



HAR ZION
T E M P L E

Vol. 88, No. 5 May/June 2025
Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5785

The Bulletin

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



The Ultimate Celebration
HOWIE MANDEL
LIVE AT HAR ZION TEMPLE

SUNDAY, MAY 18
Dinner - 5:00PM | Show - 7:00PM
Dessert Cocktail Celebration to follow

 **RESERVE
YOUR SPOT**

Presidents' Reflections

Message from

Lynne Landsburg and Elliot Rosen

It's hard to believe two years have gone by since Elliot Rosen and I were installed as Co-Presidents of Har Zion Temple. So much has happened in these two years. It began with Cantor Herman and his family coming to Har Zion and concludes with the premier of the Har Zion documentary at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 27, with so much in between. This past year has been filled with celebrations, hard work, and meaningful change. Beginning in April, 2024 and continuing over this last year, we have celebrated 100 years of Har Zion.



We had a moving and inspirational installation of Cantor Herman, a spirited and uplifting dedication of the Abiri-Jean Torah, the fun and joyful Birthday Bash, the incredible weekend with Rabbi David Wolpe and the Wolpe brothers, along with the Museum display of artifacts and memories from our past, and the Magical concert with Cantor Herman. We look forward to the Ultimate Celebration with Howie Mandel and the world premiere of the Har Zion documentary at the Annual Meeting. We thank the Centennial chair people, Nancy & Michael Grossman and Andrea & Ron Robbins for their vision and hard work. They made sure we had a year of incredible celebrations. We are also so grateful for and thank all the chair people and committee members of each fabulous event.

We continue to have outstanding professional staff and clergy. Cantor Herman has led us in several Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat musical services and introduced an alternative "Spirit Shabbat" service on three Saturday mornings which were enjoyed by all who attended. On Saturday mornings when we have services in the Dogole Chapel, Rabbi Haaz spends part of the service with our younger children and their families. They play, sing songs, and have a mini-Kiddush. The children then join in the Torah procession carrying their small Torahs as we return all the Torahs to the Ark. Shabbat and Holiday services are always followed by Kiddush. No other synagogue has a Kiddush like we have. Thank you Joy Landau, Maxine Rosen and all their many helpers who keep us well fed. Rabbi Haaz, Cantor Herman, and Rabbi Flax have begun visiting several Senior communities to bring teaching, joy and comfort to our congregants who have some difficulty or are unable or to come to Har Zion in person. Mike Greenspoon, our Marketing Director, has done a great job improving all aspects of our communications and public relations. On a sad note, we will be saying goodbye to Jane Kontopodias, our Communications Coordinator, as she retires at the end of June. I am glad for Jane but sorry for Har Zion as Jane has been a beloved and important part of our staff for over 30 years. Jane, we wish you much happiness in your retirement but we will miss you very much.

We have continued to support Israel thru our fundraising for various needs as well as supporting Kibbutz Alumim, Philadelphia Federation's Adopt a Community Project. We had a very moving ceremony on October 23, 2024 when we honored the memory of those killed on October 7, 2023 on the first Yahrzeit of their

BE THE FIRST TO SEE THE PREMIER OF THE HAR ZION DOCUMENTARY!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
ANNUAL MEETING ON
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 AT 7 PM**

**We will have a brief meeting, including the
Election of new Board members,
Officers, and Trustees
followed by the premiere of the
Har Zion Documentary,
produced by Sally Mitlas.**

Dessert reception to follow

deaths. Also, thanks to our Israel Affairs Committee and especially Deborah Rose, we had an energized campaign to encourage everyone to vote in the World Zionist Congress elections for the Conservative Movement Mercaz party.

Har Zion would not be the great congregation it is and has always been if not for the members who volunteer in every aspect of our congregational life. Thank you to the Officers, members of the Board of Directors, Past Presidents, and Trustees for your leadership and support of Elliot and me. Thank you to all the volunteers who chair and serve on Har Zion's committees. Your names and the committees you serve on are not always noted, but your contributions are invaluable to the workings of our congregation. A special thank you to Jane Herling and the members of the By-Laws committee who worked for the past year to revise the By-Laws to be relevant and to meet the current and future needs of Har Zion. One of my favorite quotes is by an unknown author who wrote, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." Thank you to all of Har Zion's priceless volunteers!

