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Avi Paradise
Sarah Schwarz
Samantha Hirschberg
Judy Kutin
Jesse Treu
vacant
Jeremy Black and Brad Bailey
Lauren Neufeld and Claude Winn
Shari Allen
Moshe Margolin
Fred Pearlmutter
Jenny Ludmer
Dana Molina
vacant

DECEMBER 2021 ZOOM LINKS
(Please make sure to have the latest version of Zoom.)

Erev Shabbat Services for December – 6:30 PM
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2021
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84831530011
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 848 3153 0011

Shabbat Morning Services for December – 9:30 AM
Dec. 4, 11, 18, 15, 2021
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86523429589
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 865 2342 9589

Sunday Morning Minyan for December – 9:00 AM
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86556100513
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 865 5610 0513

Wednesday Morning Minyan for December 2021 – 7:00 AM
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021 07:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84973156198
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 849 7315 6198

Live Stream our services: www.thejewishcenter.org.
Click on the button (shown right). If we are live, just click the play button. Cameras go live 10-15 minutes before services begin.
www.stream.com/tjc
First night of Chanukah - November 28.

Virtual Candle lighting at 5:45 PM Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (4:00 PM with Rabbi Merow) and Saturday night on zoom at 5:45 PM. In person candle lighting on Monday (at TJC), Wednesday (at TJC) with RS kids, and Sunday at Palmer Square (4:00 PM). Join us! Vegetable Oil food collection in partnership with Princeton Mobile Food Pantry. www.pmfpantry.org. Bring in new vegetable oil to TJC for collection.

Men's Club will be distributing Latkes on the following days:
Monday (4:00-6:00 PM), Wednesday (4:00-6:00 PM), Friday (10:00 AM-2:00 PM) Sunday (9:00-11:00 AM)
6 latkes with apple sauce and sour cream. One box per family.

Wednesday, December 1 – 4th Night
11:00 AM – Chanukah Café – Sing-a-long Chanukah songs with Cantor Jeff, flavored coffee and tea and of course...latkes!
5:45 PM – Community candle lighting at TJC at big Menorah led by Religious School Students and parents. Latke giveaway by Men's Club
7:00 PM – Progressive Chanukah Cooking with Arts and Culture & Jewish Center Women

Thursday, December 2 – 5th Night
5:45 PM – Light 5 candles virtually
7:00 PM – Big Chanukah Jewish Music Jam led by Cantor Jeff. Local music players come and jam on Chanukah songs in Sanctuary/Social Hall

Friday, December 3 – 6th Night
4:00 PM – Light 6 candles virtually before Shabbat begins (4PM). Rabbi Merow and the Diamondstein family in honor of Eric's Bar Mitzvah
6:30 PM – Friday Night Services

Saturday, December 4 – 7th Night
5:45 PM – Light 7 candles virtually/Havdallah

Sunday, December 5 – 8th Night
10:00 AM – Chanukah light show in social hall for kids in Religious School Latke distribution for Religious School families
4:00 PM – Candle Lighting in Palmer Square
5:45 PM – 8th night virtual candle lighting
It is now December 2021, two years ago scientists discovered a virus and named it COVID-19. Yes, it has a longer name, but that is how we have come to know it. If you do not work in the scientific world you may not have heard of this illness till February, but by March of 2020 we had all become acquainted with it, along with words like “quarantine,” “transmission” and pandemic. As a public health measure we closed our buildings and began to work, worship and play from home as we eagerly awaited scientists to bring us ways to stay safe. We invoked the Jewish value of Pikuach Nefesh, of saving lives as we changed how our communities functioned.

People in our community and country have displayed an amazing sense of flexibility and creativity. Grandparents and grandkids learned to communicate on facetime; and while “not the same,” I often remarked that this must be so much better than 1918. Many of us learned to connect via technology and by meeting outdoors. In the first, scary year we learned that we could do Seder on Zoom and have the benefit of far-away loved ones joining us.

We recognize that it has been hard to change our normal ways of work, of connecting to family and of gathering. Everyone has been affected and we are certain that we do not yet know the mental health implications of the last two years on many segments of our population. I worry about what the last few years have done to parents of young children, who learned to homeschool, to the elderly, and to those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. I look forward in the coming months to exploring together ways to think about how we did or did not grieve, how we gathered, what we missed, what we gained and how we can reemerge into more full communal life.

With amazing gratitude to scientists, funders, public health agencies and to The Holy One of Blessing, we are fortunate that many of us are now vaccinated and that some of our little ones are starting the process of becoming vaccinated. Researchers are working on treatments and there is a sense that we are moving towards being together. We have had services together, indoors, with our new accessible bima since Rosh Hashana. Still, there is a deep sense that we are not all equally O.K.. Some in our community feel safe enough being inside and unmasked, others, who have health concerns or who live with those who are more vulnerable take greater precautions of masking and not gather inside. Our community respects the gamut of practice that individuals do in their private lives, while trying to make space at TJC to come together as safely as possible, for as many as possible.

Things are not as they were before March of 2020, but we are working diligently to invite you back into the building in whatever ways you feel comfortable. We will continue to have online options, but we want to cordially invite you back to TJC. If you come to a service, meeting or gathering at TJC we are all masked. This layer of protection means that we can create a space where more of us will feel safe, even if some of us (all of us!) yearn for unmasked living. December will also mark the start of some in-person kiddush meals. These meals may feel different than before because of added safety measures; we will have inside and few outside tables as well so that more people can feel comfortable. But we will gather and sanctify Shabbat together. Please consider volunteering for our Kiddush Krew. I hope that we can focus on the idea that we will be together while trying to mitigate risk.

With this in mind I invite you to Come Home to TJC! Come to services on a Friday night or Saturday morning. Relax with us. Celebrate with us. Pray with us. Be with us. Come for Hannukah celebrations or classes. Be with us and with your community. Come have a L’chaim or just schmooze with old and new friends. It is even OK to be a “JKFer” – “Just For Kiddush,” if you prefer schmooze over service. This December will mark the start of my 6th month in this amazing community so maybe come so that we can meet each other, have a L’chaim, sing a song and talk about the world. See you Soon!

Rabbi Andrea Merow
Dear TJC friends,

In my October article, I wrote about my mother’s imminent passing, and about a particularly beautiful setting of Psalm 118:5-6, that gave me comfort, and helped me through that very difficult time:

Min hameitzar, karati ya, anani vamurchav ya.
Adonai li, lo ira, mah ya’ aseh li adam.

