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Join TJC on a trip to Israel - Virtually!

Save the Dates
4/11 - 4/15/21
Limited to 25 members

Watch your upcoming emails for details

Parashat Yitro Cover Art (inner portion) by artist
Christina Mattison Ebert
www.christinamattison.com

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.
Join us for an M&M Purim Celebration
February 25, 2021
The evening will include:

5:45 p.m. Zoom Room Opens
5:55 p.m. Masquerade Madness– virtual parade by age group (PRIZES will be awarded!)
Get your costumes ready!
6:10 – 6:40 p.m. Megillah Meshugas - Specifically written Purim Shpiel in an intergenerational format
6:45 – 6:50 p.m. Meet the Menches (Costume Awards!)
6:50 – 7:00 p.m. Maariv and Megillah (A large screen will be available for those on livestream)

All events are on zoom and details will follow by email!

RSVP for these programs to info@thejewishcenter.org
Dear friends,

Polish Jews have special connection to Purim. They believe that the pro-Jewish policies of the Polish King, Casimir iii the Great, was due not merely to his interest in building a strong Poland, but also influenced by his love for a Jewish woman, Esterke. In our Tanach, Esther saved her people from the evil adviser of King Achashverosh, and by Mordechai, who led the King to adopt pro-Jewish policies. So Polish Jews celebrate Esterke, who persuaded King Casimir iii to adopt pro-Jewish policies in the 14th century.

There is no doubt that King Casimir iii was a friend of the Jews. He confirmed the privileges his grandfather, King Boleslav the Just, had granted the Jews. and expanded them on October 9, 1334. He also encouraged the immigration of Jews from Germany who, he believed, would be beneficial to Poland's economy. Under the penalty of death, King Casimir forbade the kidnapping of Jewish children in order to baptize them, and severely punished anyone who desecrated any of the Jewish cemeteries. King Casimir protected the Jewish people from attacks by anti-Semitic mobs who falsely accused the Jews of poisoning the wells after an outbreak of the Black Plague.

Esterke's existence is more murky. Though both Jewish and anti-semitic tracts refer to her, there is no historical evidence definitively confirming her role. Then again, Jewish documents from early 14 century Poland are hardly plentiful. According to the story passed down by the community, Esterke was the beautiful daughter of a tailor named Yeruchom, who lived in Opoczno, Poland. One day, King Casimir the Great was pursuing a gazelle in a forest in Solib. On his hunt, he chanced upon a beast threatening a beautiful girl collecting herbs. The king slayed the beast, saving Esterke's life. He was so impressed by the young woman's intelligence and natural nobility that he decided to take her as a wife.

During Esterke's reign, the story continues, she persuaded the king to invite more Jews to settle in the country. Historians claim that between 1348 and 1370, the sharp increase in the number of Jews helped establish the Jewish communities in Krakow, Lvov, Kalicz, Pozen, Gniezno, Lublin, and Plock.

The leadership, courage, intelligence and beauty of Jewish women have long been celebrated. Whether or not Esterke was a real person, it would be no surprise if Jewish women were instrumental in the rise of the Polish Jewish community, one of the world's greatest, most creative, and longest enduring. Our Purim story raises up the model: Jewish women can be crucial advocates for our people.

In our day, may both Jewish women and men take on Esther and Esterke's model of strong advocacy for our people. Then our community will surely grow and prosper.

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg

Celebrate Simcha Shabbat. Every Third Saturday: February 20, 2021
MESSAGE from the Cantor

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

Dear TJC Friends,

Now that the winter holidays, both Jewish and secular, are over, our thoughts move on to planning for the spring and early summer.

There is still, unfortunately, a great deal of uncertainty. Yet we can remain hopeful and turn our eyes towards the eventual full reopening of TJC and the musical and spiritual joys it will bring us when it happens. So how best can we use these winter months to prepare for an upcoming time of renewed physical togetherness?

1. The Return of the Wednesday Night Singers!
   Though, as we know, technology doesn’t yet allow us to sing at the same time on Zoom, we still can meet virtually and learn music together. I have been planning some new repertoire that I am excited to share during these sessions. Then when we are back together singing in the sanctuary, we’ll truly be ready to "make a joyful noise!" As always, ALL are welcome! If you would like to be put on the Wednesday Night Singers email list, please send me a note: cantorjeff@thejewishcenter.org

2. Jewish Music: Across the Globe and Through the Generations
   This exciting series will return on selected Wednesday evenings, with special guest artists, teachers and lecturers. One silver lining to meeting on Zoom is that we can draw from a huge pool of talented, knowledgeable and innovative artists working throughout today’s global Jewish music community.

   So please keep your eyes out for notices about upcoming events, and join us!

   As we move toward spring, may we, in our communities and throughout our country, find our way to peace, reconciliation and greater harmony. Let’s hope that the New Year of 2021 brings us closer and closer to those essential goals.

   In the meantime, please stay safe, healthy and warm during this chilly month of February.

Cantor Jeff

Havurah Minyan: Study Service
at 10:00 a.m.
February 13 & 27
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
MESSAGE from the President

Randall Brett
president@thejewishcenter.org

I usually use this column to share some personal thoughts and ideas with you. The “President’s Message” gives me an opportunity to communicate with the whole congregation even though we cannot meet in person. This month, I want to try something different. I asked two of our congregants to share their thoughts on issues that are meaningful to The Jewish Center community.

Edye Kamenir and Adam Scheer are two of our more active members. Edye is our current Recording Secretary and a former Trustee. Adam is a current Trustee and has participated in several committees and projects. I asked the two of them to respond to some questions I posed (in italics). Perhaps these are questions you have been asking yourself. I also shared their first drafts with the other to stimulate a dialogue. Below are their responses, lightly edited for space and clarity.

I think their comments will help to keep the events of the past months in perspective and guide our thinking about our future, as both a religious institution and as a community.

1. The last year has been exceeding difficult for our entire community, with the loss of Rabbi Feldman, the pandemic, and our inability to gather in person to provide comfort and support to each other. What has this meant to your personal connection to The Jewish Center?

Adam Scheer

I miss Shabbat as it was before March 2020. Spiritually, Shabbat services in the sanctuary were always a time for contemplation, reflection, and relaxation. Losing the opportunity to lose myself in our ancient liturgy in the company of fellow congregants has made Shabbat less special and my connection with The Jewish Center less intimate. Socially, our kiddush luncheon was always a cherished chance to catch up with fellow congregants, meet visitors to our community and linger over a meal knowing there was no place I needed to rush to. Zoom works well if you have something specific to say to a particular person but it fails to facilitate the kind of spontaneous engagement that builds community that comes with sharing a meal.

