Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
May 16, 2021
8:00-10:00 p.m.
via Zoom

See page 3 for details

Sunday, May 16
8:00 PM
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Monday, May 17
9:30 AM
Shavuot First Day
Morning Service

Tuesday, May 18
9:30 AM
Shavuot Second Day
Morning Service

10:00 AM
Yizkor Memorial Service
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MAY 2021 ZOOM LINKS
(Please make sure to have the latest version of Zoom.)

Erev Shabbat Services
May 7, 14, 21, 28 2021 06:30 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765936754
Meeting ID: 847 6593 6754
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 847 6593 6754

Shabbat Morning Services
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 2021 09:30 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84441702262
Meeting ID: 844 4170 2262
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 844 4170 2262

Sunday Morning Minyan
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2021 09:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85664336934
Meeting ID: 856 6433 6934
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 856 6433 6934

Wednesday Morning Minyan
May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021 07:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81085837080
Meeting ID: 810 8583 7080
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 810 8583 7080

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.

www.livestream.com/tjc

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Cantor
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Shavuot Cover Art (inner portion) by artist
Christina Mattison Ebert and available for sale at
www.christinamattison.com
NEW THIS YEAR!

Dramatic reading by congregants of the story of Korach, the rebellion against Moses as legitimate leader of the Israelites; directed by Lew Gantwerk with readers:

Michele Alperin
Rob Goldston
Linda Oppenheim
Donna and Rick Rosenberg
Judy and Michael Leopold
Ruth Schulman

Lively conversation between Bruce Afran and Adam Scheer exploring “The Great Divide: Moses and Korach”

Three concurrent workshops follow, using Zoom breakout rooms, with opportunities for deeper learning and discussion.

Does G-d Care What We Do?
CODE: Schoenberg

That G-d cares about the details of our life gives us a sense of meaning and significance, yet bad things happen to good people. We will learn both the traditional view and discover how Maimonides’ deep psychological insights inform his rereading of it.

Presenter: Rabbi Elliot Salo Schoenberg, currently Rabbi of The Jewish Center, served for 30 years as the global senior vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Rules Are Not Made to Be Broken, But…
CODE: Wisnia

What happens when life gets in the way and you can’t follow the laws around Jewish ritual strictly 100%? Is it okay to bend the rules? If yes, how much and on whose authority? Using Torah text in the book of Numbers, we will explore how the Torah models flexibility in Jewish observance.

Presenter: Rabbi Eric B. Wisnia, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Chaim in West Windsor, NJ. After serving the congregation as Senior Rabbi for 42 years, he retired in February 2019.

Why Do We Whisper Part of the Shema?
CODE: Boustan

Following the first line of the Shema (“Shema Yisrael”) is a statement that is customarily uttered below one’s breath (“Baruch Shem Kavod”). The source of this line and the reasons for its inclusion in the liturgy are uncertain. We will explore the possible explanations for this enigmatic practice, looking at Jewish tradition and historical sources.

Presenters: Leah and Ra’anan Boustan. Leah is a Professor of Economics at Princeton University and Ra’anan is a Research Scholar in the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University.

To preregister, decide which workshop you would like to attend and send an e-mail to: info@thejewishcenter.com using the appropriate workshop code in the subject line. If you and your partner/spouse want to attend different workshops, you must be using different computers and send separate preregistration emails.

We’re looking forward to “seeing” you at the Tikkun!
I am a morning person and have always been. The best part of my day is waking up to a fresh cup of coffee reading the Boston sports news and the CNN headlines. I study Torah every day in the morning with my second cup of coffee. Cada Dia. However, once a year, my Torah study is in the evening at the Tikkun Leil Shavuot. This study is different because it is not only about mastering the content but the spiritual experience.

We can’t sleep because we are so excited that we will be receiving the Torah. The Zohar teaches that God’s male and female aspect will unite on Shavuot morning. We are up all night to keep the bride company as she awaits her special moment. In addition, the Mishnah teaches we study Torah late into the night because we are anxious. Why are we anxious? On Shavuot the simple Jew is compared to the High Priest in the Temple on the eve of Yom Kippur, who is anxious that he will get the complex ritual accomplished correctly.

Finally, Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra hints at the idea of staying up all night on the night of Shavuot in his commentary to Exodus 19:11: “perhaps a person should not sleep on the night when they will hear God’s voice in the morning.” The evening is a time of anticipation and excitement, a time of preparation and setting positive intentions.

I look forward to studying with you on the night of May 16th. I will be drinking my third cup of coffee.

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg
By the time May rolls around in Princeton, spring is in full swing! The warm weather is here, and we can gather outside and enjoy nature to the fullest.

And the month of May this year brings us Shavuot, a joyous agricultural festival which highlights nature and the giving of the Torah.

So let’s enjoy some songs, from across the Jewish world, that celebrate the themes of spring, nature and the Torah.

Please remember that you can easily access this article online, which will make following the links easy!

Just go to the TJC website: www.thejewishcenter.org
Then click on “About Us,” then on “Resources,” and then on “Cantor Jeff’s Resources.”

We’ll start with two songs about spring and nature, first with a lesser-known Yiddish song entitled “Kinder kumt der friling ruft/Children Come, Spring Calls.”

I first came across this song as I was preparing to teach my yearly Yiddish song class at the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, Poland. My theme that year was “Songs of Nature and the Land,” and this song was a perfect fit. As the article below mentions (see the link), the melody is also heard in the well-known klezmer tune “Nakhes fun kinder/Naches from Kids.” (We should all have lots of that!).

The link, which describes and presents this song, as well as many others, is from the great website “The Yiddish Song of the Week.”
https://yiddishsong.wordpress.com/2021/04/07/kinder-kumt-der-friling-ruft-performed-by-harry-mervis/#comments

Next we have the well-known Sephardic folk song “Los Bilblicos/The Nightingales,” which is also sung to the lyric “La Rosa Enfloresce/The Rose is Blossoming,” and to the Shabbat zemer “Tsur Mishelo.” The performance is by the wonderful Sephardic duo Jak and Janet Esim, from Istanbul, with their ensemble.

“The little nightingales are singing in the blossom tree, and beneath the tree are seated those who are suffering from love…”
(Translation adapted from http://sefaradizo.org/muzica/los_bilblicos/los_bilblicos-lyrics-en.pdf)

And the performance is here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQBizZYR8Mc

And now here are two songs that celebrate the Torah.