In distress I called to Adonai who answered by setting me free.
Adonai is with me. I shall not fear; what can mortals do to me? (Siddur Sim Shalom)

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My mother, Susi Yvonne Idstein Warschauer, died on Hoshana Rabbah, the 21st of Tishrei, 5782. Hoshana Rabbah (“The Great Supplication”), is the final day of Sukkot. It is a day filled with ritual, prayer and singing. It seems appropriate that my mother, who loved Jewish holidays and customs, synagogue services and music, would take her leave on that day. I dearly hope that the spirit of Hoshana Rabbah, with all of its focused energy directed towards God, somehow helped ease her transition to the next world.

I would like to thank everyone at TJC for their extraordinary support, help and kindness during the time leading up to my mother’s death, and during the shiva period, especially Rabbi Merow, President Alexandra Bar-Cohen, the leadership, my staff colleagues, and the many congregants who reached out to Deborah and me, and who made generous contributions, in my mother’s memory, to TJC. I will never forget your kindness and generosity.

And thank you so much to all those who joined my family and me on our online shiva minyanim. It was truly a comfort to see you all there.

My family has, for many years, been scattered across the globe. We’ve studied, lived and worked in Europe, throughout the Continental US, and at the moment, even in Alaska and Hawaii. My mother was always the “glue” that held us together, and I was worried that once she passed, my family would become distant and fragmented. But to my great joy, I firmly believe that the “glue” of my family’s love, which was always so strong, has remained intact, and we have actually become more tightly bound than ever.

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I’ve been thinking a lot these days about loss, but also about connection and the importance of story-telling.

As some of you know, at the age of 6, my mother became a refugee, fleeing with her immediate family from Nazi Germany. As with anyone whose family was touched by the Holocaust, I have many stories that have been passed down from that time.

But my mother’s stories of their life in Europe, of their escape, and of the beginnings of their new life in Philadelphia were always told from a young child’s perspective. She shared many family songs, recipes and recollections, but I was left with many unanswered questions.

So an unexpected silver lining during this time has been reconnecting with cousins who were able to join us from the west coast via Zoom. Their mother, my mother’s cousin, Evelyn Karen Hanne Lore Lotte Aronson Irwin (really!), whom everyone called Karen, was born in 1924, six years before my mother. (She passed away in 2015 at the age of 91.)

What I’ve come to understand is how much that six year age gap between Karen and my mother impacted their individual perspectives. Karen was already 14 years old when she fled Europe with her parents in 1938, which, I realize now, gave her a much more developed awareness of their journey, and of their situation as refugees.

Through my discussions with Karen over the years, more recent discussions with her children, and, particularly, with the help of an interview of Karen that was conducted by Janice Ketler of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, I’ve learned so much more about what it must have been like to flee Europe and try to create a new life in a new country. And while it’s been exciting to fill in details about my family’s pre-war life in Germany, it’s also been devastating to have an even deeper sense of what my family, along with countless others, lost.

But although the stories bring up an incredible mix of emotions, I feel so fortunate to have such an intimate connection with my family’s history. Recently, we have found hundreds of photographs from my family’s life in Germany before the war. These are pictures of mothers and babies, grandparents, weddings and other occasions in a large, yet very close, family. In short, nothing particularly extraordinary. But these “snapshots” help make the mythical tangible, and remind us how connected we all really are with one another – We’re born, we die, and in-between we try our very best to find happiness and connection, even under the most brutal circumstances.

With the death of my mother, the last European-born members of my family are now gone. But through memories and story-telling, their lives and all they experienced will never be forgotten.

So in the great spirit of Judaism, where the telling and re-telling of stories and experiences is bound up in the very fabric of our yearly cycle, I urge you all to share your stories and to seek out stories from relatives and friends near and far. And even if, like so many, you feel that there’s little to share, remember that even one story, one memory, can make meaningful connections le dor va’ dor, from generation to generation.

I’ll leave you with a well-known prayer by Rabbi Morris Adlerz†, that has come to mean so much to Deborah and me during these days:

We thank You, O God of life and love, for the resurrecting gift of memory, which endows Your children, fashioned in Your image, with the Godlike sovereign power to give immortality through love. Blessed be You, God, who enables Your children to remember.

Cantor Jeff Warschauer
MESSAGE from the President

Alexandra Bar-Cohen
president@thejewishcenter.org

By the time you read this, Chanukah 2021 will be all over but the scent of latka oil lingering in the kitchen. All over but the memories, my father would say. One Chanukah memory that I hope my kids will always value is our family tradition of dedicating one night just for tzedakah. Long before they participated in the JCYF teen philanthropy program we would sit with the kids after lighting the chanukiah and allow them the opportunity and sacred responsibility to choose the charitable organizations they felt we should support as part of our year-end giving. It was always fascinating to me what inspired them to give: often supporting animals and wildlife, responses to horrific tragedies they learned about in school, disaster relief, ways to help break the cycle of poverty both at home or abroad, organizations that protected the places they held in their hearts.

Chanukah may be over, but you still have the opportunity to support this place we all hold in our hearts - The Jewish Center. What are some of your beloved TJC Chanukah memories? Did your kids, like mine, come home from Religious School (or even preschool) singing ad nauseum the many, many verses of “Sivivon” (I had a little dreidel, I made it out of clay/glass/steel/french fries…)? Were you with Neil Wise in the Princeton airport hanger when we set the Guinness Book of World Records for lighting the most number of menorahs? Did you share our light with the larger community, year after year, lighting the Palmer Square Menorah with Rabbi Feldman of blessed memory?

From generation to generation, we gather with family, light the menorah and retell the story of the Maccabees. For TJC to survive and thrive and be able to make more memories for the next generations, we need to step up and support our beloved community through the Annual Fund and Life & Legacy. I want TJC’s story and all it has to offer to remain strong and vibrant from generation to generation, and that is why Barak and I are making a Life & Legacy Promise this year in addition to our Annual Fund gift. Please join us.

Annual Fund: Use this scan code to make a donation to the Annual Fund or pay with Venmo.

Life & Legacy: there is no financial obligation now. Anyone can make a pledge at any level. Learn how here: https://thejewishcenter.org/donation/

Please join us for our 2021 Mid-Year TJC Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.
When the pandemic began, we were clearly not sure where things would head. It was new to all of us. It was new to every colleague and friend around the country. None of us having been Executive Directors during the last pandemic that took place in 1918.

We went fully virtual. We moved our services online. We moved our schools online. We moved our programming online. We moved High Holidays online. We have tried repeatedly to thank everyone who helped us remain as a functioning synagogue. If we have not said it enough, here it is again. Thank you. To everyone who participated in services, who cooperated with or guidelines and to those who understood that our synagogue was not a building.

Then, one day, the graphic shown to the right appeared on the internet.

It really hit home for me. It was exactly what we were trying to show. That even though our doors were not open, we were open. We just opened in your homes. And you showed up in droves.