The sense of isolation and loss I feel is exacerbated by the reality of navigating these difficult days without my friend and Rabbi Adam Feldman. I mourn the loss of someone who was always there for my family and, in many ways, represented my most profound and personal bond with The Jewish Center. I also miss Rabbi Feldman’s talents as a community leader. After the murders in Pittsburgh, Rabbi Feldman had the wisdom to support two ceremonies to mark that tragedy – a large community-wide service where we could accept the support and sympathy of our neighbors and shabbat service in our sanctuary where we could mourn our Jewish brothers and sisters. Rabbi Feldman would most certainly have come up with creative ways to bring us together that would have been singularly appropriate for our unique community.

Edye Kamenir

There’s no doubt that all manner of personal connections have been cast in a different light during this pandemic. An interesting tension has emerged: as connections have frayed due to physical distance, those very same connections have arguably never been more important. This is true whether we are talking about family connections, work connections, or even our connections here at TJC. Of course, on the heels of the tremendous loss of our spiritual leader last year, followed by the physical distance of the pandemic, I feel that this community is naturally a bit shell-shocked. However, because we have always had this strong bedrock of the value of community, these types of difficulties often forge deeper commitment and connection as we work to rebuild in the coming year.

Personally, I have felt a different type of connection to TJC during this time. I will never forget in the first weeks of the pandemic the dedication our clergy team, Rabbi Bob Freedman and Cantor Jeff Warschauer, demonstrated in showing up to lead services in the sanctuary on Live Stream week in and week out, trying to maintain some sense of normalcy and connection for all of us; the dedication of our Religious School team, who within a week of closure, had seamlessly moved classes online and made them fun and engaging for the children, while providing access to other digital communal events, like the Worldwide Synagogue Singalong; and the dedication of our leadership team and Joel Berger, who began meeting weekly to ensure that we were on top of all of the critical decisions that needed to be made under those trying circumstances. It’s often in the worst of times that we see what we’re truly made of, and if we can get through this, we can get through anything! It might be a bit odd to quote Nietzsche in a TJC newsletter, but “That which does not kill you makes you stronger.”

2. We are increasing our reliance on electronic means for maintaining our community. Email, Zoom, LiveStream and WebEx are wonderful tools but some have said this has led to a “digital diaspora”. What does this mean to you and your family? What are the implications for The Jewish Center?

Edye Kamenir

Whenever I have used the term “digital diaspora,” I have never meant it in a negative way. I see the dawn of the “digital diaspora” as an incredible opportunity. I feel that the practice of Judaism, or the way people “be Jewish” is at an inflection point, not unlike the inflection point that ushered in the Rabbinic Movement that freed Jewish people from the obligation of visiting the Temple in Jerusalem with sacrificial offerings at proscribed times throughout the year. That inflection point over two millennia ago forever changed the practice of Judaism from a religion practiced in “one central location” led by High Priests, to a religion led by learned teachers that can be practiced in any community throughout the world.

Certainly, the digital age that we’ve been living in for the last 20+ years was bound to influence the practice of Judaism at some point, but this pandemic has accelerated the impact in a number of different ways:

• The “where” – One of the most obvious ways the pandemic has changed how we practice our religion is that geography is no longer a constraint. We can Zoom into the service of a Rabbi who gives thought-provoking sermons, or into the service of the Cantor who plays the style of music that was popular where we grew up.

• The “who” (and the rise of cult personalities and content creators) – When we are no longer constrained by geography, the most enlightening, spiritually rewarding, entertaining personalities emerge as the leaders who can build a following. We can select the style and type of personality that resonates most strongly with each of us. Much like the way the digital landscape changed the broader consumer world, this shift rewards the prolific and/or provocative content creators and people who are adept at building a following.

• The value proposition in a more competitive marketplace – All of those potential changes
creates a seismic shift in the value proposition one's local synagogue offers. The "digital diaspora" may fulfill one member's need for interesting learning opportunities around the world, while filling another member's need to maintain their connection with a college friend who became a Rabbi across the country. That ability fundamentally changes both the value a member seeks from synagogue membership, as well as what a synagogue's offering should be. There are some, of course, aspects of communal life that can never be replaced by a digital experience – anyone who has attended a Zoom funeral or shiva this year can attest to that. After the pandemic recedes, local synagogues need to perfect the in-person experience in the areas of communal life that can only be done well in-person, while simultaneously honing the overall value proposition, which, no doubt will need to include a compelling digital presence centered around stimulating personalities, learning opportunities, and Jewish content creation.

- What being a member of a synagogue means – These changes lead to the question of what will being a member of a synagogue really mean? In my opinion, I see a future in which we may have a membership in our local "home synagogue", but then choose to subscribe to the digital content of other synagogues that provide opportunities that speak to each of us individually. Why should those of us who came of age being able to select our own special beverage of 87,000 options available at Starbucks or create our own custom music library on iTunes (without ever having to listen to all those "filler" songs on a CD) have to accept our religion in whatever one-size-fits-most way our local synagogue may offer? I see a future in which the way many of us make choices in other aspects of our daily lives to curate our own unique experience will permeate our religious experience, as well. Investing now to 1) build the infrastructure to sustain robust digital membership options to enable additional revenue streams in the future and 2) hone and refine the most attractive and salient aspects of the physical communal religious experience can help The Jewish Center emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

Adam Scheer
I agree with Edye that the advent of a "digital diaspora" has, in so many ways made Jewish content more personal and accessible. My family has benefited from the chance to connect with family and friends while also getting a chance to experience new modes of worship and study:

- On Yom Kippur, my family got a chance to experience the High Holidays around the world. We watched Kol Nidre services broadcast from the synagogue my wife and I belonged to in New York prior to moving to Princeton, we prayed morning musaf at my sister-in-law's synagogue in Texas, we closed Yom Kippur with Neilah Services from the great synagogue in Rome and we tuned in to an alternative Jazz/Soul service in San Francisco that kept us engaged well past our post-fast repast, all from the comfort of our living room.
- My children have benefited from exceptionally rich online educational content. For example, my oldest daughter learned about the Start-Up Nation in an intimate seminar led by leading college professors organized by the Tikvah Fund. As anti-Israel sentiment heats up on college campuses around the country, it is comforting to know that no matter where my daughters end up studying, they can find comfort and support for their convictions.
- My Modern Orthodox high school now sponsors weekly Zoom sessions led by faculty who taught back when we were students. These sessions have included reflections on the holidays, discussions about presidential politics, and interviews with prominent alumni. I have connected with classmates I have not seen for decades years and have seen how far Modern Orthodoxy has modernized over the past several years. Modern Orthodoxy looks and sounds a lot like the Conservative movement of thirty years ago. I think the development of online Jewish content on a massive scale has significant implications for The Jewish Center. Our educational programming has always been a point of pride for our community, but we lack the expertise and resources to compete with some of the truly outstanding offerings out there. We might want to think about how we can leverage online content for our own purposes. As an example, Zoom education may not work for pre-school kids, but it can very effective for high school students and older congregants with mobility issues. We could create partnerships to deliver programming targeted to those demographics rather than creating that programming on our own. At the same time, we could spend our limited resources focused on those things that only The Jewish Center can offer congregants. 3. Vaccines are now being distributed and it is likely that we will be able to return to the sanctuary and building by summer. We will also be welcoming a new Rabbi at the same time. Will life return to normal at TJC or will things be different? If different, in what way? What is this likely to mean for our congregation?

