



Rabbi's message

Relationships with people, tradition and...

Recently, I had the opportunity to take two trips, one personal and one professional, and each in their own way, reminded me of many of the reasons that I love being Jewish and I love being a Rabbi. Each trip, one with my family and one with my Rabbinic colleagues, gave me a renewed perspective on my experiences at The Jewish Center and helped me think more clearly about the path that lies ahead of us as a religious community.

As I have mentioned to many of you, for Hanukkah this year, Sara and I took our

children to Israel for their first trip. We went to attend a family *simcha* and we went to help our children begin to develop a personal connection to the land of the Jewish People. Being in Israel for those two weeks reminded me how beautiful the land is and helped me witness once again the miracle of the modern State of Israel. To see the country through the eyes of our children was a wonderful experience and it helped me reconnect to the land and to our history. We had an opportunity to celebrate Hanukkah in Jerusalem with friends and family and to see *hanukkiyot* in the windows. We also had the opportunity to spend time in the modern city of Modi'in, where our friends live today and where Judah Macabee and his family lived thousands of years ago. Being in Israel reminded me of our history as a people including standing at the Kotel, the Western Wall of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, where Jews have come to celebrate joyous events and to offer their personal prayers for centuries.

Recent studies have proven that a person-

(Continued page 2)



President's message

As I often remind you, The Jewish Center is a very active and busy place. It is important to read the whole newsletter to make a decision about which of the plethora of programs and activities to attend. I want to update you on some other exciting things going on that are not program related.

For as many years as most of us can remember, our Nursery School and Religious School have operated quite independently from the rest of TJC. This happened naturally since the schools are located in separate buildings. Historically they

have had their own staff, phone number, and administration. All other TJC activities and staff are located in the main building, and their administrative needs and those of the congregation have been met by the staff in the main office.

Last fall I appointed a subcommittee of the Executive Committee to look at the congregation's administrative needs and the options for running TJC as efficiently as possible. They concluded that operating as two separate entities decreases effectiveness and efficiency and does not maximize on our resources. They have determined that we have a wonderful opportunity to create a new model.

To create a "one institution" model, a new position of Office Manager has been creat-

(Continued on page 3)

Worship Schedule Fridays - 6:30 p.m. Saturdays - 9:45 a.m.
Minyan Schedule Sun. - 8:30 a.m. Wed. - 7:00 a.m.
Library Minyan Saturday, February 10 and 24 10:20 a.m.
Family Service Friday, February 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Tot Shabbat Saturday, February 2 and 17 - 11:00 a.m.
Journey through Shabbat Morning Saturday, February 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Day School Shabbat Saturday, February 17

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Schedule
Saturday, February 3 Morgan and Paige Warner Daughters of Ann and Adam Warner
Saturday, February 10 Joel Straus Son of Audrey and Alan Straus
Saturday, February 17 (5:30 p.m.) Caroline Sigal Daughter of Barbara Snyder and Leonard Sigal
Saturday, February 24 Caroline Grenis Daughter of Linda and Michael Grenis
Saturday, March 3 Elayna Barmak Daughter of Karen and David Barmak

Shabbat Candle Lighting
February 2 4:57 pm.
February 9 5:05 p.m.
February 16 5:14 p.m.
February 23 5:22 p.m.



Rabbi's Message (continued from pg. 1)

al visit to Israel for young people, families and adults, can have a lasting positive impact on one's connection to the local Jewish community. I was so glad to see the streets and hotels and restaurants filled with so many people having that experience and learning about ways that they can continue to support Israel when they return to their homes. As we celebrate our relationship with Israel this year here at The Jewish Center through our observance of Yom Ha'Atzma'ut in April and our ongoing Israel Affairs programming, I encourage all of you to think about the possibility of traveling to Israel, as a family, as a couple, as an individual or on a mission. And when you do you too will witness the miracle of the modern State and feel a closer connection to our history and our people. I know that is important for me as a Rabbi and as a Jew.

The other program that helped me rethink what is important to me as a Rabbi and as a leader of this community was my participation in a program known as the Rabbi Training Institute which brought together about 60 Conservative Rabbis from throughout North America to study, share, listen and explore possibilities for the future. It was a thrill for me to travel and share the experience with Rabbi Tucker.

Among the participants at the conference were my teachers, friends that I have known since my USY days and college, classmates from Rabbinical School and some junior colleagues that I could advise and assist by sharing my experiences. It was a pleasure to be taught by some outstanding scholars who helped me gain new insights in modern Jewish thought and ancient Rabbinic texts. It was eye opening to learn about some of the incredible things happening in the field of Jewish education and to develop tools that I will share with the teachers in our Nursery and Religious Schools. It was important for me to spend time talking with people who helped me learn about such things as compassion fatigue and to help me think about more ways that I can take care of myself physically, emotionally and spiritually. I was inspired to daven in a minyan of Rabbis and scholars and to discuss ways that I can help people searching for spiritual experiences in the synagogue. It was an honor to study with some of the current and future scholars and leaders of the Conservative Movement including Professor Arnie Eisen, a great thinker and expert on the American Jewish Community today and to begin to develop a personal relationship with Professor Eisen, the Chancellor-Elect of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Professor Eisen is a great mind and a caring individual who has great ideas for the Seminary, the Conservative Movement and for American Jewry. I will be sharing some of his vision with you from the *bimah* and in the classroom over the next few months and I know that it will spark some great study and interesting debate.

In these cold days of winter, I have a warm feeling in my heart - a warm feeling about my relationship with the State of Israel, a warm feeling about my relationship with Jewish tradition and my relationship with God and the warmest feeling of all that I have the honor and opportunity to share this with all of you on a daily basis. I am humbled by the honor, yet excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie before us as a community. And I feel very inspired as I think about what lies ahead for us.

I look forward to seeing you soon in shul,

Rabbi Adam Feldman

Rabbi Feldman may be reached at afeldman@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-0100, ext. 203.

Special Offer for Deluxe *Tefillin*

- * Are you looking to purchase *tefillin* for your child's Bar Mitzvah?
- * Do you want to get a pair for yourself?
- * Do you want to borrow *tefillin* to use during the weekday minyan?

Thanks to a generous donation from a member of the congregation, Rabbi Feldman now has *tefillin* available for purchase. All of the *tefillin* are made by one of the world's best *sofrim*.

Special Rate for B'nai Mitzvah students - \$36 (regular price is \$125)
Deluxe *tefillin* available for adults as well.

For more information, contact Rabbi Feldman at The Jewish Center





Cantor's notes

Singing Sycamores, Harmonious Hemlocks and Melodious Maples

The Jewish calendar presents us with some very interesting situations and permutations from time to time. This year, on Shabbat morning, February 3, 2007, we will be marking two special occasions - *Shabbat Shirah* (The Sabbath of Song) and *Tu B'shevat* (The New Year of the Trees). What could these two delightful occasions in the Jewish liturgical year possibly have in common? Well, let's see.

Shabbat Shirah, "The Sabbath of Song", is so named because it is the Sabbath on which Moses' triumphant *Shirat HaYam* (Song of the Sea) is chanted from the Torah. The *Shir* (Song) is found in *Parshat B'SHALACH* (Exodus 15:1-18) which will be chanted this year on Shabbat morning, February 3. This Song of Moses, which was sung as the People of Israel crossed the Red Sea, is the oldest song text in the Bible. The cantillation or trope for these special verses is especially joyous and unique to this text and is not found anywhere else in the Torah. The congregation rises and joins in the chanting of certain verses. In this way, we feel a connection to the joy and jubilation the Israelites felt when they experienced this cataclysmic event in our Jewish history. Once again this year, LaShir, our resident Jewish community choir, will make our *Shabbat Shirah* service special with their beautiful musical offerings.

Tu B'shevat (literally the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat) is widely regarded as "The New Year of the Trees". This observance can be traced back in the Bible to the act of tithing - giving one tenth of your income to support the priests and the Levites of the Holy Temple

in Jerusalem. This included one tenth of the fruit produce as well. It remained a minor holiday even after the Temple was destroyed. It marks an occasion to become aware of the benefit of trees in our lives and also remind us to be aware of the ecology of the earth. On a higher spiritual level, the Torah is referred to as a "Tree of Life" - thus giving homage to the far-reaching benefit of trees. In more recent times, we have created *Tu B'shevat* seders celebrating the blessings of trees.

How do these two seemingly disparate occasions inter-relate to each other on February 3, 2007? One only has to look to the psalms to see the connection. In Psalm 96, which is part of the Kabbalat Service (Receiving the Sabbath) every Friday evening, we read:

*"Let the field and all within it exult
Let the trees of the forest break into
song!"*

Case closed!!