Many of you know the song “Mipi El.” Here is a mixed-language Hebrew and Ladino version:

“From the mouth of God, all of Israel shall be blessed. From the mouth of God, all of the Jews are blessed. There’s none holier than Adonai, and none as pious as Ben Amram [Moses], none as guarded as Our Law [the Torah], and none as modest as Israel.”
(Adapted from https://lyricstranslate.com/en/de-boka-del-dio-mouth-god.html)

This performance (with some variants from the translation above) is by the long-time hazzan of London’s Bevis Marks Synagogue, Reverend Halfon Benarroch:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBM004uw5uk&list=RDJlRYF33Bj_E&index=6

Finally, the Hasidic classic “Moshe Emes,” sung here by Hasidic superstar Avram Fried, in a very energetic and snazzy arrangement:

“Moshe is true, and his Torah is true!”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwp2xx5yY8A

Deborah and I send you and all your loved ones our warmest wishes for a very happy and healthy spring, and a Chag Sameach!

Cantor Jeff
MESSAGE from the President

Randall Brett
president@thejewishcenter.org

Beginnings and Endings

Once upon a time, I wanted to be a science fiction writer. As a youngster, I wrote short stories about my friends – real and imaginary – and their adventures in outer space. Later, I wrote science articles for my school newspaper and once, even wrote a play about an astronaut. In college, I thought about majoring in Creative Writing, but then I thought about how I was going to support myself after graduation. The desire to eat regularly caused me to shift direction and I entered the pre-law program. While I graduated college in four years, it took me another 32 years to get the law degree, but that is another story.

However, I am a voracious reader and I have never stopped trying to learn how to write, using advice from professional writers. One thing I learned is that all good stories must have a strong cast of characters, a compelling story arc, and a memorable ending. A good editor also is required (and mine makes a great chicken soup). Which leads me to the body of this article.

The past two years as President of The Jewish Center has been quite a story for all of us, and especially for me. The place to begin is with the cast of characters.

During my tenure, I have been fortunate to work with an extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of volunteers on the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. It would take a multitude of pages to thank everyone by name, and regrettably I do not have unlimited space. However, each volunteer has my profound gratitude for helping me through these past two years. I have also benefited from the hard work, creativity, and support of our professionals: the clergy and senior staff, the administrative personnel, the educators, and the people who keep our grounds and buildings in good shape. Each of our lay volunteers and paid staff have helped me get through these past 24 months.

The compelling story arc is evident – we have been living through it together. In June of 2019, we were functioning as TJC always did. Services were held, programs and meetings went on as normal, kiddush lunches followed Shabbat services, and children kvetched about having to go to Religious School. We assumed life would continue as it always had. Then, complacency met reality.

In the space of just a few months, we slogged through another kerfuffle over a minor issue, soon followed by the death of our Rabbi, Adam Feldman z’l. Amid coping with this loss, we found ourselves in the middle of the worst pandemic in over 100 years. We were forced to find ways to remain a community when we could not be together in person. Almost overnight, we had to recreate ourselves and become a virtual community, relying on Zoom and LiveStream to keep us spiritually engaged, intellectually active, and emotionally supported. Our children needed to be educated even though they could not be in a classroom. B’nai mitzvah plans were suddenly upended, and parents scrambled to salvage what they could of their simchas. There was no rulebook, no guide, no Rosetta Stone to help us understand and deal with what was happening all around us. We had to find our own way forward. We had to experiment and create what was required to meet the needs of our community. Some experiments failed but most succeeded. Through the efforts of each of us, we have come through these past months, I believe, much stronger than we were before. We have remained united in spirit even though we have been physically apart.

Which brings me to the memorable ending. But this ending cannot be written because our story is not yet finished. We still have much more to do together. Our new Rabbi, Andi Merow, is starting in July. We will welcome her into our community and join her story with ours. As conditions allow, we will bring people back into the sanctuary for services and the social hall for kiddush lunches. We will gather in our shul to comfort each other when needed and celebrate simchas every chance we get. We will do all of this, and more, knowing that the past two years have helped us find the strength we needed but never realized we could develop.

So, while this is the last column I will write as President of The Jewish Center, it is not the end of a story. Rather, it is the end of just one chapter. Future Presidents will have their own chapters to write. While I do not know what their story arcs will be, I am confident it will be interesting – and certainly more engaging than the science fiction stories I authored.

Thank you, everyone, for the privilege of being your President for the past two years.

B’shalom,

Randy Brett
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes.
How do you measure? Measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee,
in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. Lyrics from the
Broadway show Rent.

I truly don’t know where to begin reflecting on the past
year. We were all blindsided by something called a
pandemic. Something that we had not seen in over 100
years. Will it be localized? Will it be international? Will
it go away quickly? Who knew? Did we know that Purim
2020 would be described as the first super-spreader event?
What about those who attended other events and had
no idea about what we were to face and what they were
experiencing?

On a personal note, I lost my uncle to Covid at the age of
96. I knew others as well. We all seemed to know someone
who had passed from Covid. Is mask wearing the new
badge of honor? Will it last for years to come? Over
500,000 have passed. How do we begin to reflect on that?

And then my mother passed away last June. I reflect on
that every day. I am coming up on 1 year from that sad
remembrance.

So how do we reflect fully on what has transpired? Let me
try to talk about reflection.

I want to reflect on resilience. The strength of those in our
inner circles encouraging us to wear masks, stay inside,
order online and stay vigilant. To thank the first responders
and front line workers who put their lives on the line every
day. To thank the scientists, medical workers, teachers,
restaurant workers and the thousands and thousands of
people who tried to make our lives better.

I want to reflect on our community. How we at The Jewish
Center, and others around the world, shifted to new online
experiences literally overnight. How services and programs
came into your homes, instead of you coming to our home.

How we came together virtually over and over again, seeing
same faces and new faces all the time.

I want to reflect on the volunteers. Those who made calls
to members who needed it. Those who delivered Latkes
and Hamentashen to your homes. To the Chavurat Chesed
group who helped our members get vaccine appointments,
even for me. To the scores of people who helped out TJC
in so many ways over the past year. Thousands of hours to
reflect upon and to say thanks to the volunteers.

I want to reflect on communication and technology. Very
few people heard of Zoom a year ago and now we can’t live
without it. This year was a year like never before. We relied
on our communications to get the word out to you and you
responded. We relied on our technology to stay connected,
and you did.

And lastly, I want to reflect on family. For me, the best part
of Covid was being able to have my family here in New
Jersey for a very extended time. Instead of us living apart,
we made time to live together. We hiked, they kayaked,
we played in the snow and we traveled to different parts of
the area. We grew closer amidst a global pandemic and we
have lots of new memories to share.

What a year. Now you should take some time to reflect on
your year and thank those who made it possible for all of us
to be here today. The list is long but worth reflecting on.

Shabbat Shalom.

Joel
Friends,

As of May 1, 2021, we have counted 35 Days of the Omer - the period of time between Passover and Shavuot. The counting of the Omer always stirs something in me - will I actually remember to count every night? (As of this writing, my guess is no, but I remain hopeful). Why do we count these 49 days? What should we be focusing on?