Edye Kamenir
I think the summer is a bit too optimistic right now, but when we do physically return to the synagogue, there's no doubt that things will be different when we begin anew under the spiritual leadership of a new Rabbi. Since we don't know who our new Rabbi will be, I'm not exactly sure how things will be different. But there are some things that I know will remain the same, because these are the things that have been tried and tested during this period. We will remain a community of people who have a lot of differences and practice differently across the spectrum of Judaism, but we all care about fostering and cultivating a strong Jewish future for the greater Princeton area. We may not always agree on how we accomplish that goal, but we do agree that it's a worthy goal and that TJC plays an integral role. We are a community that has been forged by some really trying times, especially in the last year. When we are able to be together again, I think it will be like a family reunion, because we do miss each other and care about each other deeply.

Adam Scheer
I share Edye's view that we are at living through a unique inflection point and that inflection points, while scary, also represent the chance to pursue growth through reinvention. One way to make the most of this moment is to give our new Rabbi the space and the encouragement to think creatively about their "Shlichut" or mission as our spiritual leader. I have heard some say that "the Rabbi works for us and should follow our guidance." I disagree with that sentiment. While many of us have strong opinions each of us also has a lot to learn about our religion, our traditions and the elements that contribute to community. And even though we may be experts in the TJC way of doing things, I think we can all agree that COVID has shown us that many of our legacy practices for engaging each other and learning with each other have been disrupted forever. An impactful Rabbi will have the sensitivity to understand the unique attributes of our community. At the same time, they will also have a personal point of view about how we can grow spiritually and intellectually as a community in the new age that will begin with our return. In the spirit of "N'aseh V'nishmah" or we will do then we will listen, I hope we can have the humility and the patience to allow our new Rabbi to lead and see where they can take us.

4. At TJC, we have a history of disagreeing disagreeably. Do you think the tzurus we have shared over the past year will cause us to change our ways? Do you think we've learned anything about how to get along better? If so, what?

Adam Scheer
I think one of the reasons we have "disagreed disagreeably" is because we try to be too many things for too many people. Today, we are more than a "synagogue", we are a "center" that offers opportunities for social justice activism, a range of different religious services, a home for both Israel activists and agitators, and much more. One potentially positive outcome of these days of tzurus could be a more profound understanding of and appreciation for what we can do that no one else can. In my mind, that unique value proposition boils down to four things:

- Religious Services – Our synagogue services
are generally a place where we agree to park our differences and pray as a community. We have a broad range of regulars who include members coming from Reform, Orthodox, Mizrachi and Ashkenormative worldviews. But truth be told, even prior to COVID, our religious services were in trouble. Services often lacked energy and we have started to compromise our once high standards. Other congregations are doing more with music to engage congregants more passionately and are appropriating the best of Jewish practice – wherever it may come from – to ensure services speak more personally and profoundly to congregants. Our next Rabbi must see the sanctuary and all that happens within it as their highest priority.

- **Pastoral Care** – Rabbi Feldman spent many hours visiting the sick, calling elderly congregants to check in on them, offering comfort to congregants suffering the loss of a loved one. Those efforts are not easily captured in spreadsheets or synagogue bulletins, but they represent an essential component of community building that our next rabbi should understand take precedence over raising money, and many other potential priorities.

- **Pre-School Programming** – It may not be realistic to think about bringing back our pre-school given current demographic trends in our community, but pre-school parents and their kids represent our future, and we need to find a way to engage them. Pre-school kids cannot sit for Zoom so giving them a physical place to meet and play in a Jewish environment is something we can do that cannot be easily replicated elsewhere. During COVID we have seen pre-school parents were willing to organize outdoor programming even during the winter. 10 months and that is something to build on.

- **Engagement with the Local Community** – This area is unique and we share a common identity that cuts across creeds and social classes. It is always interesting to see how many of our congregants choose to be buried in Princeton Cemetery among their neighbors as opposed to a traditional Jewish cemetery. Our rabbi and congregation can find common cause by prioritizing our local institutions including local schools, libraries, and faith communities for programing and engagement.

Focusing on the above does not necessarily mean we stop everything else that we do. But a decision to focus would reflect our priorities and be a statement about what gets the most immediate and profound attention of our clergy and lay leadership.

Edye Kamenir

In general, I tend to see our community’s tendency to “disagree disagreeably” as the result of a few lightening rod personalities who like to stir the pot, and I really believe that the rest of us just want to get along. I agree with the premise Adam outlines above as to the likely cause of our institution’s historical challenges, which really date back to TJC’s founding and the desire of our founders to be able to span the range of Jewish practice in the greater Princeton area. I also agree with the suggestion that leadership needs to focus on some key priorities that cultivate and shape our unique value proposition, not only relative to other synagogues in the area, but more importantly, versus the alternative of not joining a synagogue. One of the key areas that will help build a sustainable future for TJC above and beyond the discussion on priorities above is also doing our part to build and strengthen Jewish infrastructure in this area. The suburbs around NYC and Philadelphia have benefitted from the great migration out of cities that has occurred during this pandemic. How does the greater Princeton area stack up against Bergen County, West Chester, Long Island, Manalapan or Cherry Hill when young Jewish families are evaluating their options? For more observant families, some of these areas offer more options for preschool, day school, kosher eateries, etc. than Princeton and its surrounding communities. Therefore, building a sustainable future for the institution requires that we focus on our key priorities as an institution, while also supporting the greater Jewish community infrastructure build-out in our area, so that, eventually, the Princeton area can be a magnet and destination for the urban migration to the suburbs. But we will still fall short if we haven’t taken this time to hone our value proposition as an organization.

5. **TJC leadership** must undergo a generational change in order to ensure the congregation remains vibrant. Recognizing that younger congregants are coping with financial stress, childcare issues, increasing work commitments, and many other concerns, what can be done to transfer leadership from the “baby boomers” to the next generation?

**Edye Kamenir**

First, we have to make leadership roles inclusive and welcoming. Many of us in the younger generation got involved in TJC volunteer and leadership opportunities because one person in a leadership position reached out and asked for our help or perspective. Then, one thing led to another. Many people in the “young children” life stage really don’t have time for another commitment, but we often feel bad saying “no” – then one thing leads to another, and a new potential leader has been fostered. Likewise, better communication of what type of volunteer roles are needed and the time commitment each commitment entails can better help a potential volunteer turn into an actual volunteer.

