



HAR ZION
T E M P L E

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Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5786

The Bulletin

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



Cantor Concert Series Featuring: ATLYS

Save the Date | Sunday – March 22 – 3:00 PM



Journalist/Author in Residence

At Har Zion on January 30

Message from

Rabbi Seth Haaz



It is my pleasure to share that we will host Allison Gilbert from Friday, January 30 – Sunday, February 1. Allison Gilbert is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and one of the most respected and influential writers and speakers on how to overcome life's great challenges. Allison is a regular writer for *The New York Times*, and she is the author and co-author of numerous books, including Dr. Ruth Westheimer's final book, *The Joy of Connections*. She has been interviewed on the Today Show, Good Morning America, and NPR, and she is a much sought after presenter for retreat centers, companies, and organizations. Allison also hosts "Making Connections," a monthly conversation series on building meaningful bonds.



Allison is a perfect Author in Residence at this time when our staff and volunteer leaders are carefully considering how to best create a nurturing and joyful community amid the increasing social isolation and loneliness felt by all generations in our contemporary society. The time that we share with Allison will help all of us to access resources within ourselves and within our community to help us find strength in one another to overcome whatever obstacles are placed before us. There will be opportunities to engage with Allison in both intimate conversations and community presentations. Please mark your calendars to share a special weekend at Har Zion with Allison Gilbert!

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 2 6:30PM

**A VERY
BEACHY
PURIM!**



Ritual Matters

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

I know very little about evolutionary psychology – probably nothing, really – but it seems reasonable to suppose that it was necessary at some point for humans to develop the categories that we might label as US and THEM. Maybe we were worried about competing for limited resources. Maybe we were worried about strong breeding stock. I am sure there are many other logical possibilities.

In our world, it is still necessary to maintain those categories. We still have limited resources. We still worry about other groups being dangerous and/or finding protection in our own group.

One major difference in our world today is the complexity of our identities. We circulate in many groups, and the component of our identity that is at the surface changes depending on the situation. When we visit another synagogue, we may be acutely aware of the ways in which the Har Zion community is different. When we are within the Har Zion community, we may divide into US and THEM categories on the basis of where our children go/went to school, for example. And if we are at a school event, perhaps we have now grouped ourselves with members of that other synagogue as the Jews in the room.

US versus THEM categories are all over the place these days. It is perfectly natural to feel these divisions. Sometimes, it is useful to us and to society at large; sometimes, it is harmful. I am sure we can all think of examples of where it becomes harmful. I encounter examples of this in the news all the time - whether in issues of politics, race, economics, or religion, just to name a few.

What I have noticed is that the harm usually comes from forgetting that almost all of us belong to multiple overlapping groups, and that most of the groups that we belong to have porous boundaries. We begin to believe that THEM has nothing to do with US, and that US is totally opposed to THEM. We forget that someone who is one of THEM today, will be one of US tomorrow on some other issue. But, in the meantime, we have dismissed THEM entirely. When we start to think of these boundaries as rigid - as if that group can walk, talk, and vote as a unity - we start to make too many assumptions about the individual humans in the group. (And we know what happens when we assume....) We end up with large family gatherings where we cannot talk about politics or religion; we end up in this heightened state of bigotry and discrimination that we now find ourselves in.

Identity groups are useful; tribes are good. To a point. Give any OTHERS in your life the benefit of being part of the most important US there is - the human family.



Message from Gary Falk

For years, I have been encouraged to participate in the annual Har Zion visit to Whitwell, Tennessee. This year I finally joined our synagogue's 13th visit to Whitwell, so expertly arranged by Norman Einhorn. What a meaningful trip it was to go to this small rural town in the deep South in the company of other members of the Har Zion community. The Whitwell Middle School is home to the Children's Holocaust Memorial, initiated in 1998 as a middle school project to collect paper clips to visualize the scale of the Holocaust. It also features an authentic German transport railcar once used to carry victims to Nazi concentration camps and now filled with 11 million paper clips, symbolizing the 6 million murdered Jews and 5 million other victims, a library with letters from celebrities, and others who sent paper clips, and World War II artifacts donated by David Tabby and his family.



