



## Rabbi's message

is a healthy exercise for an individual and a community to undertake. Many of us do it at the end of the year as we reflect back on what we accomplished and set resolutions for the coming year. As your Rabbi, I think June is a good time for me, as your spiritual leader, to help us focus on many of our accomplishments as a congregation and to look to what lies ahead.

### Tradition!

I started a tradition last year when I wrote to the congregation last June that I would like to continue this year. As we concluded our first year together, I took the opportunity to explain to you the Jewish ritual of a *siyum* which is a way to mark a Jewish moment of tradition. It is a time to look back on things that happened in the past and to look ahead to a time in the future when we will have new opportunities. The tradition is to conduct a *siyum* whenever we complete a unit of study and I think it

Here is a list of some of the things we should be proud of this past year:

- \* An outstanding year of programs, classes, services and activities for members of our congregation of all ages;
- \* The successful creation of the Annual Fund which collected over \$288,000 from nearly 350 congregational families;
- \* The beginning of our Life Long Learning Initiative that will help us focus on the educational programs we provide and help us connect them to each other;

*(Continued on page 2)*



## President's message

Mitzvah here. At The Jewish Center, Mommy and I had our *aufruf* before we were married, each of you was named here, and sadly here we also mourned both Grandpa Nat and Grandma Ruth. Each of these milestones as well as every holiday, service, class and event was more meaningful because we shared them with The Jewish Center community. Mommy and I are glad all three of you went to Nursery School and formed some of your closest friendships here. Now we are proud of your regular attendance and participation in Junior Congregation. When you spontaneously start to sing a prayer you learned at The Jewish Center, that is *nachas*. Perhaps most importantly, The Jewish Center has helped us raise you to be so proud to be Jewish.

### A Letter to My Children

*Dear Peri, Jacob and Carmel,*

As your dad, I am really proud to tell you that I have been chosen to be the president of The Jewish Center. This is an honor and a big responsibility, that will certainly take time away from our family, but I think it is very important to do.

For the last thirty-three years, I have been a member of The Jewish Center. I went to Religious School and became a Bar

I decided to start volunteering my time nearly ten years *(Continued on page 5)*

<b>Worship Schedule</b> Fridays - 6:30 p.m. Saturdays - 9:45 a.m.
<b>Minyan Schedule</b> Sun. - 8:30 a.m. Wed. - 7:00 a.m.
<b>Library Service</b> Saturday, June 9 and 23 - 10:15 a.m.
<b>Tot Shabbat</b> Saturday, June 2 and 16 - 11:00 a.m.
<b>SHABBAT OF APPRECIATION</b> Friday, June 22 - 8:00 p.m.

<b>Bar/Bat Mitzvah Schedule</b>
<b>Saturday, June 2</b> Erica Borsack Daughter of Charlene and Scott Borsack
<b>Saturday, June 9</b> Samantha Wagner Daughter of Meryl Baurmash and Daniel Wagner
<b>Saturday, June 16</b> Emma Wingreen Daughter of Rachelle Simon and Ned Wingreen
<b>Saturday, June 23</b> Samantha Kahme Daughter of Heidi and Michael Kahme
Anna Kaplan (p.m.) Daughter of Alan and Ruth Kaplan
<b>Saturday, June 30</b> Julian Spergel Son of Laura Kahn and David Spergel

<b>Shabbat Candle Lighting</b>
June 1 ..... 8:01 pm.
June 8 ..... 8:05 p.m.
June 15 ..... 8:09 p.m.
June 22 ..... 8:11 p.m.
June 29 ..... 8:11 p.m.