*Melodically yours,
Cantor Murray E. Simon*

President's Message (continued from pg. 1)

ed and will be filled by Meryl Verb, who has been working as the administrative assistant in the school building. Meryl will be putting into place a "one congregation" approach to how we can more efficiently meet the needs of staff, congregants, lay leaders and school families. Our current office staffing includes one person in the school building and one full-time and one part-time person in the main building. With few exceptions the staff in each building has worked exclusively on the tasks generated in their own building. The new model will have Meryl supervising and allocating the work to all three people (including herself), and "mixing & matching" tasks and assignments as variations in workload require. Meryl will remain in the school building and the two staff in the main office will remain there, but with technology the tasks will move electronically. At times, Meryl and/or the two main office staff will move to the other location. (For example, for coverage during lunches, meetings or vacations.) No matter which staff person is in which location, our primary objective is to greet all staff, congregants, visitors and lay leaders warmly and courteously, and to make sure their needs

are being met. We plan to have a new administrative assistant in place shortly. We are confident that this new model will allow us to meet the congregation's overall administrative needs more efficiently and simply. I extend warm congratulations to Meryl on her new assignment and hope that you will join me in making this as smooth a transition as possible.

We are lucky to welcome Cyndi Kleinbart as our interim Coordinator of Youth and Family Programs. After Sue Weiner left in November we decided to take some time to review our mission and objectives for youth and families in our congregation. We know that the process of exploring all the options and opportunities available and then determining the right direction for TJC will take time. We have already begun this process. But since the show must go on, Cyndi (who has stepped down as co-chair of Youth and Family Committee) has become the acting Youth and Family Director through May 31. She brings her experience and enthusiasm and will keep our programming and activities running so that we continue to provide wonderful opportunities for our youth. If you have thoughts about our Youth and Family department as we reevaluate our

program, please give Cyndi or Naomi Perlman, Youth Committee co-chair, a call so we can hear your ideas.

I have always encouraged your feedback and am thoroughly convinced that the best way to grow and learn is from being open and receptive to other's ideas. We have now added a suggestion box in the main lobby for you to write any comments that you would like to share. I will review the suggestions regularly.

This is a very special month for us. Our daughter, Caroline, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 24. I have always appreciated a lesson I learned from Rabbi Elkins: the coming of age and the acceptance of the responsibilities of an adult Jew are enhanced when shared with community. I am proud and honored to celebrate this *simcha* with our wonderful community.

*L'hitraot,
Linda Grenis
TJC President*

*Feel free to contact me at
LGrenis@aol.com or 609-497-1817.*



The Jewish Center is so grateful for the many donations that you give both in honor of joyous occasions and in memory of beloved family and friends. In order to make the logistics easier and the gifting choices clearer, a donor form is attached to the back of each monthly Newsletter. Donor forms are also available in the Main Office. We thank you for the time, effort, and generosity that goes into each of these donations!

Donor's Name _____

Donor's Address _____

Occasion: In memory of: In honor of:

Name: _____

Send donation acknowledgement card to: _____

(Please remember, acknowledgment cards are sent for contributions of \$18 or more. A listing will appear in the Newsletter for any donated amount.)

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please indicate your choice below and mail this form and a check to The Jewish Center, 435 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540. If you are interested in planned giving opportunities, please call Nancy Lewis in The Center Office, 609-921-0100, ext. 205.

Funds

- General
- The Annual Fund
- Adult Education
- Adult Library
- Arts & Cultural Affairs
- Biloxi/Katrina Fund
- Building Development Fund
- Cantor's Music Fund
- Children's Library
- College Connection
- Confirmation Class Israel Trip Fund
- Cy and Jackie Meisel Nursery Scholarship Fund
- Feldstein Israel Travel Scholarship Fund
- Goldie and Motel Bass Social Concerns Fund
- Gould Nursery Scholarship Fund
- Irving Rabinowitz Computer Fund
- Israeli Affairs Fund
- Jess Epstein Lunch-and-Learn Fund
- Jewish Center Women
- LaShir
- Men's Club

- Neimark Senior Mitzvah Fund
- New Siddur (\$25) New Humash (\$50)
- Nursery School
- Nursery Educator's Enrichment Fund
- Nursery Playground Fund
- Rabbis' Discretionary Fund
- Religious Affairs
- Religious School
- Religious School Professional Development Fund
- Ruth Miller School Cultural Fund
- Sapoff Art Purchase and Restoration Fund
- Shabbat Luncheon Fund
- Shabbat Meal for Mourners Fund
- Silver Circle Scholarship Fund
- Social Concerns
- Steve Levine Special Education Fund
- Torah Repair Fund
- Youth and Family Programs
- Wallack Family Fund

Plaques and Remembrances

- Memorial Plaque \$300
- Tree of Life Leaf \$180
(to commemorate a *simcha*)

Giving Opportunities

- Adult Ed Lecture or Series \$300-\$600
- Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon \$1,500 or Shabbat Kiddush \$300
- Donation toward Youth Lounge Recreational Equipment
- Donation toward Teen Girls Rosh Hodesh Group
- Donation toward new Lobby furniture and carpeting

****Now you can donate through our website. Go to www.thejewishcenter.org and follow the instructions!***

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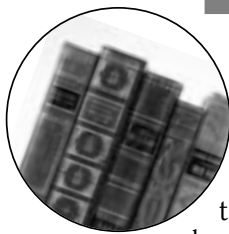
- Adam FeldmanRabbi
- Murray E. SimonCantor
- Anne E. TuckerRabbi
- Dov Peretz ElkinsRabbi Emeritus
- Nancy LewisAdministrative Director
- Fran AmirPrincipal, Religious School
- Gayle Z. WagnerDirector, Nursery Program
- Gila LevinCoordinator, B'nai Mitzvah Program
- Cyndi KleinbartCoordinator, Youth and Family Programs
- Linda GrenisPresident
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TIME VALUE

Library



Happy New Year! May one of your resolutions be to take advantage of the wonderful and dynamic collection in the Adult Library.

When you enter the Adult Library, the first thing that meets the eye is the librarian's desk on the left. Previously this was something of an eyesore because it displayed the backs of the computer and printer with their assorted cables streaming behind them. That sight is now history due to TJC Custodian Will Bynes's ingenuity and enterprise. He and congregant Gil Gordon repositioned the equipment so that it is unobtrusively on the side and rearranged the wiring so that it is out of the way and even more functional. Thanks Will and Gil!

Recent acquisitions:

Winter Palace by Dennis Jones. A novel that envisions a world crisis in which Russia exploits its Jewish population to infiltrate the Western world with KGB agents.

Night Tales Remembered: Fables from the Shammass by Michael Jay Katz. A wise and witty serving of Jewish folklore in the guise of tales told by a *shammass* to soothe his rabbi who cannot sleep.

Night Tales from Long Ago by Michael Jay Katz. More stories by the *shammass* set in the world of twelfth century Cologne, Germany.

Hidden in Silence by Stephanie Liss. Based on a true story, this videotape is the saga of a family rescued and hidden from the Nazis in Poland and the problems in keeping them hidden.

The Lost: A Search for the Six Million by Daniel Mendelsohn. A scholarly detective story centered on a man's quest for the true story about his family's disappearance in the Holocaust.

The following books are the gift of Gerald Seid:

The Nazarene by Sholem Asch. A vivid, colorful picture of the historical era of Jesus in the land of Israel, excelling in describing the culture, geography, politics and religious atmosphere in which Jesus lived.

Personal Witness: Israel Through My Eyes by Abba Eban. A passionate account of Israel's first five decades that was also the subject of a PBS radio series.

A Passion for Truth by Abraham Joshua Heschel. Completed just before the author's death in 1972, it embodies the author's conviction that the title phrase is the one solution for the problems of our time.

The following items are missing. If you have one of them, please return it promptly to the box on the Library desk.

Betraying Spinoza by Rebecca Goldstein
Jewish Wisdom by Joseph Telushkin
Lilith Magazine for Fall 2006



Jewish Center Women cordially invite you to a

Passover Cooking Demonstration

Featuring the Sous Chef from Whole Foods Market

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This event will take place at the Whole Foods Market, 3495 US Route 1 South, Princeton, New Jersey

Cost: \$40/per person for JCW members
(Cost for non-JCW members is \$45/per person)

Space is limited, first come, first served. Reservations are required no later than March 1.

Please return the form below to:
Jewish Center Women, c/o The Jewish Center
435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540
Attn: Cooking Demonstration

For more information, contact Sue Kushner at 609-737-9582 or suskushner@yahoo.com
or Michal Scheer at 609-683-8232 or michalscheer@yahoo.com

Name _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ (Please make payable to Jewish Center Women)

ADULT EDUCATION

Hebrew on Sundays with Edna Noiman

Ongoing through the end of the Religious School year in May, 2007. These classes are open to interested students who have some background in Hebrew conversation and grammar. For more information, contact Edna Noiman at 609-716-1164. Semester fee is \$118 with an additional charge for books and materials.

Bible Ba'Boker (Bible in the Morning) with Rabbi Annie Tucker

Shabbat mornings. The study group meets at 9:00 a.m. and concludes in time for our Shabbat morning service.

Begin Shabbat morning with a discussion of *Parashat Ha'Shavua* (the weekly Torah portion). All are welcome regardless of Bible background.