Whitwell is a place geographically and culturally very distant from the Main Line. It is a part of rural America that many of us are never exposed to. Despite different religious and cultural backgrounds, the children and adults of Whitwell welcomed us with warmth and kindness into their community. The fact that the Whitwell community embarked on this project and passionately keeps it going across generations of students is a powerful statement and gave all of us hope for the future.

A highlight of our visit was the opportunity to meet with Linda Hooper, the then middle school principal who was the driving force behind the "Paper Clips Project." Her insights and wisdom were inspiring and left all of us with hope for a better tomorrow. Please do not wait as long as I did to visit Whitwell. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

The centerpiece of the memorial is an authentic German transport car, a railcar once used to carry victims to Nazi concentration camps. It arrived in the U.S. on September 9, 2001, just before the 9/11 attacks.

The railcar is filled with 11 million paper clips, symbolizing the 6 million Jewish victims and 5 million other people murdered by the Nazis.

An additional 11 million paper clips are incorporated into a separate monument dedicated to the children who died in the Holocaust.

The paper clips were sent to the school from people around the world after news of the project spread. The Norwegian resistance during World War II inspired the use of paper clips as a symbol of unity.

The Paper Clips Project story

- **A project to promote tolerance:** The project began in 1998 when teachers at Whitwell Middle School, led by Principal Linda Hooper, started a voluntary after-school class on the Holocaust to teach students about diversity and tolerance.
- **Struggling to grasp the numbers:** Students in the small, rural community had difficulty comprehending the magnitude of 6 million Jewish deaths. They came up with the idea to collect a tangible object to represent each victim.
- **Spreading the word:** The students chose paper clips and began writing letters to famous people, celebrities, and others

(Continued on page 3)

President (continued from page 2)

- to ask for paper clips and stories of why they sent them.
- **Documentary film:** The story of the project gained international attention and was chronicled in the 2004 award-winning documentary film, *Paper Clips*.
- **The Artifact Library:** The school received more than 30,000 letters and artifacts, which have been cataloged and are on display in the Children's Holocaust Memorial Artifact Library.

How to visit

- The memorial is located at **Whitwell Middle School**, at 1 Butterfly Lane in Whitwell, Tennessee.
- The school offers **student-led guided tours** for a fee per person.
- **Booking is required:** Tours must be booked at least seven days in advance.
- **Call or email for more information:** You can contact the school at (423) 658-5635 or former principal Linda Hooper at whitwelltraveler@gmail.com for more information.
- **Whitwell** is a small city in **Marion County, Tennessee**, known primarily for its rural charm, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the internationally recognized **Children's Holocaust Memorial** project at its middle school.

Location and Demographics

- **Location:** Situated in the southwestern Sequatchie Valley at the base of the Cumberland Plateau, approximately 24 miles northwest of Chattanooga.
- **Population:** As of the 2020 census, the population was 1,641 people.
- **Lifestyle:** It offers a peaceful, small-town atmosphere with a "sparse suburban feel" and is home to many families and retirees. Residents enjoy a slower pace of life, with most owning their homes and a higher-than-average homeownership rate.

Children's Holocaust Memorial (The Paper Clips Project)

- Whitwell gained international attention for the "Paper Clips Project," a powerful educational initiative started by eighth-grade students at Whitwell Middle School in 1998.
- To grasp the sheer scale of six million Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust, students began collecting paper clips, with each clip representing a life.
- The project grew into a global effort, collecting millions of paper clips, letters, and international support.
- A genuine German rail car, used to transport victims to concentration camps, is now a permanent part of the memorial on the school grounds, filled with the collected paper clips. A documentary film was made about the project.