Elliot and I are also grateful to everyone who generously contributed to our Annual Campaign. Your contributions helped cover the costs for our Centennial Celebration events and all the various other needs not covered in our budget, including additional security improvements which allow our members to feel safe and comfortable coming to Har Zion.

It has been an honor for Elliot and I to have served as Co-Presidents of Har Zion these past two years. We know the next administration will continue the great legacy that has been here for the past 100 years and will move us forward towards the next 100 years.

Celebrating a Year of Adult Jewish Learning

Message from **Cantor Randy Herman**

Over the past year, four amazing Jewish adults here at Har Zion have been studying regularly with me. They learned to chant Torah and Haftarah in Hebrew with trope (chanting symbols), studied the Torah and Haftarah in English, sang the special musical psalms of the Hallel section of the service; we spent time studying the Shema, the silent prayers (Amidah), and the structure of services. These adult students also had learning sessions with Rabbi Haaz, Rabbi Flax, and Dr. Levine.

We called this group the Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class, but for the life of me we have to come up with a better and more accurate name! This type of learning is not the same as actually becoming a bar or bat mitzvah, which happens at age 13 – even if some elements of the learning experience are indeed the same. This class was for any Jewish adult – from those who had already had their bar/bat mitzvah and wanted to relearn forgotten skills, to those for whom much of this information was brand new. Our four students all came from different backgrounds, with a wide variety of synagogue skills and Jewish knowledge. We learned many things together as a class, and at other times went at a more individual pace.

Our year of learning is coming to a close, which means – it's "graduation" time! The joyous culmination of our yearlong adult learning class will take place on the first day of Shavuot – Monday, June 2. The four students – Penny Shuman, Sherrie Willner, Eileen Chopnick, and Ellen Pries – have each brought a rich, mature life-sensibility to the group; they've all been a joy to work with, and each one has had a profound experience. They will participate in the service, some will speak and teach, and best of all – they will sponsor a fabulous dairy Shavuot Kiddush lunch (for anyone who doesn't know – Shavuot is all about blintzes and cheesecake).

Come and get inspired as we celebrate the receiving of our Torah, along with some very special students, on the first day of Shavuot – Monday morning, June 2. Day two Shavuot services, including Yizkor, are on Tuesday, June 3. (See page 4 for more.)



Ritual Matters

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

I started my *Bulletin* column a couple of years ago by quoting the Mishna from the beginning of tractate Rosh Hashanah: There are four new years every year. Different aspects of our lives cycle, start over, or are measured at different times of the year.

Academic years begin in the fall, some of us view seasons as beginning in the spring. For those who prepare people's tax returns, April 15 is the big day.

Writing this, as I am, with Pesah on my mind, I think of the annual tradition as both a marathon and a sprint. But, it usually seems to me, the end of Pesah is when I feel the most liberated. Put the matzah away, change back the dishes and utensils, and resume using the kitchen tools that are the first-string tools for a reason, and I can begin cooking and eating like I normally do (a lot of legumes and grains). How can it feel both like Passover is the season of our liberation and it is the thing which we need to be liberated *from*?

The problem is that with circles, there really is no beginning or end. Does a day begin when we wake up? At midnight? At sundown? Do we look at world history as a bunch of wars punctuated with moments of peace, or as periods of peace punctuated by war? Are school and work interruptions to our relaxation, or is vacation the exception to work and school? Do we think of the Jewish calendar as holidays with space in between, or as a lot of normal days punctuated with some holidays? Of course, the answer is YES.

This May/June issue of the *Bulletin* comes at the end of our synagogue programming year. We are ramping down for the summer, and we are already gearing up for the High Holidays in the fall.

As individuals, we often use new-year rituals to take stock and refocus. In our morning prayers, we describe God as the one who renews creation each day. Each day becomes the beginning of a new year, a new cycle. Each day is a chance to start fresh, shedding the baggage of what came before.