**Rabbi's Message** (continued from pg. 1)

\* A series of programs focusing on Jewish diversity including the Sarah Aroeste concert of Ladino music and the "Jews of Color in Color" photo display;

\* Ongoing Adult Education classes on such topics as prayer, Jewish Law, Jewish Thinkers, the Five Megillot, Kashrut, Spirituality, Jewish Bioethics, Biblical Literature and more;

\* Fantastic Israel programming highlighted by our Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program that celebrated the 59th Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel;

\* Our Siyum Tichon students volunteering their time to help rebuild the community in Biloxi, Mississippi;

\* The students in our Zayin program who had an opportunity to create their own *tallitot* for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah;

\* Hosting a community wide rally in support of Israel during the war last summer that included over 1,000 people in our community along with Governor Corzine;

\* Inspirational services and programs on the High Holidays and other holidays throughout the year;

\* A great feeling on Sukkot when we built our new, large sukkah and used it throughout the week;

\* Celebrating Cantor Murray Simon and his relationship with The Jewish Center;

\* A great year for our Nursery School where these young people strengthened their connection to our synagogue and the opening of the new playground;

\* Our very successful Blood Drive;

\* Increasing our Shabbat educational programs led by Rabbi Annie Tucker including "Bible Ba'Boker" and "Journey through Shabbat Morning";

\* The creation of our Yad Squad, our program for post-B'nai Mitzvah Torah readers;

\* Our important discussions about the changing status of homosexuality in the Jewish community;

\* Our great weekend with the Hebrew calligrapher, Mordechai Rosenstein;

\* The times that our 11th and 12th grade students got together with Rabbi Tucker for dinner and shmoozing;

\* The creation of our Yachdav program for Religious School students with special needs;

\* The trip we took to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC with other members of our community to learn more about what we can do to stop the genocide in Darfur;

\* The adoption of the Pwee family and all that we did as a community to make their transition to life in our community go smoothly;

\* Strengthening our relationship with the greater secular community;

\* Joining with other synagogues and Jewish institutions in our area for educational and social programs;

\* Learning more about the great cantors of the 20th Century by watching the DVD produced by Cantor Simon;

\* Honoring Fran Amir and our Religious School teachers for their commitment to educating our children;

\* Our successful Israel program with AIPAC and Representative Rob Andrews;

\* Our inspiring Siyyum Tichon celebration on Shavuot.

We have done all these things and many more and looking back now, I hope you will agree that it has been a great year for our synagogue and our community. I feel so privileged and honored to come to work at The Jewish Center everyday and I am so proud to be the Rabbi of this community. I feel fortunate to work with hard-working professionals and devoted lay leaders to keep this congregation thriving as we look to the future.

There are many people that deserved to be thanked by name for what we accomplished this year but I will limit it to two. Linda Grenis was an outstanding president for this congregation and we all owe her our appreciation. I hope that you will join us on Friday night, June 22, when we have a chance to formally thank her and the members of the Executive Committee and Board for all of their time and effort on our behalf. Until then, I want to say to Linda that I personally thank her for all that she has done for me during our two years together and that I

cherish the friendship and partnership that we have developed together.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Nancy Lewis for all that she has done for The Jewish Center for the past 24 years. Nancy has served many roles for our congregation and she has served all of them with dedication and a great love for our synagogue and its members. As Nancy now retires from her position as Administrator, we all say thank you to her for so many things that she has done for our congregation, many of which no one ever sees. Nancy has been the welcoming face of The Jewish Center and has been involved in so many committees, activities, groups and events. We will certainly miss having her here on a daily basis. But we all know that our relationship with Nancy will continue and we wish her and her family good health and great strength as she moves onto a new stage in her life. Nancy, for all that you do for us, *todah rabbah!*

As we look back on a great year for our congregation and we prepare for a new year ahead, let's all take some time this summer to reflect and focus on what is important in our lives. I hope that everyone enjoys the summer months and that we all find a way to rejuvenate and prepare, physically, emotionally and spiritually, for the new year that will be with us in the fall.

I look forward to seeing you soon here at The Jewish Center.

*B'vracha,*  
*Rabbi Adam Feldman*  
*Rabbi Feldman may be reached*  
*at [afeldman@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:afeldman@thejewishcenter.org)*  
*or 609-921-0100, ext. 203.*





## A message from Rabbi Annie Tucker

This past week I had the privilege of sitting on an interfaith dialogue panel organized around the question "What is Prayer?" My co-respondents spoke beautifully, providing deep theological insight into the nature of liturgy and sharing candidly their own experiences with worship both public and private. In particular, my Roman Catholic colleague shared a story that has stuck in my mind ever since. Growing up, this man's family owned an Italian restaurant and his father would bake fresh bread every morning, venting the fragrant loaves by marking each one with the sign of the cross. When my friend asked his father why he scored the bread in such an unusual way, his father's reply was immediate. "Bread is my daily prayer to God," said the man. "My bread is my worship."