Things to Do

Whitwell and the surrounding area offer ample outdoor recreation and points of interest:

- **Outdoor Activities:** The town is a gateway to natural beauty, offering access to hiking, fishing, hunting, and mountain biking in nearby areas like Savage Gulf State Park and Prentice Cooper State Forest. The Sequatchie River also passes nearby, offering water-based recreation.
- **Museums:** Visitors can explore the **Marion County Coal Miners Museum**, which highlights the area's history as a mining town.
- **Local Charm:** The community hosts an annual Labor Day celebration and features local favorites like The Chef's



Restaurant for homestyle Southern cooking.

- More information can be found on the [City of Whitwell website](#) and the [Whitwell Education and Heritage Center website](#).
- What are the biggest industries in Whitwell, TN?
- What's the significance of the rail car at the Children's Holocaust Memorial?

The authentic German rail car at the Children's Holocaust Memorial

- in Whitwell, Tennessee, is significant because it represents the horrific transportation of millions of victims to Nazi death camps and has been symbolically transformed by students into a memorial for the lives lost.

Symbol of horror

- The rail car is the same type used by the Nazi regime during World War II to transport Jewish people, Roma, and other persecuted groups to concentration and extermination camps.
- It serves as a tangible reminder of the dehumanization, suffering, and mass murder that occurred.
- The use of such transport cars represented the beginning of the end for many victims, as they endured crowded, inhumane conditions for days on end.

Symbol of remembrance and renewal

- The rail car was donated in 2001 after students at Whitwell Middle School collected millions of paper clips for the "Paper Clips Project".
- The project was started in 1998 to help students understand the magnitude of six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust by collecting one paper clip for each life lost.
- The car is now filled with millions of paper clips, letters, and mementos sent from all over the world, transforming the symbol of death into a powerful tribute to tolerance, perseverance, and life.

Educational tool

- The rail car is a central teaching tool for the memorial, allowing visitors to visualize the experiences of Holocaust victims.
- Visitors can view the contents of the car, which includes artifacts and the thousands of letters that were sent to the students.
- The rail car, surrounded by a garden and butterfly sculptures, is a testament to how the students and community turned a dark piece of history into a powerful message of hope and remembrance.
- How else are Holocaust victims represented in the memorial besides the rail car and paper clips?
- What's the significance of the butterflies?
- What's the One Clip at a Time organization and its relation to the project?

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

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

MONDAY

12 PM – Contemporary Jewish Issues with Dr. Schatz

In-person and Zoom

Jan 26, Feb 2

We will begin this year reading Dara Horn's nonfiction book *People Love Dead Jews*. The author explores themes of contemporary antisemitism through various vignettes that share the commonality of the theory that much of the outside world views Jews as acceptable when we are passive victims, and once Jews become empowered to determine our own destiny, liberal thinking reverts to age-old antisemitic stereotypes. We will read this book together and discuss its implications in a post-October 7 reality. Please purchase or acquire the book and read the first chapter prior to November 17.

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 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

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*.

12 PM – Study of the Book of Isaiah with

Rabbi Gary Charlestein

In-person and Zoom

212 Tower Lane, Penn Valley



NEW CLASS!

1:30 PM – Zionism & Antisemitism Post

10/7 with Dr. Asaf Romirowsky

This class is in-person and Zoom –

Feb 17, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 19

Overall, we will explore how after 76 years of the State of Israel, the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, and the ensuing surge in global antisemitism demonstrate that normalization of Jewish life among non-Jews remains a struggle requiring vigilance and Jewish communal self-reliance.

WEDNESDAY

10-11 AM – Current Events with Norman Einhorn

Jan 21, Feb 4, 18, Mar 4, 18, Apr 15, 29, May 13

This class dives into the ever-changing Jewish/Israel headlines of the day in a way that fosters healthy dialogue and historical perspective. We take into account multiple political viewpoints and multiple angles of media coverage. Asking the question "why?" always helps us gain a deeper understanding into the complicated and multi-layered events that are shaping our world.