Time is important. Some aspects of it are built into the fabric of the universe. (The Torah recognizes this too!) But much of how we talk about time is a construct: something that we have imposed on ourselves in order to help manage our lives, and to help us all work together. We all celebrate Yom Kippur on the 10th of Tishri because it is important to go through certain things with community. But we should not feel limited by this construct. We should not feel that we need to wait until the new year to do self-reflection, to make amends, and to resolve to do better. Every day is a new beginning.



Experience Musical Shabbat

Friday evening, June 6

at 6 PM

Led by Cantor Randy Herman and a wonderful instrumental ensemble, this intimate and uplifting service will fill the room with music and the true spirit of Shabbat.

Prefer a more traditional service?

Our regular Shabbat service will also take place at 6 PM in the Dogole Chapel.

Shavuot 5785

Sunday, June 1

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

7-8 PM– Kids Tikkun for Kindergarten thru 4th grade

7-8 PM – Study session

8-8:45 PM – Shavuot Evening Service

8:45 PM-12:30 AM – Study sessions

Dessert break between classes

Monday, June 2

9:15 AM – Morning Service with
Adult Bat Mitzvah Class followed by Kiddush

6 PM – Evening Service (Yizkor recited)

Tuesday, June 3

9 AM – Yom Kef

9:15 AM – Morning Service (Yizkor recited)
followed by Kiddush

8:40 PM – Evening Service

Watch your emails for more information

Please join us for

Installation Shabbat

Friday, June 13

6 PM – Evening Minyan followed by
Installation of Officers and Board

**Retirement Recognition of
Jane Kontopodias after 31 years of service**

7:30 PM – Joy of Shabbat Dinner

Watch your emails to RSVP

The Joy of Shabbat Dinners Need Your Support

BE A CONTRIBUTOR!

In order to assure the continuity and viability of our low-cost Joy of Shabbat program, we need contributors. A contribution of \$360.00 will help maintain the low per-person cost as well as help cover the increasing costs of food, supplies and labor.

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

OFFICERS – one-year term, June 2025-2026:

Gary Falk	President
Tobi Millrood	Executive Vice President
Cindy Reisner	Vice President, Administration
Jennifer Goodbinder	Vice President, Lifelong Learning
Dorene Karasick	Vice President, Membership and External Affairs
Howard Herzberg	Vice President, Ritual and Religious Affairs
Alan Seeherman	Treasurer
Nathan Greenberg	Associate Treasurer
Michelle Strayer	Secretary
David Langsam	Counsel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – three-year term, June 2025-2028:

Kirsten Baritz	Hunter Landau	Open Position
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ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 7:00 PM

In accordance with Section 903 of the By-laws, "additional nominations for the position of Director may be made by petition signed by at least twenty five (25) members and additional nominations for any Officer position may be made by petition signed by at least ten (10) Directors. All petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Congregation at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting." Such petitions should be sent to the synagogue office, attn. Gavi Miller, for Cindy Reisner, Secretary.

We have already received an appropriately signed petition to add Evan Lechtman to the ballot for the Board of Directors, to fill the open three-year term 2025-2028.

Please also note that during the Annual Meeting there will be a Board of Directors meeting which will have a vote on elevating the following people as Trustees:

Deborah Golden	Lee Kirschner	Roy Stander
Jacob Guzman	Lynne Landsburg	Maxine Waxman
Jane Herling	Michael Perlstein	

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

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

MONDAY

12 PM – Movements in American Judaism
with Dr. Michael Schatz

Series continues thru June 23

(No class on May 26 and June 2)

In-person and Zoom

This class continues with deeper dives into the historical development of American Judaism and its denominations. For the first several weeks, we will be discussing various sections of *Jew vs. Jew* by Samuel Freedman, and participants are encouraged to acquire a copy. Anyone is welcome to attend regularly or drop in as they wish.

1 PM – NaKh: The Rest of the Bible with Dr. Ely Levine

In-person and Zoom – No class on May 26 and June 2
Class continues thru June 23

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 reading now about Solomon and his reign in the book of Kings.