Talmud in the Afternoons with Rabbi David Wolf Silverman

Shabbat Afternoons from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

February 24 May 5, 19
March 3, 10, 24 June 2, 9

Explore Jewish law and Rabbinic literature responsible for shaping Judaism as it is today through selections from the Talmud, Midrash and Codes (using English translations). Ethical and political issues will be thoroughly examined in this fully participatory offering.

Journey through Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Annie Tucker

Every second Shabbat from January through May - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Join Rabbi Tucker and members of The Jewish Center community for an intimate Shabbat morning study experience. Designed to provide opportunities for exploration and conversation in an informal setting, the Journey program combines learning and discussion aimed at increasing participants' understanding of the structure, themes, and liturgy of Shabbat morning. Whether you've been coming to synagogue for years or are new to Shabbat, we hope that the Journey program will provide a space to look at issues of meaning in Jewish prayer as well as to create a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community-in which to study and dialogue together.

Emma Lazarus

Sunday evening, March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Jewish Center congregant and Princeton University Professor Starry Schor will speak about her new book on Emma Lazarus. Come learn about this celebrated poet and early Zionist who spoke from the heart about the challenge of being Jewish and American in the 19th century.

Mid-Day Midrash with Rabbi Adam Feldman and Rabbi Annie Tucker

Thursdays, February 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Join our Rabbis as they teach this mid-day program where we will have the opportunity to examine some of the classical Biblical stories through the lens of the traditional Rabbinic commentators. We will see how the rabbis understood the deeper meaning of these stories in their time and why they are still relevant for us to study today.

Blessings of a Skinned Knee - A Book Group led by Rabbi Adam Feldman

February 7, February 14, and February 21 at 9:30 a.m. or 8:15 p.m.

Based on the award-winning book by Wendy Mogel, our group will review many of her parenting tips that are based on Jewish texts. In fact, the subtitle of the book is "Using Jewish Teaching to Raise Self-Reliant Children". This group is for parents of all ages and will meet at 9:30 a.m. and 8:15 p.m. on each day. Please choose either the morning or evening group. If you need a copy of the book to read prior to the class, please contact Gayle Wagner in the School Office.

Torah on Tuesdays with Rabbi Adam Feldman and Rabbi Annie Tucker

February 6

Rabbi Tucker's session starts at 7:15 p.m.

Rabbi Feldman's session starts at 8:30 p.m.

Thinking About Theodicy (God and the Problem of Evil) with Rabbi Tucker

Popularized by Rabbi Harold Kushner's thoughtful work, *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*, the field of theodicy seeks to understand the presence of evil in our world, exploring the role which God does (or doesn't play) in human suffering. Looking at Biblical, Rabbinic, and contemporary writings on theodicy as well as examining the texts of our own life experience, this course will explore this most difficult aspect of religious thought providing space for dialogue and discussion as well as study of text.

Understanding Kashrut with Rabbi Feldman

For thousands of years, the laws of *kashrut* have formed the basis of all Jewish learning. These laws begin in the Torah and are developed in the Rabbinic literature. Join us as we examine the laws surrounding kosher animals, birds and fish, separate dishes for meat and milk as well as the difference between the various kosher symbols known as *hashgachot*. We will spend time discussing the history and meaning of the laws as well as how they apply to us today as individuals and as a community.

Contributions

(as of mid-January)

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support The Jewish Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

General

Mildred Weisblatt on the occasion of our 65th wedding anniversary

by Lew Weisblatt

Our 86th birthdays

by Mildred and Lew Weisblatt

80th birthday of Rabbi David Wolf Silverman

by Mildred and Lewis Weisblatt

Birth of Ellie Kessler Clark

by JoAnn and Phil Carchman

Anne Lewis acceptance to Rabbinical School

by Nancy Osborn

In memory of

Isabella Tolman

by Michele and Jeff Epstein, Lori and Michael Feldstein

Evelyn Lewis

by Michele and Jeff Epstein, Barbara and Brad Lawrence, Carol and Larry Shatoff, Bunny and Alan Paley, Donna and Robert Sheehan, Nancy Osborn, The Shylit Family, Lori and Michael Feldstein, Patricia and Gerald Hullfish, Heasook Kim-Kang, Alison and David Politziner, Jill Kaufman, Linda and Michael Grenis, The Executive Committee, Charlene and Scott Borsack, Ellen and Gil Gordon, Donna Gabai, Hedy and Matty Shavel, Judy and Stu Axelrod, Phyllis and Sy Marchand, Beverlee Surrey, Robin Hauer, Joan and Mark Levin, Irene and Sam Goldfarb

Elaine Such

by Michele and Jeff Epstein, Barbara and Brad Lawrence, Lori and Michael Feldstein, Jill and Gregg Kaufman, Judy and Stu Axelrod, Robin Hauer

Annette Malvin

by Mary and Robert Pickens

Karen Stein

by Lisa Lieberman

Suzanne and Jack Rosenthal

by Mik Rosenthal

Shirley Heft

by Ellen and Gil Gordon, Charlene and Scott Borsack

Eleanor Marvin

by Susan and Joel Heymsfeld

Sylvia Maisel

by Carol and Mark Pollard

Herbert Leopold

by Michael Leopold

Max Abelson

by Fay and Herb Abelson

Miriam Wagner Pollard

by Mark Pollard

Max Wolf Mattes

by Debby and Alan Tipermas, Nancy Osborn

Olga Lucienne Marchand, Gertrude Berg and

Evelyn Lewis

14 *by JoAnn and Phil Carchman*

Gertrude Karp

by Carol and David Atkin

Dr. Lloyd Nimaroff

by Robin Hauer

Betty Lieber

by Lori and Michael Feldstein

Rickel Weisblatt and Virginia Lutzer

by Mildred and Lew Weisblatt

Adult Library

In honor of

Engagement of Nicole Citron to Adam Koplan

by Barbara and Irv Litt, Jeanne and Sher Leiman

In memory of

Elka Landa

by Lillian Fishbein

Chester Rapkin

by Eva Rapkin

Betty Lieber

by Joan and Mark Levin

Gertrude Karp

by Marsha and Eliot Freeman

Adult Education

Ruth and Robert Goldston

In memory of

Evelyn Lewis

by Myra Weiner and Irv Newman

George Goodman

by Betsy and Daniel Sauder

Ruth and David Kasten and Evelyn Lewis

by Ellie and Ken Schweber

Arts & Cultural Affairs

In honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Josh Rose

by Debbie and Randy Brett

Biloxi/Katrina Fund

In honor of

The publication of poetry by our granddaughter,

Katie Herman

by Herb and Maxine Gurk

Cantor's Music Fund

Abraham Krotowski

In honor of

Cantor Simon and Nancy Lewis

by The Kaplan Family

The release of the "Great Cantors" DVD

by Ellen and Gil Gordon

In memory of

Haim Klimoff

by Judith and Louis Klimoff

Solomon Abraham Matzer

by Sandra Matzer Proshan

Children's Library

In honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Siciliano

by Marian Bass and Jeffrey Albert

1st birthday of Adrian Simon Gill

by Barbara and Irv Litt

Bat Mitzvah of Ricki Gross

by Robin Hauer

Birth of Ava Rose Kovner Meisel

by Ricky and AJ Shechtel

In memory of

Evelyn Lewis

by Marjorie and Rabbi Joel Chernikoff, Ricky and AJ Shechtel

Ina Gilbert

by Sheila and Jack Marrero, Adina and Micah Langer, Donna Gabai

Norma Kligman

by Ricky and AJ Shechtel

Yahrzeit of Goldie Bass

by Marian Bass and Jeffrey Albert

Feldstein Israel Travel Scholarship

In honor of

Birth of Ellie Kessler Clark

by Susan and Joel Heymsfeld

Engagement of Robin Freeman to Heming Nelson

by Jeanne and Sher Leiman

In memory of

Gertrude Karp and Max Wolf Mattes

by Susan and Joel Heymsfeld

Jewish Center Women

In honor of

Helaine Isaacs

by Paula and Philip Frady

Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by The Paley Family

In memory of

Evelyn Lewis

by Bunny and Alan Paley

Steve Levine Special Education Fund

Cheryl Levine Gursky and Matthew and Katie Levine

Nursery School

In honor of

Birth of Ellie Kessler Clark

by Jeanne and Sher Leiman

Joan Levin Nursery Dedication

Nancy Osborn

Judy and Stuart Axelrod

Diane, Mitch, Justin and Kyle Schwartz

Ziona and Rabbi David Wolf Silverman

Nursery School Playground Fund

In honor of

Joan Levin

by Randy and Steve Hubert

In memory of

Elaine Such, Shirley Heft, Max Wolf Mattes, Evelyn Lewis and Gertrude Karp

by Merryle and Steve Hudis

Evelyn Lewis

by Gayle Wagner

JEWISH CENTER WOMEN And TJC MEN'S CLUB

Present

The Third Annual

Jewish Center Open

Saturday, February 17

7:00 p.m.

