

Vol. 86, No. 2 January/February 2023 Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5783

The Bulletin

1500 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA 19072-1195 610-667-5000 harziontemple.org



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

To volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Norma Dworkin (nldworkin58@gmail.com).

Volunteer Options on MLK Day Include:

Donation Sorting – 12-3 PM Help organize and sort donated goods for distribution to local charities.

Cook for a Friend – 9:30 AM-12 Noon Help prepare meals for those in need at the Klein Life Center and in our community.

Shul Stitchers – 1 PM- 3 PM We will be working on a project.

American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30 - 6:30 PM • Gorson Auditorium Reserve your spot today – call 1-800-REDCROSS, or contact Marilyn Becker, marilew@me.com.

If you don't have time or the items needed, you may donate to the Tikkun Olam Fund for a specific charity and the committee will happily shop for you!

Also gift cards or checks are acceptable.

We are currently accepting the following donations from Tuesday, January 3 through Sunday, January 15

There will be a cart out front of the main entrance for drop-off donations, or you can leave them at the front desk.

Please NO old electronics! We are unable to recycle these.

Narberth Food Bank - Non-perishables (not expired)

Villanova Career Center – Interview clothing for students – men and women

HIAS – Target gift cards or check registry, new smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits; new/gently used flashlights with batteries, stock pots, baking dishes and frying pans

Vietnam Veterans of America – Books, magazines, toys

Free the Girls - New or gently used bras

Laurel House – Cell phones, toiletries like full size shampoo/conditioner, razors, bar soap and/body wash, lotion, hand sanitizers, feminine hygiene products, diapers 5-6, baby wipes

Lions Club – Eyeglasses

Catholic Social Services – Kitchen items: sets of dishes, flatware, pots, pans, glasses, mugs, serving bowls and utensils, dish towels, small appliances, coffee pots. Bath items: gently used/new rugs, towels, mats, shower curtains, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent. Bedroom items: **New pillows only**, gently used/new blankets, comforters, twin or queen sheet sets

Francisvale Animal Shelter – clean towels, small unknitted blankets, cat/dog toys, food and treats (**not expired**), creamy peanut butter, biodegradable pickup bags, dog collars and leashes

Summers Home for Hope and the Mother Mobile – new and gently used clothing for men, women, teens, and infants, including accessories like shoes, ties, scarves, belts, jewelry, purses, etc

Table Tennis at Har ZionMessage from Rabbi Seth Haaz

I am delighted to share that I will be coaching Table Tennis for Team Philadelphia for the JCC Maccabi Games. As a teenager, I enjoyed competing against other Jewish athletes and felt great pride in my commun-

ity involvement and in my connection to world Jewry. I am grateful for the opportunity to share a sport that I love with others and to offer our youth the opportunity to compete at a high level, to make Jewish friends from all over the world, and to deepen their Jewish identity.

This summer, our teens will compete in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from August 6-11. JCC Maccabi expects each team in the Philadelphia Delegation to meet for several practices in the spring for the players to bond and hone their skills. While the Philadelphia Delegation is not exclusively comprised of Har Zion members, I plan to hold the practices at Har Zion. Please email me at <u>rabbihzt@gmail.com</u> to let me know if you are interested in this opportunity. Our team list needs to be finalized by February 1.

Please know that I am also starting a table tennis club at Har Zion, where our members (and friends) can play and practice regularly. This will be a great way to meet new friends, improve your skills, and have fun with your Senior Rabbi. While the teens competing in the Maccabi Games must be between 12 to 16 years old at the time of the competition, all ages are welcome to play in Har Zion's table tennis club – the more generations represented, the more fun we will have! Please email me if you are interested.

*In celebration of Israel@75, the JCC Maccabi Games are also sending various teams to Israel from July 5-25 for an incredible experience of competition along with a tour of Israel through the lens of sports. This trip looks amazing, and I am glad to provide more information upon request.

Nominating Committee Appointed

Dorene Karasick, Past President of Har Zion Temple, has been appointed chairperson of this year's Nominating Committee. Members of the committee include Michael Perlstein, Harry Sauer, Abby Siegel-Greenberg, Fredy-Jo Grafman, Jake Guzman, Sara Horowitz, Jessica Lazarus, Bill Landsburg, Meryl Littman, and Marcy Panzer.

