBI ELLIOT SALO SCHOENBERG**

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**TUESDAYS, JANUARY 26TH & FEBRUARY 2ND FROM NOON TO 1:30 PM**

Written by Maimonides at the end of the 12th century in Arabic, it is his signature work of philosophy.

A medieval syllabus for those exposed to tradition of Aristotelian speculation and science current in the 12th century Islamic milieu who find their faith challenged and undermined by its assumptions. More than that, it is own spiritual autobiography. Today 800 years later it is still a compelling read for anyone who seeks a path to God.

**Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg** is the Interim Rabbi of The Jewish Center. He has served as the Senior Vice President and Global Director of Rabbinic Career Advancement of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international professional association of Conservative rabbis. He is responsible for the career development of rabbis across the world.

He is the Conservative Movement’s expert on congregational dynamics.

Open to the public  |  RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org

Over two sessions, on November 30 and December 7, the Jewish Center was proud to host Rev. Dr. Deborah L. Blanks, Pastor of the Mount Pisgah AME Church in Princeton. Her topic was *Christian Faith and how it Applies to the Major Issues of our Time*. Rev. Blanks gave a thoughtful lecture and presentation on the history of the AME Church from its founding in 1816, and a retrospective on Mount Pisgah, the oldest AME Church in Central New Jersey. Rev. Blanks educated us about the unique roots of the AME Church, as a bulwark against racial discrimination. She spoke about her congregation and its place in the community, its outreach efforts, its commitment to social justice, and plans for the future.

**Wednesday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by TJC Men’s Club.

This TOT will be lead and facilitated by Rabbi Justus Baird. It is open to ALL Men at TJC. It will be occur online with a Zoom link sent to all interested participants.

RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org
Mr. Joel Berger  
The Jewish Center  
435 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540-4611  

Dear Friends,

Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Mercer County (JFCS) is grateful to The Jewish Center for including the Yvette Sarah Clayman Kosher Food Pantry in your congregation's High Holiday food drive.

Thank you very much for your generous donation of a countless number of bags of shelf stable items plus $350.00 in McCaffrey's gift cards, that enabled us to purchase food for needy families in our area. The food is distributed at our on-site pantry and via our JFCS Mobile Food Pantry, which delivers healthy options directly to vulnerable communities.

It is a special mitzvah to help feed the hungry in our community. Your generous donation illustrates your commitment to the mitzvah of Ma'achil Re'evim - Feeding the Hungry.

Sincerely,

Arlene Pedovitch
Be assured
when our family is called to serve yours.

What was true for Orland’s more than 50 years ago when it was started by our father and grandfather remains true for us today...

Our task is chosen.
Our commitment is strong.
It is our family’s honor to take care of yours.

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Max J. Orland, Director | NJ License. 3064

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- Select Jewish Center of Princeton

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—Avot De Rebbe Natan

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Insist on...Heidi Joseph.
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
☐ General
☐ Adult Education
☐ Adult Library
☐ Arts & Cultural Affairs
☐ Fran Amir Community Service Trip Fund
☐ Hazan’s Music Fund
☐ Irving N. Rabinowitz Conversational Hebrew Fund
☐ Israeli Affairs Fund
☐ Jess & Marion Epstein Lunch & Learn Fund
☐ The Jewish Center Refugee Fund
☐ Jewish Center Women
☐ LASHIR
☐ Life and Legacy Endowment Fund
☐ Marchand Espir Family Holocaust Education Fund
☐ Men’s Club
☐ Neimark Senior Mitzvah Fund
☐ New Siddur ($36) New Chumash ($75) New Machzor ($36)
☐ Rabbi’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 for Adventures in Israel
☐ Shabbat Luncheon Fund
☐ Silver Circle Scholarship Fund
☐ Social Action
☐ Social Action - Housing Fund
☐ Steven Levine Special Education Fund
☐ Torah Repair Fund
☐ Youth and Family Programs

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

Giving Opportunities
☐ Adult Ed Lecture or Series $300-$600
☐ Sponsor a Shabbat Congregational Luncheon $2,500 or Shabbat Kiddush $600
☐ Brick Pavers
☐ Small - $250
☐ Medium - $500
☐ Large - $750

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