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

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 Minha

In-person only in the Rudofker Library

This class is in addition to his Monday evening class.

EDUCATION . . .

Message from Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal, JFGRS

In late October I completed a two-year program called Mandel Teacher Educator Institute (MTEI), a professional development program funded by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation to bring best practices in education to Jewish schools. The underlying theory that is woven through all MTEI does is that in order to improve student learning, we must improve teaching, and to improve teaching, we must improve teacher professional development. The program of six four-day seminars brings together a group of educational leaders from early childhood, congregational and Jewish day schools, from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and community-based institutions, to create a learning community.



leaders from early childhood, congregational and Jewish day schools, from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and community-based institutions, to create a learning community.

The outstanding faculty are accomplished scholars in Jewish and general teacher education on the university level. As I was part of

Cohort 11, the program has been around for nearly 30 years! At



each seminar we engaged in Jewish text study, design theory, attuned listening and effective communication, and best educational practices through a variety of activities geared to already-credentialed educators. While going in I thought that, with two masters degrees and a doctorate I had learned all the theory I needed and my growth as an educator could happen from practical experience, I learned how much I could still learn, with a cohort of colleagues in very similar situations!

After each seminar we were assigned "homework", which I was able to bring back and share with our JFGRS faculty in individual, small group and whole team professional development learning. For example, we did something called "Curriculum investigation", and I then brought back the concept as we explored a new Torah curriculum for our gimel and dalet classes. I also learned a model for prioritizing values and strategic planning, called "Group Level Assessment" (GLA), which we then used as a faculty to determine what we do that works, what perhaps doesn't work, and what we would like to see the religious school be in the future. This is an ongoing process that will enable the teachers to have ownership over our program, and consider what is best for our children as we continue to plan and evaluate our school.

I want to thank Rabbi Shawn and the leadership of Har Zion for encouraging and enabling my participation in this program! I am certain that what I have brought back to share with our faculty is well worth the investment.



Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

January

- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NCCECE Closed
- 23 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans featuring Shorashim

February

- 2 Tu B'Shevat Celebration – for students only
- 8 Sunday Fun Day
- 13-16 Presidents' Day Weekend – No School
- 28 Tot Shabbat

Upcoming JFGRS Events

January

- 25 Festi-Shvat featuring Dalet and Hay students, at the Kaiserman JCC with Temple Beth Hillel, Adath Israel and our Shinshinim
- Zayin Challah Board project (group 2)

February

- 1 Aleph Model Shabbat
Voices of the Generations International Holocaust Day
for 3rd-7th grade and parents
- 8 Better Together
- 10 Gimel Birkat HaMazon Dinner
- 22 Zayin trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington

Everybody's having fun at the Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education!





Shul Stitchers Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

During our November meeting, we were able to bring our Shul Stitchers together for a meaningful celebration. We tallied up our handmade donations for the past five years: 442 blankets, 328 hats, 354 scarves, 38 miscellaneous items =1,162 items. This means we gave 200+ lovingly, stitched donations each year to ch

We honored our founder Karen Newman, who had her daughter Pam Rosenberg represent her in her absentia; as well as Charlotte Muchnick who led our group for many years and continues to guide and inspire us. Lydia Gesoff received "honorable mention," as she was a part of the initial Shul Stitchers group.

We dug through our personal pictures as well as our Shul Stitchers scrapbook to create a wonderful slideshow--so many years and so many beautiful memories. Our mitzvot continue, one stitch at a time.

Many thanks to Rabbi Haaz for his insightful words, Mike for creating our amazing slideshow, the kitchen staff for our delicious lunch, and building staff for making our day so special.



