

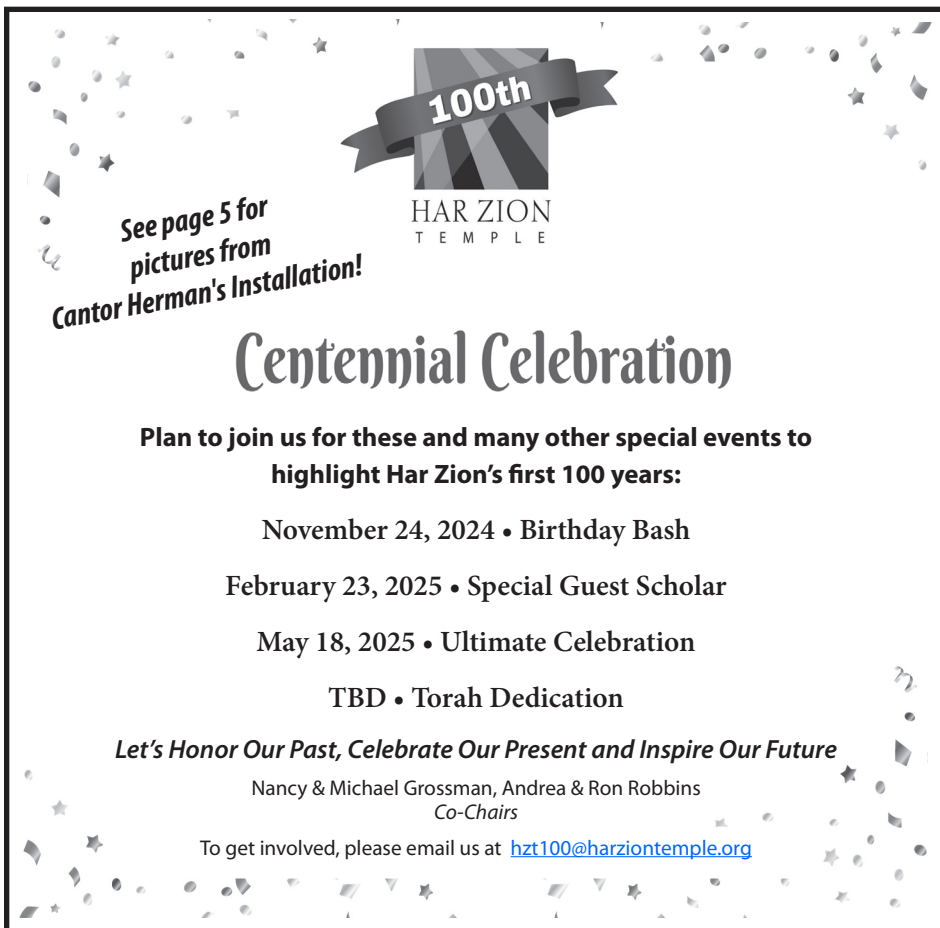


HAR ZION
T E M P L E

Vol. 87, No. 5 May/June 2024
Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5784

The Bulletin

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



See page 5 for pictures from Cantor Herman's Installation!

100th
HAR ZION
T E M P L E

Centennial Celebration

Plan to join us for these and many other special events to highlight Har Zion's first 100 years:

November 24, 2024 • Birthday Bash

February 23, 2025 • Special Guest Scholar

May 18, 2025 • Ultimate Celebration

TBD • Torah Dedication

Let's Honor Our Past, Celebrate Our Present and Inspire Our Future

Nancy & Michael Grossman, Andrea & Ron Robbins
Co-Chairs

To get involved, please email us at hzt100@harziontemple.org

Message from Rabbi Seth Haaz



I feel great gratitude for my role as Senior Rabbi of Har Zion and, in particular, for the unique vantage point from which I see our community. There is not a day that goes by where we do not touch the lives of multiple congregants in significant ways. We open hearts, open minds, heal wounds, and cultivate pride and joy. We bring families closer, create lifelong friendships, and deepen relationships with God.

I am the most fortunate member of our community because I witness the incredible impact of Har Zion each day. Each day is filled with *mitzvot* and miracles. And, when I consider that Har Zion turns 100 this year, I am in awe of the impact that our synagogue has undoubtedly had over its approximately 36,500 days. Many, many tens of thousands of people have attended our prayer services, life-cycle events, schools, classes, and programs. Thousands of our congregants have been inspired to lead the local Jewish community, build the city of Philadelphia, and contribute to a flourishing Israel. Global Judaism and the Greater Philadelphia area would not look like they do today without the blessings of Har Zion.

We, proud Har Zion members, have many achievements to celebrate, and we have much to look forward to in the next 100 years as our impact continues and expands. Please seize every opportunity to celebrate and dream with us throughout the wonderful Centennial events this coming year, and thank you to our talented, dedicated volunteers who are working tirelessly to make 100 so special.



What a Year This Has Been

Message from **Lynne P. Landsburg** and **Elliot Rosen**

As Elliot Rosen and I begin our second year as Co-Presidents of Har Zion Temple, I would like to update everyone on the exciting events of this past year.