Hopewell Valley Tennis Club

Round Robins of Mixed Doubles,

Doubles and Singles!

All skill levels welcome!

No partners required!

Beer, wine, soft drinks and light fare will be served!

Spectators are welcome!

Players: \$30.00 (JCW or Men's Club member)

Spectators: \$15.00 (JCW or Men's Club member)

Space is limited-please respond early to play!

To Join JCW or the Men's Club, please add \$36.00 per person (Seniors: \$25.00)

JCW & MEN'S CLUB TENNIS RSVP

Send a check payable to JCW with the names of players and/or spectators to Steve Hubert, 56 Stonecliff Road, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540.

PLAYER NAMES:

SPECTATORS:

AMOUNT PAID & _____ (Please add \$36/person for JCW or Men's Club membership dues)

Questions? Call Naomi Perlman at 609-279-1968 or email bjpnep@msn.com

The Youth Department presents

BROADWAY

Comes to The Jewish Center

First Annual Musical Review- Tribute To Broadway

Starring the Youth of The Jewish Center

Sunday, March 11

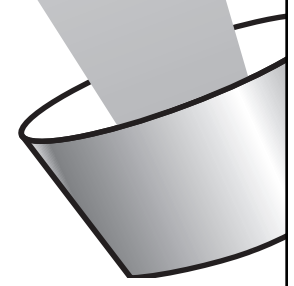
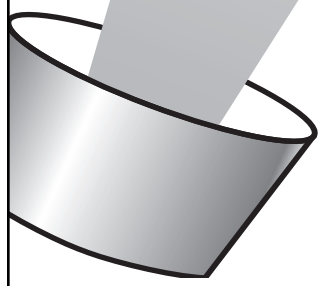
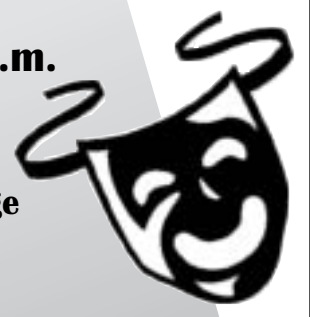
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

The Jewish Center Social Hall

**Directed by our own Jason Kay and
co-directed by students from Westminster Choir College**

TJC'S BROADWAY STARS:

Hannah Ableman	Rachel Hecht	Sarah Sasson
Ben Atwater	Sabrina Hecht	Jeni Schapire
Danielle Blecher	Josh Isaacs	Justine Steinberger
Jake Blecher	Stuart Isaacs	Lindsay Steinberger
Lexi Blecher	Carly Kleinbart	Sarah Sasson
Erica Borsack	Emily Kleinbart	Jeni Schapire
Maddie Deutsch	Jessie Klimoff	Emma Wingreen
Talia Feldman	Mia Levy	Yael Yonah
Peri Feldstein	Noa Levy	
Danielle Hecht	Jacklyn Perlman	



Men's Club
POKER TOURNAMENT
Saturday, March 17
8:00 PM



NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD 'EM
Are You All In?

Registration fee is \$18 for Men's Club members or \$25 for non-members.

Please mail your check payable to The Jewish Center to:

Men's Club, The Jewish Center, 435 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540

Name: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

FUN!
FOOD!
DRINKS!
PRIZES!

Initial here if you wish to join the Men's Club with your registration

For more information, contact Haim Blecher: hblecher@universityspine.com or 609-751-0626.

Religious School News

The Religious School returned from winter break to preparations for Tu B'Shevat. *Hag Ha'llanot* lessons revolved around the New Year of the Trees in Israel and the importance of trees, in particular, and nature, in general. The holiday also provided us with an opportunity to expand our discussions to include Israel into all of our curricula and to reinforce our commitment and support of Israel.

In addition to class lessons, our celebration of Tu B'Shevat included school-wide *s'darim*. The custom of a Tu B'Shevat *seder* was introduced during the Middle Ages by the Rabbis of Tsfat, and it has become an annual tradition in our Religious School. The youngest children ask "the four questions" and we drink four cups of grape juice, ranging from white to pink, to rose, to red to represent the changing of the seasons. We dine on oranges, olives, dates, raisins and other

fruits indigenous to Israel as we read about Israel and nature. *Todah rabbah* to all of the parents who sent food and who came to set up for the *s'darim*.

We are also participating in two programs with the Jewish National Fund this year. Each student received a JNF mailer-envelope to plant trees in Israel and a "Blue Box" for *tzedakah*. Some of you may remember the old JNF *pishkas*. Tree forms are due in the Religious School office by the end of February. After that, they can be mailed directly to the JNF. The Blue Boxes will be collected on April 22, *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*, Israel's Independence Day. In this way we are connecting Tu B'Shevat and Israel's Independence Day. If anyone in the congregation would like a Blue Box or tree form, we have them in the school office.

The Religious School is currently having "Bring Your Parent to School Week" through February 4. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to visit their child's class and become active partners in Jewish education at The Jewish Center.

*B'Shalom,
Fran Amir*

Save the Date!!!

The Religious School presents
A Heh Class
Family Education Program

A Morning of Klezmer: Yiddish Learning & Music

with **The Klez Dispensers**
formerly the Klezmer Group of
Princeton University

Sunday, March 11
11:00 a.m.

For all students and
the whole congregation.

Save the Date!!!

The Religious School presents
A Dalet Class
Family Education Program

A Morning with Ilse Loeb

Holocaust Survivor and Hidden Child

Sunday, March 25
11:00 a.m.

For all students and
the whole congregation.

Save the Date!!!

The congregation is invited to attend the

The Zayin Museum of Jewish History

Sunday, March 18
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

in the Social Hall

Experience our Jewish history!

See the Jewish artifacts and hear the stories of our Jewish Center families!

February Events

Week of February 1

Bring Your Parent to School Week

Friday, February 2

Tichon Tu B'Shevat Seder and Dinner

Saturday, February 3

Heh Havdallah

Vav Family Seminar

Sunday, February 4

Sarah Aroeste Concert for students

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21

Parent Program: "Blessings of a Skinned Knee" with Rabbi Feldman

Friday, February 9

Family Service

Sunday, February 11

Heh Community Program: "Jerusalem in Legos"

Vav Family Program #3 on B'nai Mitzvah Gan Family Program on *Tzedakah*

Saturday, February 17

Vav Family Seminar

Sunday, February 25

Alef Family Program on Bikkur Cholim



Vav Bar and Bat Mitzvah Series

February 11

11:00 a.m.

in the Social Hall

with Rabbi Feldman

for Vav Late Session Families

Mike Schwartz



PHOTOGRAPHY

Weddings • Mitzvahs • Sports • Events • Portraits • Jewelry

www.mssphoto.com

(609) 273-8274

mike@mssphoto.com



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Your AD Here!

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate with us as we honor
TJC's Religious School Staff and

Fran Amir's
10th Anniversary

as the Principal of the Religious School

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Services at 9:45 a.m.
followed by a Kiddush Luncheon

**Women's Reading
group**



Please join us on Tuesday, February 13 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 p.m. in the Adult Library for a joint meeting with Hadassah and the author, Marion Cuba, as we discuss the novel *Shanghai Legacy*. *Shanghai Legacy* tells the story of German Jewish refugees in China during World War II as seen through the eyes of Hannah, a German Jewish teenager, and recorded in a diary discovered by her adult daughter after her death.

**Jewish Center Women
Get Your Gelt And Eat It Too!**



JCW is making it easier for you to buy and receive your grocery gelt.

We are going to mail your gelt directly to your home. It doesn't get any easier!

Place your order for "Grocery Gelt" (grocery coupons) that can be used at any McCaffrey's or any Shop-Rite in New Jersey, and the grocery stores donate 5% of your purchase to JCW. You can pay by check or credit card. All money raised will go towards subsidizing JCW programming and JCW contributions to the synagogue and the larger community. Please complete the form below by the 10th of the month and return it to the JCW mailbox in The Center office, or put it in the envelope marked "Grocery Gelt" hanging outside the School Office.

Payment must accompany this form for your order to be processed. Any questions? Contact Geri Schonberger at 609-430-1848.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Email _____

I would like to order Grocery Gelt (please check all that apply):

McCaffrey's Dollar Amount (in \$10's) _____

Shop-Rite Dollar Amount (in \$10's or \$50's) _____

_____ Please consider this a monthly order and charge my credit card for this amount each month. I will not need to complete any additional forms and can stop this order at any time by contacting Geri Schonberger at 609-430-1848.

Payment: Check enclosed _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card Type: Mastercard _____ Visa _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Gelt will be available after the 20th of each month.



A message from Rabbi Annie Tucker

When I first moved to Princeton six months ago, I was often asked by city-dwelling friends - usually with a sympathetic tilt of the head and a knowing smirk - how it felt to make the transition from urban living to life in the 'burbs. And while I would passionately enthuse about Central Jersey's many assets - from my wonderful job at The Jewish Center to spacious supermarkets with clear aisles, the charm of small town living to weeks spent without ever entering the subway system - there was only one response that ever seemed at all persuasive. "I am rediscovering the wonders of nature out here," I would tell my friends. "And it is incredible!"