In accordance with Article IX, Section 902 of the Bylaws, "Any member in good standing may submit to the Nominating Committee suggestions for names of candidates for election to the Board, provided that the suggestions are submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting," which will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

If you have any questions or are interested in having someone (including yourself) considered for nomination to the Board, please contact Dorene Karasick at <u>dorene</u>. <u>karasick45@gmail.com</u> or any other member of the Nominating Committee.

Ritual Matters

Message from Dr. Ely Levine,

Ritual Director and Scholar in Residence

One of the classes I teach here at Har Zion is called Jewish Books in Christian Bibles. In it, we explore texts that were written by Jews and for Jews, but which have been adopted primarily by Christians and have



been understood, interpreted, and shared with the world by Christians. We look at these texts that we "know" mean one thing and discover that they may have meant something very different two thousand years ago.

While everyone is welcome to join this class (and it has been received very positively by those who attend), I am not writing this in order to fish for more students. Instead, I am thinking about this because Purim is coming! What does Purim have to do with this? Purim is one of the few holidays whose inspiration is specifically about Jews interacting with non-Jews. In the story we reread every year in the Scroll of Esther, we tell about the struggle to fit into a non-Jewish world. For some good reasons, this is the holiday that most speaks to our contemporary Jewish condition. (Recently, we have even witnessed many more people than usual who would like to see us disappear!)

The connection with my class, however, comes from the issue of controlling the narrative. Who gets to tell our story? In the Scroll of Esther, it is Haman. He says to the king, "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them" (Esther 3:8). This is very different from how Esther or Mordecai would have told our story, had they been given the chance.

Similarly, when Christians read their Gospels, they see many critiques of Jews, bad-mouthing specifically the Pharisees. A word that identified one group within the Jewish community is redefined on the basis of the context in the Gospels to mean hypocrites, and then the word is expanded to refer to all Jews. By reading these texts as Jews, we can reclaim the terms, the ideas, and even the entire texts themselves, and help others to focus on how context *makes* meaning.

This is not to say that we could somehow eliminate antisemitism just by explaining ourselves better to others. I get the impression that a frank and open conversation would not have stopped Haman. No, but if we can tell our story, then we might better help to shape the general idea of Jews that exists in the cultural ether.

Before we can successfully share our story with others, however, we need to work on telling it among ourselves. Often, we have too simplified a version of the story that does not hold up to scrutiny. If that narrative is picked apart, we are left with nothing again. If we are prepared with a more sophisticated understanding – about Jewish identity, tradition and rituals, or Zionism – we can withstand and respond to critique. And we can come out stronger.



A Fond Farewell

Har Zion came together as a community to celebrate Hazzan Eliot Vogel's retirement the first weekend in November. As a culmination of "A Year of Interesting Music", the whole weekend was truly a joyous celebration of the man who has been the heart of Har Zion for 32 years. From the Latin-flavored Instrumental Shabbat on Friday night; to the friends and family-filled Shabbat morning service; to the Sunday afternoon gala – it was a Three-Day Festival of Love and Friendship. Over 500 Har Zionites came out to show their appreciation for Cantor Vogel.

Some fun memories from the weekend:

- Lingering in the lobby after services on Friday night, not wanting the evening to end....
- Dancing in a circle on the bimah around Hazzan Vogel during Adon Olam on Shabbat morning...
- Being greeted by a life-size cardboard cutout of Hazzan Vogel upon arrival on Sunday...
- Cantor and Karen speaking from the heart on the bimah, as their whole mishpacha shepped naches...
- Watching the three hysterical short films about "What's Next" for Hazzan Vogel...
- A Broadway-quality show from Divas on the Bimah on Sunday...
- Dancing and singing in the aisles at the end of the Divas' concert...
- Doing multiple *L'Chaims* with Vogel family and friends (we don't remember much after that) It was joyous!!!

We want to thank Morria Pedowitz, Nancy Grossman and Rachel Steerman, our co-chairs for the weekend. We want to thank the many co-chairs of prior events honoring Hazzan Vogel during 2022: Dorene Karasick and Nanci Goldman, Debbie Golden, Joy Landau and Susan Shapiro, Andrea Robbins, Samantha Rash Mizrachi and Sara Horowitz, Sarah Silver Luksenberg, and the wonderful Ruth Hirshey Lincoln (z"I). We will miss you, Ruth.