When I taught first grade, we used to put little flowers on the bulletin board as we counted up to Shavuot. The kids always enjoyed the flowers, but there was something more. As I was going through my own spiritual growth, I realized there was something missing. Just these numbers made no sense to me. The idea of studying Pirkei Avot, or The Ethics of the Fathers was great, but not so compelling.

This year, I am undertaking a connection of my own. I started journaling in a workbook put out by Jewish educators Amanda Herring and Mo Golden called The Omer Workbook. Journaling is difficult, because it forces a sense of self-accountability, and introspection is not always so easy to do.

The journal is divided into seven sections: Chesed (loving-kindness) Gevurah (inner strength), Tiferet (balance, harmony), Netzach (persistence, endurance), Hod (simplicity, humility), Yesod (covenant, integrity), and Malchut / Shechinah (sovereignty). If you can imagine a grid in which these traits are written across the top and the side and each of the 49 days has its own focus. I would like to share with you my entry from Week 1, Day 4, or the Fourth Day of the Omer. The theme for the day is Netzach within Chesed - endurance with loving kindness, and the teaching on this page of the journal emphasizes the importance of constantly working at relationships. The journal prompted me to consider what makes my enduring relationships strong and special while writing a letter to a loved one with whom I’ve lost touch.

While I won’t share the letter I wrote to my Aunt Rivka, I will share that in the past year, we reconnected while she stayed in Vancouver with her son, daughter in law, and grandchildren through COVID.

My aunt is a wonderful, warm and loving woman who always made me feel cared for. I would spend my summers in Israel and looked forward to her picking me up and bringing me to my grandmother's house to eat some really delicious food. When Jason was born, she and I reconnected on Facebook, and while I haven’t seen her in a very long time, I took that first step as a Facebook connection for the adult version of me to build a relationship with her.

Our Facebook connection became a WhatsApp connection, and now we have moved on to video conversations. In writing this journal entry, I realized that I don’t speak with her as often as I would like to - or as much as I should. I’ve decided that I would like to speak with her weekly. I want to call her on Fridays before Shabbat and give her the opportunity to see Marc, Eric and Jason.

As I continue my Sefira (counting) journey, I would like to invite you to also reflect. Choose one of the above attributes. If committing to journaling daily is too much, commit to reflecting once per week. Make a commitment to yourselves that you will use this time of growth as we count up to the celebration of the receiving of the Torah. Note the tensions between Chesed and Gevurah (constant giving of yourself and creating boundaries).

As always, I would love to help you on your journeys. I am here to learn with you and am happy to offer guidance through our daily counting.

Please share your thoughts with me, sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org, and I will continue to share mine with you.

B’Shalom,

Sharon
Mazel Tov to our B’nai Mitzvah

ISABELLE BLOOM • MAY 1, 2021
Isabelle is in the 7th grade at Princeton Unified Middle School. She enjoys hanging out with friends. Isabelle has trained at the America Ninja Warrior gym for 3 years, and wants to play football in high school.

ANNA KAUFMAN • MAY 8, 2021
Anna is a 7th grader at Princeton Unified Middle School. She has grown up at The Jewish Center, having begun her education at TJC’s preschool at the tender age of twelve months. Anna enjoys singing and has performed with Princeton Girlchoir for five years. She also loves theatre, writing, and hanging out with her dog, Archie. Anna is a kind, thoughtful, and compassionate person with a lively personality and a passion for social justice and Nomad pizza. Despite the fact that the pandemic has made the b’nai mitzvah experience different than what she had envisioned, Anna has rolled with the punches and is excited for her big day as it approaches. Anna would like to thank all her Hebrew school teachers, as well as Gila Levin and Sharon Diamondstein, for their support through her Jewish educational journey. She particularly thanks Nancy Lewis and Cantor Jeff for all their help in preparing her to become a bat mitzvah. She remembers Rabbi Feldman, z”l, with fondness as she approaches this special milestone, and she remains grateful for the significant impact he had on her Jewish education.

ISABELLE BLOOM • MAY 1, 2021
Ethan has a strong connection to The Jewish Center, where he began his preschool education at just 18 months old. He has maintained the relationships forged on the playground, and still counts his preschool buddies among his closest friends. Ethan loves to spend time with friends riding bikes, playing basketball, and gaming online. He is a devoted brother to his dog and sister (in that order) and loves being with extended family. At Princeton Unified Middle School, Ethan is a seventh grader who enjoys math, science, and languages including Mandarin and Spanish. Ethan loves to play drums and tennis, listen to music, or go for a hike, and he is always interested in trying new foods from exotic cultures. Along with his sister, Sophie, Ethan has become a movie aficionado during the pandemic; however, he is looking forward to unplugging and resuming the joys of being back at sleep away camp this summer. Ethan would like to thank Yaakov Zinberg, Nancy Lewis, Sharon Diamonstein, Gila Levin, Rabbi Schoenberg, Cantor Jeff, and all of his religious school teachers for helping him prepare for this milestone. He would also like to remember with fondness the impact that Rabbi Feldman had on his education at TJC.
Shabbat Katan
Monthly Young Family Service and Get-together
Shabbat mornings at 11:00 am in the Youth Lounge on November 3, December 8, 2018
2019 Dates to be announced soon!

Celebrate your child’s birthday or other milestone by sponsoring a Shabbat Katan lunch. Call Sharon Diamondstein, Director of Congregational Learning at sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-7207 to arrange.

The Jewish Center is a non-profit organization. Our policy is not to deny membership or education to any person based on financial need.

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!

Kabbalat Shabbat Katan
May 14
5:45 pm Outdoors!
Open to the Community!

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.

Join us on Zoom at 11am for Shabbat Katan on May 8, and June 12! Email drothman@thejewishcenter.org to sign up to receive a Shabbat Katan Zoom link each month!

Join us on Zoom on May 14 at 5:45 pm on for Kabbalat Shabbat Katan with Sharon Diamondstein! RSVP to sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org for the Kabbalat Shabbat Katan Zoom link.

We invite all of our senior congregants to join us with your grandchildren. Open to both members and non-members. What better way to spend Shabbat than online with the kinder?? Email Daryl Rothman at drothman@thenewishcenter.org to make sure you are signed up to get the Zoom link each month.
Please join us for the 71st Annual Meeting of The Jewish Center

Sunday, May 30 7:30 p.m.