In my first half-year in Princeton I have walked on the tow path and gone berry-picking at Terhune Orchards, eaten farm-share produce all summer long and experienced the most exceptional fall foliage that I have seen in years. New York might have Times Square and The Met, Broadway and Tribeca, but it does not offer nearly enough green grass and trees, not nearly enough

opportunities to experience the joy of time spent outdoors. As Anne Frank wrote in her famous diary, "The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside...because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature." The outdoors has deep restorative powers, connecting us to the world around us and to God.

This month we celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, colloquially called Judaism's birthday of the trees. Far from being a simple celebration of agriculture and nature, however, Tu B'Shevat represents a profound truth about humans and our environment - reminding us of the fragile relationship that exists between us and the earth.

Tu B'Shevat is not a holiday found in the Bible but was created hundreds of years later by the rabbis to solve a bizarre problem of the Jewish people. Leviticus 19:23-25 describes the prohibition of *orlah* ("uncircumcised tree") which forbids eating from a tree until a period of three years has passed: "When you enter the land and plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be forbidden for you, not to be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit shall be set aside for jubilation before the Eternal and only in the fifth year may you use its fruit - that its yield to you may be increased." Naturally it was difficult for the Jews to keep track of the exact day on which each tree was planted. So the rabbis assigned a single day, the 15th of Sh'vat, as the "birthday" of all trees - the day on which each and every one would automatically be considered one year older.

To me, it is not only the notion of celebrating trees each year on Tu B'Shevat but rather the prohibition that this birthday of the trees was designed to protect, that is the true essence of the holiday. The prohibition of *orlah* reminds us that the natural world does not belong to us but rather to God and that we are but stewards of this most precious gift. The prohibition also reminds us that our natural resources are not limitless and that trees - much like humans - require nurture and care in order to remain productive. Finally, the prohibition of *orlah* reminds us of the importance of delaying gratification and planning for the future. We must conserve now so that those who come after us will be provided for!

This Tu B'Shevat I encourage each of us to give a special birthday gift to the earth by choosing one area of our own environmental practice that we would like to change. Perhaps it is becoming more vigilant about recycling or using travel mugs rather than disposable cups for our morning coffee. Perhaps it is choosing public transportation over the car whenever possible, supporting green-friendly companies and products, or keeping our homes a few degrees cooler. I can think of no more fitting a way of celebrating the natural world than helping to ensure its survival!

During this time of nature and trees, I wish you a month filled with the great satisfaction that both enjoying and tending to the earth brings with it.

*Hodesh Tov,
Rabbi Annie Tucker*

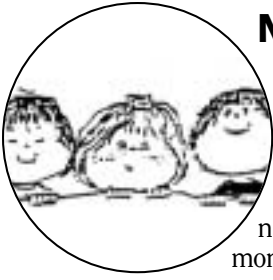
WOW! Roller Skating

Sunday, February 25

KADIMA, HAVERIM & FRIENDS



MORE INFO TO FOLLOW. WATCH FOR DETAILS!
Questions, contact Shari Dietz at ilanabd@aol.com



Nursery news

The Nursery School saw lots of new classes last month.

Our newest and youngest class ever, *K'Tontonim*, is up and running, literally and figuratively! The class has 15, very active 1-2 year olds with their moms chasing after them! What a wonderful experience for them and me. Their smiling, partially toothful faces, are a pleasure to see. We've done footprints, by painting their little feet and printing them on carpet strips for welcome mats; experimented with texture through play with different shape pasta; and even finger painted with chocolate pudding, yum! It is truly a treat.

Our new enrichment classes offer our students after school activities at our facility. Karate and a tumbling class have been added to the Fun Bus and cooking classes and everyone involved, the children and instructors, are enjoying themselves.

We are completing the art work for the Tile Wall and are now looking ahead to mounting the tiles on the front, stairway wall of the school building. I'll keep you posted and announce its completion for your viewing. Thank you to all who supported this project.

The Congregational Havdallah Service was a showcase for us. Children from our four year old classes, each with their own Havdalah kits made in school, helped lead the service. The ice cream sundaes, a pre-dinner snack, added to the fun!

February finds us celebrating Tu B'Shevat with *s'darim*, songs and stories. Planting, tree paintings and *tzedakah* will add to the understanding of this holiday for the Nursery School students.

I look forward to studying with you as Rabbi Feldman leads us in a discussion on "Blessings of a Skinned Knee" by Wendy Mogel, Ph.D. Time has been set aside for three consecutive Wednesdays: February 7, 14, and 21, to learn from the teachings of this book. We think there is so much useful information in this book, that it warrants three classes, and so worth your time, that we are offering a 9:30 a.m. and an 8:15 p.m. class on each of the designated dates to accommodate your schedules. You are welcome to choose which time frame works best for you on any of the given days, as the same information will be provided at the AM and PM class times. Please join us for this excellent book talk. Copies of the book are available in the school office for your reading.

The Parent Association will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 13. The Association will host a Scholastic Book Fair in the Nursery School from Monday, February 26 to Thursday, March 1. Please stop in during Nursery School hours and support the Book Fair. The Nursery School will benefit by receiving books from every one of your purchases. Thank you.

Summer Camp 2007 information is now available in the school office and registration is underway. Please contact the office if you would like us to mail you a packet.

I continue to thank those who have donated to the ever growing Playground Fund list. Your generosity is greatly appreciated: Margie and Ed Aretz

- Shari and Haim Blecher
- Dina and Paul Brewer
- David Campbell and Amanda Rose
- Denise and David Cheskis
- Martha Friedman and Harold Heft
- Noemie and Antoine Gerschel
- Abby and Jason Gold
- Brig Henderson and Lori Weir
- Beth and Ed Hirschman
- Randy and Steve Hubert
- Nathan Muchnick
- Adele and Charles Oliva
- Sue Orshan
- Kim and Glenn Osias
- Lauren and Adam Pechter
- Kayla and Richard Pechter
- Ellen and George Pristach
- Rebecca and Josh Sarett
- Michal and Adam Scheer
- Pat and Ray Schlaefer
- Jeff and Monica Schneider
- Leslie and Adam Schwartz
- Dara-Lyn and Daniel Schragger
- Virginia and Jonathan Tesser
- Meryl and Howard Verb
- Gayle and Rick Wagner
- Sue Weiner
- Wendy and Joshua Wilton
- Anne and Brian Zecher
- Zhaoliang Zhu and Zilan She
- Danna and Ben Weiss
- Andrea and David Silverstein
- Suki and Matt Wasserman
- Faith and Robert DeJean
- Wendy and Simon Richmond
- Susan and Ken Berlin
- Nadine and Scott Singer
- Audra and Jeff Davner
- Sara Bucholtz and Rabbi Adam Feldman

*B'Shalom,
Gayle Wagner*

There is still time to register to create a tile for the School Tile Wall.

Don't miss this opportunity to become part of the school's history!

Make an everlasting impression on our wall!

For information, call the school office at 609-921-0100 and speak to Gayle Wagner.

Help support the Playground Fund.

Social Concerns

The Pwee Family Arrives in New Jersey!

From Rabbi Tucker:

Our rabbis taught: "We support the needy of the wider community along with the needy of Israel and visit the sick of the wider community along with the sick of Israel and bury the dead of the wider community along with the dead of Israel. We do this in the interest of peace."

I have always been moved by the above quote, taken from the Babylonian Talmud Gittin 61a, which speaks so powerfully about our responsibilities - as Jews - to both our own faith community as well as to the wider society in which we live. For the rabbis of ancient Babylonia, relations between Jews and non-Jews were characterized by violence and persecution, religious coercion and terror. Yet the rabbis still taught that when it comes to acts of *tzedakah* and *gemilut hasadim* (righteous giving and action), it is not enough to care only for ourselves but rather affirm that these actions must be extended to the broader community as well, even to those very individuals causing the Jews such torment and pain!

To be sure, there was likely a dimension of self-interest motivating the rabbis' statement, one which is reflected in the final words of our text - we do this in the interest of peace. If we care for our non-Jewish neighbors, you can almost hear the rabbis musing, perhaps they will show us kindness in return or at least be less incited towards violence. Still, I believe that beyond this reasonable concern for personal safety our ancestors emphasized caring for the wider community because they truly believed that by doing so they could help achieve peace - not only for themselves but for society at large. When we transcend our own self-interest and help care for others we begin to create the kinds of connections between individuals that break down conflict and misun-

derstanding. We help to create the kind of world in which peace can flower.

Over the past several weeks, we at The Jewish Center have had the great privilege of living out the Talmudic dictum to support those in our wider community by partnering with the Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey to sponsor the Pwees, a Burmese refugee family arriving from northern Thailand. As members of the Karen tribe, the Pwees are part of an ethnic minority that has been targeted by the Burmese Myanmar regime for bombings, kidnapping, and torture and have been living in the Tham Hin Refugee Camp for the past several years.