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 Isaiah with
Rabbi Gary Charlestein

In-person and Zoom

212 Tower Lane, Penn Valley

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.

10:30-11:30 AM – Current Events: Contemporary Israel and
Jews in the News with Norman Einhorn

Last class is May 14

In-person only – at the home of Patty Grobman

Email Patty to RSVP and join the email list for this class:

pgrobman@comcast.net.

THURSDAY

10:30 AM – Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Ira Flax
In-person and Zoom – Class continues thru June 26

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 – Class continues thru June 26

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

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh – 4 PM

In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates
Tuesday, May 27 – hosted by Debbie Golden

Warm, interactive, and challenging discussions related to the holidays and themes of each month are led by group members. For more information, please contact Debbie Golden, goldendagg@gmail.com or Janice Katz, rhk101@hotmail.com.

Israel Education Class

Early Zionism to October 7: An In-Depth Exploration of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

with Danny Stein, Israel Studies Educator at Alexander Muss High School in Israel

Most Sundays thru May 18, 2025 | 10:30 AM | Zoom only | \$150 (no one will be turned away due to cost)

Register at: tinyurl.com/IsraelEd24-25

Sponsored by Har Zion Temple, Congregation Beth Or, Adath Israel, Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, Perelman Jewish Day School and Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

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

The HAR ZION Bulletin
הר ציון



Vol. 17, No. 25 Philadelphia, May 14, 1954 י"א אייר, תשי"ד

Thought of the Week

Separate Not Thyself From the Congregation

(We continue our discussion of a commentary from the Pirke Avos, "The Sayings of the Fathers.")

Hillel said: Separate not thyself from the Congregation.

It is interesting to note that many, many years ago, the wise Rabbi Hillel advised each and every Jew to take an active part in Jewish communal life. Identify your individual life with that of the community, he said, and stay not apart from it. Share its prosperity and its woe and do nothing to undermine its solidarity.

This lesson has its modern application for us as well. The annual campaign on behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary is now in progress. Just as we ask our congregants to take part to a greater degree in the affairs of our Synagogue, so we are being asked not to separate ourselves from the congregation and to participate even more to further the creative work of the Seminary. Year in and year out, since the turn of the century, the Seminary has supplied the religious and cultural leadership on the American-Jewish scene.

As individuals, we are not only members of our family, but of our community and of our nation as well. And as members of Har Zion, we likewise are part of something much bigger — the Conservative movement and the American-Jewish community. In both instances, we cannot divorce ourselves from our responsibilities in any area, for the chain is as strong as its weakest link. An effective Har Zion depends upon an effective Jewish Theological Seminary and both depend upon the support of the individual member to maintain the high level of service that has characterized our efforts both in Har Zion and the Seminary.

Return your Seminary pledge card today. Take Hillel's advice, "Separate not Thyself from the Congregation."

Har Zion Temple bulletin


Vol. 42, No. 9 IYAR-SIVAN, 5739 May, 1979

Annual Meeting of Congregation
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1979
8:00 P.M.

- Election of Officers and Board of Directors for 1979-80
- Exciting Reports on the Progress and status of our Congregation
- State of the Congregation Message by President Isadore M. Marder

—We need your presence, your guidance and your participation.
—Join us at this most important meeting.
—Refreshments will be served.

Har Zion Bulletin, 54th St. & Wynnefield Ave., Phila. 31, Pa. Return Requested



THE HAR ZION BULLETIN
הר ציון

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 40th annual Har Zion Confirmation Service will be held on the first day of Shavuot, Sunday, June 6th in the Main Temple.

The confirmation march will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Parents and friends, who will attend the Service, are requested to be in their seats at 8:45 a.m. No one will be seated during the march. Admission to this Service will be by ticket only.

The entire Service will be conducted by the members of the class, consisting of fifty-three boys and girls.

Those who do not have tickets for the Main Temple Service may attend the Service in the Chapel, beginning at 8:45 a.m.