So now it’s December 2021. Where are we now? Well, we are still open. Our membership is growing. Our schools are at their highest level of registration in years. And people are coming back. We saw many people outdoors over the summer. We saw our Religious School open outdoors with tons of kids on our campus. But now that the weather is turning cold, what happens next?

Come back inside! We have been having regular services ever Saturday morning for months. Join us. Our Religious School is transitioning to being back inside. And while we will never jeopardize our health and safety, we feel good about getting together again. Thank you to everyone who has gotten vaccinated and boosted (including me). Thank you to our 5-11 year olds who are lining up to get their first shots.

We are so proud of all of you.

And beginning in December, we are welcoming back our Shabbat kiddushim! We have been listening to all of you. While we know you love coming to services, we know you love even more coming to kiddush lunch. We will have safety guidelines in place. We will break bread together. And we will take one more step to gaining a sense of normalcy for all of us. Just make sure to bring a mask.

OUR synagogue is open. Our synagogue is not a building. It is YOU, our members, who make this a great place to be.

Come back. We are here waiting for you.

Joel
**MESSAGE from the Director of Congregational Learning**

Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220
sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

Friends,

In the past 18 months, I’ve had many conversations with many families about reimagining their children’s B’nai Mitzvah. I gave space to grieve the day that wouldn’t be, with the virus that would change everything, with the loss of Rabbi Feldman, z’tl, and we sat with those feelings. In the back of my mind, I kept saying to myself, “We are slowly coming to the other side of this, by December, everything should be fine. Eric’s Bar Mitzvah will have us all together, with my family traveling from far and wide to spend the day with us.”

Now, on November 5, 2021, as Eric wakes on his 13th birthday, I am looking ahead. I learned, like many of you, that we will be able to eat together in the social hall. Our synagogue is open, and we are taking the slow steps back to familiarity. And even with those slow steps, I was also forced to take my own advice - grieve the day that wouldn’t be. As of now, my father with underlying medical conditions won’t be able to fly in from Israel to join us. My dear cousin Sam, who held Eric at his Bris won’t be here to have an aliyah to the Torah in Eric’s honor. My dear father in law, of blessed memory, is no longer with us to watch his grandchildren become B’nai Mitzvah and beam with pride as he hears his grandson read from the Torah for the first time.

As I grieve the Bar Mitzvah I planned in my head many years ago, I also look to the blessings. We are blessed to be part of such a warm and caring community. We are blessed with our health. We are blessed with technology that will allow my father to join us that day. We are blessed with dear friends and colleagues who have listened and helped Eric reach this moment.

We learned that this proverbial journey of a thousand miles began with a single first step. We watched with pride (and often with tears in our eyes) as Eric’s best friend came over and sat with him and the two of them practiced his Torah reading. We listened to the joy in his voice as he sang Hallel in the house as though it was one of his favorite Imagine Dragons songs. We talked about this day for years, and as I write this, I cannot imagine how I can possibly make it more meaningful and special given our current circumstances.

As we’ve gone through our journey as a family, I was reminded of the poem *The Diving Board* by Shel Silverstein:

> You’ve been up on that diving board
> Making sure it’s nice and straight
> You’ve made sure it’s not too slick.
> You’ve made sure the spring is tight.
> You’ve made sure the cloth won’t slip.
> You’ve made sure that it bounces right,
> And that your toes can get a grip -
> You’ve been up there since half past five
> Doin’ everything . . . but DIVE

Now, as a family, we are watching Eric prepare for his dive, and we are all so grateful for The Jewish Center community. On behalf of Marc and I, thank you all for your support and help through the years, and for welcoming our family so warmly. We are proud to be part of a Kehila where our children can continue to learn and grow stronger, while their Jewish roots grow deeper.

*Chag Sameach,*

Sharon

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**Torah and Tea**

**DECEMBER**

10 & 17
9:30 am

Questions? Contact Sharon Diamondstein
609.921.0100 ext. 220  sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org
KABBALAT SHABBAT KATAN

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! Ages: K and below.

Open to the community!

DECEMBER 10
5:45 PM

Shabbat Katan

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. Ages: K and below.

Open to the community!

DECEMBER 18
11:00 AM

Questions? Call Sharon Diamondstein at (609) 921-7207 or email her at SDiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org

For Kids K and below! Bring your friends! All are welcome!

All Bubbles and Zaydies are invited to ...

Bubbles and Zadies are invited to Kabbalat Shabbat Katan and Shabbat Katan December 10 and December 18

We invite all of our senior congregants to join us with your grandchildren. Open to both members and non-members. There’s no better way to spend Shabbat than with the kinder.

Email sdiamondstein@thejewishcenter.org to sign up.
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 David Silver
- from Sassy Weinstein
- from Marjorie Chernikoff

**In honor of**
- Rabbi Robert Freedman
  from Karen Vanderbilt and Marc Shapiro
- Linda Milstein, a wonderful friend
  from Constance Marks
- Carol and Herb Horowitz
  from Linda and Art Meisel
- My wonderful friend, Linda Milstein
  from Constance Marks
- Cantor Jeff, Ronit Rackowski and Sharon Diamondstein for so sincerely and carefully preparing Max Levy for his bar Mitzvah (9/25/21). And of course to Rabbi and Joel too..it takes a village, and at TJC we have the A Team
  - from Jonny Levy, Jill Nusbaum
  - and Max Levy

**In memory of**
- Gil Gordon
  from Shirley Gordon
- Walter Leo Schiff
  from Sher and Jeanne Leiman
- Henia Shylit
  from Sharon Shylit
- Warren Hirsch
  from Steve and Shelley Barnett
- Celia Barnett
  from Steve and Shelley Barnett
- Eugen Blau
  from Leslie and Stephanie Blau
- Herman Komar
  from Donna Laurie

**ADULT EDUCATION FUND**
- In memory of
  - Ira and Paul Gilbert
    from Roslyn and David Vanderbilt

**ANNUAL FUND**
- In honor of
  - Alexandra Bar-Cohen on her special birthday
    from Tovah Reis

**In memory of**
- Richard Fishbane
  from Joanne Fishbane

**CANTOR’S MUSIC FUND**
- In memory of
  - Ruben Souroujon d’Alcala
    from John Burke

**ISRAELI AFFAIRS FUND**
- In memory of
  - Alvin Brown
    from Myra Weiner

**THE JEWISH CENTER REFUGEE FUND**
- from Deborah Yaffe and Alistair Bellany
- from Graydon Vanderbilt
- from Jill Warrington
- from Sandie Rabinowitz
- from Jeeyoung Choi
- from Michele Ochsner
- from Sally Goldfarb and Joseph Straus
- from Iris Schulman
- from Mr. and Mrs. Mansukhani
- from Catherine Baldwin Lasko
- from Erzsebet Karkus

