



HAR ZION
T E M P L E

Vol. 88, No. 3 January/February 2025
Tevet/Shevat 5785

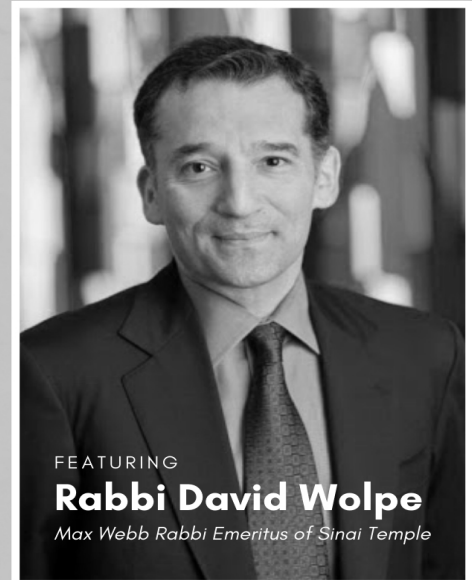
The Bulletin

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

GUEST SCHOLAR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025

Rabbi David Wolpe will be joined by his brothers Dr. Stephen, Dr. Paul and Rabbi Daniel, all of whom return to Har Zion Temple for an engaging and inspiring weekend of events.

- | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| FEB
21 | <i>Friday Evening</i>
Joy of Shabbat Dinner following Friday night services | 6:00 PM |
| FEB
22 | <i>Saturday Morning</i>
Special Kiddush followed by a dialogue with Rabbi Seth Haaz & Rabbi David Wolpe | 9:30 AM |
| FEB
23 | <i>Sunday Morning</i>
Keynote Address: Rabbi David Wolpe discusses Antisemitism | 10:00 AM |



Watch the mail for your invitation to our next Centennial Event!



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025

To volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Andy Deitch (andydeitch57@gmail.com).

NOTE NEW INSTRUCTIONS THIS YEAR:

Please pack all items in TRASH BAGS OR BOXES and LABEL the bags or boxes if possible. NO suits, gowns or other formal wear. Please donate items that are USABLE – NOT ripped, damaged or otherwise unusable.

Volunteer Options on MLK Day Include:

- Donation Sorting – 1-3 PM**
- Cook for a Friend – 9:30 AM-12 Noon**
- Shul Stitches – 1 PM- 3 PM**
- The Cat Collaborative – 12-3 PM** – Will be on site with kittens and information on adoptions and fostering.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive – 1:30 - 6:30 PM** • Gorson Auditorium -- Reserve your spot today – call 1-800-REDCROSS, or contact Marilyn Becker, marilew@me.com.

See page 2 for the list of donations we are collecting from Thursday, January 2 through Sunday, January 19

Please drop off all donations at the cart in front of the main entrance.

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE – MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025

We are currently accepting the following donations from
Thursday, January 2 through Sunday, January 19:



Narberth Food Bank – Non-perishables (NOT expired)

HIAS – Tea kettles, flat bottom carrier bags and large serving/mixing bowls

Mitzvah Circle – Toiletries (FULL size), blankets, sheets, towels, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S coats, hats, gloves, shoes, sneakers and boots

Our Closet, JFCS – MEN'S clothes, shoes, accessories (hats, scarves and gloves), socks and underwear (NEW only); WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S clothes – formal wear not needed

Vietnam Veterans of America – Books, toys

I Support the Girls – New or gently used bras

Laurel House – Baby diapers (all sizes), body wash (full size), lotion (full size), deodorant (full size), paper towel rolls, toilet tissue, laundry detergent (PODS only); Personal hygiene: soap, lotion, shaving cream, shampoo/conditioner, brushes/combs

Lions Club – Eyeglasses

Catholic Social Services – Kitchen items: pots/pans, dishes, cups, utensils, tea kettle; Bath items: towels, wash cloths, shower curtains; Bedroom items: twin & double bed sheets, gently used quilts, blankets, new pillows only, night light and/or lamps; Personal hygiene: soap, lotion, shaving cream, shampoo/conditioner, brushes/combs

Francisvale Animal Shelter – clean towels, clean flat sheets, clean pillow cases, canned dog and cat food, soft dog/cat treats (not expired), cat toys including wine corks

To volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Andy Deitch (andydeitch57@gmail.com)

THE CANTOR'S SIGNATURE CONCERT SERIES

Musical Magic & Mischief

MARCH 30, 2025



Special Guests



Avram Pengas



Alicia Svigals



Emotional Well-Being Series

These programs are sponsored by Sisterhood, Men's Club, the Department of Lifelong Learning, and the Inclusivity Committee with support from Rabbi Haaz.

Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

MAINTAINING WELLNESS IN CHANGING TIMES: A Discussion of How to Maximize our Resilience in Times of Stressful Cultural Change and Evolving Family Roles

Mary Rourke, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist/Certified School Psychologist

For the past 15 years, Mary has been on the faculty of Widener University's doctoral program in clinical psychology. In 2014, she co-founded Dragonfly Psychological Associates, a private psychology practice with offices in Media and Upper Dublin.

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

MANAGING YOUR TEEN'S INCREASING INDEPENDENCE

- What is happening in our teen's brain and body?
- Celebrating our teen's developing sense of self
- Supporting your teens in developing and utilizing coping strategies to build resilience in the midst of adversity and life's pressures
- Navigating the challenges of our teen's emerging independence

Charles A. Wisniewski, DO

Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry/Lecturer

Dr. Wisniewski specializes in social media use disorder, problematic internet use and sleep disorders. He has enjoyed his time at many different schools and programs in the city of Philadelphia and suburbs speaking with students/parents/teachers about a number of different mental health topics including sleep, social media/ internet addiction, mood disorders and more.

Christina Comenos, LCSW

Director of Counseling Services, JFCS

Christina Comenos works with JFCS' youth programs work with young people struggling with self-harm and suicidal ideation and can offer free pediatric care for those at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

These programs are free and open to the community.

The Ultimate Celebration

Save the Date

MAY 18, 2025



FEATURING
Howie Mandel



Scholarship Submission Deadline Friday, February 28, 2025

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 28, 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 gmillar@harziontemple.org.

SPIRIT SHABBAT

Message from **Cantor Herman**

There has been a fair amount of creative experimentation with Shabbat services in the Jewish world over the last several decades, most notably (in the non-Orthodox world) with the use of musical instruments. Instrumental music in Jewish worship has an interesting and complex history – and has actually been with us literally since the very beginning. After crossing the Red Sea and singing with reverential joy to God, the Israelite women all took tambourines and danced as Miriam chanted “Sing to Adonai, for He has triumphed...!” The Book of Psalms mentions a variety of instruments that can be used in praise of God – “It is good to praise the Lord on a ten-stringed harp, with voice and lyre together...” is but one example. In the days of The Temple in Jerusalem a thousand years later, instrumental music was an assumed and standard part of worship, including on Shabbat. The Mishnah even lists the number of instruments used on certain Holidays in the Temple.

But with the Rabbinic Period beginning in the year 70 CE, musical instruments on Shabbat and Yom Tov (major Holidays such as Rosh Hashanah and Pesach) became less tolerated and eventually entirely prohibited. The reasons ranged from legal issues with clapping, noise-making and dancing, to the idea that Jews are in a perpetual state of mourning following the Temple’s destruction. For the next 1500 years, instrumental music was virtually nowhere to be found on Shabbat in a synagogue – until the 19th century, with the introduction of organ music in German Reform congregations. And in 1958, the Conservative movement’s Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) published a paper which permitted organ music in synagogues on Shabbat, citing ways it could enhance services and categorizing the organ as a permissible “mitzvah accessory.” In 1970 (over 50 years ago), the CJLS asserted that one could play other acoustic instruments as part of Shabbat services. In 2008, members of the CJLS wrote that musical instruments could be broadly permitted on Shabbat, though this position was not fully accepted by the wider committee. The current reality is that over half of Conservative shuls use musical instruments, including some of the movement’s most well-known communities (IKAR and Temple Sinai in Los Angeles – where Craig Taubman’s “Friday Night Live” debuted in 1998, Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC), and the practice has steadily grown in popularity. Several Reform and Conservative communities in Israel also use instruments on Shabbat. While there are reported gains with the use of instruments (congregational engagement and attendance), something is also very much lost – namely, the more traditional post-biblical way of doing things. The advent of 19th century Reform was an enormous break with the existing Judaism of the time, and as the Conservative movement follows suit with instrumental music, it moves farther away from traditional rabbinic orthodoxy. For some, the use of instruments simply doesn’t *feel* like shul; while instruments bring some Jews closer to a sense of spirituality and holiness, others feel pushed farther away.