Scholarship Submission Deadline

Friday, February 27, 2026

Har Zion is pleased to be able to continue to offer a limited number of scholarship awards to help support those pursuing Jewish educational programs. Several generous donors have established endowments at Har Zion for this purpose. Scholarships will be awarded twice during the year.

Those who wish to be considered for an award should send an email to Har Zion's Executive Director, Gavi Miller, outlining the program or activity, the cost, and other pertinent information. Requests can be submitted for any member in good standing, but must be received by noon, February 27, for consideration. Final determination of awards and amounts will be decided on merit, need, and the number of requests received.

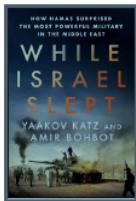
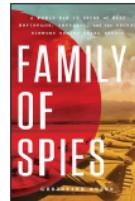
For more information, contact Gavi Miller at 610-667-5000 ext 105 or gmiller@harziontemple.org.

The Thirteenth Annual Open a Book...Open Your Mind for 2025-26

Proudly presented by the Sisterhood of Har Zion Temple and the Department of Lifelong Learning

Admission is \$18 per author

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



Monday, February 2

7 PM

Christine Kuehn
Family of Spies

Wednesday, April 15

1 PM

Judith Viorst
Making the Best of What's Left

Wednesday, February 25

12 PM Lunch and Learn

Shaul Kelner
A Cold War Exodus

Monday, April 20

7 PM

Jack Fairweather
The Prosecutor

Monday, March 9

7 PM

Rachel Cockerell
Melting Point

Wednesday, April 29

7 PM (at the JCC)

Maya Arad
Happy New Years

Tuesday, March 17

12 PM (virtual from Israel)

Jaacov Katz
While Israel Slept

For reservations, go to harziontemple.org/open-a-book or email us at openabook@harziontemple.org.

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



Do You Need a Ride?

**Do you need a ride to attend
services, meetings or programs?**

**Just drop us an email at
caring@harziontemple.org.**

SISTERHOOD . . .

Autumn in Sisterhood

Message from

Meryl Littman, Sisterhood President

THANKYOU (TY) to Joanne Deglin and our Sisterhood volunteers who decorated our beautiful sukkah! On Sukkot, Marge Prenner chanted haftarah, sponsored kiddush, and gave a meaningful sermon in tribute to her late husband, Elliott (z'l), who passed away on Sukkot 21 years ago (BTW, their son, Stuart, chanted haftarah on Rosh Hashana!). Marge said: "[Elliott] was 58 years old, I was 48. He was a wonderful son, brother, uncle, husband and father. He was blessed with brains, courage and a good heart. His faith and trust in Hashem inspired all who knew him. With all of his medical challenges, his faith never waivered, indeed he grew in spiritual strength and peace even as his physical strength left him. Sukkot is referred to as "Zman Simchateinu", meaning the 'time of our joy.' At its core Sukkot teaches us to rejoice in life's essentials. Despite the temporary and fragile nature of the sukkah, it invites us to find joy in the present moment and appreciate what we have – connection to nature, shelter, food, family and community. The joy of Sukkot doesn't come from material luxury but from recognizing and celebrating the simple blessings that often go unnoticed. Rabbi Shimon Ben Gamliel says this world is sustained by three things – Justice, Truth, and Peace, corresponding to the festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot. The holiday of Sukkot only lasts a week, but we ask G-d throughout the year to shelter us with a sukkah of peace."