Thank you as well, to the many of you who generously made donations to the new *Hazzan Eliot Vogel Fund for Music and Cultural Enrichment*. The mission of the fund is to present programming which enhances the musical and cultural life of Har Zion Temple through concerts, guest artists, musical scholars-in-residence and lecturers. Hazzan Vogel will serve in an ex-oficio capacity on the steering committee (our way of keeping him around!).

And, thanks to our wonderful staff. Gavi, Rabbi Shawn, Norman, Jane and Emily – you made it work!

Dina & Eric Green

Finally, on behalf of the whole congregation, we want to express our love and gratitude to Hazzan Eliot Vogel for 32 years of service. We are better for having had you in our midst. You have been a rock of passion and compassion; a leader who exemplified honor, humor and respect for our traditions. We wish you the very best in your next chapter. Enjoy your family and get some well-deserved time to kick back...but please don't be a stranger!

Jeannie and Mark Cohen, Co-Chairs

A big Thank You to all who have contributed so far to help start up the fund...

Hallee & David Adelman Susan Appel Esther & Burton Balkin Joan Bari Lisa & Arthur Berkowitz Florence Bluestein & Peter Biberman Sandy Bonner Rabbi Gary & Laya Charlestein Sarah Chopnick **Eileen & Stephen Chopnick** Barbara Cohen Jeannie & Mark Cohen Karen & Stewart Cohen Sylvie & Warren Cohen Andy & Bill Coren Marcia Epstein Gary W. Falk & Lynn K. Shesser Jill & Mark Fishman Shelby Ford Rhoda & Louis Fryman Sid & Ken Geller Lydia Gesoff **Deborah & James Golden** Jennifer & Wayne R. Goldenberg Nanci Goldman & Steven Bergstein Gwen Goodman Christine Grad

Patricia & Richard Grobman Caren & Ian Harris Shelley & Steve Harris Jane & Irv Herling Sondra Isen Carol & Samuel H. Karsch Janice Katz Toba & Lawrence Kerson Cece Kessler Susan Tabor Kleiman & Robert B. Kleiman Jamie & Warren Klein Sheila & Barry Kliger Ana & Daniel Kolansky Sylvia Kreithen Laurie & Harry Landsburg Lynne & Bill Landsburg Sherman Leis Sara Beth & Ely Levine Margelle & Sheldon Liss Meryl & Gary Littman Michael Lopen Jennifer Porges & Joseph Manko Elise & Kenneth Martin Charlotte Muchnick Laura & Steven Nichtberger Sophie Okin

Sandra & Maxwell Paul **Eileen Porges** Joan & William Prensky **Cindy & Russell Reisner** Andrea & Ronald Robbins Maxine & Elliot Rosen Lori & Peter Rosenberg Sue Ellen Rosenblum Barbara Seletsky Liz & Billy Shaid Susan Shapiro Judy & Henry Shrager Fern Simon Tracey & Shanin Specter Etta & Ivan Szeftel Pamela & Charles Vinocur Juliet Spitzer & Philip Wachs **Reisel & Ellis Weinberger Sherrie Willner Deborah Wolff** Karen & Steven Wolfson Judy & Harvey Zalesne (List incomplete)

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

Please watch the weekly emails for more info and updates for these classes.

MONDAY

1 PM – NaKh: The Rest of the Bible with Dr. Ely Levine In-person and Zoom

We spend a lot of time on certain parts of the Bible – chiefly, the Torah. It is time to read through the Prophets and the Writings more carefully. Join this class to read and discuss the rest of the Bible. We will move at a comfortable pace, but include some deep exploration of texts. New participants are welcome at any time! We begin this fall with II Samuel and David taking the throne.

8:30 PM – Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein Zoom only

Call Gary (215-290-0405) if you need to pick up the text.

TUESDAY

10 AM – Experience the Joys of Yiddish with Gerry Spector Zoom only

Jan 17, 31; Feb 14, 28; Mar 14, 28; Apr 11, 25

These classes are aimed at all ages. Knowledge of Yiddish is not required. The emphasis is Yiddish culture, literature, theater and song. Language is taught using literary and musical examples.