I have sometimes used musical instruments on Friday nights for much of my cantorial career, but I have never done so on a

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The Zionist Organization
of the Conservative Movement

**Would you give 5 minutes and 5 dollars
to help keep Israel strong, safe and
democratic for years to come?**

Voting to commence March 10, stay tuned for more info
or to get involved contact Debbie Rose at:

mercaz@harziontemple.org

**Sign up today to receive a reminder
to vote when polls open online:**

Scan the QR, or visit mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025
where you can click to sign up for a reminder to vote from
your community’s MERCAZ captain - make sure to enter
your community code.

Community Code: **414**



VOTE MERCAZ

Shabbat morning – and until very recently have frankly never wanted to. But something is feeling different to me now – at this time and in this community. I am feeling intrigued and inspired for the first time to experiment creatively with instruments on Shabbat morning, as our Har Zion community begins its next hundred years – with the operative word being “experiment,” and the outcome being uncertain. It feels exciting but risky; undoubtedly some will not approve, and I have no idea in the end if this will work for us. But I do know that if we don’t try, we’ll definitely never know.

I have chosen three Shabbat morning dates for our creative Shabbat experiment, which I have named Spirit Shabbat: February 8, April 26, and June 14. On each of these Shabbat mornings there will also be a concurrent traditional Shabbat service with no instruments. For Spirit Shabbat I am envisioning a shorter service, where entire liturgical sections are condensed into teachings and/or participatory musical experiences, and a few elements are omitted. I envision a soulful acoustic musical ensemble which enhances congregational singing, feeling and engagement. My goal for Spirit Shabbat would be for congregants, including some who rarely attend regular services, to come away with a deeply authentic Jewish spiritual Shabbat experience through an untraditional but vibrant channel. I would hope to reach and touch fellow community members whom we’re not reaching through our traditional services. And I would aspire to make rich new discoveries – spiritual, liturgical, and musical.

My greatest wish would be for no one to feel alienated from our community by this Spirit Shabbat experiment. I am extremely open to engaging with any and every congregant about this – please do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss and share concerns. And for those excited by the possibility of exploring with me, I welcome your input and participation.

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

2:15 PM – Movements in American Judaism with Dr. Michael Schatz

Eight-part series starting January 6

(excluding MLK Day and President's Day)

In-person and Zoom

Over the course of eight sessions we will explore the history of how American Judaism and its various denominations came to be. We will see how these evolved among the landscape of American Jewish history and American culture in general, and we will look at the current state of each Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist Judaism as well as various expressions of post-denomination Judaism in America.

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.

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

January 8, 22 and February 5, 19

In-person only – at the home of Patty Grobman

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

pgrobman@comcast.net.

Remaining classes: March 5, 19, Apr 2, 23, May 7, 21

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

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh – 4 PM

In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates

Tuesdays, January 7 and 28

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

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

Har Zion Temple bulletin



VOL. 36, No. 2

TISHRI-HESHVAN, 5734

October, 1973

EXCITING WEEKEND INAUGURATES JUBILEE CELEBRATION; RABBIS GREENBERG, GOLDSTEIN, WOLPE TO BE HONORED

See story page 2



Joseph N. Gorson
Chairman
Jubilee Weekend



Simon Greenberg
Rabbi Emeritus

CHARTER OF Har Zion Temple

To the Honorable the Judges
of the Court of Common Pleas No. 5 for the County of Philadelphia.