It began in July with the arrival of Cantor Randy Herman, his wife Nicole, and children Kaya and Donovan. Cantor Herman, just our third full time cantor in the last 80 years, has brought an energy that is felt throughout the entire congregation. Cantor Herman's installation last month was an inspirational and joyous celebration.

We had wonderful High Holiday services. There was an extra Shofar service and celebration in the Sayer-Berkowitz Pavilion on the second day of Rosh Hashanah that was enjoyed by everyone who was there.

The Kramer entrance was officially dedicated on October 6 and
(Continued on page 2)



Presidents (continued from page 1)

is now the main entrance to our building. We thank the Kramer families for their generosity.

October also saw a visit of students and chaperones from Whitwell, TN. We were so happy to have them here after a long hiatus due to COVID. Our 20-year relationship with the students and citizens of Whitwell is a treasure.

A new Shabbat and Festival prayer book, *Siddur Lev Shalom*, was introduced this past fall. We thank the Green-Yudenfriend family for their gift which allowed us to acquire these prayer books. The gift was made in lovingly memory of Minya & Herb Yudenfriend.

We welcomed Rabbi Ira Flax, a familiar figure to our Har Zion community, in a new role. He will lend support to the congregation for pastoral care and life cycle events as our Chaplain. Rabbi Flax continues to teach at all levels of our lifelong learning. He will also occasionally deliver sermons on Shabbat.

Our Centennial Celebration, chaired by Nancy & Michael Grossman and Andrea & Ron Robbins started off with the beautiful installation of Cantor Herman. Thank you to co-chairs Jane & Irv Herling, Peggy & Joe Carver, and Samantha & David Mizrachi, and their committee. We look forward to the Birthday Bash, November 24, 2024, the Special Guest Scholar, February 23, 2025, and the Ultimate Celebration, May 18, 2025.

This year saw the implementation of the Lundy Inclusion Initiative. This is a unique intra-professional program that brings therapists and licensed professional services directly to our NCCECE families. This was made possible by a generous donation from the estate of Marvin Lundy. These expert consultants work with our staff to support our families' and students' needs appropriately. These funds also support the Madregot program of inclusive education in the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School.

Our world changed on October 7, 2023 with the Hamas attacks in Israel. In response to the horrors, we began to develop ways to support Israel and our community. We re-established our Israel Affairs committee, now chaired by Rachel Wachs. With support and contributions from all facets of our congregation we provided two generators to needed communities, warm jackets and tents for IDF soldiers, personal care items for displaced Israeli citizens, and many other large and small needed items. We heard from congregants who have visited and volunteered in Israel. We have hosted programs with Israeli volunteer, government, and military leaders, as well as survivors of the terrorist attacks and parents whose daughter was murdered on October 7. Rabbi Haaz and Rabbi Flax have delivered powerful, thoughtful and moving sermons each Shabbat. In the coming months, we will continue to support Israel and address the anti-Semitism that is happening around us.

A lot has taken place this past year at Har Zion but we are not finished yet. We continue to strive to make Har Zion Temple a place of warmth, learning, prayer, and belonging, with a sense of community for all our members. As the Centennial Celebration theme states: Let's Honor Our Past, Celebrate Our Present, and Inspire our Future."

2 ■ May/June 2024

Message from Cantor Herman

So here we are once again in the wondrous glory that is SPRING (late March as I write this)! The poet E. E. Cummings always springs (pun intended) to mind this time of year, from my high school junior year American Lit class:

*in Just –
spring
when the world is mud-luscious...
and puddle-wonderful...
and the goat-footed balloonman
whistles far and weeee!*



I often think of Jerusalem in the springtime, with the blossoming almond and olive trees on every street, their amazing perfume-scent wafting past as you walk through the neighborhoods...

There are certain *brachot* (blessings) that one is encouraged to recite upon experiencing the wonders of nature. This can truly create a wonderful moment – of connecting our awe of the beauty of nature to something larger, and of expressing a deep spiritual gratitude.

We have *brachot* that one recites upon seeing lightning or hearing thunder, seeing a rainbow, experiencing an earthquake, seeing a shooting star, seeing the ocean or mountains... A *bracha* generally praises God (which I sometimes prefer to call "The Eternal") for being the source of what we are experiencing, for having a mysterious, divine purpose behind all of creation, and simply helps us to connect wonder and beauty to Him/Her/It. I would like to share two *brachot* that are very useful in the springtime; I've already used them both this year – standing near my house, siddur in hand. The first is a blessing specifically for flowering trees (technically for flowering fruit trees, while in bloom but before bearing fruit), said ideally but not necessarily during the Jewish month of *Nisan*: *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, shelo chisar ba-olamo davar, uvara vo b'riyot tovot v'ilanot tovim, l'hanot bahem b'nei adam – Blessed are You God ... for creating good creatures and trees, and giving humankind pleasure with them.* The other *bracha* is more general, and may be used at various times throughout the year; it is recited upon seeing exceptionally beautiful trees, fields, or even people: *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, shekacha lo ba-olamo – Blessed are You Eternal One ... who created such beauty in the world.*

And while spring often marks new beginnings, this spring marks for me the near-end of my first calendar year at Har Zion. It's been such a wonderful year for my family and me – we already feel very much at home here. The NCCECE (pre-school) has been amazing for my two kids; much gratitude to Sandi Toben and all of the fantastic teachers – thank you for so masterfully helping us raise our kids! Also much, much gratitude to all of the staff here at HZT – you've made me feel incredibly welcome and comfortable – I truly love coming to work, thanks to all of you. And to our congregants – some of whom I see every week at Shabbat services, and all the others that I'm slowly but surely getting to know – we've only just begun! We're just getting warmed up! There's so, so, much more to come in our journey together – more music, more spirituality, more community, more learning. Have a wonderful summer – and stay tuned for info on a special HZ Shabbat Down-the-Shore!