For many of us the idea of bread - or music, or dance, or art - as prayer has deep resonance. It often feels easiest to connect to God when we are performing those acts most meaningful to us, when our own internal passion and talent combines with external sources of inspiration, allowing us to contribute to the world in a way that is uniquely ours. So too, does it often feel easiest to connect to God in moments of heightened aesthetic experience - be it smelling the yeasty aroma of fresh dough, hearing the haunting chords of a Beethoven symphony or losing ourselves in the pastel landscapes of one of Monet's paintings.

Judaism, too, has long recognized the power of aesthetic experience and even provides us with the tools to mark such moments with blessing. *Birkhot Ha'Nehenin* (the blessings for things we enjoy on various occasions) were composed by the rabbis thousands of years ago, providing appropriate liturgy for such events as smelling fragrant herbs, hearing thunder, seeing trees blossom for the first

time in a year, and seeing a head of state or someone distinguished in worldly learning. (For a complete list of the *Birkhot Ha'Nehenin* please consult *Siddur Sim Shalom*, pages 708-713.) These blessings provide us with the opportunity to elevate experience, transforming a moment of mere beauty into one of spiritual grandeur.

As the summer months approach and many of us head off for vacations and experiences that will bring us in touch with the wonders of nature, I list a few of the *Birkhot Ha'Nehenin* below, hoping that they may become part of our repertoire as a way of infusing an extra dose of the spiritual into our summer adventures and reminding us of the true source of nature's bounty:

Upon smelling fragrant trees or shrubs:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Borei Atzei b'Shamayim*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who creates fragrant trees.

Upon seeing wonders of nature (including lightning, shooting stars, deserts, mountains, and sunrises):

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Oseh Ma'aseh B'reisheet*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Source of Creation.

Upon seeing a rainbow:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam Zocher Ha'Brit v'Neeman Bivrito v'Kayam b'Maamaro*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe Who remembers the Divine covenant, is faithful to it, and keeps the Divine promise.

Upon seeing the ocean:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam She'asah Et Ha'Yam Ha'Gadol.*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe Who has made the great sea.

Upon seeing trees or creatures of striking beauty:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'Olam She'kacha Lo b'Olam.*

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe Who has such beauty in God's world.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and joyful summer!

*B'shalom*  
Rabbi Annie Tucker

## A Note from Nancy Lewis

Dear Friends,

During my twenty-four years at The Jewish Center, I have administered, coordinated, directed, edited, fundraised, organized, planned, programmed, repaired, shlepped, shmoozed, taught and tutored. Though these years have been personally fulfilling and enriching, after much soul searching, I have made the decision to retire from my position as Administrative Director of The Jewish Center effective August 1.

As you all know, The Jewish Center community is my family and I look forward to continuing my relationship with this very special family. I will be assisting with the Annual Fund on a part time basis and I will of course be sitting in my "regular" seat in the Sanctuary on Shabbat. (The only difference is that someone else will be regulating the heat and air conditioning.)

I thank all of you for the wonderful support you have shown me, for the friendships I have made, the special opportunities I have had to learn from each of you, the celebrations we have shared and the times we stood by one another. All of you have touched my life in so many important ways. Thank you, too, to the scores of tireless and dedicated volunteers and the incredible staff I have been blessed to work with through the years. You are truly an amazing group of people!

I walked into The Jewish Center in 1983 eight months pregnant and ready to begin teaching in the Religious School. Twenty-four years and two children later, I am grateful to still call The Jewish Center home.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer. Drop by my office or, better yet, stop by my regular seat on Shabbat!