Second, we need to make leadership and volunteer roles easier overall, especially for those who work full-time and want to spend their weekends and evenings with their children, and not at a meeting. We have proven that all of these meetings can be done on Zoom. Let’s keep it that way! Having office staff help facilitate some of the administrative aspects of volunteer roles (like room scheduling, set-up, etc.) can also help lighten the load.

Third, we have to make leadership and volunteer roles rewarding. Why does anyone volunteer to do anything, particularly if they are in a life stage in which they don’t have free time to spare? Because it makes people feel like they did something that made a difference and mattered to others. Or because they made new friends and connections with people they may not have known well before. So as a leadership team, we have to do our part to make sure our volunteers feel like their contributions matter each and every day. Throwing in some incentives for younger families – who are generally short on both time and money – may also help attract people to take on these roles.

**Adam Scheer**

In the past, we were lucky to have a range of congregants with seemingly limitless time on their hands and the willingness to pitch in wherever and whenever necessary. We must adjust our expectations for the next generation of lay leadership. It is more likely that a young congregant will work for an international technology firm than a local law or accounting firm, making regular in-person meetings difficult to commit to. Our lay leaders should spend time to get to know our younger congregants and tailor volunteer opportunities to suit congregants’ skills. This can be done by simply talking to them or by checking their LinkedIn profiles. Once we know a particular congregant, we can formulate a personal specific “ask” that speaks to their interests and abilities. For example, rather than ask a younger congregant with an academic background to serve as on the education committee, we could ask them to work on a defined project to organize Zoom educational content for our Sulam students in partnership with a national Jewish organization.

Both Adam and Edye have given me a great deal to think about, and I hope they have stimulated your thinking, too. Our synagogue community has experienced tremendous trauma over the past 14 months. Let’s use our shared experience as an opportunity to build stronger bonds with each other and our institution. Thank you, Edye and Adam, for sharing your thoughts with all of us.

B’shalom,

**Randy Brett**
The Holidays are coming!  The Holidays are coming!

Now that everyone has survived the New Year, it's time to turn the calendar to our upcoming holiday season. One a month for the next 5 months. Are you ready?

January was Tu B’Shevat. The holiday of the trees. Did you plant a tree in Israel? Have you planted a tree in Princeton? Let’s do something to support our environment for Tu B’Shevat. Let us know what you did.

February brings Purim. It’s Adar. Be Happy. Have you picked out your costume yet? Have you started making your plans for Hamantashen? We are working on the shpiel but unfortunately no carnival this year. But we will celebrate as best as we can. I thought this holiday was in March??

March is Passover? What the heck? I need to start thinking about where to hide the Afikomen already? Can you hide the Afikomen on zoom? I think this year we will need a LOT more than 4 cups of wine. I suggest start drinking early (BUT RESPONSIBLY!).

April is the “Yoms” as someone once called them. Yom Hashoa. Yom Hazikaron. Yom Ha’atzmaut. We will remember and celebrate together. Make sure you watch your emails for some amazing programs being planned.

May is Shavuot. Isn’t this usually Memorial Day Weekend? We will study and learn together and of course, eat blintzes and cheesecake. I don’t like cheesecake. Just putting that out there.

In June we celebrate the arrival of our New Rabbi. A holiday unto itself. Special thanks to the Rabbi Search committee for all the hard work they have done to find a new spiritual leader.

Can’t wait for summer already!

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

Friends,

There is a Hebrew song that I sing every year around Purim. The words are “Whomever brings in the month of Adar, brings in joy.” It seems so difficult to find joy these days - just one short year ago, the world was so different. I looked to past Purim holidays to find joy as I plan for a very different Purim this year.

One of my least favorite (though highly entertaining) Purim memories took place circa 1980-something when my mother had the brilliant idea to dress me up as a rosebush. This costume was Pinterest worthy (and equally cringe-worthy) and my children don’t know how grateful they truly are that I don’t have the energy to painstakingly put together a costume for them. I will never forget the itchy green leotard, the itchy green tights, the green skirt and the shades of pink tissue paper she crumpled up into tiny balls and either pinned or stapled all over me once I was dressed. As I scratched my way through Megillah, I remember being told to stop squishing my roses. Seven-ish year old me is eternally grateful for the lack of social media in the ‘80s.

I also remember the countless number of Purim carnivals at my childhood synagogue, Bnai Israel, in Millburn. Games of Shoot the Moon, Shave the Balloon, games in which I won goldfish, a pastel portrait of me dressed as some critter with a purple wig and wings - 9-ish year old me is equally grateful for the lack of social media in the ‘80s.

These pictures are buried somewhere in my mother’s house, and cannot be found - you will just have to take my word for the horrific costumes.

For me, Purim is always about the costumes, the carnival, the hamantaschen, and the noise. The cacophony caused by drowning out Haman’s name always succeeded in riling up the youngest kids to the point where synagogues of my youth had stop/go signs or traffic lights.

Purim is also about reading the Megillah and noticing what was missing - the name of G’d. We learn from the story of Purim that G’d's hidden hand is everywhere. Sometimes it doesn't seem so obvious. As we look at the world today, we struggle with a pandemic, fires, self-mutating crayfish, earthquakes and so many other natural phenomena.

We also see the kindness of others. We see people ensuring their neighbors are safe and warm. We reach out to make sure that the hungry are fed. We have become a physically distant, tightly knit community. We keep moving forward, finding ways to help, and doing better.

This year for Purim, we may not physically hand off Mishloach Manot, but we can drop them by a friend’s door. We may not physically be in the sanctuary to hear Megillah, but we can log in to Zoom. We may not have a carnival, but we can find ways to bring in joy. We will make new memories and find new joy in Purim.

I’d love to hear about your favorite Purim memories, and about the new ones you will create! Please email me sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

B’Shalom,

Sharon

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Join Rabbi Schoenberg and Sharon Diamondstein as they discuss the origins of the Jewish holidays and how to observe them. 12:00 p.m.

February 23: Purim
March 23: Passover
April 13: Israel Independence Day
May 11: Shavuot

All programs are via Zoom.

Please RSVP to Info@thejewishcenter.org. Subject: SHIUR.
Kabbalat Shabbat Katan

February 12
5:45 p.m. 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!

Mark your calendar for Shabbat Katan
February 6
11:00 a.m.
via zoom

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.

Open to the Community!