Ritual Matters

Message from **Dr. Ely Levine**, Scholar-in-Residence and Ritual Coordinator

As Yom HaAtzma'ut approaches, we have been living through seven months of aftermath from the October 7 catastrophe.

Langston Hughes taught us what happens to a dream deferred. But what happens to a dream achieved? Nearly 150 years ago, Naftali Imber wrote the poem that was to become the anthem of the Zionist Movement and then of the State of Israel: *Hatikva*, "The Hope." "Our Hope is not yet lost | The Hope that is 2000 years old."

There is some irony in using this song as the anthem of the actual nation that was hoped for. It is, indeed, a delightful irony! A Jewish homeland in Israel is not just a hope anymore. So what do we do with all that hope once the hope has been fulfilled? Of course, we continue to hope for – to pray for – Israel's survival and security. But I think we can go farther.

We learn from American history that there is difference between ideals and reality. The United States was founded on high-minded principles of Enlightenment philosophy: consent of the governed, equal rights based on shared humanity, rule of law. As Martin Luther King Jr. continues to remind us through his most famous speech, the United States has not yet lived up to its creed that all are created equal.

Similarly, in Israel's Declaration of Independence, ideals were set forth that Israel will "foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the Charter of the United Nations."

As in American history, Israel's legislature and courts have determined that the lofty proclamations of the Declaration of Independence do not have actual legal weight. In most cases, it has been security concerns that have blocked these ideals. It is true that it is hard to live up to one's ideals in the face of threats and danger: is any of us really our best person while under stress?

On the other hand, while it is quite easy to imagine an ideal world when everything is perfect, we encode our ideals into documents like a Declaration of Independence for the hard times, not the easy times. We need Israel to secure its borders and recover the hostages while remaining true to its ideals. When we communally recite the Prayer for the State of Israel, let us consider what it means that Israel is the "beginning of our redemption." Let us think in specific terms about what it means to ask God to "guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth." When we join together to sing *Hatikva*, let us find ways to keep an *ayin l'tziyon tzofiya*, an eye looking toward Zion – our dreams, our ideals. We can encourage Israel to live up to its creed so that all of Israel's citizenry can enjoy being a free people in its land.



Shavuot 5784

Tuesday, June 11

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

7 PM – Pre-Shavuot session with speaker

8 PM – Shavuot Evening Service

9 PM – Dessert reception

One of three study sessions to begin at **9:30 PM**

Wednesday, June 12

9:15 AM – Morning Service

6 PM – Evening Service (Yizkor recited)

Thursday, June 13

9:15 AM – Morning Service (Yizkor recited)

8:50 PM – Evening Service

Watch your emails for more information

Kabbalat Shabbat with Saunders House Residents

Andy Coren and Maxine Waxman continue the Sisterhood tradition begun by Doris Grossmann (z"l) in 1988 providing a Kabbalat Shabbat service every Friday afternoon at Saunders House, a long-term care and rehab facility in Wynnewood. Our Kabbalat Shabbat services provides an opportunity for Jewish residents (and non-Jewish residents who choose to join us) to gather as a group. It brings them a sense of community that they don't otherwise have.

In addition to providing Kabbalat Shabbat services, we celebrate all the Jewish holidays in style. Annually, we host a festive musical Rosh Hashanah luncheon and a Passover Seder led by Hazzan Vogel. Additionally, we have special snacks, decorations and songs for our other holidays including; Sukkot, Hanukkah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim and Israel Independence Day.

Singing songs from our elderly residents' pasts sparks their memory and recall. Our group shares memories from their lives – even as far back as their youth. Remarkably, they remember the prayers and their accompanying tunes. On a weekly basis, the people in our group tell us how grateful they are that we come, lead the service and spend time with them. They look forward to our gathering and feel that this is the highlight of their week.

In actuality, this group means a lot to us as well. There is no comparison to the sense of fulfillment when we leave Saunders House each Friday.

We are honored to continue this tradition on behalf of Har Zion's Sisterhood – *L'Chaim*.

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 are looking at the end of King David's career and ready to move onto his successors.

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

Please call Gary (215-290-0405) if you need to pick up new text.

TUESDAY

12 PM – Study of the Book of Samuel with
Rabbi Gary Charlestein
In-person and Zoom
1710 Romano Dr., Plymouth Meeting

WEDNESDAY

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

Join Rabbi Shawn for inspirational learning. In this class we will engage in weekly Halakha (legal text) study from the Rambam's Mishneh Torah.