**In honor of**
- Linda and Art Meisel on their anniversary
  - from Joan Levin
- Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James Clark
  - from Joan Levin

**In memory of**
- Amy Adina
  from Fran Zeitler Edelman
  and Fred Edelman

**ARTHUR TURIM**
- from Fran Zeitler Edelman

**JEWISH CENTER WOMEN FUND**
- In honor of
  - Cynthia and Fred Neufeld on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Mason Neufeld
  - from Honey Rosenberg and Renee Livers

**LIFE AND LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND**
- In honor of
  - Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James Clark
  - from Linda and Art Meisel

**MARCHAND ESPIR FAMILY HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND**
- In memory of
  - Charles Rojer
    from Marsha Levin-Rojer

**RABBI ADAM FELDMAN MEMORIAL FUND**
- In memory of
  - Rabbi Adam Feldman
    from Jonathan and Gail Dunn

**RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
- In honor of
  - The Bar Mitzvah of Mason Neufeld
    - from Leah, Shawn, Adam and Mason Neufeld

**In memory of**
- Gil Gordon
  from Barry Ableman
  and Linda Rosenberg
- Naomi Wahrman
  from Barry Ableman
  and Linda Rosenberg

**RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS FUND**
- In honor of
  - Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James Clark
  - from Honey Rosenberg
YOUTH AND FAMILY
PROGRAMS FUND

In honor of
Cynthia and Fred Neufeld on the Bar
Mitzvah of their grandson, Mason Neufeld
from Fran Zeitler Edelman
and Fred Edelman
The Bar Mitzvah of Max Levy
from Lewis and Lynn Coopersmith
Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar
Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James
Clark
from Dee Silver and Ed Flax

The Bar Mitzvah of Max Levy
from Lewis and Lynn Coopersmith
Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar
Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James
Clark
from Dee Silver and Ed Flax

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BRICK PAVER
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“TJC community walkway”
Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries,
b’nai mitzvah, and special occasions—
A special way
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- Small brick (7.5 x 15) - $250
  four lines of text, up to 20 characters/line
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  six lines of text, up to 20 characters/line
- Large brick (15 x 22) - $750
  six lines of text, up to 30 characters/line

Contact the office for more information:
info@thejewishcenter.org

The Memorial Tree Project

On October 22, which was a beautiful Fall day, a Princeton Elm tree was planted at Farmview Fields in memory of Rabbi Adam Feldman. The tree symbolizes Rabbi Feldman’s commitment to community as well as his relationship with the The Jewish Center, Princeton area Clergy and many other Princeton organizations. The Memorial Tree Project was done through the Princeton Shade Tree Commission. A special event will be held at the park on Thursday, May 19, 2022, Lag b’Omer, to dedicate the tree. Please save the date and more information will follow.

The Rabbi Adam Feldman Memorial Tree and Dedication Ceremony are among several projects planned to honor the memory of Rabbi Feldman and more details will be shared in the near future.
Mazal Tov...On Your Great News!

Email your news to us: mazaltov@thejewishcenter.org

Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Solomon James Clark, on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD. Solly is the son of Beth and Justin Clark and brother of Ellie and Owen.

Joan Goldstein all the way from London, England, on Zoom, author, historian Brad Borkan shares the Backstory of his newest book titled: “Audacious Goals: Remarkable Results.” The book tells how an explorer, an engineer and a statesman shaped our modern world. Additionally, one episode features Princeton Councilman David Cohen exploring Climate Change and the concerns for our town. View the show, “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” Sundays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.

Linda and Art Meisel who celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on October 12.

Judy and Moshe Margolin on the birth of their granddaughter, Arya Tamar Lehtman. She was born at 10:20 a.m. Colorado time. She weighed-in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. and is 19 inches long. Mom, baby and Abba are all fine. Big brother Jake is taking it in stride.

Susan and Michael Falcon on the marriage of their son, Eric Falcon to Emily Ayuso. “We are thrilled to welcome Emily to our family”.

Ron Schnur and Sandy Sussman who will be celebrating their 19th wedding anniversary on October 27.

Ellen Pristach, who celebrated her 75th birthday on October 31.

Maxine and our Rabbi Emeritus Dov Peretz Elkins on their 35th wedding anniversary on November 16.

Judy Nussbaum and Marvin Gelblat on the birth of their 1st grandchild, Simon Turner Breitbart.

Rick Rosenberg who completed the New York Marathon on Sunday, November 7.

Rachelle Simon and Emma Wingreen who just completed their second Princeton Half marathon together.

Sam and Anita Cohen who are celebrating the births of two great grandsons, Corbin in Virginia and Jack in California. Born within two days of each other.

In Memoriam: We extend our deepest sympathy in remembering:

Marcia Kirstein Fitzmaurice, z”l, sister of our congregants Philip and (Mindy) Kirstein; wife of Edward, mother of Carey z”l, and Evan.

Lynda Falcon z”l, stepmother of Michael (Susan) Falcon. She is survived by her husband, Larry, children, and grandchildren.

The Jewish Center is the place to be in Princeton and Mercer County! Tell your friends and let’s grow our synagogue together.

Contact the office for more information or email us at info@thejewishcenter.org

December Committee Meeting:

December 9
School Board Committee - 7:30 pm

December 16
Board Meeting – 7:00 pm

December 23
Finance Committee – 7:30 pm
NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DANIELI FAMILY

Shany: Where did you move from and how did you get to Princeton?

Oren: We had an interesting journey over the last few years, driven by our careers and partially by the new COVID reality. We both graduated with our PhDs between 2019 and 2020, just as COVID started. Oren had just started a new faculty job as an assistant professor in the Economics department at Tel Aviv University, and I was offered the NASA Hubble Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton. When I accepted the offer, we first moved to the Institute for Advanced Study, and around August this year, we moved to a new house in Littlebrook.

Adam, who is now six and half years old, was born in New Haven, CT, where I went to graduate school (Yale; Physics), and Aviv, who recently turned five, was born in Cambridge, MA, where Oren went to graduate school (Harvard; Economics).

Shany: What made you seek out the Jewish Center?

Oren: Some of the greatest discoveries in history were made by chance.

Shany: We live nearby and we honestly didn’t have much experience with synagogues in the US. We went to a synagogue in Boston every once in a while when we lived there. When we moved to Princeton, we noticed TJC every time we drove by on Nassau Street and we were curious. One Sunday earlier this year, I took the kids for a walk and decided to stop in TJC and explore. It was filled with families and even after just spending a few minutes there, we felt very welcomed.

We got to know another family that was active. We met them through the Economics department party. The kids have connected. We found out that several classmates from Adam’s class in Littlebrook were at the synagogue too.