Meeting will include:

- D'var Torah
- Opening Remarks
- Highlights from our 2020-2021 Year
- 2021-2022 Budget Presentation and Vote
- Nominating Committee Report and Vote
- Introduction of Rabbi Merow
- Congregant of the Year Award
- Richard Fishbane Award

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

**GENERAL FUND**

**In honor of**
- Nancy Lewis
  from The Jacknow Family
- Barry and Terri Rossman on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Daniel Mantel
  from Marcie and Marc Citron

**In memory of**
- Morton and Emily Sobin
  from Nancy Sobin
- Louis Horowitz
  from Herb and Carol Horowitz
- Aurelia Blau
  from Leslie and Stephanie Blau
- Bruce Feigeles
  from Sharon Shylit
- Benjamin Mohr
  from Marilyn Zagarin
- Gertrude Freeman
  from Marsha and Eliot Freeman
- Rosalind Spielsinger
  from Ira and Linda Cheifetz
- Toni Silman
  from Carol and Mark Pollard
- Phyllis Marchand
  from Deb Whiting
- Nettie Schreiber
  from Ruth Fath
- Dr. Arthur Fein
  from Rogie and Martin Rome
- Chaim Dubowska
  from Howard and Sofia Parish
- Dora Luchtan
  from Howard and Sofia Parish

**ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

**In honor of**
- Sam Cohen’s 100th birthday
  from Alison and David Politziner, Marsha and Eliot Freeman

**In memory of**
- Irv Newman
  from Edna and Shai Noiman
- Phyllis Marchand
  from Harriet K. Greenblatt

**ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**In honor of**
- Rhona Porter
  from Judith Brodsky

**In memory of**
- Marjorie Stenerson
  from Andrea and David Gaynor
- Elisabeth Joseph
  from Debbie and Randy Brett
- Phyllis Marchand
  from Ava Kordansky

**BIMAH ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

from Sher Leiman
from Stephanie Gittleman
from Jeff and Bonnie Weizman
from Barbara and David Vilkomerson
from Sandra Sussman
from Francis Lees
from Jose Matiella
from Joel Heynsfeld
from Shoshana Silverman
from Jane Maida
from Amy and Eran Zacks
from Beatrice and Michael Bloom
from The Borsack Family
from Margaret and Chris Johnson
from Alan and Marcie Braun
from Randall and Deborah Brett
from Shula Gross
from Harold and Vivian Shapiro
from Lew Gantwerk
from David Goldfarb
from Michelle Goldman
from Frances Zeitler Edelman
from Frederick Edelman
from Martha Liebman
from Julie Roth and Justus Baird
from Ellen Avins
from Joe and Barbara Schwartz
from Naomi and Michael Goldin
from Moshe and Judy Margolin
from Paula and Steven Heller
from Heidi Joseph and David Saltzman
from Ed Flax and Dee Silver
from Linda and Joshua Milstein
from Alan Medvin and Harriet Kass
from Jacqueline Berger
from Rebecca and Josh Sarett
from JoAnn and Philip Carchman
from Martin and Rogie Rome
from Jaimi Gaffe
from The Merkovitz Family
from Rachelle Simon
from Melissa Hager and Curtis Johnson
from Mindy and Corey Langer
from Meyer and Lynn Joy Sapoff
from Jeff and Vickie Solomon
from Donna and David Gabai
from Jeff Savlov and Monica Blum
from Lynne Ross
from Joseph Strauss and Sally Goldfarb
from Howard and Judith Wiener
from Jeffrey Albert and Marian Bass
from Linda Oppenheim and Robert Karp
from Evelyn and Leonard Grossman
from Sara and Steven Just
from David and Nadivah Greenberg
from Samuel and Irene Goldfarb
from Martha & Marty Rossman
from Maxine Gurk
from Joan Levin
from Barry and Terri Rossman
from The Gitterman Family
from Philip and Mindy Kirstein
from David and Edye Kamernik
from David and Joan Rosenfeld
from Claire Calandra
from Abigail Rose
from Ruth and Rob Goldston
from Joseph Koffman
from Judith Brodsky
from Sherry Rosen
from Leah and Raanan Boustan
from Jane Altman
from Froma Zeitlin
from Ed and Lori Simon
from Rabbi David and Zonia Silverman
from Gil and Ellen Gordon
from Steven Hubert
from Orland’s Ewing Memorial Chapel
from Avi Argaman
from Ruth Fath
from Ginny Mason and Bobby Willig
from Lawrence and Lisa Kramer
from Diane and Mitchell Schwartz
from Robert Seidenstein and Marilyn Riley
from Ellen and George Pristach
from Howard and Sofia Parish
from Anonymous
from Jane Silverman
from Fran Amir
from Summer Pramer
from Lynn and Lew Coopersmith
from Barak and Alexandra Bar-Cohen
from Joshua McCoy
from Roberta Sternthal
from Ruth Schulman
from Steven Sheriff and
Michele Alperin
from Abbye Cornfield
from Nancy and Neil Lewis
from CBIZ Borden Perlman

In honor of
Gil Gordon on his birthday
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and
Fred Edelman, Rabbi David and
Ziona Silverman
The Bar Mitzvah of Shay Cheskis
from Barry Abelman
Barry Ableman
from Marilyn and Reli Tal
Sally Steinberg-Brent
from Fred Edelman

In memory of
Mel Schulman
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and
Fred Edelman
Irwin Turim
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman
Stanley Millner, Helen Schwartz, Lillian
Millner and Larry Swirsky
from Rita Swirsky
Rose Levy
from Beverly Levy Beer
Muriel Brett
from Jason and Lauren Streicher-Brett
Rabbi Adam Feldman
from CBIZ Borden Perlman
Phyllis Marchand
from Howard and Marilyn Zagorin

CANTOR’S MUSIC FUND
In honor of
Cantor Jeff Warschauer
from The Jacknow Family

In memory of
Vladislav Barsky
from Olga Barsky
Sylvia Leiman
from Sher Leiman

FRAN AMIR COMMUNITY
SERVICE TRIP FUND
In memory of
Marjorie Stenerson
from Edna and Shai Noiman

IRVING N. RABINOWITZ
CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW
FUND
In memory of
Irv Rabinowitz
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman
and Fred Edelman

THE JEWISH CENTER
REFUGEE FUND
from Sandie Rabinowitz
from Caroline Travers
from Esther Schor

In memory of
Margaret Krausz Becker
from Amy Becker-Mattes and
Jeffrey Mattes and Family
Lenore Gordon
from Rogie and Martin Rome
Phyllis Marchand
from Rogie and Martin Rome

JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND
In memory of
Shirley Sheinberg
from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

LASHIR FUND
In memory of
Hyman Coopersmith
from Lew and Lynn Coopersmith

LIFE AND LEGACY
ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of
Elisabeth Joseph
from Alison and David Politziner,
Edna and Shai Noiman

MARCHAND ESPIR FAMILY
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND
In honor of
Cantor Jeff Warschauer
from The Marchand Family
Rabbi Robert (Bob) Freedman
from The Marchand Family

In memory of
Phyllis Marchand
from Harriet Kass, Jay, David and Ellen
Kuris, Nancy Steele, Hazel Stix, Lucas