11 AM – Current Events: Contemporary Israel and Jews in
the News with Rabbi Shawn and Norman
In-person only – at the home of Patty Grobman
RSVP to Patty: pgrobman@comcast.net
May 1 and 22

Demystifying Antisemitism **in the 21st Century** **Thursday, May 30, 6:30 PM**

with Rabbi Mike Uram, *Chief Jewish Learning Officer*
Jewish Federations of North America

Antisemitism can be so complicated that it can seem like everything and nothing all at once. During our workshop we will demystify antisemitism and try to better understand what it is and how it functions. We will draw distinctions between the various strains of antisemitism and how it functions on the far right and the far left, how it is interconnected with other forms of hate and racism and how it is distinct. We will explore some of the classic antisemitism dog whistles and how they show up in American life today.

EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Watch your emails to RSVP

THURSDAY

10:30 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 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 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.

FRIDAY

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

This class will read, analyze and discuss contemporary issues and how they are handled in Teshuvot/Legal Responsa of the Conservative movement. No prior legal knowledge necessary.

SATURDAY

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 Mincha
In-person only in the Rudofker Library

This class is in addition to his Monday evening class

Mussar Journeys with Karen Kripke!
Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM (Zoom only)

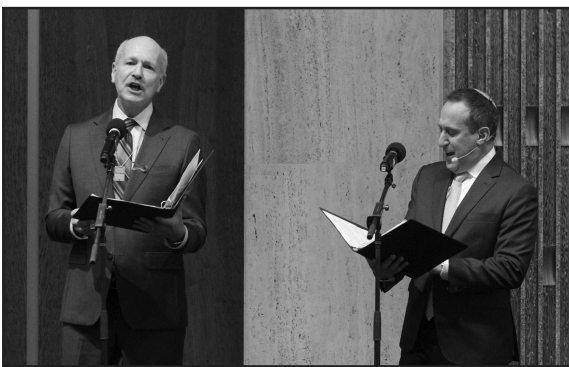
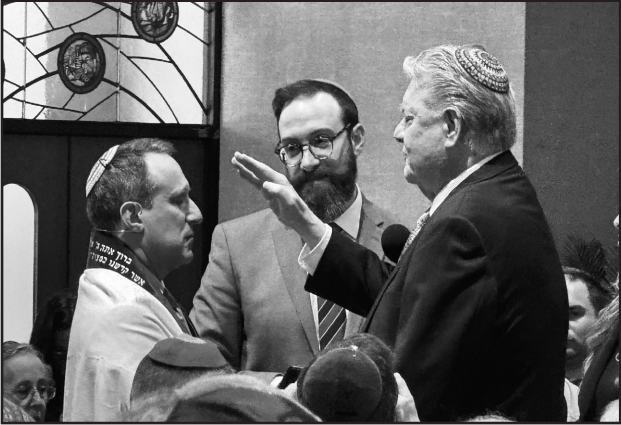
This class is full – if there is more interest, we will open another class. Please be in touch with Karen, kskripke@comcast.net or 610-574-1511.

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh – 4 PM

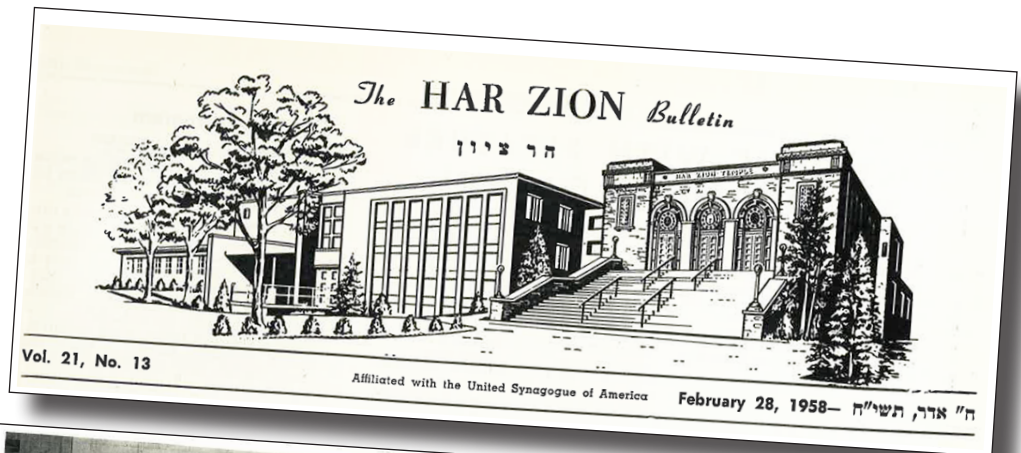
In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates
Tuesday, May 7 and Thursday, June 6

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, meryllitt@vet.upenn.edu or Janice Katz, rhk101@hotmail.com.

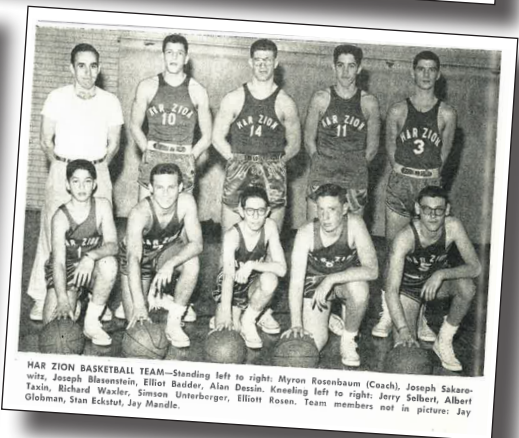
*What a wonderful day of music and community celebrating the
Installation of Cantor Randy Herman!*



Honoring our strong traditions, it is with great pleasure to take a look back at our glorious past.