Shany: What has been your favorite activity at TJC?

Oren: All the activities have had a strong impact on the kids. Whenever Adam has to write or talk about something in school he shares about the hakafot and Simchat Torah. Adam even asked us to buy him an aron kodesh (ark) and Torah for his bedroom.

Shany: Getting to know people from the community. All the people are so amazing and interesting, and that is a highlight.

Oren: In Israel, you do not have to put in much effort to be Jewish, it’s in the air you breathe. Here we are trying to be more active. We’re hoping to meet more people and let the kids learn more.

Shany & Oren: We are very grateful that we found out about the Jewish Center and thankful for the way we were welcomed to the community. We are all loving it and looking forward to getting to know more members.
Fran Zeitler, Brooklyn born and raised, musing on what Princeton means to her, says, “I think of my life changing and forming when I came to Princeton.”

In fact Princeton has never stopped motivating her to expand her horizons. Having met Fred Edelman while paying a shiva call to his daughter, Sherry, she remembers telling him at their next meeting, several months later at a Jewish Center lecture: “If you ever feel lonely and want to go to a movie or for a walk, think of me.” A few months later Fred called to invite her to another lecture, and when she offered to drive herself, he clarified, saying, “I’m calling to ask you out.”

What launched a more serious relationship was a chance meeting on a crowded NJ Transit train, where they sat together and realized how much they had in common. “If that’s not beshert (Yiddish, “destiny”), then I don’t know a circumstance that fits under that word,” Fran says. A year later they were married.

Fran’s birth family included her parents, Ruth and Arthur Turim, and her younger sister, Linda. Arthur, Fran says, was “the handsomest and handiest man you can ever imagine”; he owned a hardware store.

Ruth had dreamt of becoming a teacher, but was a housewife until Fran stepped in. A sophomore at Brooklyn College, Fran asked the bursar’s office to search for her mother’s acceptance in the early 1930s. When they found it, she asked whether that acceptance was still valid. It was, as long as Ruth reapplied, and Fran came home and told her mother, “You say you wanted to be a teacher, and you missed your chance. You now have another chance.” The result, Fran says, is that “I graduated, and she graduated with honors.”

In the 1960s the Zeitlers moved to Princeton, two days before a snowstorm, when Barbara was five and Kenneth, eight. Having lived previously on a rural road in Lawrence Township, responsible for their own snow blowing, they were elated when they heard Princeton’s municipal snow blowers: “We put on our boots and coats and clapped for them—we were so happy.”

When Fran moved to Princeton, she says, “My mother gave me three pieces of advice: join a synagogue; join a political party; and volunteer somewhere. I did all three.”

Fran joined The Jewish Center in the mid-1950s and has volunteered widely in the local Jewish community: for Hadassah, as program chair, then president; at Princeton University Hillel; at the Women’s Division of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks; and as a board member of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer.

Fran found different kinds of nourishment in other Jewish activities. A 30+-year attendee at the National Havurah Committee’s Summer Institute, she loved its approach to Judaism—“you teach me and if I know something, I’ll teach you”—and its being a comfortable place for her daughter and grandchildren. The institute led her to TJC’s Library Minyan, run by participants, where she finds it “very comforting to be sitting with friends and learning.” As a 25+-year member of a Rosh Chodesh women’s group, she appreciates these friends and confidantes—“people I need and trust, who are always happy to share the good times, and even more important help me live through the hard times because they care.”

For at least three decades, a primary volunteer focus for Fran has been Womanspace, which serves “individuals impacted by domestic and sexual violence.” Fran got hooked when she attended a fundraiser in Ruth Schulman’s place, and after five years she was on its board. An especially proud moment was her donation of funds to create the Ruth Turim Children’s Library in honor of her mother. Ask Fran about what Womanspace has done for our community!!

Today much of Fran’s life revolves around Fred in the beautiful home they created together. “I waited a long time, and he’s the love of my life. His family is as important to me as my family is to me and visa versa.” Together they have 20 grandchildren and 4 great-granddaughters!!
I received my PhD in clinical psychology from Harvard University, and taught in the departments of psychology and psychiatry at Rutgers for 50 years before retiring last year. I now have a private practice in Monmouth Junction specializing in treating anxiety, depression, and stress-related problems, and I edit the scientific journal, Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback. I have published over 200 scientific articles and chapters, and edited four editions of a widely used text, Principles and Practice of Stress Management. I have served as president of the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback and received their Distinguished Scientist Award. My research has focused on signs and symptoms of stress, how they may contribute to physical and emotional disease, and on pathways by which various ‘mind-body’ treatments help people, often in combination with other kinds of intervention. My research has mostly focused on methods of deep muscle relaxation, self-hypnosis, breathing methods, biofeedback, and meditation. For the past 30 my research has focused on how breathing at specific rates can affect heart rate variability and strengthen brain circuits that help control anxiety and depression.
Mazel Tov to our B’nai Mitzvah

Eric Diamondstein | December 4, 2021
Eric Diamondstein is a 7th grader at Highland Park Middle School. He has been practicing Judo since he was four years old and holds the rank of orange belt. When he moved to Highland Park, Eric joined the track and field team in the spring of 2021, where he loves to throw the shot put and discus, as well as run short distances. He also is a member of the Rivercrest Blue Wave swim team in the summer, runs cross country in the fall, and is looking forward to his first wrestling season this winter. He enjoys reading, gaming and spending time with his friends and family. Eric is very excited about becoming a Bar Mitzvah and continuing to be a part of The Jewish Center community. He is grateful for all of his teachers who have shaped his Jewish education. Eric is very motivated, and can often be heard saying, “If we’re gonna do this, then we do this.”

Alex LeBouef | December 11, 2021
Alex LeBouef is looking forward to celebrating becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Not only is Alex a Pokémon master, but he is a budding trumpet player, pianist and tennis player, who also enjoys playing flag football and hanging out with his friends and cousins. Alex attended pre-school at The Jewish Center and has had a special connection with TJC ever since. He is currently in 7th grade at Princeton Middle School.

Members...

Anyone interested in being part of the efforts to plan the celebration of Cantor Jeff’s tenure with TJC, please get in touch with Nicole Soffin at nsoffin@gmail.com and Barbara Gantwerk at bgantwerk@verizon.net

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

You have been shaped, in part, by your Jewish experiences and YOUR legacy gift ensures similar experiences will be available to future generations. Magnify your impact by encouraging friends and family to JOIN YOU in leaving a legacy.
We are looking for volunteers to bake or buy, assemble, and deliver trays of goodies to thank those “mensches” in our community who protect, support, and serve us all year long: police officers, fire fighters, and hospital workers.