*Shalom, le'hitra'ot,*  
Nancy



**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
- Adult Education
- Adult Library
- Arts & Cultural Affairs
- Biloxi/Katrina Fund
- Building Development Fund
- Cantor's Concert 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 Special Shabbat
- 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
- Steven 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 new Lobby furniture and flooring

***\*Now you can donate through our website. Go to [www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org) and follow the instructions!***

Office:(609) 921-0100 Fax: (609) 921-7531 School: (609) 921-7207  
 E-Mail: [JCenter@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:JCenter@thejewishcenter.org)  
 Website:[www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org)

- Adam Feldman .....Rabbi
- Murray E. Simon .....Cantor
- Anne E. Tucker .....Rabbi
- Dov Peretz Elkins .....Rabbi Emeritus
- Nancy Lewis .....Administrative Director
- Fran Amir .....Principal, Religious School
- Gayle Z. Wagner .....Director, Nursery Program
- Gila Levin .....Coordinator, B'nai Mitzvah Program
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TIME VALUE

**President's Message** (continued from pg. 1)

ago when Peri was only a few months old. I was asked to be on the Finance Committee. At the first board meeting everyone was asked to say their name and why they were serving at The Jewish Center. I said I was doing it for my children to be a good example for them and to keep our synagogue and Jewish community strong. I felt that giving my time, and not just money, was even more meaningful. Since then I have been Vice President of Finance, Recording Secretary, and Trustee. What has been a gratifying surprise is that while my intention was to give something to The Jewish Center, I have actually gotten so much in return.

Sharing ideas and work with so many exceptional people has enriched me intellectually and spiritually. This experience and now

becoming president have made me a better person in all aspects of my life, including the most important role as your father. You have seen many of these special people and their commitment to The Jewish Center on nights when I would have meetings at our house when these fellow lay leaders and I would talk and talk about The Jewish Center for hours even after you came in the room in your jammies to say good night. And these are the people I see on the many evenings when I go out to meetings at The Jewish Center.

I have been fortunate to serve closely under five presidents including Linda Grenis, Kim Pimley, Richard Fishbane, Jonathan Gross and Bob Weber; and to learn from dozens of fellow Executive Committee members and scores of members of the Board of Directors. Getting involved has also facilitated a close

relationship with our wonderful clergy and staff at The Jewish Center.

Having The Jewish Center as a true center of our lives has been a blessing to our family spiritually, academically and socially. Becoming president may be challenging at times, but I know will be a positive experience for me and our family forever.

*I love you,  
Daddy*

*To all in The Jewish Center community, I welcome your comments, suggestions and offers to get involved at [mfeldstein@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:mfeldstein@thejewishcenter.org)*

**Michael Feldstein**  
TJC President

## Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration A Great Success!

What does a sun-filled day, a passport at Ben Gurion Airport, Jaffa oranges and a huge Israeli birthday cake all have in common? They were all part of our celebration of the 59th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel on Sunday, April 22. Kids of all ages enjoyed themselves - whether shopping at the shuk or the outdoor market, dancing in the streets of Tel Aviv, sipping coffee at *Pinat Eilat*, experiencing the defensive skills of *Krav Maga*, watching movies in our *Teatron Ba'tzafon*, listening to a speaker from JNF, or just munching on a delicious falafel or piece of halvah.

The festivities began with a rendition of *Hatikvah* followed by a giant birthday cake. Photos were taken at our El Al plane and put into individual Israeli passports. Notes were put into the *Kotel*, and many craft projects were completed at our *Ani Harutz*

*Ba'kibbutz*, including *hamsas*, Israeli flags and Negev sand creations. It was truly a glorious tribute to a great nation.

As always, this event was a coming together of many forces: Rabbi Feldman's inspiration, the leadership of Adam Sheer and the Israeli Affairs Committee, and the guidance of Rabbi Tucker and Nancy Lewis.

Our dedicated and committed staff helped bring this dream to fruition. Thanks to Fran Amir, Gayle Wagner, Meryl Verb, Helen Schlafter, Lorece Cohen, Shiva Chadi, Malvina Greenfield, Tziporah Neuwirth, Roz Vanderbilt, Lynne Ross, Maryann Yarin, Will Byne and Collins Butler. A very special thanks to Wilma Solomon, Lynda Rajfer, Denise Cheskis, Debby Tippermas, Cheryl Hoffman, Joel Reichbart and Eric Falcon for taking leadership roles and going above and beyond the call of duty and to Steven Braun for being our "official" photographer. It is with extreme gratitude that we give our thanks to Lisa Tenenbaum. Her talent and creativity created a "mini Israel" for us right here in Princeton. She is a real treasure to this community!