From the June 2002 Bulletin

*Annual Dinner Dance and
Installation of Officers
Sunday, June 9, 5:00 PM*




EDUCATION . . .

Message from Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal, JFGRS

In this edition of the *Har Zion Bulletin*, we are pleased to introduce the congregation to another pair of teacher and assistant teacher in the Religious School. Bruce Skversky has been teaching Gimel (3rd grade) at Har Zion for five years. He had been working as a religious school teacher at various schools around Philadelphia for 25 years, while maintaining a career as an elementary school teacher in the Philadelphia School District, from which he recently retired. Bruce has also been a staffer at both overnight and day camps. Currently, he works as the Camp Operations Executive for the Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey. Bruce lives in Maple Glen with his wife Sindi. Their son Jordan lives in Washington, DC where he has recently begun his career in finance. Bruce's favorite subject at Har Zion is all of the Jewish Studies curriculum, especially our Etgar Yesodi program and teaching the holiday of Pesach. Bruce loves that we "provide different learning opportunities that help the children through the religious school – the 'extra stuff', those are my favorite, beyond the classroom." Outside of work and family, Bruce likes to read and cook, and his favorite Jewish holiday is Pesach, when he loves to both cook and eat his favorite Jewish food, brisket. Bruce also shared that he has enjoyed working with our Madrichim, the teen assistants, over the years; he thinks it is a great program and hopes that more kids will get involved!



This year and last, Bruce's assistant teacher has been William Reisner. William used to be a Madrich, and as he completed the Project Teach program last year he has returned as an assistant teacher with more responsibility. William, a senior at Harriton High School, lives with his parents and two older sisters in Penn Valley, and is a Har Zion life member. In fact, his family have been members for four generations! William went to the Noreen Cook Center, Har Zion Day Camp, Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, LMAHH, and became a Bar Mitzvah at Har Zion. William is also a regular Torah reader, Megillat Esther reader, and has been a Madrich in the religious school since ninth grade. At Harriton, Will is both an athlete, excelling in baseball and golf, and a musician, where he plays violin in the orchestra. Outside of school and Har (continued on page 8)

Upcoming JFGRS Events

May

- 4 Dalet Museum of Jewish Heirlooms
- 6 Bet Kabbalat Siddurim Service and Dinner
- 13 Better Together Closing Dinner
- 20 Faculty Appreciation Dinner and Presentation of Isadore Kirschner Teacher of the Year Award to Ariela Barlas

June

- 1 Move Up Day

Message from Sandi Toben, Director of Early Childhood Education

Our NCCECE school year is always filled with so much growth and celebration. This school year was no different. Our students make new discoveries, connections, and explore new skills each day. They meet and exceed milestones, they create friendships and form community, and they are each becoming independent thinkers. Our dedicated staff support our students every step of the way. The teachers encourage our students to think critically, problem solve, and do *mitzvot*. Our community is a special place and it is a blessing to be together each day.



This school year has also been marked by beautiful HSA supported events, such as our Purim parade and carnival! The children, dressed in costume, paraded outside for all their parents to see. They then watched our Purim play starring Cantor Herman, Rabbi Shawn, Norman, and some of our NCCECE teachers. The rest of the morning was filled with games, bounce houses, and of course *hamantaschen*. The HSA is not done planning yet! We still have a great Yom Ha'atzmaut, final Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans and End-of-Year celebrations.

This school year, we welcomed students starting at 15 months old as we expanded our Shalom Chai class. We have loved having our youngest learners join us. Next year promises to be another transformative year as we expand to welcome students starting at 12 months. Our new littlest learners, 12-18 months old, will become our Kochavim class. We are excited to care, nurture, and foster a love of exploring with this new class. The NCCECE is also thrilled to continue our work with our students through pre-kindergarten.

The NCCECE had a wonderful and successful school year. Our community of students, teachers, parents, staff, volunteers, and supporters all play important roles in our school and we are all grateful for everyone. We are ready for another great school year in 2025-2026!

Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

May

- 2 Yom Ha'Atzmaut In-school Celebration – students only
- 5 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 9 Teacher Appreciation – 12PM Dismissal
- 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences – NCCECE Closed
- 16 Lag B'Omer Celebrated in School for students only
- 23- 26 Memorial Day Weekend – NCCECE Closed
- 30 Shabbat Sha Blue Jeans

June

- 2 Shavuot Day 1 – NCCECE Closed
- 3 Shavuot Day 2 – NCCECE Closed – Yom Kef Day
- 6 Prachim Move Up Ceremony, 11AM
- 6 Last day of school 12PM Dismissal – HSA Picnic to follow
- 16 First Day of Camp!

The Men's Club was really wheelin' and dealin' at the Poker Tournament on Sunday, April 6. Congratulations to the final table who split their winnings! Pictured below are Jack Marine, incoming MC President Elan Elkaim, and outgoing MC President Jordan Landau.



Dr. Schatz (continued from page 7)

Zion, he finds time to tutor children in math at Ludington Library. During the summers, Will has been attending Camp Canadensis, where he was a counselor last year.

Some of Will's favorite memories of Religious School when he attended, were having hot chocolate in Morah Marnie's class, special Israeli Dance sessions with Rak-Dan, and learning and participating in tefillah. "I loved that and getting that practice made me able to participate in services now." Will's favorite thing about teaching in the Religious School has been getting to know kids, watching them get excited about what we learn. "It is fun when you get closer with them, can joke around, ask about their lives, and watch them get interested in what we are learning, especially tefillah and music. Will further shared, "I love being part of the Har Zion community. I have a good group of friends who wanted to continue with me, I love connecting with the religious aspect, like participating in services. It is a great community that has been supportive in me continuing to learn and stay involved."

Next year, Will plans to attend Duke University, where he hopes to get involved in Hillel or Chabad. In sharing some wisdom for younger kids at Har Zion, Will says "stick with it as long as you want, or even longer. It may be hard to get excited at first at LMAHH, but if you stick with it you will find a great group with whom to enjoy your time there."

8 ■ May/June 2025

MEN'S CLUB . . .

A Look Back

Message from

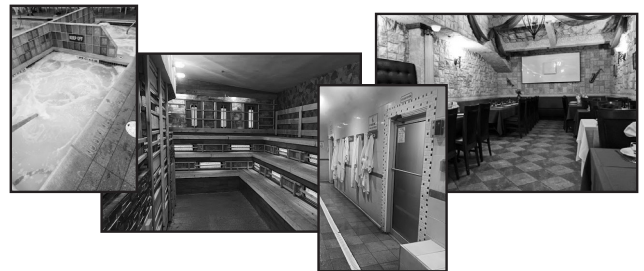
Jordan Landau, Men's Club President



As I reflect on my six years as President of the Men's Club at Har Zion, I am filled with gratitude and hope for the future of our organization. It has been a true honor to serve in this role, engaging with so many of you through various activities – from poker nights and golf outings to managing our softball team. I have cherished the opportunity to bring in inspiring speakers and to organize our memorable trip to Israel in 2022, where 28 of us shared an incredible experience together.

As I step down, I believe it is the right time for new leadership to take the Men's Club in a fresh direction. I am excited to support and collaborate with our new president, Elan Elkaim, as we work together to ensure that the Men's Club continues to be a pillar of strength and community within Har Zion.

Thank you all for your support and camaraderie during my tenure. I will still be managing the softball team, and will look forward to seeing what the future holds for us!



Shvitz and Schnapps

Join the Men's Club for a Night of Relaxation and Rejuvenation!

Wednesday, May 28

Southampton Spa (<https://www.southamptonspa.com/>)

Unwind with the guys as we raise a few and recharge at a premier sauna and spa. Experience ultimate relaxation with a variety of saunas, invigorating steam rooms, an exhilarating cold plunge, and refreshing ice rooms. Whether you're looking to sweat it out or chill out, this is the perfect way to kick back and connect.

5 PM pick up from Har Zion and **return at 11 PM**

The Spa has two free shuttles that can pick up and drop off at Har Zion. Must have 7-11 people per shuttle –

This would be first-come first-served and after that some could carpool.