**What to bring?**
Baked or bought goods (treats that can be easily arranged on platters)

**When to drop off your items?**
Bring to The Jewish Center with a note “Munchies for Mensches” on Friday, December 24

**Want to assemble?**
We will assemble trays on Sunday, December 26 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m.

**Want to deliver?**
Trays may be picked-up for delivery on Monday, December 26.

Please sign up using the link to SignUpGenius below.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AAEAC2AABFE3-munchies

EVEN IF YOU DO NOT SIGN UP IN ADVANCE, WE WILL NOT TURN AWAY BAKED GOODS OR PEOPLE TO HELP ASSEMBLE TRAYS!

Thanks in advance for helping thank the “Mensches” in our community!

For any questions contact: socialaction@thejewishcenter.org
All communications are via email. If you are NOT on our email list, please email us at info@thejewishcenter.org

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## Kislev-Tevet 5782

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| 1 Chanukah | Chanukah | Chanukah | Chanukah
|           | 5:45 PM Menorah Lighting | 4:00 PM Menorah Lighting | Rosh Chodesh Tevet
|           | 7:00 PM Cantor Jeff Music Jam | 4:15 PM Candle Lighting | Bible BaBoker
|           |                       | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 9:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Eric Diamondstein
|           |                       |                         | 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha
|           |                       |                         | 5:22 PM Havdalah
| 8 Chanukah | 7:30 PM School Committee Meeting | 4:14 PM Candle Lighting | 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker
|           |                       | 5:45 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Katan | 9:00 AM Bar Mitzvah of Alex LeBouef
|           |                       | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
|           |                       |                         | 5:22 PM Havdalah
| 15 Chanukah| 9:30 AM Nosh and Drosh | 4:16 PM Candle Lighting | 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker
|           | 7:00 PM Board Meeting | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 11:00 AM Shabbat Katan
|           |                       |                         | 4:00 PM Meditation Mincha
|           |                       |                         | 5:00 PM Bat Mitzvah of Nanette Schoenberg
|           |                       |                         | 5:24 PM Havdalah
| 22 Chanukah| 7:30 PM Finance Meeting | 4:19 PM Candle Lighting | Christmas Day
|           |                       | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service | 8:45 AM Bible BaBoker
|           |                       |                         | 10:00 AM Havurah Minyan
|           |                       |                         | 5:28 PM Havdalah
| 29 Chanukah| 4:24 PM Candle Lighting | 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
Anonymous
Bernard & Barbara Abramson
Adele Agin
Shari Allen
Brad & Cathy Bailey
Barak & Alexandra Bar-Cohen
Suzanne H. Berman
Jeremy & Jennifer Black
Leslie & Stephanie Blau
Michael & Beatrice Bloom
Randall & Deborah Brett
Phyllis Caras
Gabrielle Cayton-Hodges
& Jonathan Hodges
Joel & Marjorie Chernikoff
Denise Chesiks
Peter Constantin
Lewis & Lynn Coopersmith
Joshua & Abbye Cornfield
Eve Coulson
Barbara Curran
Joel Deitz & Barbara Berko
Jessica & Dane Dickler
David Dobkin & Suzanne Gespass
Mark & Patricia Edelstein
Joshua & Tara Eisenberg
Susan & Michael Falcon
Michael & Lori Feldstein
Nathaniel & Tobe Fisch
Joanne Fishbane
Eliot & Marsha Freeman
Seymour & Dorothy Friedman
Donna & David Gabai
Lewis & Barbara Gantwerk
David Goldberg & Wilma Solomon
David Goldfarb
Michael & Naomi Goldin
Kenneth & Michelle Goldman
Lewis Goldshore
David & Nadivah Greenberg
Michael & Linda Grenis
Jonathan & Susan Gross
Leonard & Evelyn Grossman
Diane Guenvis
Harold & Sandra Haber
Melissa Hager
Steven & Paula Heller
Joel Heymsfeld
Robert & Samantha Hirschberg
Hanan & Helaine Isaacs
Steven & Sara Just
Edyth & David Kamenir
Philip & Melinda Kirstein
Marian Kozhan & Arthur Mikhail
Judy & Sandy Kutin
Mindy & Corey Langer
Donna Laurie
Arthur Lehrhaupt
Sher & Jeanne Leiman
Joan Levin
Morton & Susan Levine
Howard Levy & Riva Jaffe-Levy
Neil & Nancy Lewis
Adam Little
Philip & Jennifer Ludmer
Sheila Marrero
Jose & Rossana Matiella
Jeffrey Mattes & Amy Becker-Mattes
Alan Medvin & Harriet Kass
Arthur & Linda Meisel
Rabbi Andrea Merow
Jonathan & Dana Miller
Joshua & Linda Milstein
Warren Mitlak & Tirza Wahrman
Dana & Alberto Molina
Kenneth Neidorf
Edith Neimark
Simon & Melissa Pankove
Avi Paradise & Debbie Freedman
David & Alison Politziner
Lawrence & Nedda Pollack
Mark & Carol Pollard
Jonathan Prenner
& Rebecca Baumgold
Joseph & Sheryl Punia
Sandra Rabinowitz
Elliot & Iris Ramer
Tovah Reis
Naomi Richman Neumann
& Jerry Neumann
Martin & Rogie Rome
Steve & Karen Rubin
Dave Saltzman & Heidi Joseph
Louise Sandburg & Peter Smith
Meyer & Lynn Joy Sapoff
Adam & Michal Scheer
Steven & Iris Schulman
Martin & Judith Schwartz
Robert & Carol Schwartz
Sarah Schwarz & Mark Manocchio
Michael & Dina Shaw
Shoshana Silberman
Ed & Lori Simon
Stephen Sirkin
Jeffrey & Victoria Solomon
Joseph Straus & Sally Goldfarb
Rick & Polly Strauss
Rita Swirsky
Jesse & Marissa Treu
Alan & Robin Wallack
Adam & Ann Warner
Jeffrey & Bonnie Weizman
Thomas & Stephanie Will
Sandra & David Wilson
Ned Wingreen & Rachelle Simon
Claude & Daniel Winn
Nir & Beth Yakoby
Maryann Yarin
Amy & Eran Zacks
Frances Zeitler
& Fred Edelman

As of November 10.
Save the Date for the return of the JCW Scavenger Hunt!

Saturday, January 8, 2022

This year we would like participants to pick up their goodie bags on:
Thursday, January 6 between 5:30-7:00 p.m.
OR Friday, January 7 between 10:00-11:30 a.m.

We plan on distributing the Goodie Bags indoors.

Watch your email for more information!