Yelowitz, Suki and Matthew Wasserman,
Paul and Linda Levy, Stephanie Schlitt,
Adelé Agin, Laurie Goldsmith-Heitner,
Mark Freda, Evelyne Brownstein,
Barbara and Steve Felton, Maryann
Yarin, Joel Heymsfeld, Harold Shapiro,
Jan Gurvitch, Carol Golden, Ruth and
Arnold Mollk, Valerie Cheh and Angie
Urbania, Linda and Art Meisel, Philip
O’Donoghue, Linda Anglin, Gaby and
Hymie Schreiber, Gil and Ellen Gordon,
Henry Acselrod, Mindy and Phil
Kirstein, Dina Shaw, Cheryl and Richard
Goldman, Michal and Micah Garber,
Victor Miller, Elizabeth and Stephen
Silverman, Irwin and Phyllis Stoolmaher,
Carole and Allan Polacek, Rogie and
Martin Rome, Harriet Fein, Susan and
Morty Levine, Bruce and Jane Berkowitz,
Peter A. Cantu
Elisabeth Joseph
from Andrea and David Gaynor,
Heidi Joseph and David Saltzman
Emma and Otto Kohn
from Joseph Kohn
Alberto and Costanza Di Capua and
Alejandro Di Capua
from Anna Rosa Kohn

PRAYERBOOK FUND
In memory of
Irv Newman
from the Bible BaBoker crew, Michael
and Naomi Goldin, Alison Politziner,
Leslie Blau, Roslyn Vanderbilt, Arnold
Landy, Jeff Savlov, Shoshana Silberman,
Claire Calandra, Jonathan Katz, Jerry
Kaufman, Sally Steinberg-Brent
Emanuel Kaptanoff and Liliane Kapitanoff
from Anne and Phil Rutman

RABBI ADAM FELDMAN
MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of
Phyllis Marchand
from Suki and Matthew Wasserman

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
from Donna and David Gabai

In memory of
Nettie and Morris Bach
from Bobbi and Barry Freedman
Beatrice Sinclair
   from Bobbi and Barry Freedman

RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND
In honor of
Carol and Bob Schwartz on the birth of
their grandson, Eli Meyer Schwartz
   from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

In memory of
Marjorie Stenerson
   from Debbie and Randy Brett, Linda
   and Michael Grenis
Dorothy Poecker
   from David and Edye Kamenir

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
In memory of
Stuart Gothelf
   from Ricky Shechtel
Phyllis Marchand
   from Ricky Shechtel

THE SCHNITZER FAMILY SHEKEL
FUND FOR ADVENTURES IN
ISRAEL
In memory of
Elisabeth Joseph
   from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND
In memory of
Ralph T. Heymsfeld
   from Joel Heymsfeld

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
In honor of
The TJC Vaccine Committee
   from Lewis Gantwerk, Edith Neimark,
   Stanley Herzog

In memory of
Fred Sheinberg
   from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

Victims of the Coronavirus Pandemic
   from Ray and Jerry Kaufman

SOCIAL ACTION – HOUSING FUND
In memory of
Elisabeth Joseph
   from Iris and Steve Schulman

YOUTH AND FAMILY
PROGRAMS FUND
In honor of
Sabbat Katan
   from Peter Ozsvath and Shevi Sperber

*This gift is from a Donor Advised Fund
at the Jewish Community Foundation of
Greater Mercer.
Deborah Yaffe, an award-winning journalist and author, has been a passionate Jane Austen fan since first reading Pride and Prejudice at age ten. She joined the Jane Austen Society of North America at sixteen; owns an impressive collection of Austen-themed coffee mugs, bookmarks, tote bags, and DVDs; and works from a home office presided over by a Jane Austen Action Figure.

As a newspaper reporter in New Jersey and California for more than thirteen years, Yaffe covered education, the law, and state government. Her first book, Other People’s Children: The Battle for Justice and Equality in New Jersey’s Schools, is a gripping narrative history of the state’s efforts to provide equal educational opportunities to rich and poor schoolchildren.

Her second book, Among the Janeites: A Journey Through the World of Jane Austen Fandom, was published in August 2013 to excellent reviews; the New York Times Book Review called it “amusing and sometimes mind-boggling.” Yaffe, a longtime member of the Jewish Center, works as a freelance writer and lives in Princeton Junction. She and her husband have two now-adult children, both graduates of TJC’s religious school.

Thursday, May 20
FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR
Deborah Yaffe
Jane Austen, Superstar: From Classic Author to Pop-Culture Phenomenon

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.
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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<td>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</td>
<td>7:30 PM Vegetables in Containers</td>
<td>12:00 PM Yigdal Class with Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg</td>
<td>7:00 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Religious School</td>
<td>4:00 PM Religious School</td>
<td>12:00 PM Coffee, Conv Connections</td>
<td>12:15 PM Adult Ed Program</td>
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Mother's Day

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<td>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</td>
<td>12:00 PM Shiur with Schoenberg and Sharon</td>
<td>7:00 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Adult Ed Program</td>
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Shavuot

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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM Morning Minyan</td>
<td>9:30 AM Shavuot Service Day 1</td>
<td>7:00 AM Minyan</td>
<td>7:00 AM Minyan</td>
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<td>8:00 PM Tikkun Layl Shavuot</td>
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<td>7:30 PM #Sulam</td>
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| 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 9:00 AM Morning Minyan | | 7:00 AM Minyan |
| 9:00 AM Religious School - Last Day | 4:00 PM Religious School | 12:15 PM Adult Ed Program |
| 9:00 AM Mitzvah of Mazon | 7:30 PM TJC Book Club | 4:00 PM Religious School |
| 7:30 PM #Sulam | | |

| 30 | 31 |
| 9:00 AM Morning Minyan | | 7:00 AM Minyan |
| 7:00 PM Annual Meeting of the Congregation | | 12:15 PM Adult Ed Program |
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.

8:45 AM Bible Baboker
9:30 AM Bat Mitzvah Isabelle Bloom
9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
4:00 PM Mindful Mincha Meditation with Ruth Goldston

9:00 AM Morning Minyan
9:00 AM Religious School

12:00 PM Yigdal Class with Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg
4:00 PM Religious School

7:30 PM Vegetables in Containers
12:00 PM Coffee, Conversation and Connections
12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study
4:00 PM Religious School

7:00 AM Minyan
10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
11:00 AM Shabbat Katan
4:00 PM Mindful Mincha Meditation with Ruth Goldston

7:30 PM #Sulam
7:30 PM Torah on Tap
9:30 AM JCW: NOSH & DROSH
A Behind the Scenes Look at Stitching Together Services
7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 PM Great Minds Salon - Deborah Yaffe

8:45 AM Bible Baboker
9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Ethan Feldman
9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
4:00 PM Mindful Mincha Meditation with Ruth Goldston

9:00 AM Morning Minyan
9:00 AM Religious School - Last Day
9:00 AM Mitzvah of Mazon