BYOB

RSVP needed by Monday, May 19

Cost is \$65 per person

Watch your emails for more information.

For questions, please contact Elan Elkaim, elanelkaim@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD . . .

Over Winter in Sisterhood!

Message from

Meryl Littman, Sisterhood President

This past January through March 2025, our Sisterhood members have enjoyed a grand Sisterhood weekend celebration (see our last HZT *Bulletin*), weekly yoga sessions with Cantor Lizzie Shammash (IJS), a series of Open a Book...Open Your Mind programs including two Lunch & Learns, monthly meetings for the Rosh Chodesh, Book Club, and Shul Stitchers groups, several game days (including tables for mah jongg, canasta, scrabble, and ping-pong), a few Emotional Well-Being sessions, Mishloah Manot bag-packing and deliveries, and a March trip and tour (see below). All this, including so many wonderful kiddushes, Joy of Shabbat dinners, special celebrations for our 100th HZT birthday, and a Wicked Purim shpiel!



Let's give a loud shout-out to Robin Zatuchni, Reisel Weinberger, and all the Sisterhood ladies who helped pack and deliver the Mishloah Manot bags before Purim to so many households in our HZT community! There were more than 100 tasty bites in each bag, to celebrate our 100th HZT birthday! We were able to remember and thank our clergy, staff, and friends for strengthening our wishbone, backbone, and funny bone, all year long.

Our Sisterhood March trip and tour to Beth Shalom in Elkins Park was a real treat! We started in the large room "museum" section with its curated displays, including visual and auditory histories, and viewed original letters and architectural sketches shared between Rabbi Mortimer Cohen and architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who developed a close relationship. There were hurdles over many years, including fund-raising, finding a builder who would accept the challenge of their ambitious design, and then difficult weather conditions. We watched a beautiful documentary film of the making of this National treasure, which made many of us misty-eyed. Our wonderful tour guide, Belinda Giljansky, took us past the foyer and chapel area and into the striking main sanctuary, including some "behind the scenes" areas, and answered all our questions. Our own Rabbi Seth Haaz and Aimee Silverman were on hand; they grew up at Beth Shalom and were able to give their personal touches! Then we had a nice lunch and enjoyed each other's company. I am so grateful that Aimee Silverman and Suzanne Waldman (our Sisterhood Programming VPs) planned this special day! We're looking forward to planning future trips in our area! Let Aimee, Suzanne, and/or me know your ideas for touring together, i.e.

Sisterhood Calendar

Sisterhood Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 7 PM

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Group
Tuesday, May 27, 4 PM

Sisterhood Book Club
Wednesdays, May 14, June 11, 12:30 PM (offsite)
For info, contact Barbara Kardon, barbkardon@comcast.net

Sisterhood Closing Lunch
Tuesday, June 10, 11:30 AM

Sisterhood Yoga/Meditation
Mondays, 11 AM (no Yoga on May 26)

the American Jewish History Museum, Penn University Museum, Art Museum, Constitution Center, Fonthill Castle in Doylestown, etc. We want to know your wishes and preferences as we plan next year's programs!

As I write this column in mid-March, I hope you all are doing okay and enjoying nice weather this springtime. I don't know what the current news is up to as you read this, but these are challenging times. It helps to ground me in the moment to remember for what I am grateful. When I awake, after reciting *Modah Ani*, I thank G-d for sleep and for waking; for vision, hearing, and speech; and for feeling, touch, taste, and smell.

Here is a meditative poem of gratitude at mealtimes I like, from an IJS retreat years ago. You may like it as well.

One Heart Grace

by Norman Fisher

*As we make ready to eat this food
We remember with gratitude
The people, animals, plants, insects
Creatures of the sky and sea
Air and water, fire and earth
All turning in the wheel of living and dying
Whose joyful exertion
Not separate from ours
Provides our sustenance this day.*

*May we with the blessing of this food
Join our hearts
To the one of the world
In awareness and love
And may we together with everyone
Realize the path of awakening
And never stop making effort
For the benefit of others.*

May we be happy. May we be healthy. May we be safe. May we live with ease.