Be it known, that the undersigned Citizens of the State of Pennsylvania having associated themselves together for the support of public worship and being desirous of becoming incorporated according to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of certain Corporations" approved the twenty ninth day of April 1878 and the undersigned thereby do hereby declare that the following are the purposes and objects for and upon which they desire to be incorporated:

1. The name of the proposed corporation is "Har Zion Temple."
2. Said corporation is formed for the purpose of establishing a Synagogue for the divine worship and studies in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Jewish faith, to conduct classes for instruction in the religious tenets and traditions of Judaism and to create a Jewish Center wherein social and religious activities shall be conducted and maintained.
3. Said corporation is to exist perpetually.
4. The members of said corporation shall be limited to the City of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania and chosen according to the provisions of said corporation as framed at liberty use and the names and residences of those who have subscribed for the first year are:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Harry Goldstein | 2908 W. 35th Street | Harry Altshuler | 2408 Woodbine Avenue |
| Samuel H. Brudsky | 2185 W. Myrtle Street | Levy Ziff | 2472 Woodbine Avenue |
| Bernard H. Brudsky | 2185 W. Myrtle Street | Max Haskovitz | 2946 Myrtle Road |
| Hyman Brudsky | 2290 W. Myrtle Street | Samuel I. Levy | 2630 Myrtle Road |
| Harry Cohen | 2237 North 35th Street | Michael Mayer | 2808 Woodbine Avenue |
| Isaac Cohen | 2480 North 35th Street | Charles H. Shapiro | 2629 W. Myrtle Avenue |
| Isidor L. Kovaloff | 2401 North 35th Street | Isaac Goldberg | 2424 W. Myrtle Avenue |
| David Metzger | 33rd and Myrtle Avenue | Nickel Ziff | 2416 W. Myrtle Avenue |
| William Pollock | 33rd and Myrtle Avenue | Simon Wolf | 2420 W. Myrtle Avenue |
| Isaac J. Dine | 2067 W. Myrtle Avenue | Bernard Haskovitz | 2410 Woodbine Avenue |
| William Goldstein | 2402 North 35th Street | Isaac Goldstein | 2407 Myrtle Avenue |
| Max Altshuler | 2227 North 35th Street | Isaac Goldstein | 2410 W. Myrtle Avenue |
| | | Harry Wolf | 2237 North 35th Street |
6. Any property real or personal which shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised or conveyed to said corporation shall be taken and held in trust to it, subject to the control and disposition of the lay members thereof, or such other selected officers or representatives thereof, as shall be composed of a majority of lay members.
- Witness our hands and seals this first day of November 1873.



Gerald I. Wolpe
Senior Rabbi



David A. Goldstein
Rabbi Emeritus

"And you shall hallow the fiftieth year..."

Leviticus 25:10



A Thanksgiving Mitzvah

Message from **Jeff Handen**

I just want to drop a quick note letting everyone know that 70 Kosher Thanksgiving baskets were successfully delivered this morning (before the Har Zion Birthday Bash) to food-insecure households in the Lower Merion area through our partnership with Eldernet (<https://eldernet.org/>). This is an increase from the 61 baskets delivered in 2023 and the 51 baskets delivered in 2022 (our first year back delivering baskets after the Covid pause). This could not have been accomplished without the contributions of each and everyone of you. On behalf of the Tikkun Olam committee, I would like to express my 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 again, more than stepped up to bat and collected and donated over 130 pounds of canned food
- a small army of over 50 volunteers who planned, packed, and delivered the 70 baskets, each with a complete Kosher chicken, all the sides, drinks, desserts, and supplemented with a host of non-perishables (almost 15 pounds of food per box!)
- Sandi Toben, 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
- all the facilities staff who unloaded, moved, stacked, and hauled over a half a ton of food
- 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, and probably a bunch of other things I'm missing
- Bridgee Bees Florist of Havertown who donated boxes of chocolate