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact:

Roberta Sternthal
rsternthal@gmail.com
or
Ray Kaufman
hrkaufman45@gmail.com
Save the Date

Rabbi Andrea Merow
INSTALLATION WEEKEND
MARCH 25-27, 2022

info@thejewishcenter.org
609.921.0100
We hope you have all enjoyed a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by family and or friends. We have barely had time to turn leftovers into turkey sandwiches as we turn our attention to making latkes, lighting our Chanukkiahhs and retelling the story of the Maccabees to our children and grandchildren.

In the spirt of holiday traditions JCW and Arts and Culture have planned a Progressive Chanukah Cooking Demonstration for December 1. Some familiar TJC chefs will be featured preparing festive and traditional Chanukah treats. Singles, couples and families both new and established, we hope you will all join us.

As we light the Chanukah candles and recite the blessings, we remember those who aren’t here with us this year. We hope that the memories of family and friends bring comfort at this time of year and always.

May the light of the candles bring warmth and love to you and your family.

Warm Regards,

Lauren and Claude
**Havurah Minyan:**

Havurah Minyan will be meeting via Zoom on these days:
- December 11
- December 25
at 10:00 am

For more information, contact neillitt@outlook.com

**Talmud Study Group**

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.

The Zoom link for Talmud Study:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931037869?pwd=Wmo1OVhrYU1oQitxaG5YdGtiSG0xZz09

Meeting ID: 839 3103 7869
Passcode: 643177

**TJC Teens (8th–12th Graders)**

We are helping with Munchies for Mensches!

Munchies Baking, Movie, & Chinese Food
Friday,
December 24th,
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Munchies Assembly
Sunday,
December 26th,
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Nitzanim & Kadima**

(3rd–7th Graders)

Ice Skating & Lunch
Sunday,
December 12th,
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO!**
Conservative Judaism: Origins, History, Assets and Opportunities
Tuesday, December 7 at 8:00 PM ET (5:00 PM PT)
Teacher: Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz, JTS

Description: Conservative Judaism provided a compelling vision for a Judaism—traditional in orientation and embracing of evolutionary change—that captured the hearts and minds of so many twentieth century American Jews. What were its origins? Why/how did JTS serve as its incubator and disseminator? And why am I convinced that Conservative Judaism is well poised to meet the religious needs of North American Jews in the current moment?

The Theological Grounding of Conservative Judaism
Tuesday, December 14 at 8:00 PM ET (5:00 PM PT)
Teacher: Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Ziegler

Description: Historical and sociological factors played important roles in the creation of the Conservative movement in both Germany and the United States. This session will focus on the theological commitments that created the movement and still ground its approach to text study, law, Israel, and God.

The Torah of Conservative Judaism
Tuesday, December 21 at 8:00 PM ET (5:00 PM PT)
Teacher: Rabbi Gordon Tucker, JTS

Description: From its inception, Conservative Judaism has stood for a particular way of approaching, studying, and even defining Torah. The energizing encounter between the academic and the religiously committed has characterized The Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative Movement's flagship institution, since its founding. In this session, we will consider the notable contributions to this special culture of Torah made by some of the significant figures in the history of JTS and our Movement.

Stay tuned! Descriptions for our fourth series on The Other Within: Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in a Pluralistic Movement starting on January 19, 2022 will be announced soon. Themes will include pathways to leadership for Jews who are blind, the experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Jews at Shabbat services, internal Jewish religious strife, and more.
Jewish life in Hungary in the 1930s and 40s had its own unique challenges. The first law against Jews dates from 1920, and more than 20 other laws and regulations followed, curtailing civil rights of Jewish citizens. In 1933, when Hitler came to power in Germany, Hungary elected a pro-fascist Prime Minister. When Hungary entered WWII on Hitler’s side, Jewish men were conscripted into the army, and most were lost because of cruel treatment by their fellow countrymen. The rest of the Jewish population suffered from abuse and discrimination, but the Holocaust did not touch them until March 1944 when the German army occupied its ally Hungary. Almost immediately, ghettos were set up, and in 56 days, almost half a million Jews were killed in Auschwitz.

This program will be a conversation with two Hungarian Holocaust survivors: Agnes Kaposi and Maritza Shelley, facilitated by László Csősz.

Dr Agnes Kaposi is an engineer. She was born to Jewish Socialist parents in 1932. Her memoir, Yellow Star – Red Star, is underpinned by historical commentary, describing her early years before the war, her experience in the camps both in Hungary and in Austria, her post-war years under a Stalinist regime, and her immigration to the United Kingdom in 1957, where she continues to live to this day.

Maritza Shelley was born in 1928 into a middle-class Jewish family. Along with her sister, she was sent to a slave labor camp. Later they were joined by their mother. They were forced to march—the final destination would have been a concentration camp in Germany (“Eichmann’s death march”). The three escaped before the march crossed the German border and were reunited with her father in Budapest, where they all lived under forged papers with the support of non-Jewish friends. Her father died right after Budapest was liberated. Maritza immigrated to the United States; her sister and mother stayed in Hungary.

To facilitate the conversation, we are fortunate to have Dr László Csősz. He is a historian and senior archivist at the Hungarian National Archives in Budapest. His main fields of research include the social history of the Jews in Hungary as well as antisemitic social and economic policies and the Holocaust in Hungary.

Topics to be discussed will include Jewish life in Hungary before and during WWII and the postwar challenges of creating new lives in Europe and America.
In this talk we will discuss the so-called “Revival of Hebrew”, namely the transformation of Hebrew from a traditional language used by Jews throughout the ages for liturgical and written purposes into a full-fledge national language, employed by a modern speech community for all its communication needs. This intriguing process involved both social and linguistic dimensions. The social process was historically conspicuous, since it manifested in the formation of a Hebrew-speaking community after a hiatus of almost two millennia. By contrast, the far-reaching changes in the character of the language itself remained for many years unnoticed, as the gap between classical Hebrew and contemporary usage had been considered by contemporary observers to result from insufficient command of the language by members of the forming speech community. We will outline the timeline of the process and show that the social and the linguistic processes overlapped only partially: change processes in the written language started to occur among Hebrew writers on European soil since the rise of the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskala) in the late 18th century, whereas the idea of speech revival was first raised only towards the end of the 19th century, and was implemented primarily in Eretz Yisrael. Focusing on the social dimensions of the process, we will discuss the origins of the term “revival” and its connection to 19th century modern nationalism, will assess the role of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda in the process, and discuss the contribution of the educational system and the immigrants of the Second Aliya to the successful implementation of the idea of speech revival.