7:30 PM #Sulam
7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 PM Great Minds Salon - Deborah Yaffe

4:00 PM Religious School

7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
8:00 PM Great Minds Salon - Deborah Yaffe

7:00 AM Minyan
12:15 PM Adult Ed Programs - Talmud Study
4:00 PM Religious School

5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan - Sunset Shabbat
8:45 AM Bible Baboker
9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
11:00 AM Shabbat Katan
4:00 PM Mindful Mincha Meditation with Ruth Goldston

9:00 AM Morning Minyan
9:00 AM Religious School - Last Day
9:00 AM Mitzvah of Mazon

7:30 PM #Sulam
7:30 PM Torah on Tap
9:30 AM JCW: NOSH & DROSH
A Behind the Scenes Look at Stitching Together Services
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4:00 PM Mindful Mincha Meditation with Ruth Goldston
ONE CONGREGATION – ONE BIMAH FOR ALL

“We are supporting the Bimah Accessibility Project because The Jewish Center is one home for all of us. We are donating because the bimah is the focal point of our sanctuary and it should be accessible to everyone.”
- Mark and Carol Pollard

The bimah is the heart of our sanctuary. It is the gathering place for life cycle events, the focus of our High Holiday worship rituals, and the site that draws us together when we seek comfort from pain and sing out in joy.

Unfortunately, the bimah at The Jewish Center is not easily accessible for those who have difficulty climbing steps or use a wheelchair or a walker. We value inclusivity in our community, but entry is barred to the most sacred spot in our sanctuary for many who wish to be there.

Beginning today, however, you have the power to ensure that everyone at TJC has an equal seat in the sanctuary—that we stand by our vision of being an inclusive community and that every one of us can be included on the bimah.

At our mid-year congregational meeting on December 20th, we presented preliminary plans for the Bimah Accessibility Project. Based on extensive congregational feedback, input from our incoming Rabbi, Andrea Merow, and in consultation with experts in synagogue design and construction, we have modified the design to be safer, more visually appealing, and cost-effective. The electrical system will also be enhanced to better accommodate improvements to our sound system and the sanctuary and social hall will have the necessary infrastructure to provide assistance for the hearing impaired, making our sanctuary even more inclusive. Drawings can be viewed at https://thejewishcenter.org/Resources/Bimah-Accessibility-Project.aspx.

“We are delighted that plans are underway for redoing the bimah. Personally, reaching the blessed space for an honor or to read from the Torah has been a challenge and a burden. It has been difficult not only for our own members, but also for guests who are unable to participate fully because they can't easily access the bimah. Long overdue, the redesign plan will be a happy and welcome change for which we are grateful.”
- Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman

In order to make this vision of equal opportunity access a reality, we are launching the One Bimah for All campaign. The goal is to complete construction before the High Holidays. To date, generous congregants have donated or pledged approximately $157,000 towards our $250,000 budget. In addition, $5,000 has been specifically donated to improve our sound system. Others have donated their time and professional talents to the redesign of the bimah and the aesthetics of the sanctuary.

Just as the bimah should be for everyone, the effort to raise the necessary funds affords us the opportunity for every member of our community to participate. Even our school children are pitching in, making tzedakah boxes to collect donations!

Help us ensure equal access for all by raising ANOTHER $93,000!

“I have Multiple Sclerosis. Nine years ago at our daughter’s Bat Mitzvah I struggled, needing my wife and daughter's assistance to stand next to her as she read from the Torah for the first time. When Rabbi Adam Feldman z"l asked me if I would be interested in joining a committee to explore accessibility at TJC, my response was “when are we meeting?!” It is heartening to see how much the TJC community has engaged in the discussion of enabling accessibility for everyone. We need more financial assistance from the congregation to make sure that the The Jewish Center bimah and sanctuary are accessible to all. I hope that you will do what you can to help.”
- Barry Ableman

Please donate to the Bimah Accessibility Project by sending a check to The Jewish Center and marking your donation “for the Bimah Accessibility Project.” This is your opportunity to make our most sacred space accessible and usable by all members of our congregation. Together we can meet our obligation to ensure equal access to the bimah for all people, regardless of physical limitations.

One Congregation - One Bimah for All

B’shalom,

Randy Brett
President

Alexandra Bar-Cohen
President-Elect
The JFCS Mobile Food Pantry will be in TJC parking lot

JFCS was providing 50 food bags a month to clients pre-COVID. Now, JFCS is providing 750 food bags a month to clients.

- Shelf stable milk
- Tuna
- Rice
- Pasta
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Oatmeal
- Raisins
- Beans
- Pasta sauce
- Applesauce
- Peanut butter
- Cheese
- Frozen chicken or fish
- Apples
- Carrots
- Potatoes
- Onions
- Misc. Items: kids snacks, personal care products, cleaning products

• Please see the foods that JFCS includes in a reusable bag for each client. When you go shopping please also buy a new, reusable cloth or laminate carrying bag, generally available at grocery store cash registers, and place the listed food items in the bag.

• Please check to ensure that each item is marked kosher: K, OU, etc. We request that you not purchase bulk-size items and please check expiration dates.

• If you are able to donate a complete, ready to give food bag to JFCS that will be greatly appreciated as will ANY donation you are able to give.

Questions? Email amjopatut@aol.com

May 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Dear Friends,

Jewish Center Women (JCW) is very proud of the Mitzvah Project we have committed to this year, the Princeton Period Project. PPP welcomes donations and we encourage our members to visit their website, www.princetonperiod.org/, which shares information about this very important program started by TJC congregant Gil Gordon, and donate when and whatever you can.

As many of you know, JCW was scheduled to have another Princeton Period Project donation opportunity in May. However, Gil has asked us to pivot and put our efforts towards helping Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) with the very urgent and real problem of food insecurity in our immediate area.

JCW will be having a Mitzvah Opportunity: The “Mitzvah of Mazon” in May for the JFCS mobile food pantry. Yasher Koach to Sharon Diamondstein for the perfect title. Pre-pandemic, JFCS was providing 50 food bags a month to clients. Now, due to a dramatic increase in need, they are providing 750 food bags a month to clients and they need our help. Please see the flyer in this issue of the newsletter, mark your calendars and join us on May 23rd for a contactless drive through opportunity to make a difference and help feed our neighbors.

Special thanks to Arlene Opatut who has offered to chair our May Mitzvah Event. The flyer lists the foods that JFCS includes in a reusable bag for each client. When you go shopping please also buy a new, reusable cloth or laminate carrying bag (generally available at grocery store cash registers) and place the listed food items in the bag.

This is an opportunity for our synagogue community to help the greater community and JCW appreciates and thanks you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Stay well and enjoy the warmth of Spring!