Noon – Lunch and Learn Parsha Class with Rabbi Gary Charlestein (In-person at 1710 Romano Dr., Plymouth Meeting and Zoom)

8 PM – Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh

In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates Jan 24, Feb 23, Mar 21, Apr 20, May 16, Jun15

Warm, interactive, and challenging discussions related to the holidays and themes of each month are led by group members. For more information, please contact Meryl Littman, <u>merylitt@vet.upenn.edu</u> or Janice Katz, <u>rhk101@hotmail.com</u>.

WEDNESDAY

8:15 AM – TISCH with Rabbi Shawn – In-person and Zoom

Are you looking for a little traditional text first thing in the morning? If so, join Rabbi Shawn, the Rambam and friends from Har Zion as each week we work our way through the Rambam's Mishnah Torah. Whether you join us for shacharit before or not – come for the friendships, the learning and for the delicious breakfast we share together.

5:30 - 6 PM – Iyun T'fila with Rabbi Shawn – In-person and Zoom in the Main Sanctuary

Interested in learning more about the meaning of the words of the prayers and deepening your spiritual intent in prayer? If so, join Rabbi Shawn as we dive more deeply into our liturgy each Wednesday evening before minyan.

THURSDAY

10 AM – Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Ira Flax In-person and Zoom

Join us for an in-depth study of the Book of Exodus. Starting with the commentary of the Hertz and Etz Chaim Chumash, we will then delve into the insights found in the Talmud, Midrash, and the major commentators spanning the length of Jewish history. It's Torah as you have never studied it!

12:30 PM – Jewish Books in Christian Bibles with Dr. Ely Levine – In-person and Zoom

Ancient Jewish literature was quite varied. What Jews decided to preserve was just a small portion; Christians preserved many, many Jewish texts. Come read through some of these Jewish texts, including the Gospels, Jubilees, and Maccabees. See what other ideas Jews had that may not have been preserved in mainstream Judaism, other ideas that seemed to find a roundabout way into normative Judaism, and still other Jewish ideas that ended up being used against Jews.

7 PM – Open a Book...Open Your Mind Select authors will be a part of our Adult Ed sessions.

For the complete list of authors for 22-23, please see page 10 Admission is \$18/author, \$180 for the series – please visit <u>harzi-ontemple.ticketleap.com</u> to register and for more information.

FRIDAY

8:15 AM – *Mah Nishtanah?* with Cantor Jessica Silverberg In-person and Zoom

On all other days we read text, so why do we chant Torah? In this class, we will explore the "why" behind chanting Torah and other sacred texts. Topics covered include the history of cantillation, lyrical and grammatical functions of the *te'amim*, and how to incorporate these into our Torah reading practice. Please note that this is not a class for learning how to chant Torah; basic knowledge of cantillation is recommended but not required.

SHABBAT

Following morning services – Milton Pomerantz Interactive Torah Study

This participant-led and organized study group wrestles with the meaning of the weekly Torah portion.

Shabbat Talmud Class with Rabbi Gary Charlestein Saturday afternoon, one hour before Minha In-person only in the Rudofker Library This class is in addition to his Monday evening class.

ScholarStream Continues!

Offered by the JTS and Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

Registration is required by 10 AM the morning of each session – You can register at no cost, but you need to use coupon code: HarZion5783 to skip through the credit card/billing info. The Zoom link will be sent out to all those who registered.

Check the weekly emails for more information and to register for these FREE sessions.

Abiri Torah Project - Join Us on January 8 and 9

Please plan on joining us for the next great opportunity to fulfill one of the most meaningful but rarest Mitzvot – Writing a Sefer Torah. That is right! You will get to work hand-in-hand with a Sofer/Scribe to ink a letter in Har Zion's brand new Torah that has been commissioned.

Here are the words of one participant who got the chance to write in the Torah in November:

"It was truly a magical and spiritual journey. Everything about the afternoon was so thoughtful and so meaningful. I walked into shul expecting to have a really nice activity.... never expecting it to be such a thought provoking, soul searching and beautiful experience."

Mark your calendar to come and write in our Torah – January 8 and 9! Contact Rabbi Shawn (<u>rabbishawn@harziontemple.org</u>) with any questions.