SISTERHOOD CLOSING LUNCHEON COMMITTEE FOR PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS—Seated from left to right: Mesdames Hedore Shostack, Isadore Lefair, Jacob Staroff, Isaac Wall (Chairman), Elitzky Luncheon Coordinator, Jules Avneroff, Paul Epstein, Gerald N. Schoem, Harry Goldman, Max Glözman, Martin Meyer, Leon Sussman, Albert Benzer, Herbert Berg. Committee members not in picture are Mrs. William Greenfield and Mrs. S. Herbert Unterberger.



HAR ZION BASKETBALL TEAM—Standing left to right: Myron Rosenbaum (Coach), Joseph Sakowitz, Joseph Blasenstein, Elliot Seidler, Alan Dessin. Kneeling left to right: Jerry Selbert, Albert Glözman, Stan Eckstut, Jay Mandel. Team members not in picture: Jay Mandel.



CONFIRMATION AND ELLIS MIDRASHAH GRADUATION SET FOR SHAVUOTH

The 34th annual Confirmation Exercise will take place on Friday, June 12th, in the Main Temple, on the first day of Shavuoth. The march will take place at 9:00 A.M. Admission to this Service is by ticket only. Rabbi Balter and Cantor Wall will officiate at regular Shavuoth services on Friday morning at 8:45 in the Max Frank Chapel.

The 4th annual Commencement Exercises of the Abraham M. Ellis Midrashah will take place on Friday evening, June

12th, in the Main Temple. Services will be held at 6:00 P.M. following a Sabbath dinner, which will be served in the Gorson Auditorium. The ceremonies will be held after dinner. Rabbi Fritz Rothschild will be honored on the occasion of his appointment to the faculty of Pennsylvania State University.

On Saturday morning, June 13th, the graduating class will be called to the pulpit to be honored during Services in the Main Temple.



TIKKUN OLAM . . .

Shul Stickers

Shul Stickers has been busier than ever. Our group has sent several blankets and hats to the IDF Lone Soldiers. A special thank you goes to Rabbis Moriah and Shawn SimonHazani and to Maxine and Elliot Rosen who kindly transported these beautiful handmade items to Israel. Praying that the soldiers are kept warm by them and "feel our love."



We also responded to Temple Hospice's plea for blankets and hope to send them more once we have them completed.

Lastly, we sent baby blankets and hats to Lankenau's Maternity Care program.

So far this year, we have distributed 58 items to our local charities and abroad to Israel!

THANK YOU KNITTERS AND TRANSPORTERS!

WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE AND ALL THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DO!!

Cook for a Friend

Sunday, May 19

9:30 AM (Prep to begin at 9 AM)

For more info, contact us at
cookforafriend@harzientemple.org

MERCAZ USA

The Zionist Organization of Conservative Judaism that advocates for funding of pluralistic streams of Judaism in Israel through the World Zionist Congress.

To learn how you can help, contact
Debbie Zarwin Rose c/o HZT



NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Milo Beckham Goldstein, son of Jessica & Akiva Goldstein, brother of Riley, grandson of Rachel & David Steerman and David & Pearl Graub Goldstein; great grandson of Phyllis & Morton (z"l) Weinstock, Louise & William (z"l) Steerman, Dr. Milton & Evelyn Birenbaum Graub (z"l), and Gloria & Bernard Goldstein (z"l); nephew of Alix Steerman, Ariel & Gabe Amzallag, and Max & Andrea Goldstein; and cousin of Ava, Maya, Isaac, Ayal, Sophia and Olivia. Milo arrived on March 13.



Ruby Maya Carroll, daughter of Julie Cohen & Andrew Carroll; granddaughter of Jeannie & Mark Cohen, and Janice & Pat Carroll; niece of Amanda Cohen, Maggie & Chad Steiglitz and Hannah Carroll, cousin of Cal and Brody Steiglitz; great granddaughter of Maye & Boris Cohen (z"l). Ruby arrived on April 17.

Noah Blaze Drotman, son of Sara & Spencer Drotman, brother of Theo, grandson of Margie & Jeffrey Honickman and Myra & Scott Drotman, great grandson of Lynne & Harold Honickman and Shelly & Stanley Kramer (z"l), nephew of Mauri Honickman and Cassie & Bill Farrant, great nephew of Jill & Lenny Feinberg and Eileen & Robert Kramer. Noah arrived on April 19.

Big sister Goldie and parents Aurora Greenberg & Gil Schpero joyfully announce the birth of their daughter **Louie Sima Schpero**. Louie is the granddaughter of Leta Shubin, great granddaughter of Gladys & Aaron Shubin (z"l), niece of Jay Greenberg, and great niece of Andy & Bill Coren. She is named for her dear aunt Laurie Shubin and beloved great uncle Saul Magram, as well as great grandfathers Morton Greenberg and Morton Schpero. Louie arrived on April 24.