Lauren

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NOSH & DROSH welcomes the women of the congregation to join us for the following meetings:

**May 20 - 9:00-11:00 AM**

Mindy Langer: A Behind the Scenes Look at Stitching the Pieces Together to Create Seamless Services for TJC

Dear Friends,

NOSH & DROSH was very fortunate to have TJC’s Director of Education, Sharon Diamondstein as our April facilitator. In a very creative way, Sharon took us back to Egypt. Then, using break out rooms, Sharon had us reflect and discuss what it might have been like to quickly leave Egypt as a mother or a child. While some expressed feeling that they would have been fearful others thought they would have felt hope and optimism. Those feelings led to a thoughtful discussion involving our “narrow spaces” and a wonderful discussion continued regarding what makes us feel free; for many it was getting vaccinated.

While many had started preparing their homes for Passover, our morning together was an excellent way to begin to prepare our minds and questions for our sedars. We appreciate Sharon taking the time to be with us and were thrilled to have Sharon’s mom, Michele Franck and her friend Mary Stasia, join us on Zoom.

It’s always wonderful to be together at NOSH & DROSH with our regulars and new friends too!

Looking forward to “seeing” you this month on zoom,

Lauren and Cynthia

---

**June 17 - 9:00-11:00 AM**

Ellen Pristach
“Creating Memories...Holocaust Art and Poetry”

NOSH & DROSH on ZOOM will continue throughout the summer. Please save these new dates:

July 15 & August 19
ZOOM KICK OFF EVENT
FOR THE “MITZVAH OF MAZON” IN MAY

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Beth Englezos, Manager of Senior Programs & Hunger Prevention
Jewish Family and Children’s Services (JFCS)

Please join us as we learn the hard facts regarding food insecurity in our own community, and:
• how JFCS is feeding hundreds of families a month
  • volunteer opportunities available at JFCS
• how you can help on May 23 at our contactless, drive through food bag donation opportunity
  & see the JFCS Mobile Food Pantry

RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org

ADULT EDUCATION

The end is near,
Yigdal is here!

A deeper look into the poetry
and philosophy of this prayer.

Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m.
Lunch and Learn

May 4
Arts & Culture

April

GROWING VEGETABLES AND HERBS IN CONTAINERS
MAY 3 AT 7:30

Learn to grow a wide variety of vegetables and herbs in containers on your steps, your back porch, or any sunny spot around your home. This program will include information on how to choose the right container for the right crop, start seeds, and provide the best light and soil conditions for your growing plants. The basics of container gardening can be applied at any scale, making this the perfect gardening technique for beginners and those with limited outdoor space.

Margaret Pickoff is County Horticulturist for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, where she delivers educational programming on home horticulture and coordinates the Rutgers Master Gardener and Rutgers Environmental Stewards programs. She holds a Master of Science degree in Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine, specializing in organic crop production and soil fertility. She developed her interest in plants and land stewardship while working on small farms and in community gardens in New Jersey, Maine, and Washington State. Margaret loves growing vegetables, flowers, and herbs in her community garden plot.

RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org    Code: HERBS
Open to the Community.

All programs via Zoom and Open to the Community.

YOUNG FAMILIES

TJC Special Shavuot Program | May 16 from 3-4:30 pm

Decorate Flowers to put around Mount Sinai (photo should have 10 commandments)
Holiday Arts and Crafts • Scavenger Hunt • Hear the 10 Commandments
All families welcome!

Please RSVP to drothman@thejewishcenter.org by May 13
We’ll be meeting by Zoom to discuss:
Rachel Kadish’s *The Weight of Ink*

Set in London of the 1660s and the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history.

As the novel opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of seventeenth-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and in a race with another fast-moving team of historians, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents’ scribe, the elusive “Aleph.”

Electrifying and ambitious, sweeping in scope and intimate in tone, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

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:

*June 15* -- Colum McCann’s *Apeirogon*
*July 20* -- Daniel Silva’s *The Order*
*August 17* -- Rachel Beanland’s *Florence Adler Swims Forever*
We all know that COVID-19 changed the world we lived in. Almost overnight, virtually every aspect of most people's lives changed. No more gatherings, no more time with family, no more in person praying. The core activities that identify us as human and as Jews stopped – socialization became virtual and in person contact was prohibited. We all had to decide to make safety and life our priority.

When asked to reflect on this past year and how it has affected community, I thought about the many things that are different today compared to last year. While so much of the past year has been about sacrifice and loss, I am going to speak about the positive changes that I have seen in the various communities that I live and work.

**My work Community:**
As many of you know, I work (and if you ask my wife) often live in the hospital. COVID allowed me to appreciate all of the amazing colleagues and healthcare workers that live in our communities. With little understanding of this novel virus, my colleagues stepped up and took care of patients. With inadequate protection, putting their lives in harm’s way, they came to work with the sole intention of caring for the ill. No one had trained for what was occurring – a walk through an ICU by an experienced physician looked like a poorly written movie by someone who had never been in a hospital – patients packed in any space possible, iv polls, ventilators, and monitors lined the halls outside of patient’s room, staff running from patient to patient without pause. Physicians and nurses dressed in all kinds of protective equipment – some in “space” suits, others with masks that were falling apart from overuse. Never had I seen so many “code blue’s” called overhead - it seemed constant. But despite all of this, I got calls daily from doctors asking where they were needed, volunteering to “run into the fire”, willing to offer their skill and expertise wherever needed. Nurses were volunteering for extra shifts, working days in a row, faces marked by the uncomfortable masks. Support staff, janitors, and administrators working to figure out how to care for these patients and how to acquire the correct equipment. Everyone was on a single unified mission to care for these patients. I have always loved medicine – the science, the patient relationships, the interactions with colleagues, but never was I so proud of the people I worked with. Each day I witnessed new “feats” of strength by the hospital staff, and each day they made me want to do more and try harder.

**My Jewish Community:**
Covid has also brought me opportunities to grow with my Jewish community and within The Jewish Center. 2020 brought us the opportunity to watch my children become a Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Our family had planned a “typical” Princeton Bnai Mitzvah – service, family, and party. Well, 2020 had made it clear that wasn’t going to happen. With the help of the congregation and clergy, (Thank You!!) we pivoted, and held our Bnai Mitzvah in our house. We were able to welcome via Zoom the congregation and our friends and family to participate, and once it was all over – felt that we had the best experience possible. Our kids made us proud, and we were able to celebrate this special moment with those closest to us. I was able to experience first-hand the support of TJC in making this moment all that it could be. As a result of that experience, I was asked to help on the safety committee to develop guidelines and protocols for our congregation. The pandemic has given me the opportunity to meet more members of our congregation and to help keep our community safe. Without COVID, I would not be as involved or connected to The Jewish Center.

Without question Covid has changed our lives. When I reflect back, I look to remember the positive changes that have occurred in our communities – the relationships that have developed, the selfless behaviors, the scientific effort to end the pandemic, and the time I got to spend with family (because my kids were locked in the house).