Most importantly, we want to thank the volunteers for being the backbone of this successful event: Alan Tenenbaum, Joe Shavel, Gil Gordon, Nira Lavid, Natalie Heker, Abby Stern, Roz Wynne, Dave Wynne, Carly Kleinbart, Emily Kleinbart, Ric Kleinbart, Marielle Roth, Helaine Isaacs, Betsy Rosen, Ilana Atwater, Sammi Kahme, Rebecca Devery, Anna Wolf, Isabel Hager-Johnson, Zack Lawrence, Jen Braverman, Josh Cherkes and Zoe Crain. Hopefully, we didn't forget anyone, but if we did, we sincerely apologize for the oversight.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for helping to underwrite the cost of the event. We are also very appreciative of our vendors for contributing a portion of their proceeds to support the event: TJC Men's Club, Ed Simon of Mystique Hair and Skin in the MarketFair Mall (they carry AHAVA products from Israel) and Maxine Elkins at [www.israelicrafts.net](http://www.israelicrafts.net) (she imports and sells products from 36 different Israeli artists).

*Todah Rabbah!*  
*Gila Levin and Cyndi Kleinbart*

### Women's Reading group



Please join us on Monday, June 18 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Adult Library as we discuss *Any Place I Hang My Hat* by Susan Isaacs. The book tells the story of a political reporter in her late 20's who goes in search of the mother who abandoned her when she was a baby.

One reviewer said "the parade of lavishly and loopishly described secondary characters and gossipy New York scene-setting give the novel its zing; Amy's rocky relationship with her documentary filmmaker boyfriend provides a jolt of romantic excitement and a happy ending."

Feel free to come whether you liked the book or not, or even if you have not yet finished it. Our discussions are eclectic and often center around how the themes of the book relate to us as Jewish women on a personal level.

All of our books can be ordered on-line through TJC website at [www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org) where you can click on the Amazon link to earn a commission for The Center. Multiple copies of our selections are also available at Border's Bookstore and at the Princeton Public Library on the "Book Club" table by the entrance. For a list of previous books or to arrange a ride over, please contact Louise Sandburg at [louise@sandsmith.com](mailto:louise@sandsmith.com) or 609-683-8395.

## Library



Telushkin's book, introduced this month, is a monumental work by one of the premier Jewish scholars and thinkers of our time. It is intended to be the first in a projected three-volume code of Jewish ethics.

### Recent acquisitions:

***Alicia: My Story*** by Alicia Appelman-Jurman. Starting at age 13, she saved strangers from the Nazis in Poland and after the war led Polish Jews to freedom on an underground route to Palestine.

***The Way Into Judaism and the Environment*** by Jeremy Benstein. An accessible introduction to the Jewish understanding of the natural world and the key concepts central to Jewish environmentalism.

***Becoming Eichman*** by David Cesarani. What made Eichman do what he did and new insights into his operations.

***The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity*** by Eric L. Goldstein. What it has meant to be Jewish in a nation preoccupied with the categories of black and white.

***Rethinking Synagogues: A New Vocabulary for Congregational Life*** by Lawrence A. Hoffman. Synagogues need to replace old and tired conversation with a new way of talking about their goals, challenges and vision for the future.

***Solomon and the Ant and Other Jewish Folktales*** by Sheldon Oberman. 43 stories that are both authoritative and entertaining with an informative introduction by Peninnah Schram.

***Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry*** by Scott a. Shay. How we can seize this historic opportunity to revitalize Jewish Life.

***A Code of Jewish Ethics. v. 1: You Shall Be Holy*** by Joseph Telushkin. The initial volume of the first major code of Jewish ethics to be written in English.

The following item is missing. If you have it, please return it promptly to the box on the Library desk.

***Tikkun*** for May-June, 2007

## ADULT EDUCATION

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

*Shabbat mornings. The study group meets at 8:45 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.

### **Journey through Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Annie Tucker**

*Saturday, June 9 - 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.

### **Talmud in the Afternoons with Rabbi David Wolf Silverman**

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

*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.