Marge talked about community and how grateful she is for HZT and our Sisterhood. She moved here from Miami in February 2024, to be close to family and three grandchildren. Her advice regarding family is to "Be Fully Present. Time moves on very quickly." She recommended watching Rabbi Haaz's Rosh Hashanah sermon "Living Lishma", what it truly means to live in the present. "The past is the past, the future is not guaranteed. Today is what we have. [...] Sukkot reminds us that true happiness comes from gratitude, connection and community. It is not easy to open one's self to others, but it is worth the vulnerability. I thank you for the outpouring of kindness and welcoming that I have received at Har Zion. I grew up in Conservative synagogues in NY (Long Island) and FL (Orlando, Tampa, Miami). For the past 26 years, I was a member of a Young Israel modern Orthodox synagogue in Miami. I found here at Har Zion a wonderful mix of both, and with so many activities and programs offered. One could be engaged all day and everyday. For myself, I first got engaged in Sisterhood – Rosh Chodesh classes, luncheons, meetings, volunteer work, Jewish Museum trip to NY (Queen Esther in the time of Rembrandt exhibit) – I could go on about Sisterhood and Open A Book, outstanding in bringing the authors to speak on the history of their book. I have been moved by Cantor Herman's musical talents, and especially his Hallel chanting. [...] By reflecting on the simple yet profound traditions of Sukkot we can bring more joy into our lives. It's a celebration of life's fragility but also of its beauty, resilience, and abundance. Through the



Sisterhood Calendar

JANUARY, 2026

Mon, Jan 19, 1PM – Shul Stitchers (MLK Day)
Wed, Jan 21, 12N – Open a Book...Open Your Mind
Sun, Jan 25, 10:30AM – Sisterhood Board Meeting

FEBRUARY, 2026

Mon, Feb 2, 7PM – Open a Book, Open Your Mind
Wed, Feb 4, 1PM – Sisterhood Game Day
Tue, Feb 17, 11AM – Shul Stitchers
Wed, Feb 18, 1PM – Book Club Meeting (offsite)
Wed, Feb 18, 4PM – Rosh Chodesh Group Meeting
Fri/Sat, February 20-21 – Sisterhood Shabbat Weekend
Tue, Feb 24, 4PM – Mishloah Manot Packing
Wed, Feb 25, 12N – Open a Book Lunch & Learn

Floral Fund Donation Cards

Minimum contribution: \$10 / Four for \$30

Questions? Please contact Janice Katz,
610-525-1101 or rhk101@hotmail.com.

See contribution page for Floral Fund donations.

sukkah, the lulav and etrog and the shared meals, Sukkot invites us to slow down, be present, appreciate and celebrate in simply being alive." Marge is an active volunteer, decorating the sukkah, stuffing invitation envelopes and Mishloach manot bags, setting up tables and helping with events. We are grateful that Marge shares her wisdom, energy, and support in Sisterhood!

Our Lunch/Learn Sukkot program featured "Why are there no Sukkot movies?" The event was well-attended, delicious, and fun! Thank you Dr. Ely Levine, Aimee Silverman and Suzanne Waldman! Sisterhood Opening Luncheon with comedian Robin Fox was beautiful, delicious, and fun (TY, Rachel Steerman and Kathy Soloff)! In October at our Rosh Chodesh Group Meeting we each discussed our favorite Jewish books (TY, Debbie Golden!). TY, Sheila Kliger and Susan Kochman, for choosing great authors for the Open A Book series, organizing their appearances and tasty refreshments! Hanukkah Gift Exchange was fun (TY, Aimee and Suzanne)!

Next Bulletin I'll tell you about our very successful Torah Fund luncheon in December honoring our beloved Lynne Landsburg, and the 25th anniversary of Shul Stitchers. Upcoming events include Game Days in January and February and Sisterhood Shabbat weekend, February 20-21, when 60 Sisterhood ladies share the bima, lead services and inspire us (TY, Andrea Robbins). Then onto Purim and Mishloah Manot bag packing and delivery! Have a wonderful winter with us! See you at shul!

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

TIKKUN OLAM . . .