The support that our TJC family has been able to extend to these new members of our community - from financial assistance and in kind donations of food, clothing, and furniture, to greeters at the airport and visitors, to help in negotiating transportation, health care, and housing needs - has been overwhelming and I am proud to be part of a synagogue that cares so deeply for those around us. You should know that all donations made to the resettlement efforts are tax deductible and you will be receiving official tax deduction letters from Lutheran Social Ministries in the near future.

On behalf of myself and Rabbi Feldman, Lutheran Social Ministries, Louise Sandburg, Arlene Opatut, Jeff Schneider, and Gil Gordon, I thank you so much for your support of this project and your efforts in helping a wonderful family to make a safe home in our community.

From Social Concerns:

The Pwee family is moving into a three bedroom unit at Princeton Community Village, which will provide affordable housing. Mr. Pwee is starting the job search process, but with limited English skills, this may take another month.

There has been a huge outpouring of support, time, money, and donated items from our wonderful congregation. Financial contributions to assist this young immigrant family set up their new home will make the next few months easier as they find their way in Princeton.

Please send or bring your check to The Center office. To simplify bookkeeping, all donations will go directly to the re-settlement agency: LSMNJ. Please make out your checks to LSMNJ-Refugee Program, and on the memo line, write: Pwee family. LSMNJ is a 501c3 charitable organization and your donations are completely tax deductible. You will receive an acknowledgement from them directly.

With the family in transition, transportation to appointments and interviews is much appreciated. And, of course, they are going to need tutoring as they learn to use English. Please contact Arlene Opatut, Social Concerns Co-chair, to offer your help.

You will find more information about the family, as well as links to other resources on the TJC website at: <http://www.thejewishcenter.org/PweeFamily.htm>

Arlene Opatut
amjopatut@aol.com
Louise Sandburg
louise@sandsmith.com
Jeff Schneider
jeffschneider2002@yahoo.com
Rabbi Arnie Tucker
atucker@thejewishcenter.org
Gil Gordon
gil@gilgordon.com

Planning a simha?

Kippot for your weddings or Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations are available in a variety of colors and fabrics. Color swatches are available for your review in the Gift Shop. Prayer benchers are also available in a variety of styles, and they too are available for you to see in the Gift Shop. Orders take four weeks to process, so plan ahead and order early! Hours for ordering are BY APPOINTMENT ONLY! Please call Gail Alba at (609) 275-0469.

Join Us!
Sarah Aroeste
At The Jewish Center
Saturday, February 3

Dessert and Coffee at 7:00 p.m.

Concert at 8:00 p.m.

Determined to help bring Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) music back to life for a new generation, vocalist Sarah Aroeste and her band of world musicians fuse traditional Ladino folk songs with contemporary influences such as rock, funk, jazz and blues. Band members include Yotam Bary (bass), Yaron Eilam (electric guitar), Dan Nadel (flamenco guitar), and Liron Peled (drums, percussion).

Sarah is the daughter of congregant Jane Silverman and grew up in our community. Please welcome her and her Band to what will be a very lively performance.

Ticket Prices: \$25 for adults Teens and College Students: \$18

**Tickets are
available
at the door!**



Makom T'fillah:

A Place
for Prayer and
Healing

Please join us on
**Tuesday,
February 20
at 7:30 p.m.**

Designed for caretakers and family members as well as individuals grappling with physical illness, depression and anxiety, and other kinds of challenges, *Makom T'fillah* will provide a space to join together in prayer with hopes for healing and to support one another through some of life's more difficult moments. The service will last approximately 30 minutes and is open to the entire congregation (and the community at large), whether one is in need of healing or simply looking for a quiet place for prayer. Please contact Rabbi Annie Tucker, atucker@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-0100, ext. 213, for further information.

SAVE THESE DATES and Help Fix the World

From February 18 to February 21, Tzohar Biloxi, United Synagogue's program to help clean up the hurricane damage in Biloxi, Mississippi, one ruined house at a time, will send a group of volunteers there.

The program is spearheaded by our New Jersey region, but everyone, from all over the continent, is welcome to join us. We will arrive on Sunday and work until Tuesday; on Wednesday we will tour the storm-struck area. We'll stay at a hotel and meet members of Congregation Beth Israel, which is affiliated with United Synagogue.

For more information, call Dr. Richard Lederman, the head of our public policy and social action committee, at 301-230-0801, or email him at lederman@uscj.org.

Board of Directors MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of The Jewish Center Board of Directors on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date!

Yom Hazikaron

April 21

8:00 p.m.

Memorial Service for Israel's Fallen Soldiers

The ceremony will be both in Hebrew and in English.

After the ceremony we will join together for an evening of Israeli songs led by Israeli Singer

Shabbi Katzir



Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel Independence Day

April 22

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**School Program for Both Early and Late Sessions –
Open to Everyone**

12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Community Wide Celebration!

Buy Israeli items at the Shuk

Enjoy Israeli music and folk dance with Rakdan

Eat Israeli food in a Tel Aviv Restaurant

Drink coffee in Aroma Café

Make flags, hamsas, and candles at the Kibbutz

Watch Israeli films in Ha'Teatron

Participate in a discussion about Israel at Hebrew University

And much much more!

Kadima and Haverim

Scavenger Hunt at TJC



Sunday, February 4

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bring your friends!
Pizza lunch and lots of fun
\$5 for youth members; \$10 non-members



Great Prizes!

Registration Required

Name _____ Email _____

Phone _____ # of Tickets Members _____ # Tickets Non Members _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to: The Jewish Center
435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540 Attention: Youth Department

Come in costume to the reading of the Megillah
on **Saturday, March 3 at 6:45 p.m.** and then celebrate at

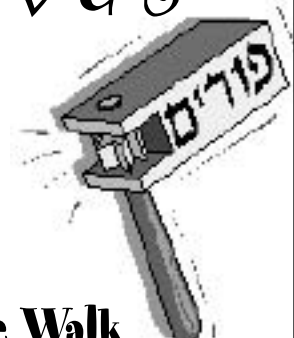
TJC's Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 4

****New Time****

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Games for all ages 1-101



Karaoke...New Games

Fun...Cake Walk

Face Painting

Food... Moonbounce

Surprises...Raffles

Win a Fish...Tic Tac Toe

Cotton Candy...Popcorn

Costume Parade: 12:00 p.m.

Hot dogs, Knishes, Hamantashen

Games for children under 5 in the Youth Lounge.

Ellen M. Egger Shabbaton

Scholar in Residence

March 9 - 11

Rabbi Eliezer Diamond

“Achieving Spirituality in Prayer”

Friday - March 9

6:30 p.m. - Shabbat Services - Special focus on particular prayers in the Friday Night Service

7:30 p.m. - Shabbat Dinner followed by Rabbi Diamond’s presentation:
Kavanah within Kevah - How Do We Find the Spiritual Within the Structured Prayer

Shabbat - March 10

9:45 a.m. - Men’s Club Shabbat - All parts of the service and Torah reading will be conducted by members of our Men’s Club

Presentation during Services by Rabbi Diamond - Preparing to Pray

1:30 p.m. - Presentation after Shabbat Lunch - Do We Pray What We Mean and Mean What We Pray?

Sunday - March 11

10:00 a.m. - Special Program for Community Jewish High School students -
God Talk with Rabbi Diamond

Rabbi Eliezer Diamond is the Rabbi Judah A. Nadich Associate Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Diamond teaches courses in rabbinic literature in addition to introductory, intermediate and advanced Talmud study.



Dr. Diamond is the author of many popular and scholarly articles, including a chapter on the rabbinic period in *The Schocken Guide to Jewish Books* and articles in *The Reader's Guide to Judaism*. He recently completed a book titled *Holy Men and Hunger Artists: Fasting and Asceticism in Rabbinic Culture*, published in 2003 by Oxford University Press. The book provides a thorough reassessment of the role that asceticism plays in rabbinic Judaism, suggesting that asceticism is more pervasive than is generally thought. Dr. Diamond is currently editing a commentary on *Yerushalmi Pesahim* written by the late Professor Louis Ginzberg. Dr. Diamond has taught in a variety of settings, including the Me'ah Program at The Jewish Center, Stern College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, the

92nd Street Y and several Ramah camps.

Dr. Diamond was ordained at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and received his doctorate in Talmud from JTS.

This program is made possible by a generous donation from the Egger Family in memory of Ellen M. Egger.

ADULT EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The Ellen M. Egger Shabbaton - Spirituality in Jewish Prayer with Rabbi Eliezer Diamond

March 9-11, 2007

Rabbi Eliezer Diamond brings an incredible understanding of Jewish prayer that will help us connect prayer and spiritual experiences as individuals and a community. Dr. Diamond is the Rabbi Judah A. Nadich Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary, teaching courses in Talmud Study and Rabbinic Literature at the Seminary and in a variety of other settings. He has also authored many popular and scholarly articles.