Questions? Call Sharon Diamondstein at (609) 921-7207 or email at SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org
Cooper Jacknow  
February 6, 2021

Cooper is currently a 7th grader at Princeton Unified Middle School. He has been part of The Jewish Center since the K’tontonim class when he was one year-old! His years through The Jewish Center Preschool and Religious School have well prepared him to become a Bar Mitzvah. Cooper is very observant and inquisitive. He is a caring soul and loves spending time with his family and friends (mostly virtual now, thanks to the pandemic!). He is a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, talented on the drums and piano (and part of PUMS Jazz Band) and loves television game shows and video games. A regular Kabbalat Shabbat attendee, it is only fitting he is excited to lead the Friday night service, Musaf and more on his Bar Mitzvah weekend. Thanks to all of the TJC teachers for his years of Jewish education, notably Carol Alpert and Ellen Pristach for so many classes, Ronit Johnson for honing his Hebrew through the years, Nancy Lewis for perfecting his Haftorah and Torah portions and Cantor Jeff for working all year to share his love of davening and the prayers. Rabbi Adam Feldman”Z”L would’ve loved to see Cooper lead the weekend and will be missed.

Samuel “Shmoo” Schwartz  
February 20, 2021

Samuel is a 7th grader at Princeton Unified Middle School. He grew up at The Jewish Center as he started his education in its nursery school. Samuel likes to play the trumpet, reading and bike riding. But mostly, he likes to hang-out with his friends. He has been a camper for many years at Camp Young Judea, Sprout Lake. An unexpected highlight for him has been how much he enjoyed the time spent with Nancy Lewis and Cantor Jeff preparing for the service. He would like to thank them, Sharon Diamonstein and Rabbi Schoenberg for their roles in helping him reach this moment.

A Thank you from Myra Weiner

“Thanks to congregants, clergy and friends for their kind support on the loss of my dear husband, Irv Newman. Your calls, emails and donations in memory of Irv show the depth of your friendship. My family and I are so grateful! Thanks!”

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.
So Much Is Coming Up In March!

**THE JOY OF MACAROONS**

**WITH JAY SCHNITZER**

**INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2021**

7:30 TO 8:30 PM

PLEASE USE COURSE CODE SCHNITZER WHEN REGISTERING.

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**THE JOY OF KUGEL**

**WITH JUDY LEOPOLD**

**INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2021**

7:30 TO 8:30 PM

PLEASE USE COURSE CODE LEOPOLD WHEN REGISTERING.

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**FRUSTRATED WITH TIKKUN OLAM LITE:**

**WE’LL SHOW HOW MUCH MORE IS POSSIBLE**

**WITH TJC CONGREGANT AND CHANGEMAKER SAM DALEY-HARRIS**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2021**

8:00 TO 9:00 PM

REGISTRATION CODE DALEY-HARRIS

---

**Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Torah On Tap**

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

Having a drink and food while online is encouraged!

Zoom link sent to all interested participants.

RSVP: info@thejewishcenter.org

---

**Coffee, Conversation, Connections**

Join us for our monthly Coffee, Conversations and Connections zoom get together. Learn an interesting fact about coffee.

Have a conversation with our Senior Staff: Rabbi Schoenberg, Cantor Warschauer, Executive Director Joel Berger, and Director of Congregational Learning Sharon Diamondstein, and find more ways to connect with TJC.

Wednesday, February 3 at 12:00 p.m.

Zoom link to follow.
Drew is Principal of Meyerson Quest Limited, a U.S. and China based consultancy specializing in corporate transformation and M&A. Prior to launching MQ in 2007, Drew established then ran Bacardi’s China operating companies, led one of China’s first foreign-invested television production enterprises and managed new product development/marketing for Bristol Myers Squibb’s China division. Drew first went to China in 1986 on a Yale-China Association teaching fellowship. He later ran China-based epidemiology studies for the US National Cancer Institute and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Drew speaks Mandarin and holds a BA in History, with additional concentration in Biochemistry from Yale, an MBA in Finance from Wharton and an MA in International Studies/Chinese from UPENN and the Lauder Institute. Drew is also an Adjunct Professor in the Global Leadership Program at SMU’s Cox School of Business.
Mr. Bardon discusses the philosophy and the social science of ideological denialisms like the denial of climate science, or the denial of the need for masking and distancing during the COVID pandemic. What is it to be in denial about expert consensus? How is sincere self-deception possible? And why do we see certain types of denial among certain political constituencies and demographic groups?

Adrian Bardon holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He teaches courses in the philosophy of space and time, philosophy and social psychology, 17th-18th century European philosophy, critical reasoning, the philosophy of religion, and political philosophy. His current research focuses on the philosophy, psychology, and politics of ideological science denial. He is the author of The Truth About Denial: Bias and Self-Deception in Science, Politics, and Religion (Oxford University Press, 2020).


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>4:00 PM Mindful Meditation with Ruth Goldston</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Purim Megillah Reading and Shpiel</td>
<td>8:45 AM Bible Baboker</td>
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Our November NOSH & DROSH meeting was very well received! We had no doubt that it would be, as our facilitator Gila Levin was kind enough to come back and enlighten us once more.

Gila spoke about the “CRASH” theory developed by Rabbi Benay Lappe. The CRASH theory deals with the idea of having a master plan and what happens when the plan doesn't go as you thought it would. Gila shared her opinion of how synagogues might use the CRASH theory in engaging its members. It was a very interesting morning and we thank Gila for sharing and teaching us all.

Our December meeting was a very special one. It was very important to us that this month's Nosh & Drosh meeting be in memory of Rabbi Adam Feldman. When we thought about the best way to honor Rabbi Feldman’s memory the answer was easy. He loved to teach Torah. We were very pleased when Rabbi Justus Baird agreed to facilitate for this meeting and so pleasantly overwhelmed when 50+ members joined us on Zoom. Rabbi Justus led us in a discussion revolved around the theme of Hanukkah and thinking about sacrifice and viewing the bright flames of the Chanukkiah from the perspective of what fuels them. We gave great thought and had an interesting discussion regarding the question posed by Rabbi Justus; “How do we connect to the past but leave room for things to renew?” Our morning involved sharing heartfelt memories, learning Torah together, singing and honoring the memory of our beloved Rabbi and good friend of NOSH & DROSH the best way we knew how.

Many thanks to Rabbi Baird for creating such a meaningful and enlightening morning in Rabbi Feldman’s memory.

We hope that 2021 brings you and your families only good health and happiness. We look forward to “seeing” our regular NOSH & DROSHERS on Zoom this month and thank you so much for your continued participation. We hope that new friends will join us often too!

Stay Well,

Lauren and Cynthia

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

February 18
Dr Abigail Rose - Telemedicine is here to Stay

March 18
Sharon Diamondstein-Leaving Egypt Together: An Exploration of Passover

April 15
Linda Milstein-Learning From a Unique Genocide Exhibit: A Docent’s Perspective is best
JCW was thrilled to have 133 members participate in our first ever Zoom Scavenger Hunt. This evening of pure joy, laughter and tremendous fun would not have been possible without the efforts of Co-Chairs, Roberta Sternthal and Ray Kaufman. Their hard work, creativity and flexibility throughout the planning and implementation of the evening could not have been better. JCW thanks and appreciates you more than you could ever know.