ך אשית ברא אלהים את השמום ואת האריץ והארץ היתה תה ובתו וואשך על פני העדום ריול אללום מרואפת על פני המים וואשר אלהים יהי אור ווהי אור וויהי אלהים את לאור כי שוב





Adult Education 2022-23 at a Glance

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
NaKh: The Rest of the Bible with Dr. Ely Levine In-person & Zoom 1 PM	Joys of Yiddish with Gerry Spector Zoom only 10 AM	TISCH with Rabbi Shawn after Minyan 8:15 AM	Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Flax In-person & Zoom 10 AM	<i>Mah Nishtanah?</i> with Cantor Jessica Silverberg In-person & Zoom 8:15 AM	Milton Pomerantz Interactive Torah Study following morning services and/or Kiddush
Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein Zoom only 8:30 PM	<i>Lunch & Learn</i> with Rabbi Gary Charlestein at his office In-person & Zoom Noon	lyun T'fila with Rabbi Shawn 5:30-6 PM before Minyan	Jewish Books in Christian Bibles with Dr. Ely Levine In-person & Zoom 12:30 PM		Shabbat Talmud Class with Rabbi Gary Charlestein In-person only One hour before Minha
	Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh In-person & Zoom See page 8 for more info	ScholarStream Zoom Register in advance Check weekly emails for more info	Open a Book Open Your Mind In-person See page 10 for the full schedule		
Israel Education Class for Parents with Danny Stein Sundays at 10:30 AM – Zoom only Check weekly emails for more info and to register					





or any other letter in the Aleph Bet for that matter?







EDUCATION . . .



Hay class and their Better Together friends – empty-nesters from the congregation including Charlotte Muchnick and Sheila Kliger, their teacher Wendy Lebofsky, and high school senior and special Better Together helper Harvey Pennington.



The picture from the Geniza ceremony shows Benjamin Roitman and Jonas Berger handing a Sefer Torah to Dr. Schatz to be buried, supervised by Norman Einhorn.

JFGRS – Always Learning!

Message from

Dr. Michael Schatz, Assistant Director, JFGRS The winter season can be dull and dreary, but at the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School we keep the lights on!

Our children are all in the full swing of their learning by now, as our Bet and Gimel



students should be recognizing almost all of their Hebrew letters and decoding easy words, getting ready to be able to read prayers from a siddur. Our Gan and Aleph classes are learning Hebrew words through games and songs, getting ready to start reading in a year or so. And the older children are progressing through our prayer curriculum in order to be proficient daveners and participate in synagogue services. We celebrate our Gimel children's learning *Birkat HaMazon*, the Grace after Meals, with a family dinner on February 21. Each child is presented with a special *Birkon*, a song and blessing booklet that can be used at home. As our Aleph students will have made their Shabbat dinner-focused art projects and learned blessings, they too celebrate with a family model Shabbat "dinner" – complete with a special set table, brachot, and as befits a Sunday morning, a festive meal of yummy brunch food. This will be on February 12.

February also sees our Bet class trip to the Franklin Institute Fels Planetarium to see the special show Astral Almanac: A Festival of Light. This show highlights the way the moon and earth rotational cycles are recognized by Judaism and other religions, such as the way our holidays often fall on the New Moon or Full Moon.

Our Gimel class will be learning about the structure and design of a synagogue and will visit our magnificent Main Sanctuary for a full tour. Later they will have a trip to the northern suburbs to see how a different architect and congregation interpreted synagogue design with a visit to the world-famous Frank Lloyd Wright created Beth Sholom Synagogue in Elkins Park. Trip day for Bet and Gimel is February 12.

Outside Sunday and Tuesday school hours, our winter season sees the continuation of our Parents Night Out Saturday night programs, on January 21, February 4 and 25. Kids Shabbat, a Saturday morning kids' service and activity is on January 21 and February 11, and Family Friendly Fridays continue on February

10. Please join us and be a part of the community!



Olivia Markowich and Sophia Rosenzweig waving Lulav and Etrog.

6 = January/February 2023

Zachary Wuhl and Judah Berkman at a Petting Zoo for Parashat Noah.



NCCECE Is Always Evolving

Message from Sandi Toben,

Director of Early Childhood Education

The NCCECE is looking and moving towards the future in all facets of the school. From newly designed Thanksgiving celebrations to the additions of already strong safety protocols – our school is taking 'great' to the next level.