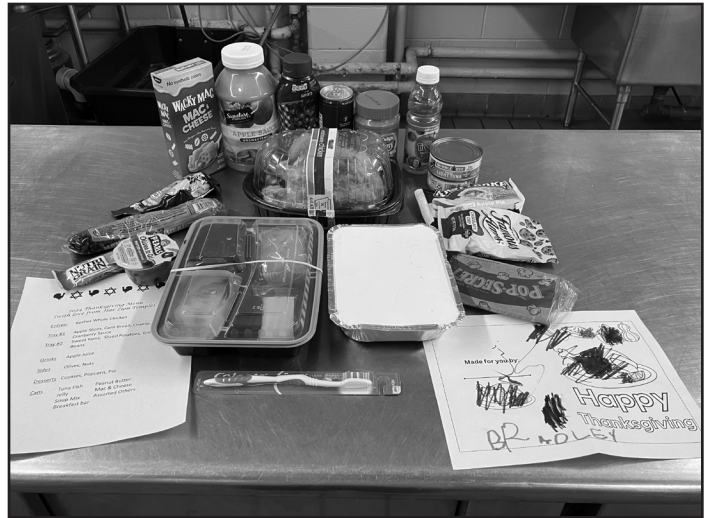
Without all of you this quite simply would not have been able to happen.

In closing I would like to leave you with some pictures and this second annual original Thanksgiving poem that was authored by one of our very own congregational poets and included in all the baskets.

*Thanksgiving day sides
sides are so important
perhaps the best part
sweeten your bird day
with thanks from your heart*

*caring and cranberries
for most the best part
blessing your bird day
thank sides from the start*

Thank you all, best wishes to you and your families, Happy 100th Birthday Har Zion, and Go Birds!



NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTH

Welcome to the world to

Samuel "Sammy" Aaron Goldstein, son of Sara & Jonathan Goldstein, grandson of Michele Goldstein, great grandson of Marlene Moskow, nephew of Andrea and Jay Shipper and Melissa Goldstein, and cousin of Leah Shipper. Sammy arrived April 8.

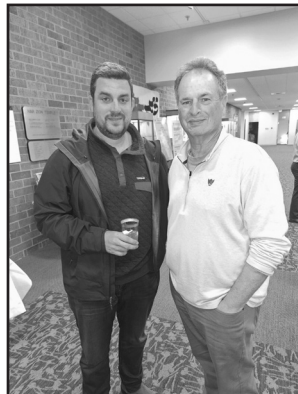


WEDDINGS

Alexi Michele Seval married Brandon Azus on September 28. Alexi is the daughter of Robin & Jay Seval, and sister of Ariel & Eric Leonard. Brandon is the son of Elyse & David Azus of Melville, New York, brother of Matthew & Allie Azus and Evan & Robyn Azus.

Haley Samantha Selarnick married Jacob Harris Fuerst on November 9. Haley is the daughter of Nancy & Stuart Selarnick, sister of John & Paige Selarnick, Alex & Dana Selarnick, Michael & Sydney Selarnick and Sam Selarnick, granddaughter of Esther Gilman & John L. Selarnick (z"l) and Anita H. Matusow (z"l) and Donald & Janine Hoffman (z"l), niece of Meredith & Jonathan Hoffman, and aunt to Mason, Blake, Cole, Olivia, and Jackson. Jacob is the son of Margie Siegel and Jeff Fuerst, brother of Alexa Fuerst and grandson of Joe and Julia Siegel and Joel and Peppy Fuerst.

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



The Men's Club Opening Dinner on November 21 included speaker **Steve Rosenberg**, talking about Jews in sports and the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Manning the grills were **Jordan Landau** and **Bill Novick**. Also pictured are **Elan Elkaim** and **Josh Klein**.

TIKKUN OLAM . . .

We Love Our Stitches!

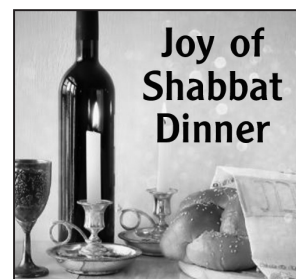
What do you get when you give our Stitches yarn and a pair of needles? Acts of loving kindness!

Our Stitches are the BEST! This year Shul Stitches stitched, wrapped and delivered over 200 items to our community both near and far.