Linda Milstein and Ellen Pristach were amazing committee members who handled the technology for the entire evening and all aspects of the Scavenger Hunt. From welcoming us in from the waiting room to randomly putting everyone into break out rooms to make and eat our pizzas, with old and new friends, Linda and Ellen had the technology down to perfection. JCW appreciates their expertise and willingness to be part of this first ever event. We couldn’t have done it with out you and are beyond thankful!

Special thanks also goes to Heidi Joseph and Linda Milstein who personally delivered all of the Goodie Bags to the families living in Princeton, Lawrenceville, Plainsboro and West Windsor. This was a huge undertaking and a lovely gesture that Heidi and Linda took on for JCW and we are extremely grateful for their going above and beyond to make this event extra special.

Cantor Jeff got the evening started by leading Havdallah. Our Zoom group said good bye to Shabbat together through prayer and song and in a very warm and special way. JCW greatly appreciates Cantor Jeff’s participation and from all of us, we thank you for setting the tone for an extra special evening.

Our thank yous would not be complete without acknowledging the help of Joel Berger and Roni Garrison. JCW is so fortunate to have the support of our TJC office professionals for each and every event we do. Joel and Roni kudos to you for everything you did to help with not only this event but all of the projects JCW is involved with.

Congratulations to our Amazon Gift Card prize winners of the night; The Martinez Family, Polly Strauss, Arlene Opatut and Suzanne Esterman.

An event is only successful if it has wonderful participants who leave feeling that they had a good time. The feedback we have gotten has been so positive and kind. We thank each and every member/family that participated in our Scavenger Hunt evening. You made the night a success and for that we thank you!

Please watch for future JCW events and upcoming NOSH & DROSH dates too. We hope to “see” you all again very soon.

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Celebrate Purim with Jewish Center Women

Join us for JCW Shabbat
Friday evening, February 26
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Kabbalat Shabbat services will feature brief reflections on our theme: History or Herstory? Megillat Esther from a Woman’s Perspective

Led by special guest Rabbi Cathy Felix

Interested in reflecting or participating in another way? Please contact Nancy Lewis at 609-529-9801.
Arts & Culture
February

The Joy of Hamantaschen
with Susan Gross
February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Hamantaschen—Is it harder to spell or to bake them?

How do you get those corners just right and what do you fill them with? Find out at the
Zoom baking session in preparation for Purim. Learn from an expert. Celebrate this
joyous holiday with the joy of baking!
Susan Gross, our own synagogue member renowned for her kitchen skills, will make
her second appearance as a Zoom presenter. The photo Susan sent to accompany
her presentation confirmed she is the expert needed to show how to make beautiful
Hamantaschen!

Extend your Purim joy by learning to bake some Hamantaschen!

WHAT MADE ME THINK I CAN BUILD GUITARS?
A LOOK AT HOW A GUITAR WORKS AND THE NATURE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP
WITH
DAVID SCHIFF
ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

For four decades, David Schiff has found ways to make a living combining two passions: words and wood. After 10 years as a newspaper reporter who renovated his own 1860s home, David became a writer and editor of how-to books about home improvement and woodworking. A guitar player since age 8, he’d spent many hours holding this wonderful instrument in his arms, but really had no idea how the thing works. How
does this lightly built box withstand up to 200 pounds of string pressure while producing beautiful sound?
To find out, he decided to build one. Now on his second guitar, David is far from an accomplished luthier. But
now he understands the basic physics and he will give you an overview of that, including some photos of
how a guitar is assembled.

David believes that becoming a craftsperson is much more about determination, passion and practice than
it is about any particular talent. Still, in the days before the internet, the only way to learn crafts like luthiery
was to go to a school. Now there are extensive resources online that make it possible to pursue a craft on
one’s own—whether you want to make guitars, weld metal sculptures or blow glass. David will share his
journey and if we are lucky, others in the session will have valuable experiences to share too.

REGISTRATION CODE: SCHIFF

All programs via Zoom.
Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home - Leah Lax
February 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Leah Lax will talk about her journey from her book Uncovered, the only gay memoir ever to come out of the hasidic community. Leah was born and raised in Texas in a family clustered around immigrant Jewish grandparents. She joined the hasidim at fifteen thinking she could reclaim all her family had lost before she was born. Uncovered becomes the story of a mother of seven who finds the courage to say no and set out on her own path. Leah Lax has published her work in many places and won numerous awards. She has also written for several Grammy Award-winning artists, and her work for stage has been featured by Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Symphony. Leah holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Houston.

Registration code: LAX

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP TO A NATIONAL PARK
WITH LORI AND ED SIMON
ZOOM INTERACTIVE CLASS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 PM

Join Ed and Lori Simon as they “show and tell” about their favorite National Park experiences. Take advantage of the tips these experienced explorers will offer that can enhance your plans for a fabulous trip to one of these majestic locations.

Ed and Lori Simon have been members of TJC for the last 31 years. They have each served on the Board and have been involved in many TJC committees and activities during these years. They share a love of nature and of travel. In 2015 they began to explore the National Parks. Between them they have visited 33 National Parks and many other National monuments and State Parks throughout the 50 states.

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

**General Fund**  
from Melissa Freedman  
from Anonymous  
from Edward Deutsch  
from Emily Gathalter  
from Joshua and Adva Zinder  

**In honor of**  
Joanne Reif Fishbane on the marriage of  
Sopha to Scott  
Rabbi David and Zonia Silverman’s  
70th Anniversary  
from Marcie and Marc Citron, Edward Flax and Deirdra Silver, Harold Borkan*, Edith Neman, Jaymee Alpert, Chavurah Aviv, Dina Shaw  
The JFCS Board  
from Michelle Napell  
Gil Gordon  
from Jack Feigenbaum  
All my friends at TJC  
the engagement of Max Merkovitz to  
Ali Slavens  
from Judy and Bob Levine, Marcie and Marc Citron  
Ellen and Jay Kuris on the B’nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren  
from Eliot and Marsha Freeman  
Alexandra Bar-Cohen becoming our next President  
from Dina Shaw  

**In memory of**  
Irv Newman  
from Susan Schwirck, Gil Gordon, Arthur Lehrhaupt, Ed Flax and Dee Silver, Chavurah Aviv, Marcie and Marc Citron, Robert Lebeau and Leora Batnitzky, Alison and David Politzer, Donna and David Gabai  
Betty Borkan Chait  
from Harold Borkan*  
S. Edmund Berger  
from Donna and David Gabai  
Leo Greenstein  
from Linda Greenstein  
Adelle Cheifetz  
from Ira and Linda Cheifetz  
Judith Grabel  
from Linda Greenstein  
David Levin  
from Herb and Carol Horowitz  
Moe Gordon  
from Gil Gordon  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
from Dina Shaw  