In November, I had the pleasure of attending the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in Washington DC. This conference brings early childhood educators and experts together from around the world to discuss new research, best practices, and how to tackle challenges ahead together. The conference was inspiring and reaffirming. The NCCECE is filled with dedicated staff that seek out best practices and collaboratively work together to continuously strengthen our programs. The conference reaffirmed our school philosophy that children learn best through play. While listening to experts and seeing real life examples of true play-based, student-led curriculum, I was excited to get back to Har Zion and share with the staff.

Most early childhood education centers today would tell you they are play-based and use student-driven curriculum. However, true play-based curriculum is not just kids playing in centers. Real play-based learning takes commitment to planning, depth of child development knowledge, and dedication to listening to students. Play-based learning means observing and listening to children play, knowing how to ask the right questions and present the right information to expand on prior knowledge and curiosities, all while steering the class to practice and master developmentally appropriate skills. It is hard work, and I am excited to have a team with me ready to dissect our curriculum, strengthen our programs, and truly establish the NCCECE as early childhood educational leaders in our field.

Change this important is an evolution over time. The NCCECE will always be learning, testing, planning, and implementing new concepts. In the education field, one thing is constant; the need to evaluate and incorporate ever-evolving best practices for our children. I am excited to be part of a community that believes in best practices and I look forward the NCCECE's future.

Camp Update from Diane Halpren

Har Zion Day Camp is looking forward to welcoming back all of our returning campers and meeting all of our new ones. The campers will be able to enjoy lots of fun activities, such as pony rides, moon bounce, yoga, nature, gymnastics, soccer, swim and much more. This year we will be including five days of hot lunch – I know that will make everyone's life a lot easier. We will also have the Kona Ice Truck at camp every Friday, which is a big hit.

If you haven't already signed up your child/ren, please do so now, as spots are filling up very quickly.

We are always looking for nurturing counselors, so pass the news along to anyone you know who wants a fun summer job. They can contact me at <u>harziondaycamp@harziontemple.org</u>

Har Zion Day Camp is the place to be...in the summer of 2023!!!!!!

Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

January

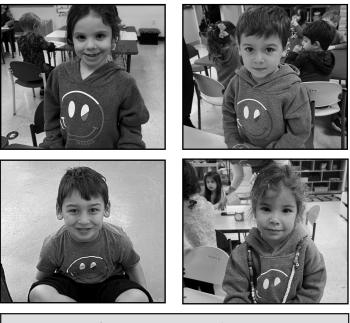
- 3 School Reopens
- 8 HSA Sunday Fun Day Shalom Chai, Garinim, Shorashim, 9 AM
- **13** Dismissal 12 PM (MLK Day weekend)
- **16** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No School
- 21 Tot Shabbat, 9:30-10:30 AM
- 27 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans Featuring Prachim, 5 PM

February

- 5 HSA Sunday Fun Day Prachim and Gan, 9 AM
- **6** Tu B'Shvat In-School Celebration Students only
- 11 Tot Shabbat, 9:30-10:30 AM
- 17 & 20 President's Day Weekend No School
- 26 HSA Sunday Fun Day All students , 9 AM

Save the Dates! Purim costume parade (Parents invited), festivities (For students only) – Tuesday, March 7 Passover Sederim (Parents invited) – Friday, March 30

Spirit Day at the NCCECE!



The NCCECE Needs You! Volunteer and Part-time Opportunities Are you or someone you know looking for something fun to

do? The NCCECE is in need of fun-loving people to sub in our classrooms. No need to have an educational background, you just need to love children!

We are in search of lunchtime volunteers, part-time aides, and substitutes. Please consider supporting our school with the gift of your time. Make connections with our students and staff while having fun in our classrooms.

If interested, contact Sandi Toben, Director of Early Childhood Education: stoben@harziontemple.org.

SISTERHOOD . . .

Celebrating 80 Years of Torah Fund

Message from

Michele Perlstein, Sisterhood President

This year, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Torah Fund began its 80th year. The theme of the Torah Fund Campaign for this milestone year is Chazak v'Ematz, which means "be strong and courageous" in Hebrew. This phrase comes from the story of the Israelites preparing to enter the Promised Land, when the leadership transitions from Moses to Joshua, and the Israelites and Joshua are urged to "be strong and courageous."