This includes:

- 66 blankets to IDF Lone Soldiers, JRA, homeless shelters, and refugees
- 54 hats & 80 scarves to US & Israeli soldiers, hospital patients and people in need

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.



Joy of Shabbat Dinner

**Save these dates and join us for
Joy of Shabbat
Fridays: January 31 (Musical), March 7,
April 4, May 2 and June 6 (Musical)**

Watch your emails to RSVP

The Joy of Shabbat Dinners Need Your Support

BE A SPONSOR!

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

Cook for a Friend

Watch your emails for the upcoming schedule.

For more info, contact us at cookforafriendhzt@gmail.com

EDUCATION . . .

Message from

Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal JFGRS

We are pleased to take this month's bulletin article to highlight a pair of Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School teachers, Morah Wendy Lebofsky and assistant teacher and Project Teach graduate, high school senior Ilana Mintz.



Wendy is in her sixth year teaching Hay, fifth grade, at Har Zion, and has been teaching religious school at a number of schools as well as teaching special needs for thirty-three years! In addition to teaching Hay, Wendy has been the lead teacher in our intergenerational Better Together program for the last three years. During the day she is a middle school specialist for autistic support and children with emotional disturbances at a private school. Wendy lives in Abington with her husband and two college-aged children. She is originally from New York and is also pursuing a Masters degree in Special Education.

Wendy's favorite thing to teach at Har Zion is Judaic Studies, where she enjoys encouraging the students to appreciate their culture and heritage and build Jewish connections. She recalls especially the shock that her students encounter when they learn that the Jewish People constitute just .2% of the world's population. She said "they know we are a minority, but most students don't realize how small a minority!" When she is not teaching at Har Zion or at her secular school, or taking care of her family, Wendy studies Yiddish language, and bowls in a bowling league.

Ilana Mintz is a senior at Lower Merion High School, and an assistant teacher in the Hay class, working closely with Morah Wendy. She lives in Wynnewood with her mom, twin sister and little brother, and two Shih-tzus, Betty and Pepper. Ilana is a graduate of the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, has been a camper in the Har Zion Day Camp, and celebrated Bat Mitzvah here at Har Zion, where she is the third generation of her family to be a part of this synagogue. One of her favorite memories of her time as a student in the religious school was a
(continued on page 10)

Upcoming JFGRS Events

January

- 5 Zayin Class Better Together
- 7 Tufts University Shir Appeal A Cappella Concert
- 26 Dalet Parasha Pizza Party, Hay and Vav Better Together

February

- 2 Aleph Model Shabbat Dinner, Zayin Trip to United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington
- 9 Bible Players come to Har Zion
- 23 Trip Day for Bet, Gimel and Dalet

Message from Sandi Toben,

Director of Early Childhood Education

At the NCCECE we often describe ourselves as a school, not just a daycare. Those in the education field would likely understand this statement, but what does that mean for our families, students, and staff? We place a substantial amount of time and resources into our teachers' professional development each year. Our staff's continued education is important to the upkeep of our curriculum and philosophy. So, what is the NCCECE educational philosophy?



Our program prioritizes three key focuses: social-emotional growth, language acquisition/ conflict resolution, and independence. With developmental milestones in mind, our focuses drive the way in which our classrooms appear, the way our staff interacts with our students, and the way our students learn at school. These focuses align with the Reggio educational philosophy that originated in Italy after World War Two. The Reggio philosophy first and foremost believes all children come to school with knowledge, opinions, connections, and interests... they are not empty vessels for teachers to fill. At the NCCECE, our teachers take the time to create connections with each child, observe their interests, their questions, and where their curiosity might take them. Based on what the teacher knows about the students, they will introduce materials, open-ended questions, and allow for student-led discoveries to drive the class. They do this while also steering the class to make connections to developmental and academic goals throughout the year. Our teachers are amazing. Continued education keeps them up to date and allows for our school to dive deeper and deeper into our philosophy.