ENGAGEMENT

Colbi Furman is engaged to James Wyatt. Colbi is the daughter of Ellen & Scott Furman, and sister of Zoe. James is the son of Mercedes & Sonny Wyatt of Tampa, Florida, and brother of Jason. A spring 2025 wedding is planned.

MAZEL TOV!

On April 21 at the Kaiserman JCC, **Adam Sherman** and sons **Matthew** and **Corey** were inducted into the Maccabi Hall of Fame. Proud wife and mom is Michele, daughter and sister Mackenzie, and Matthew's wife Rachel.

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

The Nominating Committee has placed the following names in nomination for the terms indicated:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – election for three-year term expiring in 2027:

Peggy Carver Abby Siegel-Greenberg Sara Horowitz

Election will take place at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7 PM

In accordance with Section 904 of the By-laws, "additional nominations for the position of Director may be made only by petition signed by at least fifty (50) members in good standing.... All petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Congregation at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. If additional nominations of eligible candidates are made by petition, as herein provided, notice of the names of all candidates so nominated shall be posted at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting." Such petitions should be sent to the synagogue office, attention Cindy Reisner, Secretary.

EDUCATION . . .

Message from

Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal JFGRS

The post-Pesach spring months bring us near the end of another year of Jewish learning and living in the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. Our children have thrived in our enriching program, learning, exploring, creating, davening, singing, dancing, sharing and, did I say, LEARNING?!

The spring months have included our second annual Dalet Museum of Jewish Family heirlooms, which included a very special Sefer Torah written by the great, great grandfather of one of our students who was the Shammash of Har Zion when we opened 100 years ago! We celebrated Purim with a day of fun activities, we held our biennial Keiser-Wilf Religious School Pesach Seder, helping our children learn the many songs, prayers and blessings of the Haggadah to share at their families' sedarim. We joyfully participated in the installation of Cantor Herman with a special song. Aleph students led a Shabbat "seder", showing the *brachot* they know, and using the kiddush cup and candlesticks they made. The Gimel class learned *Birkat HaMazon*, and recited it beautifully at a special dinner. And we did much, much more each day of our school.

In the coming weeks, our Bet students will receive their first siddur at a special dinner, our Gan, Aleph and Bet children and their families will participate in a JRA food distribution, all of our lower school children will participate in a Zimriyah-Rikudiah, a song and dance festival celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut and the 76th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. We culminate our year with a closing program during which our Dalet students receive their own Tikkun, a special book for practicing Torah chanting. Hay students will receive a Chumash, and Vav students a siddur, each with their names embossed. In this way, we help to build a personal Jewish library for each of our Har Zion religious school students.

During the quiet summer months, we hope that our JFGRS families will have some relaxing family time, and that our children will be preparing for another great year of Jewish learning. Our NCCECE graduates will be welcomed into the religious school, our rising eighth graders will join with other Jewish teens from neighboring Lower Merion synagogues in the LMAHH high school on Tuesday nights, and everyone in between will be continuing in our outstanding school program, building more skills and values onto the base they have acquired.

Leah Luksenberg with her grandmother, Kathy Silver, showing Leah's display at the Dalet Museum of Jewish Family Heirlooms.



Leah Luksenberg with her grandmother, Kathy Silver, showing Leah's display at the Dalet Museum of Jewish Family Heirlooms.

Message from Sandi Toben,

Director of Early Childhood Education

The last two months of the school year always seem to pass at the speed of light. They are filled with events that showcase our students' growth, honor our teachers, and celebrate our wonderful NCCECE community. With so much joy to fill each day, it is no wonder why our school days seem to fly by.

This school year has been marked by wonderful HSA supported events, a transformative new program, and so much collaborative teamwork among our amazing staff. I have enjoyed being a part of each day along the way.

In April, our Purim Parade was a party! The children were so excited to show off their costumes as their parents watched along the outdoor route. The Purim play and carnival were a hit thanks to our crew of parent volunteers. We also celebrated Passover where the students performed songs along with a Senior Staff Passover play. The HSA is planning a great Yom Ha'atzmaut, final Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans and End-of-Year celebrations.

Our Lundy Inclusion Initiative had an impactful first year at the NCCECE. Our team of therapists under the supervision of our new Director of Student Services, has brought education, ideas, and change to each of our classrooms. Our staff, students, and families have benefited from direct services, streamlined and more robust communication, and quick access to professional feedback. We look forward to this program continuing and growing next year.

This past school year, I have also had the pleasure of seeing our teaching staff be a supportive community for all the highs and lows we experience together and personally. I have seen our teachers embrace our new staff members, lean on each other and encourage each other. They love our school and show up each day with a smile and a plan to create happy, engaging activities. I am proud of our NCCECE community.

This year does, sadly, mark the end of our Kindergarten program at the NCCECE. We had an amazing program led by Miss Joy and Miss Patty. They both are excellent educators who were always in the pursuit of the best evidence-based curriculum for their class, were always adjusting their units of study to suit their students' needs and interests, and were always advocating for the very best for each of their students. Any student who had the privilege to be in their Kindergarten class should consider themselves lucky. The NCCECE also considers themselves lucky because Miss Joy will continue to be a part of the NCCECE as a Pre-K teacher next year. We wish Miss Patty the very best as she pursues goals outside of the NCCECE and hopes she comes back to visit us! While our Kindergarten chapter closes, we are looking forward to a full NCCECE next year as we welcome students starting at 15 months old and welcome back some of our Pre-K students to a special Pre-K Plus program. Next year promises to be another transformative year for our NCCECE programs.