This theme of "transitions" seems very fitting at this point in time, as we have just transitioned to a new secular calendar year, and moreover, we have been transitioning to a post-Covid environment. As we all try to move forward as best as possible, the advice to "be strong and courageous" seems especially appropriate. Transitions can be difficult and challenging and we need to summon all our courage to make it through, but in the end they make us stronger as we come out the other side to face the future.

Your generosity and support of the Torah Fund Campaign will allow the five seminaries of the Conservative/Masorti Movement: Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, and Zacharias Frankel College, to continue to develop future rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue professionals, scholars, and lay leaders. In doing so, you are helping to strengthen our Jewish communities both locally and worldwide, which in turn will ensure that Jews everywhere have the support to be strong and courageous now and in the future.

Any donation to Torah Fund, at whatever level you choose, will make an impact. If you donate at the Benefactor level (\$180) or above, you will receive the beautiful 5783 Torah Fund pin. Women's League explains that the design of the 5783 pin "represents 80 years of ever-increasing strength of Torah Fund." (https://www.wlcj.org/about/torah-fund/).



Sisterhood's Torah Fund event will be held this year on Sunday, January 29, 2023. At this time, we will honor Sheila Kliger and Susan Kochman for their never-ending hard work and devotion to Sisterhood and Har Zion Temple. These two wonderful women have acted as Co-Presidents of Sisterhood for two separate

terms, developed the Open A Book...Open Your Mind program, and have been Co-Chairing it for 10 years, and have overseen many programs and events over the years, not to mention their willingness to help out whenever needed. Sisterhood would not be what it is today without these two ladies and we hope you will join us on January 29 to support Torah Fund and honor them.

If you have any questions about our calendar, events, programs, etc., or need more information, please contact me by email at: sisterhoodpresident@harziontemple.org

Sisterhood Calendar

Save the Dates

Sunday, January 29, 11 AM – Torah Fund Brunch

Friday and Saturday, February 24-25 -Sisterhood Shabbat Weekend

Sunday, March 5, 9 AM – Mishloah Manot Distribution

Sisterhood Torah Study with Rabbi Haaz Wednesdays, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 11:30 AM

Book Club Wedesdays, January 11, February 15, March 22, 12:30 PM

> **Open a Book...Open Your Mind** Thursdays, January 12 and February 9, 7 PM See page 10 for the complete listing

> > **Rosh Hodesh Group** Tuesday, January 24, 4 PM with Elliot Rosen (Zoom only) Thursday, February 23, 8 PM **In-person and Zoom**

Sisterhood Board Meeting Sunday, February 12, 10 AM

Bingo Night Monday, March 13, 7 PM

Floral Fund Donation Cards Minimum contribution: \$10 / Four for \$30 Questions? Please contact Janice Katz, 610-525-1101 or rhk101@hotmail.com.

See contributions page for Floral Fund donations.



December 14

TIKKUN OLAM . . .

A Big Thanksgiving Drive Thank You, by the Numbers

From Jeffrey Handen

Thank you for everyone's support and contributions for this year's Thanksgiving drive, as we get back to being able to handdeliver Kosher baskets to elderly, food insecure households in the Lower Merion and Ardmore areas.

This year we had:

• 50 Baskets (boxes) being decorated by our NCCECE pre-school and Gimel class. Thank you, Dr. Schatz, Sandi Toben, and teachers.

• 426 pounds of non-perishables purchased due to the generosity of the Har Zion community.

• An additional 50 pounds of food collected during the Sisterhood's Opening Dinner Kosher canned food drive!

• 5 of our caterers donating food to help fill the baskets: Betty the Caterer, Deluxe Kosher Catering, Leslie Rosen Catering, Nana's Kitchen & Catering, and Star of David Kosher Grill.

• Dozens of volunteer organizers, shoppers, packers, and drivers.

And a big thank you to all the individuals who provided funds, as well as the continuing support from the Frezel Family Tikkun Olam Fund and of course, our Har Zion staff who participated in this effort and without whom this could not have happened; Emily, Jane, Gavi, Tyhie, and Tee.

The baskets along with turkey dinners, centerpieces, and all the sides (stuffing, vegetables, challah rolls, kugel, cranberry sauce, nuts, pickles, apple sauce, juices, teas, cookies, pies, and more) were delivered to the recipients on Sunday, November 20.