This past November, the Shorashim teachers, Ms. Kim and Morah Faith, were able to accompany me to the Paradigm Project Conference. The Paradigm Project is a Jewish early childhood Reggio-inspired organization whose goal is to create space for
(continued on page 10)

Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

January

- 1-3 Winter Break – NCCECE Closed
- 6 School Reopens
- 12 Sunday Fun Day
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend – 12 PM Dismissal
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service – NCCECE Closed
- 24 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans featuring Garinim

February

- 9 Sunday Fun Day
- 13 Tu B'Shevat Celebration- for students only
- 14-17 President's Day Weekend – No School

Dr. Schatz (continued from page 9)

class in Jewish Ethics with Mark Levy and Jeff Lieberman. They used a book called "You be the Judge", which Ilana referenced as part of her college essay. At Lower Merion, Ilana's favorite subject is psychology, and she is thinking of studying sociology next year at college. In the summers she has worked and volunteered. In religious school, Ilana's favorite thing to teach is Jewish Holidays. She also likes working with the Better Together program, at the trip to the Weitzman Museum and at other activities. She shared that she enjoys teaching at Har Zion because it is a great community of people. In her own words, "Everyone here is great! It is important to educate young Jews, especially in today's society with Jews being marginalized. We are a small population. I love teaching!"

Sandi Toben (continued from page 9)

likeminded Jewish early childhood educators to learn together and from one another. This conference brings educators from all over the country to learn, create community, and grow. This year was my second visit and I was delighted to bring Kim and Faith with me. Over two and a half days, we covered topics from behavior management to inclusive curriculum and nature education to classroom routines.

Both Kim and Faith were excited to get back to the classroom and share what they learned. Faith was struck by how much Reggio-inspired work she was already doing in her room without having a label for it. Faith reflects, "[My] biggest takeaway was that [I] was doing Reggio-inspired activities in [the] classroom already. One example is taking common everyday objects and incorporating them into the theme. When teaching about the holiday of Sukkot, empty paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls along with green tissue paper were put on the rug. The children worked in small groups to create their own idea of a Sukkah." Kim was most inspired by a class that changed her mind set when addressing challenging behaviors. She reflects, "My favorite class was about changing the way we look at discipline and behavior. It focused on changing our mindset as educators from misbehavior to "mistake behavior". What we consider misbehaving is simply "mistake behavior" because they are still learning how to navigate situations properly. They are seeking connection! The child who knocks down everyone's tower everyday is wanting to connect with those children but isn't sure how to go about it. The child who looks at you and dumps an entire bin of toys on the floor as they're smiling right at you is trying to connect with you. They need something from you." Kim says she has put this new mind set to work and is seeing instant change in her relationships with her students.

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**Monday, January 6
7:00 PM
Becoming Janet
Janet Singer Applefield**

**Wednesday, February 19
1:00 PM
There Was Night and
There Was Morning
Sara Sherbill**

**Monday, February 3
7:00 PM
Two Wheels to Freedom
Arthur Magida**

**Monday, March 3
7:00 PM
Max's War
Libby Fischer Hellmann**

**Wednesday, February 12
12:00 PM Lunch and Learn
FREE
10/7: 100 Human Stories
Lee Yaron**

**Monday, March 31
11:30 AM
Sisterhood Luncheon
The Love Elixir of
Augusta Stern
Lynda Cohen Loigman**

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SISTERHOOD . . .

Enjoying Our Events and Each Other

Message from **Meryl Littman**,
Sisterhood President



Thanks to our wonderful Sisterhood VP for Programming, Aimee Silverman, and our varsity team of aces, we have had extraordinary events already in 5785 and we are looking forward to many more! After Opening Dinner, High Holidays, and learning with Rabbi Ira Flax in our beautiful Sukkah (Thank you, JOANNE DEGLIN, for leading us in decorating it!), we didn't slow down. We've already enjoyed several of the 12-part series of Open a Book...Open Your Mind, led by sisters Sheila Kliger and Susan Kochman, and of course with the support of Reisel Weinberger. Most notably, we had a full sanctuary attending a wonderful interview by Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani with Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove of Park Avenue Synagogue, talking about his new book *"For Such a Time as This"*. Through the fall we have had Yoga sessions every Monday at 11AM with Cantor Lizzie Shammash (by Zoom) and monthly Rosh Chodesh group meetings, book club (offsite), and Shul Stitchers meetings. Sisterhood also is helping support the ongoing Emotional Well-Being Series at the shul (open to the community) and has donated to support families in Israel.