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**Torah On Tap**
Wednesday, May 19
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 via Zoom.
Having a drink and food while online is encouraged!
Zoom link sent to all interested participants who register by 5/14/21.

RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org
Community Healing Reflections  
Men’s Club Shabbat – April 17, 2021  
Community Healing Reflection – Gil Gordon

When we talk about healing it is implied it’s healing of some kind of illness or disease. I can’t find an attribution for it but I’ve seen that word “disease” parsed in a couple of ways. According to Dr. Google, “Dis-ease” is a lack of something (ease/health), whereas disease is the presence of something (an endpoint condition).

We’re starting to head out of a period in this congregation and this country where we all experienced “dis-ease” – we lacked the ability to gather, hug, shake hands, kiss, and feel like an intact community. We weren’t suffering from a disease per se, though of course we all know of friends or congregants who did fall to COVID. I found it ironic to hear some congregants complain about not being able to attend High Holiday services in person last fall, especially since some of them were the same ones who generally complained about the years about attending those long, boring, crowded High Holiday services.  But not being able to be there then – or on a regular Shabbat – did in fact create a very real deficit state of dis-ease even though nobody was diseased.

This whole COVID experience yielded many paradoxes and surprises and in some cases the best ones grew from the fact that we all were dis-eased – for example, the ability to bring large and distant groups of family and friends together for simchas and, sadly, sadder occasions. But recovering from dis-ease won’t happen quickly; even if the CDC and the state and our own hard-working safety committee said tomorrow we can go back to full capacity in the building for those who are vaccinated, I guarantee you the parking lots and the pews would not fill up right away.

As anxious as we are to be together, we still will suffer for a while from the residual effects of all those months of being bombarded with messages about masks, distancing, and the like. We long to return to a state of ease but it will take us far longer to get there than it did to stop congregating when this all began.

Our process of healing as a congregation will be more like recovering from a knee replacement than from a cut on the hand. A cut goes through a natural healing process and while the skin may look different for a while, we soon can start using that hand exactly the same way as before. But a knee replacement is a structural change in how the body parts align and work together. Once the incision has healed, it still takes a lot of time to re-learn how to use that knee, how to strengthen it, and how to know how much weight and strain it can handle. The same for us: it may sound silly but our healing from dis-ease will require some re-learning: how to get over the initial tentativeness of shaking hands or hugging, how to get re-acquainted to looking through our “shul clothes” and picking out a suitable outfit, and how to get over the initial awkwardness of tying a tie once again. (Truth be told, if I never had to put on a tie again it would be too soon….)

May the day come soon when we are able to, willing to, and feel comfortable about being in the sanctuary and elsewhere in our synagogue to pray, learn, debate and (of course) eat together. May we and our friends and neighbors be spared the further scourge of this pandemic or anything like it. Once is enough in a lifetime. Now it’s time to get back to having the times of our lives.

A Heartfelt “Thank You!”

Thank you, Men’s Club TJC

Like Carnegie Deli (now defunct) or Katz’s Deli (to which I cannot go)
I read the offer of a Pastrami lunch from your TJC Men’s Club! Good show!

But I’m isolated as this virus climbs!
Not to worry! Joel says, keep far!
Park in Handicap, Honk three times!
We’ll bring Pastrami right to your car!

Dear Wonderful Men’s Club of TJC!
Thanks for the gift, I must say:
After 14 months avoiding community
A Pastrami adventure made my day!

To Health and Normal Times Again!

Thank you so much!

Beverly Levy Beer
Chavurat Chesed (Compassionate Community) is a long-standing group of volunteers who help our congregants in need, one of our core values in Judaism. There is a great need among TJC’s most vulnerable members for greater connection with the community and help with small tasks and rides within the community. The individual may need a ride to an appointment, help making a phone call to make an appointment, picking up a prescription at the pharmacy, finding someone to shovel a path after a snowfall, help retrieve mail, and other small tasks. Or, it may be making a regular phone call to check in. Hopefully, soon we’ll be able to provide rides to synagogue services and programs for those who would like to participate in person.

We are inviting you to join us in this rewarding effort.
Please contact Martha Freedman or Leah Neufeld at chavuratchesed@thejewishcenter.org to be added to our Chavurat Chesed list of volunteers.

Mazel Tov...On Your Great News!

To Sam Cohen who celebrated his 100th birthday on March 15
To Harold Borkan, who became a first time great grandfather in November and March to Ava Jean and Jasper
To Shelley Gail Weiss Lightman’s cousin who just gave birth to identical twin baby girls
To Joyce and Clive Usiskin who happily announce the engagement of their granddaughter Molly Roy, daughter of Natalie and Nikki Roy to William Austin Bartenstein, son of Sarah and Larry Bartenstein
To Terri and Barry Rossman, who welcome their second grandchild in four weeks, Aaron Daniel Mantel (to Melissa and Bernard), weighing in at 6 lbs 5 oz born on March 20, 2021
To The TJC Vaccine Committee
To Jane R. Altman, Esquire who became “Of Counsel” to the law firm of Lepp, Mayrides and Eaton in Somerville, N.J. and Skillman, New Jersey which specializes in all aspects of matrimonial law
To Dr. Joan Goldstein who has taped a new show with guests Danielle Jackson and Dr. Shawn Kildea of Rider University. They discuss Black heroes from WW I and II who use their skills to support the Civil Rights Movement. “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” will be on Comcast Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.
To Jamin and Zoe Nuland for putting together an amazing Among Us In Real Life program for our students in Gan Katan, Gan, Aleph and Bet. They enjoyed learning about being Jewish and a great time was had by all.
Mazel tov also to the teens that helped bring the program to life: Luna Bar-Cohen, Shay Cheskis, Eric Diamondstein, Scarlett Gitterman, Sam Orshan, Noa Ran Ressler, Miki Schnitzer, Timmy Schwarz, Liam Schwarz, Noa Zacks
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

Bible BaBoker
Saturdays | 8:45 a.m.

Zoom video study session each week.

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570201257pwd=SncvMTM-vNkJOQkJGWWJrdDBFmIlp2dz09

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

Havurah Minyan:
Study May 8
Service May 22
Sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Minyan members prepare an informal prayer service on the second Shabbat of every month, and an in-depth discussion of themes related to the Torah portion on the fourth Shabbat of every month. Newcomers are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86142745562?pwd=bEFnY0lGMHBoak1UOEprY1ZRS0JwUT09
Meeting ID: 861 4274 5562     Passcode: 311195
For more information, contact neillitt@outlook.com
In Memoriam:

We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering
longtime member Phyllis Marchand, wife of Lucien (Sy) Marchand

Alan Markowitz, beloved partner of Rochelle Castellano

Nikki Feldman, mother of Rabbi Adam Feldman z”l

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—Avot De Rebbe Natan

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