The NCCECE had a wonderful and successful school year. I am grateful for everyone who had a hand in making it all happen and I cannot wait for next year!



Everyone had fun at the NCCECE Seder!



**Upcoming
NCCECE/HSA Events**

May

- 6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10 Teacher Appreciation Day – 12 PM Dismissal
- 13 Yom HaAtzmaut In-School Celebration for students only
- 15 Parent/Teacher Conferences – 12 PM Dismissal
- 24 Lag B'Omer celebrated in School for students only – 12 PM Dismissal
- 27 Memorial Day – No School
- 31 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans – featuring Garinim and Shalom Chai

June

- 7 Prachim Move up Shabbat – 11AM
- 10 Gan Graduation – 5 PM
- 11 Last Day of School – 12 PM Dismissal, HSA Picnic to follow
- 24 First Day of Camp!

SISTERHOOD . . .

Sisterhood Update

Message from **Michele Perlstein**, Sisterhood President

As I sat down to write this *Bulletin* article it struck me that this will be the last one I write as Sisterhood President, as my term will be ending in June and a new Board and slate of Officers will be installed. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President for the past two years which were both challenging and uplifting in many ways.

When I began my term two years ago, my goal was to move us out of COVID into more in-person programs and activities and we did in fact do just that. I am thrilled with the way my fellow Officers, Board members, and Sisterhood general membership embraced the opportunities to meet up in-person again as much as possible. Things were looking bright as I began my second year last summer, and as we were making our way through the High Holidays of 2023, Sisterhood was excited and raring to go with our upcoming programs and events.

Then the terrible events of October 7th happened. While we were all feeling hopelessness and a sense of shock over what happened in our beloved Israel, I am proud to say that the members of Sisterhood stepped up immediately and took action. By the end of November, Sisterhood had instituted our "Sisterhood Sends Love and Comfort to Israel" campaign which was a huge success thanks to all of your support. (I described the details of this campaign in the March/April *Bulletin* so please see my article there for more information). In addition to this, Sisterhood continued with all of its other regularly scheduled programs, events, and activities. I am so grateful for the way we all came together during these extraordinary times to make Sisterhood a bright spot in our world.

I want to thank the Sisterhood Officers, Board of Directors, and all the volunteers who have supported me and the Sisterhood these past two years. It is because of all of you that our Sisterhood is such a success.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dorene Karasick, has worked hard to finalize the slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the upcoming 2024-2026 term. The new slate will be sent to all Sisterhood members via email.

Look for your invitation in the mail to our Closing Brunch and installation of Officers and Board of Directors on Tuesday, June 4.

Making Challah Covers with Maxine Rosen Wednesday, May 15, 1 PM

Please join us as Maxine Rosen helps us make challah covers to be used at synagogue Shabbat dinners. Bring your talent and we will have fun and dessert afterwards.

**We are limited to 24 people – ONLY THOSE WHO MAKE
A RESERVATION, will be able to participate.**

**RSVP to Sheila Schafer,
Lssch@comcast.net or 610-645-5461**

Sisterhood Calendar

**Trip to JTS with Rabbi Haaz
Thursday, May 2**

**Rosh Hodesh Group
Tuesday, May 7, 4 PM (Zoom/In-person)
Rabbi Alan Iser, St. Joseph's University
Thursday, June 6 (Place TBD)
(Zoom/In-person)**

**Sisterhood Book Club
Wednesdays, May 8, June 19, July 17, 12:30 PM**

**Making Challah Covers with Maxine Rosen
Wednesday, May 15, 1 PM**

**Sisterhood Board Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 10 AM**

**Closing Brunch and Installation of Officers/Bd of Directors
Tuesday, June 4, 11:30 AM**

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.

New Officers for 2024-2026

<i>Honorary President</i>	Michele Perlstein
<i>President</i>	Dr. Meryl Littman
<i>VP Membership</i>	Rachel Steerman
<i>VP Programming</i>	Aimee Silverman
<i>VP Ways & Means</i>	Robin Zatuchni
<i>VP Gift Shop</i>	Marilyn Becker, Helene Nelson, Maxine Schwartz
<i>Recording Secretaries</i>	Jean Clemons, Marian Levine
<i>Social Secretary</i>	Janice Katz
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<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Lynne Landsburg
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Michelle Strayer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Judy Workman
<i>Advisors</i>	Bonnie Rose Schulman, Nicole Herman, Karen Vogel, Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani

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Celebrating Purim and Supporting Israel...

A Successful Year for our Mishloah Manot Fundraiser

We greatly appreciated everyone's overwhelming support of our Sisterhood Mishloah Manot fundraiser! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts... whether you stuffed, delivered, or purchased bags. We hope you all enjoyed the items in the bag that were specially selected to represent our love and support of Israel. We also hope you like the tote bags that we ordered special this year and that you will be able to use them for many years to come.