**ADULT EDUCATION FUND**  
from Ruth Goldston  

**In honor of**  
Rabbi David and Zonia Silverman’s  
70th Anniversary  
from Sandy Sussman and Ron Schnur, Moshe and Judith Margolin, Shoshana Silverman, Linda and Art Meisel, Gil Gordon, Halaine and Hanan Isaacs  

**In memory of**  
S. Edmund Berger  
from Linda and Art Meisel  
Irv Newman  
from Sher Leiman, Neda Pollack, Judi and Bernie Fleitman  
Fred Spar  
from Winifred Hughes Spar  

**ANNUAL FUND**  

**In memory of**  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
from Adam Scheer  
Barbara Rossman  
from Tobe and Nat Fisch  
Sheldon Reich  
from Jeffrey Herbst  

**ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  

**In honor of**  
Evy Grossman and the publication of her new memoir, Hidden in Berlin: A Holocaust Memoir  
from Myra Weiner  

**In memory of**  
Irv Newman  
from James Manganaro  

**BIMAH PROJECT**  
from Robert and Carol Schwartz  
from Mindy and Corey Langer  
from Brad and Barbara Lawrence  
from Melanie Stein  
from Jayme, Maxine, Jonny and Scott Feldman  
from Sue and Morty Levine  

**In honor of**  
Rabbi David and Zonia Silverman’s  
70th Anniversary  
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and Fred Edelman, Robert Lebeau and Leora Batnitzky, Alison and David Politzer, Judy Diamond, Alan Kingsberg, Bob and Carol Schwartz  

**In memory of**  
Irv Newman  
from Fran Zeitler-Edelman and Fred Edelman  

**BUILDING DEVELOPMENT FUND**  
from Barry Ableman  

**CANTOR’S MUSIC FUND**  

**In honor of**  
Rabbi Bob Freedman  
from Gail Alba  

**In memory of**  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
from Melanie H. Stein  
S. Edmund Berger  
from Shoshana Silverman  
Baruch Israel  
from Olga Barsky  
Irv Newman  
from James Manganaro  

**IRVING N. RABINOWITZ CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW FUND**  

**In memory of**  
Irving Rabinowitz  
from Sandie Rabinowitz  

**JESS AND MARION EPSTEIN LUNCH-AND-LEARN FUND**  

**In memory of**  
Irv Newman  
from Avi Paradise and Debbie Freedman  

**THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND**  

**In honor of**  
Cynthia and Jake Sage on the birth of their granddaughter, Zelda Rose  
from Wilma Solomon  

**In memory of**  
Leatrice Delores Lindsay Wood  
from Ajay and Daniela Kaisth  
Bruce Becker  
from Halaine and Hanan Isaacs
JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND
In memory of
Leo Eaker
from Helen Ray Kaufman
Harriette B. Eaker
from Helen Ray Kaufman

KIDDUSH FUND
In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Judy Kutin, Ron Schnur and Sandy Sussman

MEN'S CLUB FUND
In memory of
Ed Berger
from Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman

PRAYERBOOK FUND
In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Wilma Solomon and David Goldberg, Judi and Bernie Fleitman, Eliot and Marsha Freeman, Myra Weiner
Polly Strauss in celebration of her birthday and friendship
from Judi Fleitman

In memory of
S. Edmund Berger
from Sheila Kremer
Irving Newman
from Jerry and Vera Goodkin, Susan and Stuart Brown

RABBI ADAM FELDMAN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of
The Bar Mitzvah of Shay Chesik
from Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

In memory of
Albert Kaplan
from Bobbi and Barry Freedman
Dorothy Carchman
from Philip Carchman
Rabbi Adam Feldman
from Steven and Karen Grey, Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Bobby Willig and Ginny Mason, Noah Feldman Greene and Angelicca Telles, Dennis and Gail Alba
Irv Newman
from Jonathan and Susan Gross

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
from Reba Orszag

In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Hazel Stix

In memory of
Irv Newman
from Maria Sanderson, Shoshana Silberman
Bruce Becker
from Beth Englezos

RABBI TUCKER LIFE CYCLE FUND
In honor of
the marriage of Sophia Fishbane to Scott Romero
from Debbie and Randy Brett
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Jonathan and Susan Gross

In memory of
Avram Bar-Cohen
from Linda and Michael Grenis
Irv Newman
from Linda and Michael Grenis, Joel Deitz, Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUND
from Harold Heft

In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Nedda Pollack
The Religious Affairs Committee for their kindness
from Myra Weiner

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
In honor of
Joanne Reife Fishbane on the marriage of Sophia to Scott Romero
from Linda and Art Meisel
The Greenfield's who celebrated the anniversary of their arrival to the U.S. from the former USSR
from Linda and Art Meisel
Mark and Wendy Merkovitz on the engagement of Max to Ali
from Linda and Art Meisel

In memory of
Dr. Oved Soffer
from Linda and Art Meisel
Bruce Becker
from Linda and Art Meisel

SHABBAT LUNCHEON FUND
In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Judy and Mike Leopold, Joe and Barbara Schwartz, Linda and Michael Grenis

In memory of
David Persky and Evelyn Persky, Lloyd Nimaroff and Rose Nimaroff
from Robin and Jeffrey Persky
Irv Newman
from Judy and Mike Leopold, Joe and Barbara Schwartz, Joyce and Bruce Afran
Ina and Paul Gilbert
from Roslyn Vanderbilt

SILVER CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Irene and Sam Goldfarb

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
In honor of
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman's 70th Anniversary
from Joan Levin

In memory of
S. Edmund Berger
from Seva and Peter Kramer

SOCIAL ACTION – HOUSING FUND
In memory of
S. Edmund Berger
from Judy and Mike Leopold

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS FUND
In honor of
The birth of our granddaughter, Samantha Hannah Stool

from Bobbi and Barry Freedman
*This gift is from a Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer.
We’ll be meeting by Zoom to discuss:

Talia Carner’s *The Third Daughter*

“Set mostly in Argentina around the turn of the 19th century, Talia Carner’s complex historical fiction, *The Third Daughter*, exposes the cruelty of Zwi Migdal, a notorious association of Jewish men involved in the exploitation of women and children.” (Hadassah Magazine)

*The turn of the 20th century finds fourteen-year-old Batya in the Russian countryside, fleeing with her family endless pogroms. Desperate, her father leaps at the opportunity to marry Batya to a worldly, wealthy stranger who can guarantee his daughter an easy life and passage to America. Feeling like a princess in a fairytale, Batya leaves her old life behind as she is whisked away to a new world. But soon she discovers that she’s entered a waking nightmare. Her new “husband” does indeed bring her to America: Buenos Aires, a vibrant, growing city in which prostitution is not only legal but deeply embedded in the culture. And now Batya is one of thousands of women tricked and sold into a brothel.*

A powerful story of finding courage in the face of danger, and hope in the face of despair, *The Third Daughter* brings to life a dark period of Jewish history and gives a voice to victims whose truth deserves to finally be told.