This fascinating scholar will be teaching on Friday night after our Shabbat service and dinner, during our service on Shabbat morning, following the Kiddush Luncheon on Shabbat afternoon, and during a study session on Sunday morning.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program

Rabbi Annie Tucker and Nancy Lewis teach the first year of the program. Rabbi Adam Feldman and Cantor Murray Simon teach the second year.

It's not too late to join us for this two-year program encompassing Jewish studies, Hebrew reading, prayer and Torah and culminating in a B'nai Mitzvah program. Classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Please contact Nancy Lewis at nlewis@thejewishcenter.org for more information or to join the class.

Jess Epstein Lunch-and-Learn with Princeton Scholars Series

Once a month on Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:20 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20, Daniel I. Rubenstein, Chairman, Dept. of African Studies, Princeton University, *Conservation and Development in Africa: Are Both Possible?*

Tuesday, March 20, Arnold Levine, Molecular Biologist, *Update on the Human Genome Project*

Tuesday, April 17, Jackie Meisel, Art Historian, *Early 20th Century Jewish Artists in Paris*

Tuesday, May 15, Greg Burnham, Executive with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, *Surviving 9/11: A Firsthand Account*

The Wandering Jews 499-1789 C.E. with Rabbi David Wolf Silverman

Wednesday evenings, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 8:00 p.m.

A multi-causal exploration of the various factors involved in the Jewish experience down through the ages. After the destruction of the Temple and through the Emancipation, how and why did we survive?

Hebrew Crash Course I with Larry Epstein

Thursdays, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Learning to read Hebrew for the first time or looking for a refresher course? Want to help your children with their Hebrew skills? Would you like to be more comfortable reading prayers at Shabbat services? This class could be your answer! You will master the Hebrew alphabet and learn some fundamental vocabulary and grammar. Pre-registration is required by calling The Center office.

Exploring Jewish Bioethics with Justus Baird

Thursdays, February 8, 15, and 22 at 7:30 p.m.

How can Judaism help us make difficult medical decisions? How does an ancient religion respond to cutting-edge medical techniques? Learn about this growing field by studying the Jewish bioethics of three important areas: fertility, end of life, and genetic enhancement.

Sunday Morning Torah Study

The Megillot

with Rabbi Feldman and Rabbi Tucker

Sunday mornings:

February 11 – 11:00 a.m. (Ruth)

April 15 – 9:15 a.m. (Eicha – Lamentations)

The Jewish Dialogue Group with Mitch Chanin

Sunday, February 25 and March 25 at 11:00 a.m.

The Jewish Dialogue Group was founded in the fall of 2001 with the aim of fostering constructive dialogue within the Jewish community on important issues such as the Israel-Palestinian conflict. How do we have meaningful and constructive conversations on topics about which we may disagree? For the Jewish community to remain strong and vital, it must find a way to discuss concerns in a respectful and open manner. In these sessions professional facilitators will work with participants on advancing the goal of meaningful dialogue. You can attend one or both sessions. Please contact The Center office to sign up for these sessions in advance.

Israel Affairs

COMMITTEE NEWS



Tu B'Shevat 5767

Tu B'Shevat (the Fifteenth of Shevat), the Rosh HaShanah for trees, begins at sunset on February 2 this year. This holiday, which recalls our agricultural roots, offers us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our connection, as Jews with the physical land of Israel.

Planting a Tree in Israel

Tu B'Shevat is always a great opportunity to plant trees in Israel, but this year tree planting takes on special significance. This past summer's hostilities resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in physical and environmental damage in northern Israel. In response, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) has recently announced an ambitious plan that will include reforestation, upgrading parks and recreation sites, preparing land for agriculture and many other worthwhile initiatives to renew northern Israel. To plant a tree in Israel or to get involved with efforts to rebuild the north, visit the JNF's website at <http://www.jnf.org> for more information.

Eating Produce from Israel

Many of us are familiar with the custom of eating produce from Israel on Tu B'Shevat. The species of the Land of Israel that are mentioned in our tradition are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Many of our local supermarkets carry Israeli olives, figs, dates and even fresh fruit from time to time. But if trips to the supermarket are not your thing and you prefer the convenience of online shopping, <http://www.israelisuper.com> will deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to your door.

Learn About Israel's Role in the Green Revolution

Even before it became fashionable, Israel has been a leader in developing environmentally friendly technologies. From agriculture, to water to power, Israeli companies have, for decades, been

at the forefront of new technologies that limit the negative human impact on the physical world. Israeli companies continue to innovate and are coming up with new ways to deliver food to your table, water to your faucets. You can learn more about Israeli companies involved in leading the green revolution at the website <http://tinyurl.com/yceqeh>

Shulchan Ivrit B'Princeton

Our monthly Hebrew discussion table has been a great success and we have decided to establish a regular slot - 8:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. So join us each month in the Youth Lounge for great conversation a delicious range of Israeli delicacies. This month, we will be getting together on February 22 and, as always, Hebrew speakers of all skill levels are invited and encouraged to participate.

Getting Involved and Staying Up to Date

Please consult our website for up-to-date information about our committee, upcoming programming and useful resources for Israel related information and advocacy. Our website can be accessed at <http://www.thejewishcenter.org/IsraelAffairs.htm>.

If you would like more information about any of our programs, please email us at israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org.

Shalom!

Adam Scheer

Chair, Israel Affairs Committee

Be COOL Come to SHUL!

February 3

Jr. Congregation - Dalet E
Mini Minyan
Tot Shabbat
Vav Seminar

February 9

Family Service - 7:00 p.m.

February 10

Jr. Congregation - Heh E 3 Day
Mini-Minyan

February 17

Jr. Congregation
Mini-Minyan
Tot Shabbat
Vav Seminar

February 24

Jr. Congregation - Dalet L T
Mini-Minyan

Mazal Tov to our newest

Minyanaires,

Ann Sarnak

Noah Chen

Mollie Chen

Allison Persky

If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush at any of the Youth Services, please contact Ellen Pristach at the Religious School, 609-921-7207, or by email to EBPecteach@aol.com

Contributions (continued from pg. 14)

In memory of

Margaret Berger

by Jeanne and Sher Leiman

Shirley Heft

by Debbie and Randy Brett

Marshall Hunovice

by Harriett and Howard Schwartz

Prayer Books

Siddur

In honor of

B'nai Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs, Zach Lawrence and Harrison Kaufman

by Laura and Eric Perlman

In memory of

Evelyn Lewis

by Melissa and Simon Pankove

Shirley Heft

by Myra Weiner and Irv Newman

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

In honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Jennifer Paszamant

by Judy and Stuart Axelrod and family

With gratitude for the recovery of our son, Max

by Mara Feldman and Mitch Marder

In memory of

Haim Klimoff

by Judith and Louis Klimoff

Olga Lucienne Marchand

by Myra Weiner and Irv Newman

Elaine Such

by Hillary and Ken Silverstein

Evelyn Lewis

by Shoshana and Mel Silberman, Linda

Bernsohn and Brad Bengis, Susan and Joel

Heymsfeld

Seth Feinstein

by Nadivah Greenberg

Shirley Heft and Dr. Lloyd Nimaroff

by Judy and Stuart Axelrod and family

Samuel Ribner

by Shoshana Silberman

Melvin Goldberg and Evelyn Lewis

by Marsha and Eliot Freeman

Religious Affairs

In honor of

Gil Gordon

by The Merkovitz Family

Becca Devery

by Donna Gabai

In memory of

Shirley Heft

by Sheila and Jack Marrero

Religious School

In honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by Robin Hauer

In memory of

Franya Lichtman, Evelyn Lewis and Max Wolf Mattes

by Sheila and Jack Marrero

Shabbat Luncheon Fund

In honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by Linda and Michael Grenis

Shabbat Meal for Mourners Fund

In memory of

"Apple"

by Linda and Michael Grenis

Moe Gordon

by Ellen and Gil Gordon

Silver Circle Scholarship Fund

In honor of

Irene Goldfarb

by David Goldfarb

Anniversary and birthdays of Irene and Samuel Goldfarb

by Sally Goldfarb and Joseph Strauss

Social Concerns

In honor of

Reading from the Torah

by Marian Bass and Jeffrey Albert

Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by Lauren and Art Blick, Robert G.

Seidenstein

Arlene Opatut and Louise Sandburg

by Ellen and Gil Gordon

Special birthday of Rabbi David Wolf Silverman

and Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by Melissa and Simon Pankove

Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Kaufman

by The Paley Family

In memory of

Ina Gilbert and yahrzeit of Motel Bass

by Marian Bass and Jeffrey Albert

Max Wolf Mattes

by Roslyn and David Vanderbilt

Evelyn Lewis

by Fay and Herb Abelson

Torah Fund

In memory of

Evelyn Lewis

by Linda and Walter Meyer

Tree of Life

In honor of

60th birthday of Clara Saperstein

by Dawn, Darren and Zoe Moskowitz

Youth and Family Programs

In honor of

Bar Mitzvah of Stuart Isaacs

by Myra Weiner and Irv Newman

Bat Mitzvah of Carly Kleinbart

by Helaine and Hanan Isaacs

In memory of

Fannie Kradel

by Bernice Gelzer

New to Our Jewish Center Family

Welcome

Sharon and Michael Dubin and their children Sydney (8) Emma (6) Lily (almost 3) Stephen (5 months). 1 George Drive, Princeton.