See you at shul!

See contribution page for Floral Fund donations.

Save the Date!

Main Line Pride Picnic

Thursday, June 12, 5-7 PM @ Beth Am Israel

Kosher BBQ, Water Ice, Summer Snacks

Activities for people of all ages, including arts and crafts, performances from local LGBTQ+ talent, a moon bounce, and more!

Suggested donation of \$18 per adult and \$10 per child

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.

Watch your emails for more information.

TIKKUN OLAM . . .

Shul Stitchers – Busy Hands & Warm Hearts

Our Shul Stitchers are “full-steam ahead” on all of our projects. These projects will continue throughout the summer months, where we will be working on the GO RED (red scarves) initiative for our deployed troops, as well as hats, scarves and blankets for adults and babies.

In wrapping up our donations for the year (both literally and figuratively), our last drop offs were 8 of our handcrafted blankets to the Southern New Jersey Jewish Family and Children Services, and 16 adult and baby-sized blankets to Laurel House (a domestic violence agency in Montgomery County). It’s been another successful, productive year! Congratulations to all Shul Stitchers!

Please join our wonderful group – no experience in knitting or crocheting is necessary, and we’ll teach you if you’re interested. Contact Andy Coren at andreajoy.coren@gmail.com or Connie Handen at cnhanden@gmail.com.



NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Michaela Lauren Rosenthal, daughter of Beth & Bruno Rosenthal; granddaughter of Joy & Gary Novick and Marcia & Mauro Rosenthal; great granddaughter of Joan & Mel (z”l) Beckman and Eleanor & Morris (z”l) Novick. Michaela arrived on October 4, 2024 – the second day of Rosh Hashanah immediately following services!



Daniel Zalesne, son of Sharon Ghelman & Michael Zalesne, grandson of Anny & David Zalesne and Patricia Jaegerman & Daniel Ghelman (z”l), great-grandson of Judy & Harvey Zalesne and Lila & Luis Van Dam and Marta & Israel Ghelman. Danny arrived on January 29, 2025.

Sophie Tal Elias, daughter of Jill & Samuel Elias, sister of Drew, granddaughter of Helaine & Joe Banner and Eileen & Robert Elias from Cherry Hill, NJ, niece of Jason and Jon Banner, and Rebecca & Ari Forman, and cousin of Zachary and Hannah. She is named for Sam’s grandmother Thelma Spivack and Helaine’s dad and Jill’s grandfather Seymour Plitnick. Sophie arrived on February 26, 2025.

Ayla Harper Berkowitz, daughter of Lauren & Jake Berkowitz, granddaughter of Lisa & Arthur Berkowitz and Helen Ann & Larry Rosenfeld; great granddaughter of Barbara & Alan (z”l) Boroff and Barbara & Edwin (z”l) Berkowitz; niece of Emily & Jonathan Fridberg and Julie & Yoni Gamiel, and cousin of Miriam, Benjamin, Shoshana and Kobi. Ayla arrived on February 21, 2025.

ENGAGEMENT

Mazel tov!

Daniel Scott Schupper is engaged to Fleur Emily de Jong. Daniel is the son of Mimi & Jeff Schupper, and brother of Alex & Sydney Schupper and David Schupper. Fleur is the daughter of Marjo Van Gelderen & Bert de Jong, and sister of Marijn, Stijn and Berend de Jong. A Fall 2026 wedding is planned.

JUST PUBLISHED!

Edward Fishman, son of Jill & Mark Fishman, had his first book, *Chokepoints: American Power in the Age of Economic Warfare*, published by Portfolio/Penguin on February 25. It’s the story of how America turned the world economy into a weapon, upending decades of globalization to confront a new authoritarian axis – Russia, China, and Iran.

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

Cook for a Friend

Watch your emails for the upcoming schedule.

For more info, contact us at

cookforafriendhzt@gmail.com

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To make an appointment, contact Helene Nelson:
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*Your purchases at the Gift Shop help support all the wonderful activities and programs
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