Prof. Yael Reshef is chair of the Department of Hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and member of the Academy of the Hebrew Language. She held visiting positions in universities in the US and in Italy, and was a senior member of the 2014-2016 research group on “the emergence of Modern Hebrew” at the Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center at the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. Her main field of research is the revival of Hebrew in speech and writing. Her studies examine linguistic, cultural and social aspects of this unique process, with special focus on the contribution of linguistic traditions and Jewish languages to the formation of the modern linguistic system. She is the author of three books, “The Early Hebrew Folksong” (2004, in Hebrew), “Hebrew in the Mandate Period” (2015, in Hebrew), and “Historical Continuity in the Emergence of Modern Hebrew” (2020). In addition, she co-edited “Linguistic Contact, Continuity and Change in the Genesis of Modern Hebrew” (2019) and “Usage-based Studies in Modern Hebrew: Background, Morpho-lexicon, and Syntax” (2020), and published more than 70 scientific articles in Hebrew, English and Italian. She has two daughters and a son.
“A Native of Poland Professing the Arts in London”:
The Unconventional Jewish Life and Thought of Solomon Yom Tov Bennett (1767-1838)

January 5 | 7:30 p.m.

Free for TJC members.
$10 for non-members.
RSVP at thejewishcenter.org/adulted

David Ruderman’s forthcoming book is the study of an epoch through the lens of an individual life. Solomon Yom Tov Bennett was a maskil, a Jew committed to the Enlightenment, who lived from 1767 - 1838. The book follows Bennett’s life from Belarus to Copenhagen to Berlin and London. Hear about his training in the arts and his career as an engraver, his transformation into a scholar and translator in London and then into an English literary agent.

Bennett was a special kind of maskil, a rebel from Jewish rabbinic norms and institutions. His beliefs were shaped in an English environment where interaction with the non-Jewish world was made easier and more accessible in a relatively liberal and open cultural environment with a keen interest among certain English elites in biblical and Hebraic studies. Bennett could not tolerate the arrogance and ignorance of the rabbinic establishment and acted defiantly against it, attempting to usurp its prerogatives and authority.

Bennett was a proud Jew who had little interest in Jewish rituals but held strong feelings about the literary integrity of Judaism, its spiritual mission, and its contribution to western civilization. His biblicism, his anti-monarchal views, and his emphasis on the spiritual essence of Judaism mark the very core of his proud Jewish identity.

We will explore Bennett’s abiding sense of the moral mission of Jews to the world along with his appreciation of diasporic Jewish life—a preference to be a stranger in a foreign land rather than a ruler of one’s own.

David B. Ruderman is presently the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History emeritus and the former Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of many books and three of them, including the last, won national book awards in Jewish history. He has also edited or co-edited five other books and co-edited two popular textbooks. Missionaries, Converts and Rabbis (2020) is his most recent book. He is a past president of the American Academy for Jewish Research and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored him with its lifetime achievement award for his work in Jewish history.
On the eve of the creation of the state of Israel nearly one million Jews lived across the Arab world. Today, at most, a few thousand remain, the vast majority of the members of these communities having migrated to Israel, Europe, and North America in the period between 1948-1967. However, prior to their mass migration, the Middle East and North Africa constituted a diverse and dynamic patchwork of Jewish communal life. This talk will provide a sweeping tour of the modern history of Jews from the Arab world, focusing on the vibrant centres of Jewish life across the region which flourished for centuries. Attention will also be paid to the reasons for the exodus of Jews from the Arab world, and the cultural remnants which remain within the Arab world to this day.

About the speaker...
Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah is assistant professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She received her PhD in 2019 from Leiden University and specialised in the modern history of Middle Eastern and North African Jewry. She is the author of numerous scholarly and trade publications including her recent monograph *Baghdadi Jewish Networks in the Age of Nationalism* (Brill, 2021).
The Extraordinary Journey of a Multiracial Jewish Family in Early America

Laura Arnold Leibman, Ph.D., from Reed College presents the fascinating story of Sarah Brandon Rodriguez and her journey from being an enslaved person in Barbados to entering New York's Jewish elite.

Laura Arnold Liebman, Ph.D.
Author of Once We Were Slaves.

Sarah Brandon Rodriguez

The Nidhe Israel Synagogue and Museum in Barbados.

- Thursday, January 20, 2022
- 7:30 p.m.
- To register email bethchaimrj@gmail.com

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Bible BaBoker

Saturdays | 8:45 a.m.

Bible BaBoker is a diverse community and carries on the Jewish tradition of Torah study in an open and respectful atmosphere. We strive for discussions based on reading Torah, other Jewish texts, and additional relevant resources from ancient to modern sources. Participants with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs deepen our understanding of Judaism, share insights and opinions, extract and develop wisdom, and consider our purpose in life, ethical principles to live by, and ways to be better human beings.

Prior Torah knowledge or background is not necessary and new participants are always welcome. Study with us each week or whenever you can make it! We look forward to learning together.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570201257?pwd=SncvMTTMvNkJOQkIGWWIlM0Z6cE52dz09
To be added to the BBB mailing list or for questions, contact Michael Goldin at mmgold18@yahoo.com.
December 21 -- *Strangers and Cousins* by Leah Hager Cohen

Walter and Bennie Blumenthal, presiding over the vibrant, anarchic family gathering brought to life in Leah Hager Cohen’s new novel, are preparing for a bittersweet landmark, their eldest child’s wedding. “Life is change,” Walter reflects, “and you can’t avoid or outrun change no matter where you go.” The irony in Cohen’s setup is that for this warm, accepting couple, the changes that are unsettling relate not to their free-spirited daughter Clementine’s impending marriage to her college girlfriend, nor even the frail health of Bennie’s beloved old (great-) Aunt Gladys, but rather their community’s upheaval about the recent influx of a group of Haredi, or ultra-Orthodox Jews, and the Blumenthals’ own related, not-yet-announced decision to sell their house. The couple’s other secret is the transformation taking place within Bennie, who is pregnant with their fifth child. Cheerful and lively, “Strangers and Cousins” is dense with themes, yet has a satisfying simplicity of setting. The story unfolds over five days at the Blumenthals’ rambling clapboard home in a rural town north of New York as friends and family show up to stay, to help and to complicate matters. Among the arrivals are Clem and her irreverent college pals, ahead of her bride-to-be; then come Bennie’s sister and brother, Carrie and Lloyd, without partners but with their respective young children.

“Strangers and Cousins floats on the waters of a society in flux, an America still trying to figure out who we really are. Cohen’s ability to acknowledge the agony of that strife in the context of a modern, loving family makes this one of the most hopeful and insightful novels I’ve read in years.”  

(The Washington Post)

All are welcome to join our Book Club Discussions.

Please contact Louise Sandburg for more information:

louise@sandsmith.com

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

**COMING SOON!**

*January 18 -- Akin* by Emma Donoghue

*February 15 -- An Unorthodox Match* by Naomi Ragen

*March 15 -- The Light of Days* by Judy Batalion
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—Avot De Rebbe Natan
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