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:

**COMING SOON!**

March 16 -- Dara Horn’s *In the Image*
April 20 -- Goldie Goldblum’s *On Division*
May 25 -- Rachel Kadish’s *The Weight of Ink*
Mazel Tov … On Your Great News!

To Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on December 23
To Joanne Reiff Fishbane on the marriage of her daughter Sophia to Scott Romero
To Donna Rosenberg on her special birthday
To Rabbi Emeritus Dov Peretz Elkins on his special birthday
To Wendy and Mark Merkovitz on the engagement of their son Max to Ali Slavens
To Anita and Sam Cohen who celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on December 28
To Gilda Aronovic who became a great-grandmother for the first time when her granddaughter Stephanie gave birth to Jonathan Aronovic-Levi
To Fran Zeitler Edelman and Fred Edelman who became great-grandparents again when Moriah and Jason Sirotkin welcomed their daughter, Josie
To Ellen and Jay Kuris on the B’nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren
To Alexandra Bar-Cohen becoming our next President
To Evy Grossman and the publication of her new memoir, “Hidden in Berlin: A Holocaust Memoir”
To Cynthia and Jake Sage on the birth of their granddaughter, Zelda Rose
To Polly Strauss in celebration of her birthday
To The Greenfield’s who celebrated the anniversary of their arrival to the U.S. from the former USSR
To Bobbi and Barry Freedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Samantha Hannah Steeil
To Louis Abramson, son of Bernard and Barbara Abramson, who is a co-founder of newly launched The Hollywood Harvest, a nonprofit food relief program serving vulnerable seniors
To Eliza Rosenthale, granddaughter of Ellen and George Pristach, upon winning the award for poetry in the Rutgers University Writers House Winter Creativity Showcase
To Sharon Diamondstein who completed her coursework in Youth mental Health First Aid
To Eric and Jason Diamondstein who received their Judo promotions. Eric was promoted to orange belt and Jason was promoted to yellow
To Sam Daley Harris who had his op-ed titled “Our Misguided Tendency to Hibernate after an Election” published in the So. Fla. Sun Sentinel and his letter to the editor titled, “Sharing Good News of Legislation for Early Childhood Development” published in Town Topics

In Memoriam: We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering

Irving Newman, husband of Myra Weiner
David Levin, former longtime congregant
Bruce Becker, father of Barbara Reiff
Roz Denard, wife of Norman Denard
Marjorie Horowitz, longtime congregant and founding member
Norman Denard, father of Jeff and Jill Denard
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.

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GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED: BANNED, BURNED AND BLESSED

WITH

RABBI ELLIOT SALO SCHOENBERG

ZOOM INTERACTIVE LUNCH AND LEARN

TUESDAY, 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

REGISTRATION CODE: SCHOENBERG

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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.

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Fridays in February:

5  
12  
19  
26

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
JEWS OF THE BRITISH CHANNEL ISLANDS
UNDER THE NAZI OCCUPATION 1940-1945
RACISM, LAW, ANTISEMITISM
WITH
RONALD SCHNUR, PH.D.
INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2021 FROM 3:00 TO 4:30 PM

What would a World War II invasion and occupation of the British Isles, or even the US and Canada, by the Nazis have looked like, and more specifically, what would have been the fate for the local Jews? In fact, historically there was one such invasion and occupation: the part of Britain consisting of the Channel Islands of Jersey, Guernsey and others. In this presentation, accompanied by period photographs and maps, we will review this occupation to witness what happened when this area of English law, government and society encountered a totalitarian regime of racism and antisemitism.

Ronald Schnur holds a BA from Franklin & Marshall College, a M.Ed. from Boston College, a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, as well as post-doctoral study at the University of Pennsylvania. Professionally, Ron’s career started as a teacher of blind and visually impaired children before completing his doctoral studies. That was followed by a career as a psychologist in a large, working-class school district as well as additional university, clinic and hospital affiliations. He is a TJC member.

REGISTRATION CODE: SCHNUR

INTRODUCTION TO THE
HINDU FAITH AND CULTURE
WITH
RAJAN NARAYANASWAMY, PH.D.
INTERACTIVE ZOOM CLASS
TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 9TH & 23RD, 2021 FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 PM

The Hindu religion and culture are one of the oldest in the world. Its richness and variety and the number of facets and branches of study and practices it has spawned is myriad. In this series of two talks the speaker will try to introduce all these branches and go into the details of a few of them. The Hindu religion is often called by the term ‘Sanatana Dharma’ which can be translated loosely as ‘Eternal way of living’. Indeed, that is what the Hindu Faith and culture is all about; an ancient way of living that attempts to bring out the best in us - righteousness, truth, compassion and charity and overseen by a strong belief in a higher power and intelligence that guides us in this path and always protects us.

Rajan Narayanaswamy, Ph.D. is a very active and prominent member of the Chinmaya Mission, a renowned religious and spiritual institution, located in Cranbury. The Chinmaya Mission excels in teaching children the noble human values like honesty, compassion and non-violence enshrined in the teachings of Hinduism and its culture. He has been leading scriptural study groups and teaching yoga for adults for 19 years. He was awarded the Martin Luther King Lifetime Achievement award sponsored by the Human Relations Council of Plainsboro.

REGISTRATION CODE: RAJAN
The Rabbi Search Committee has worked tirelessly throughout the month of January to make it possible for our congregation to meet three highly talented rabbis who applied for our senior rabbi position: Rabbi Andrea Merow, Rabbi Abigail Treu, and Rabbi Daniel Nevins. What an inspiring and stimulating month it has been! TJCers and candidates had multiple opportunities to get to know each other in a variety of event formats over a number of days. The rabbis davened, taught, schmoozed, met with religious school students and their families, our clergy and staff, lay leadership, answered our questions at town hall meetings, embarked on a virtual tour, participated in Bible BaBoker and weekday minyan, and interacted with our teens. While we’ll surely have heard back from many of you by this time, please be certain that you’ve completed the online surveys to provide your feedback on each candidate. The deadline for survey responses is Tuesday, February 2. You are always welcome to reach out to us with additional comments any time at rabbisearch@thejewishcenter.org. It is vital that we have input from as many congregants as possible in order for our committee to thoroughly process all we can learn from the congregation and make our recommendation to TJC’s Board of Directors as to who should become our next senior rabbi. Our goal remains to find the best rabbi for our community. Please help us and TJC by telling us what you think!

Thank you!
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I will donate $180 in honor of each of my TJC clients who buy or sell a home this year. The donation will be made to the fund of their choice.

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—Avot De Rebbe Natan

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☐ Jess & Marion Epstein Lunch & Learn Fund
☐ The Jewish Center Refugee Fund
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