Our free Moroccan 'Tasting' event on November 13 turned into a FULL delicious dinner for more than 40 very happy, lucky ladies! Our speaker and chef, Devorah Selber, supervised 2 days of cooking preparation with our VP Aimee Silverman and volunteers Linda Antar, Marice Bock, Amy Brodtkin, Andy Coren, Joy Landau, Marian Levine, Meryl Littman, Michele Perlstein, Meryl Raskin, Sheila Schafer, Devorah's daughter Danielle Selber, and Suzanne Waldman. Devorah's family history is heartwarming. Their roots go back to Italy, Spain, and Greece before settling in North Africa. Her parents had to leave Morocco during the Nazi occupation of WWII and eventually emigrated to Israel in 1952 (Devorah is 8 of 11 children, and the first to be born a *sabra*, on a *moshav* in southern Israel). Devorah grew up herding sheep and eating fruit off trees in her family's orchard. She became a youth community leader, and her talents were esteemed and recognized, which sent her on interesting international travels. In the 1980's she came to America on an exchange program and met her husband, Steve. They have been married now almost 40 years, live in Wynnewood, have two daughters (who became Bat Mitzvah at HZT) and five grandchildren. Devorah has been a realtor at Berkshire Hathaway for over 30 years, specializing in the Main Line and Philadelphia. She uses food to build community and is known for her annual Hanukkah parties, bursting Seder tables, and Shabbatot. She also is very active in volunteering, speaking, and supporting Israel, including marching in Washington DC. Tragically her family was touched severely on October 7, when a cousin (Idan Edri z"l), a member of HaSolelim, was murdered in the Nova music festival massacre, and another (Elkana Bohbot) is yet a hostage. In lieu of a speaker's fee or payment for catering, Devorah asks that donations be made to HaSolelim community which is building "The Climate Forest" in memory of Idan and

Sisterhood Calendar

Open a Book...Open Your Mind

January 6 – Janet Singer Applefield

February 3 – Arthur Magida

February 12 – Lunch & Learn with Lee Yaron (no charge)

February 19 – Sara Sherbill

(See page 10 for schedule)

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh

Tuesdays, January 7, 28 and February 25, 4 PM

Sisterhood Book Club

Wednesdays, January 8 and February 12, 12:30 PM (offsite)

For info, contact Barbara Kardon, barbkardon@comcast.net

Sisterhood Shabbat Weekend

Friday and Saturday, January 10 and 11

Friday Dinner by reservation only

For info, contact Andrea Robbins, arrelst8@gmail.com

Sisterhood Gaming Days

Wednesday, January 15, 1 PM

Tuesday, February 11, 1 PM

Watch your emails for more info

Sisterhood Board Meeting

Sunday, January 12, 10 AM

Sisterhood Yoga/Meditation

Most Mondays, 11 AM

other Nova festival victims. Please send your well-wishes and donations to Devorah.Selber@foxroach.com (610-212-2725) and comment "A Tree to Remember". We are so grateful to get to know Devorah and her family; she is such a loving and lovely lady! If you missed this truly wonderful evening, you can see her yummy Moroccan recipes at devorahselber.foxroach.com. Hopefully we may experience her catering again in the future!

Our Torah Fund Lunch was on December 8, when we honored our dear Joy Landau, who has strengthened and nurtured our Har Zion community almost every day for so many years, including Shabbat Kiddushes and daily minyan breakfasts. On December 18 a fun time is planned at our Sisterhood Hanukkah Gift Exchange. Our upcoming Sisterhood Shabbat weekend is January 10 and 11, led by Andrea Robbins for the umpteenth time (Thank you, ANDREA!) where we will honor our super-duper executive support associate, Jane Fetscher Kontopodias, who will be retiring after a full career at Har Zion. We will certainly miss Jane! From strength to strength, JOY and JANE!!!

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

See you in shul!

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