Shul Stitchers – A Year of Giving

From Andy Coren and Connie Handen

Many, many thanks to our wonderful Stitchers who were able to provide warmth and a heartfelt hug to so many in the community.

Shul Stitchers has had a great year of choosing colors & patterns, knitting & crocheting, and creating special hats, scarves and many blankets!

Our recipients from HIAS and JRA which included some Ukrainian refugees, Laurel House, Life Center of Delaware County, and Main Line Hospice were thankful to receive our gifts stitched with love. Our awesome Stitchers impressively hand-made a total of 78 blankets, 9 hats, and 43 scarves!!

We are immensely grateful to our members for their time and talent and the community greatly appreciates what we are able to provide. Please consider joining us for a meeting as we look forward to another fantastic year of giving!!

Don't forget to join us on our **MLK Day of Service, Monday, January 16**! See page 1 for schedule of activities and collection information.

Shul Stitchers – Tuesdays at 11:30 AM: 2/14, 3/14, 4/18, 5/9, 6/13 and MLK Day 1/16 1-3 PM

Call Connie Handen at 610-659-3969 or Andy Coren at 610-585-1866 for information!

Cook for a Friend – Monday, 1/16 - 9:30 AM-12 PM; Sundays, 2/26, 3/5, 4/16, 5/7, 6/11 - 9:30-11:30 AM (9 AM Prep)

For more information, contact David Brownstein, <u>Cookforafriend@gmail.com</u>.





NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Amiad Shapiro, son of Maya & Ron Shapiro, brother of Hadar, grandson of Susan Shapiro, and nephew of Ben Shapiro. Amiad arrived on November 15.



Sophie and Asher Harmelin, children of Jenna & Nick Harmelin, sister and brother of Hank, and grandchildren of Janet & Andy Harmelin and Cathy & Bob Gross.

Sophie and Asher arrived on November 22. **Evie Pearl Kesselman**, daughter of Rachel & Paul Kesselman,

sister of Grey, Leo, Jake and Beau. Evie arrived on December 8.

WEDDINGS

Bryan Aaron Kirschner married Danielle Lily Assour on November 12. Bryan is the son of Hope & Lee S. Kirschner, and brother of Brittany & Blake Rosen. Danielle is the daughter of Merle & Isaac Assour, and sister of Hannah & Ben Assour. The wedding, officiated by Rabbi Haaz and Cantor Vogel, was held at 2300 Swanson Street Arena. Also sharing in their happiness is Great Aunt Joan Isaacson. Bryan is the grandson of Sharon & Paul Feigenbaum (z'l) and Bevery Yanoff (z'l).

Mara Dworkin married Will Flynn on November 19. Mara is the daughter of Norma & Jerry Dworkin, and sister of Ian (Misha), Leah and Myles. Will is the son of Betty & Ramsey Flynn of Maryland.

Do you have other good news to share? Just let us know: jfetscher@harziontemple.org.

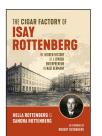
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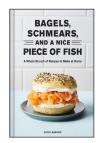
All programs will be in-person – check your emails closer to the program date.



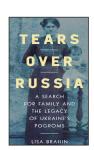












Thursday, January 12 7:00 PM Robert Rotenberg The Cigar Factory of Isay Rottenberg

Thursday, February 9 7:00 PM Isabel Vincent Overture of Hope Sunday, March 19 7:00 PM Craig Weiss and Jeffrey Weiss *Fighting Back*

> Monday, March 20 11:30 AM Luncheon Lynda Cohen Loigman The Matchmakers Gift

Tuesday March 21 1:00 PM Cathy Barrow Bagels, Schmears, and a Nice Piece of Fish Wednesday, March 22 7:00 PM Brian Morton *Tasha*

Thursday, March 23 7:00 PM Lisa Brahin Tears Over Russia



For reservations, call 610-667-5000, email us at openabook@harziontemple.org or go to harziontemple.ticketleap.com.

This program is brought to Har Zion Temple in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council.



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Everyone had fun at the Hanukkah Happening!











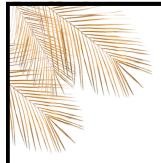
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