Lori Weir and Brig Henderson and their daughters, Shoshana (3) Sarah (1).18 Blackstone Drive, Princeton.

Harriett and Howard Schwartz. 61 Lexington Drive, Pennington.

Mazel Tov

To Martha Liebman on the birth of her granddaughter, Sydney Adele Slatkin.

To Dee Silver and Ed Flax on the birth of their granddaughter, Sara Rose Flax.

To Joyce and Michael Rapoport on the birth of their twin grandsons, Logan and Cooper Rapoport.

To Marsha and Eliot Freeman on the engagement of their daughter, Robin, to Heming Nelson.

To Joyce Sokolic on the birth of her grandson, Noam Shlomo Sokolic.

Condolences

To Reba Orszag and her family on the loss of her mother, Gertrude Karp.

To Jeffrey Mattes and his family on the loss of his father, Max Wolf Mattes.

To Debbie Brett and her family on the loss of her mother, Betty Lieber.

To Carol Schwartz and her family on the loss of her mother, Miriam Tobey Weissman.

To Judith Golden and her family on the loss of her husband, Richard Golden.



Princeton scholars

**THE JESS EPSTEIN
LUNCH - AND - LEARN
WITH PRINCETON SCHOLARS SERIES
Tuesday, February 20
Noon to 1:20 p.m.**

The speaker at the Tuesday, February 20 Jess Epstein Lunch-and-Learn with Princeton Scholars program at The Jewish Center will be Princeton University Professor Daniel Rubenstein, who has devoted more than a quarter century of his professional life to the

fascinating study of the societal behavior of animals in Kenya.

The monthly meeting begins at noon and concludes after a question and answer period at 1:30 p.m. Open and free to the general public, attendees are encouraged to bring a bag dairy lunch; beverage is provided by The Jewish Center.

Chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton since 1991, Dr. Rubenstein will discuss the dilemma of conserving the wildlife of zebra herds in north-central Kenya in the face of the advancing use of the land for human endeavor. The title of his talk is "Conservation and Development in Africa: Are Both Possible?"

Dr. Rubenstein joined the Princeton faculty in 1980 after postdoctoral study at King's College, Cambridge, England, where he had earned his master's degree. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Duke.

In addition to numerous honors and awards, including the 1999 Princeton University President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Professor Rubenstein has received more than a dozen research awards since 1980 to study extensively about the evolution and interaction of animal herds, birds and sea life. His research on these subjects has resulted in a number of books, articles and essays which have established him as a distinguished authority in the field of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Dr. David Atkin, chair, announced that next month's speaker, on March 20, will be Dr. Arnold Levine, visiting professor at the Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Levine will report on the developments in genome research since his talk on the subject a year ago.

Jewish Center WOMEN

Jewish Center Women recently had its JCW Shabbat. As always, it is truly inspiring to see the many diverse and talented women in our congregation lead every part of the Shabbat morning service. The service was personalized by readings about the very different Jewish journeys many women in the congregation have taken, each of which has led them to The Jewish Center today. *Yashir Koach* to Michele Alperin, Naomi Richman Neumann, Ronni Ticker, Sue Esterman and Leslie Gerwin for organizing the entire service that morning and to all of the women who participated. A special thank you to Carol Shatoff for organizing the delicious Kiddush Luncheon - the children in attendance especially appreciated the candy centerpieces for a sweet Shabbat!

Our Shalach Manot fundraiser was again very successful. Thank you to everyone who placed orders. A huge thank you to Laura Perlman, Margie Atwater, Naomi Perlman and Carol Braun for heading up this huge project.

In February, please join us for our monthly Torah study session on February 11 as well as our annual Jewish Center Tennis Open on Saturday, February 17 (see flyer for more details). Also, our next cooking demonstration will be at Whole Foods on the evening of March 14 and will feature new and innovative Passover dishes (see flyer for more details). Please sign up early! Our fall cooking demonstration quickly filled up. As always, if you have any questions, please contact Randy Hubert at 609-252-9671 or randykhubert@hotmail.com or contact Anne Rutman at 609-730-8166 or jrskiapr@aol.com.

*B'shalom
Randy Hubert and Anne Rutman*

Bikur Cholim

"Acts of kindness are among those things that have no limits." Mishnah Peah 1

The Bikur Cholim Committee provides a variety of functions which help our Jewish Center family in need. We are comprised of a group of people ready to assist when a fellow congregant requires help due to an illness or disability. The kinds of things we've done for one another in the past and are planning for the future are:

- *sending get well cards to congregants
- *driving people to and from hospital procedures
- *picking up medicine from the pharmacy
- *supermarket shopping
- *bringing meals
- *visiting people in the hospitals and in the senior care facilities
- *organizing a blood drive
- *doing errands

We ask that if you or a family member are hospitalized anywhere that you call The Jewish Center office and let us know. Helen or Janice will then notify Alison and Margie, Co-chairs of the Bikur Cholim Committee, and an email will go to the entire committee asking for volunteers to make a hospital visit or do whatever may be helpful.

Please call Alison Politziner, 609-924-3066, or Margie Atwater, 732-398-9761, for more information.

Annual Fund Contributors *continued from page 5*

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emailing nlewis@thejewishcenter.org.)

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Contributors continued on page 6

*10th Anniversary Celebration Concert
and Buffet Reception*

Sunday, March 18, 2007

3:00 p.m.

at The Jewish Center

Join us for a program of song and celebration
in honor of

Cantor Murray E. Simon



The Robyn Helzner Trio



Meredith Greenberg

featuring

Cantor Simon, The Robyn Helzner Trio & Soprano Soloist Meredith Greenberg



The reception will feature

The Witherspoon Street Traveling Medicine Show

Watch your mail for the details!

Pre-Passover Kosher Wine Tasting and Wine Orders

The Jewish Center's annual kosher wine tasting and sale is here! Have a great time at the wine tasting...enjoy great company...and sample the astonishing range - and quality - of great new varieties and old favorites from Israel, California, Spain, and around the world. Then order the very best for your seder table...and beyond. (And at rock-bottom prices, too!)

If you're wondering what to serve for Pesach, or for your next *simcha*, here's a great and fun way to find out. You don't have to attend the tasting to order wines, and you don't have to order anything to come to the tasting. But we predict you'll love doing both.

*** THE TASTING:** The kosher wine tasting starts at 4:30 p.m. on **Sunday, March 4**. Admission (\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door) gets you multiple flights of kosher wines, including old standbys (Baron Herzog, Yarden) and hot new wines (Jerusalem Heights, Tishbi) from the very best vineyards around the world. What are the latest and best wines from Israel? How do the new Australian chardonnay and shiraz offerings stack up against the ones from California? Can Baron Rothschild beat Baron Herzog in a blind tasting? We'll run the gamut (Gamay?), from Abarbanel to Zinfandel. It doesn't matter whether you're a novice or a maven - you'll have a great time, meet some old friends and make some new ones, and find out a lot more about the remarkable variety and quality of kosher wines. To reserve your place, call The Jewish Center office (609-921-0100) no later than Thursday, March 1. Don't miss it!

*** WINE ORDERS:** Whether or not you can attend the tasting, you can pick up

your kosher wine order form at once from The Jewish Center office. All of the wines featured at the tasting, plus many others, are on sale. You can order a single bottle of Manischewitz, or ten cases of Merlot - or both! Best of all, everything is available at prices far below retail. But hurry! Pick up a wine order form from The Jewish Center office starting Monday, February 26. (The form can be e-mailed or faxed to you - just ask!) Deadline for ordering your wine is Wednesday, March 7. Pickup at The Jewish Center starts on Wednesday, March 28.

SAVE THE DATES!

Monday, February 26: Wine order forms available at The Jewish Center office.

Sunday, March 4 (4:30 pm): Wine tasting (reserve your place by Thursday, March 1)

Wednesday, March 7: Deadline for wine orders

Wednesday, March 28: Pick up your wine orders

USY and TJC Take to BROADWAY!



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE!



Winner of 5 Tony Awards!

**Plus an Exclusive Behind-the Scenes Tour with
the Designers and Actors of the Show**

Sunday, February 25

\$80 for USY members (\$90 for non-USY members)

Price includes transportation, behind the scenes program, and your ticket.

Space is limited!

Hurry and RSVP by sending in the attached form along with your check. Note: Due to the nature of the program, RSVP's are binding

USY and TJC Take to Broadway: The Drowsy Chaperone

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____ # of Tickets _____

Please send checks payable to "The Jewish Center" to USY, 435 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Call Jason Kay at 609-799-7006 for more information.