Many thanks to our hard working team: Happy Purim Administrator and VP of Ways & Means, **Robin Zatushni**, who spent many hours on the Happy Purim site and guiding others through it; chair **Ellen Novick** whose support made running this big undertaking look easy; **Andrea Robbins**, who put all the routes together for our drivers; **Jane Fetscher Kontopodias**, who edited and managed all the information for our packages; and **Gavi Miller**, who collated and printed all the letters that go into the packages.

Thank you to all our congregants who purchased Mishloah Manot bags to send to family and friends and to the personal contributions to support this Sisterhood project. All donations will allow us to continue providing programs, events, and support our Synagogue, greater Jewish community, and Israel, ensuring they thrive for many years to come.



We could not have accomplished our mission without our devoted volunteers. *Yasher Koah* to our team of busy hands who helped us put the hamantashen into plastic bags and pack the bags with all the items: **Andrea Coren, Connie Handen, Dorene Karasick, Sheila Kliger, Susan Kochman, Lynne Landsburg, Marian Levine, Ellen Novick, Michele Perlstein, Meryl Raskin, Robin Seeherman, Penny Shuman, Aimee Silverman, Judy Weinberger, Reisel Weinberger, Sherrie Willner, Deborah Wolff, Robin Zatushni, and Beth Zemble.**

We were so fortunate to have the Dalet students from the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School participate in this *mitzvah*, with the support of their teachers, **Debbie Flax** and **Shulie Taban**, along with **Dr. Michael Schatz**, Principal of the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. The kids were so eager to help and they made the process go faster and more fun.

Our team of expert drivers navigated their assigned routes with ease, delivering 511 packages to their final destinations – the homes of our Har Zion friends and family: **Marilyn Becker, Pamela Berman, Eileen Chopnick, Lita Cohen, Elan & Jodi Elkiam, Faye Goldman, Judy Guzman, Melinda Hochberg, Dorene Karasick, Madelyn Karasick, Harrison & Rachel Keiser, Susan Kochman, Lynne Landsburg, Marian Levine, Amy Mankowitz, Marilyn Mayro, Julie Mezrow, Ellen Novick, Michele & Michael Perlstein, Rachel Porat, Meryl Raskin, Maxine Rosen, Esther Schwartzman, Harvey Sklaroff, Suzanne Waldman, Reisel & Ellis Weinberger, Judy & Alan Workman, and Robin Zatushni.**

Finally, I'd be remiss if I did not mention that this Purim project would not be a success without the dedicated members of our Har Zion Sisterhood, community, office staff, and maintenance crew (with a special shout out to Afrim and Tenzin). Thank you all for your continued support and *Yasher Koah* to another successful year!



B'shalom,

Michele Perlstein, Ellen Novick, and Robin Zatushni

Let's Talk Mental Wellness

Thursday, May 23rd at 7PM

Hosted by Har Zion Temple
1500 Hagy's Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA 19072

Join Tikvah and Har Zion Temple's Inclusivity Committee for a peek into the world of one man's journey with bipolar disorder and a discussion about local mental health resources.

The program will include:

- A performance of Michael Solomon's play Half a Bike.
- Resource presentations from JFCS, NAMI Main Line, and Tikvah
- Light refreshments will be provided

There is no admission charge but a recommended donation of \$5 to benefit Tikvah is requested.

(215) 832-0671 | email at Office@tikvahajmi.org | inclusivity@harziontemple.org.



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In the spirit of community, multiple Jewish congregations and organizations will join to celebrate Pride month with a summer BBQ picnic. As Jewish organizations, we affirm our commitment to welcoming and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community through our sacred spaces and actions.

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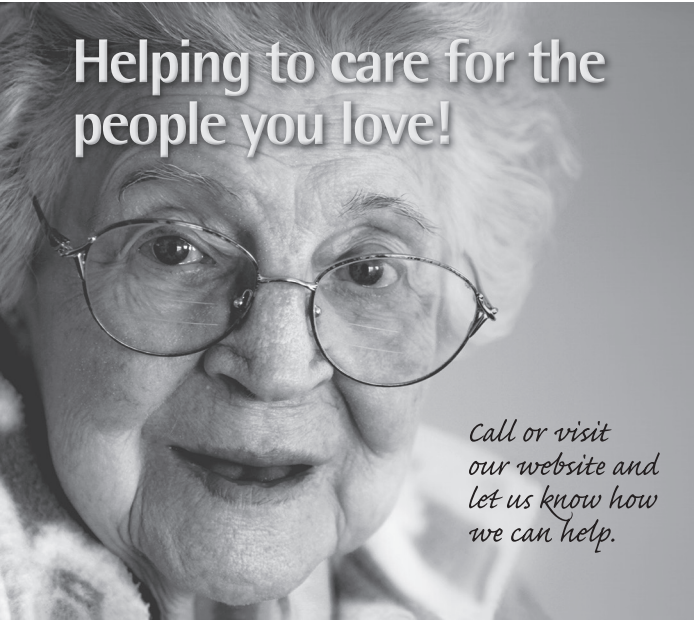


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Kosher BBQ, water ice, and other summer snacks will be served. Activities for people of all ages, including arts and crafts, performances from local LGBTQ+ Jewish talent, a moon bounce, and more!

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