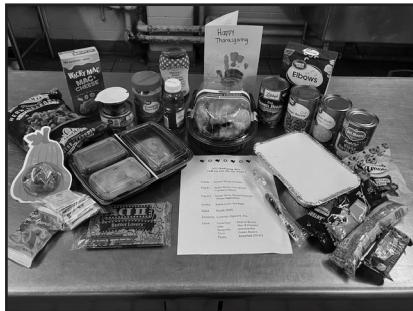
A Thanksgiving Mitzvah Message from Jeff Handen

On behalf of the Tikkun Olam Committee, I am grateful to report that on Sunday morning, this past November 23, 75 Kosher Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to food-insecure households in the Lower Merion area through our partnership with Eldernet (<https://eldernet.org/>), an increase from the 70 delivered the previous year.

Our sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude to:

- the continuing generosity of the Frezel Family Tikkun Olam Fund
- the current and past members of the Tikkun Olam committee who started and continue to maintain our tradition of service enabling this Mitzvah to happen
- friends and neighbors from outside the Har Zion community who continue to join us each year for this Mitzvah
- the Sisterhood who outdid themselves yet again delivering a record breaking 154 pounds of canned food as part of the Kosher can food drive
- a small army of over 50 volunteers who planned, packed, and delivered the 75 "baskets", each with a complete Kosher Thanksgiving chicken dinner, all the sides, drinks, desserts, fresh fruit, and supplemented with a host of non-perishables (16.5 pounds of food per recipient!)
- Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani, Missie Pludo, Dr. Michael Schatz, and all the teachers and students of the Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education and the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School who lovingly and artistically created Thanksgiving cards
- Our entire facilities staff who hauled, moved, and unloaded over a half ton of foodstuffs!
- Dawn, Jane, Emily, and Gavi who as usual showed they are the best professional staff in the world helping and seamlessly guiding the budgeting, scheduling, communications, printing and probably a bunch of other things I'm missing.

Without these volunteers and the support from you, our entire congregation, this quite simply would not have been able to happen.

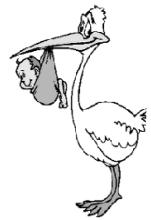


NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Sienna Jayde Rosen is finally home where she belongs. Born on October 27, 2025, she spent the first 46 days of her life in the CHOP NICU.



Beyond grateful are her amazing parents, Brittany & Blake Rosen, big sister Sloane Jenna, and puppy Penelope, along with proud grandparents Hope & Lee Kirschner and Debbie & Craig Rosen, Aunt Danielle & Uncle Bryan Kirschner, Aunt Blair Rosen and Aunt Lauren & Uncle David Burman, with cousins Asher Kirschner and Jamie and Leah Burman who are all celebrating this joyful homecoming.

Sienna Jayde is also the beloved great-granddaughter of Paul and Sharon Feigenbaum (z"l), Beverly Yanoff (z"l), Helene and Martin Rosen (z"l), and Rhoda and Dr. Lawrence Manin (z"l).

She is lovingly named for both her cherished maternal great-grandmother, Sharon Feigenbaum, and paternal uncle, Jeffrey Manin Rosen.

Wes Parker Selarnick, son of Paige & John Selarnick, brother of sisters Mason Aspen and Blake Emmy and brother Cole Briar; grandson of Nancy & Stuart Selarnick and Lori Blumenthal and Randi & Scott Blumenthal; great grandson of Esther Gilman & John Selarnick (z"l) and Donald Hoffman (z"l); nephew of Dana & Alex Selarnick, Sydney & Michael Selarnick, Haley & Jacob Fuerst and Sam Selarnick, and Tara & Brandon Maugeri and Corey Blumenthal; and great nephew to Meredith & Jon Hoffman. Wes arrived on November 16, 2025.

ENGAGEMENT

Mazel tov!

Jason Banner is engaged to **Annabelle Fuchs**. Jason is the son of Helaine & Joe Banner, brother of Jill (Sam) Elias and Jon Banner, and uncle of Drew Elias and Sophie Elias. Annabelle is the daughter of Amy & Ronald Fuchs, and sister of Sarah Fuchs and Rachel Fuchs. Jason and Annabelle were engaged on October 31, 2025.

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



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