## **WANTED**

Able-bodied teenagers to help a fellow congregant and WWII veteran. He is seeking helpers to go to Trenton with him to replace worn flags and insert new flags on the graves of Jewish veterans. It would require about three to four hours of your time. If you are interested, please contact Norm Denard at [ndenard@patmedia.net](mailto:ndenard@patmedia.net) or 609-924-1981.

# Contributions

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

## General

Rabbi Julie Roth and Rabbi Justus Baird

### In honor of

Linda Grenis' service as President

*by Martha Friedman and Harold Heft, Lori and Michael Feldstein*

My father Martin Rotach-Dessauer and my first aliyah

*by Brigitta Rotach*

The Tichon Class of 2007

*by Audrey, Marc, Eric and Stefanie Wisotsky*

Bat Mitzvah of Liza Keller

*by Lori and Michael Feldstein*

Birth of our daughter, Eliana Black

*by Jennifer and Jeremy Black*

Bat Mitzvah of Caroline Grenis

*by Anne and Phil Rutman*

Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Soffen

*by Hedy and Matty Shavel*

### In memory of

Joseph Alperin

*by Sharon and Jeffrey Herbst, Donna Gabai, Carol and Bob Schwartz*

Abraham Carchman

*by JoAnn and Phil Carchman*

Nathan Lutzer, Rosalind Colman and Dena Leiter

*by Mildred and Lewis Weisblatt*

Max Levine

*by Judy and Bob Levine*

Sidney Zecher

*by Hedy and Matty Shavel*

Benjamin Mohr

*by Marilyn and Howard Zagorin*

Maurice Samuel

*by Eva Rapkin*

Ralph Heymsfeld

*by Susan and Joel Heymsfeld*

Evelyn Lewis

*by Debby and Alan Tipermas*

William Rutman

*by Phillip Rutman*

Judith Miller

*by Lise and Kenneth Denault*

Gertrude Freeman

*by Marsha and Eliot Freeman*

Rahaman Levy

*by Leonie Menasche*

## Adult Library

### In honor of

Birth of Phyllis and Jerry Kurshan's great-granddaughter, Shira Leora Gerber

*by Mark Weinerman*

Upcoming Marriage of Rebecca Weiner and David Smolar

*by Sandy Sussman and Ron Schnur*

## Adult Education

### In honor of

Law school graduation of Randy Brett

*by Gil and Ellen Gordon*

### In memory of

Joseph Alperin

*by Sandy Sussman and Ron Schnur, Debby and Alan Tipermas*

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

### In memory of

Elaine Ellerstein

*by Lois D. Hawkins*

## Biloxi/Katrina Fund

### In honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Carolyn Grenis

*by Martha Friedman and Harold Heft*

Linda Grenis

*by The Shechtel Family*

Rabbi Anne Tucker

*by Barbara and Michael Snyder*

## Cantor's Music Fund

### In honor of

Cantor Simon

*by Cynthia, Jake and Rebecca Sage, Martha and Eliot Freeman, Barbara and Michael Snyder and family*

Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun

*by The Braun Family*

### In memory of

Jerome Kaufman and Richard Hanson

*by Christine and Kenneth Kaufman*

Alec Greenfield

*by Malvina and Alexander Greenfield*

## Cantor's Concert Fund

Naomi Richman Neumann and Jerry Neumann

## Children's Library

### In honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Erica Borsack

*by Sally Steinberg-Brent and Dan Brent*

Retirement of Uli Knoepfmacher

*by Roslyn and David Vanderbilt*

Birth of Isaac Alberto Bitran, grandson of Sherry Rosen

*by Sandy Sussman and Ron Schnur*

Bat Mitzvah of Erica Borsack

*by The Shechtel Family*

## Feldstein Israel Travel Scholarship

### In honor of

Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Soffen

*by The Brent Family*

Birth of Shay Cheskis

*by Cynthia and Jake Sage*

## Neimark Senior Mitzvah Fund

### In memory of

Rubin Schwartzstein

*by Evelyn and Jerome Saldick*

## Israel Affairs

### In honor of

Gila Levin's work on Yom Ha'Zikaron Observance

*by Ellen and Gil Gordon*

## Israeli Affairs Fund

### In honor of

Graduation of Nadivah Greenberg

*by Lori and Michael Greenberg*

### In memory of

Judy Miller

*by Debby and Alan Tipermas*

## Jewish Center Women

### In honor of

Anne Kreitzberg

*by Carrie, Lizzie and Melanie Pauker*

Linda Grenis

*by Barbara and Michael Snyder and family*

### In memory of

Joseph Alperin

*by Randy and Steven Hubert*

Robert Linder

*by Debby and Alan Tipermas*

## Steven Levine Special Needs Education Fund

### In honor of

Fran Amir

*by Cynthia, Jake and Rebecca Sage, Martha Friedman and Harold Heft*

Irene Goldfarb chosen as Congregant of the Year

*by Martha Friedman and Harold Heft*

Birth of Shay Cheskis

*by Randy and Steven Hubert*

### In memory of

Joseph Alperin

*by Martha Friedman and Harold Heft*

Robert Linder

*by Anne and Phil Rutman*

## Men's Club

### In honor of

Larry Epstein

*by Barbara and Michael Snyder*

## Nursery

### In honor of

Birth of Shay Maxwell Cheskis

*by Lori and Michael Feldstein*

Nursery School Teachers

*by Gayle Wagner*

## Nursery School Playground Fund

### In honor of

Ava and Jacob Roitburg

*by Wendy and Igor Roitburg*

Michael Feldstein becoming President

*by Martha Friedman and Harold Heft*

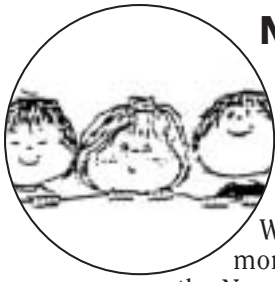
Gil Gordon and Jared Wagner

*by Gayle and Rick Wagner*

### In memory of

Marilyn Bowie and Shirley Gross

*by Meryl and Howard Verb*



## Nursery news

### Shalom!

What a great month May was for the Nursery School. As I am sure you have all seen, the new playground is in place and the children have been enjoying it ever since! I cannot thank you enough for your support with this project. There is still time for you to become a part of this venture; donations are graciously accepted for the Playground Fund! For those who have generously given to this cause, please check below to verify that your name is among the donors and that the spelling of your name appears correctly, as we will be transferring these names to a Donor Plaque that will hang in the school hallway. If your name does not appear and it should or if your name is not spelled correctly, please contact me at the school to make the necessary changes. My sincere gratitude goes out to you all, thank you.

Margie and Ed Aretz  
Alexandra and Barak BarCohen  
Susan and Ken Berlin  
David Berman and Sasha Mason  
Shari and Haim Blecher  
Mark Boulding and Katherine Taylor  
Dina and Paul Brewer  
Scott Carver and Teri McIntire  
David Campbell and Amanda Rose  
Denise and David Cheskis  
Audra and Jeff Davner  
Faith and Robert DeJean  
Lynne and Gary Eichenbaum  
Susan and Michael Falcon  
Rabbi Adam Feldman and Sara Bucholtz  
Lori and Michael Feldstein  
Elizabeth and Eric Friedman  
Noemie and Antoine Gerschel  
Abby and Jason Gold  
David Goldberg and Wilma Solomon  
Linda and Michael Grenis  
Harold Heft and Martha Friedman  
Brig Henderson and Lori Weir  
Beth and Ed Hirschman  
Randy and Steve Hubert  
Stephen Hudis and Merrye Shavel  
Helaine and Hanan Isaacs  
**14** Lauren and Eric Jaffe

Jewish Center Women  
Susan and David Kushner  
Hunter Labovitz and Heather Howard  
Nancy and Neil Lewis  
The Majeski Foundation — Barbara and Jamie Majeski  
Jim and Bebe McIntire  
Nathan Muchnick  
Karen and David Nathan  
Adele and Charles Oliva  
Sue Orshan  
Kim and Glenn Osias  
The Pechter Foundation — Lauren and Adam Pechter and Kayla and Richard Pechter  
Princeton Area Community Foundation  
Ellen and George Pristach  
Wendy and Simon Richmond  
Kathy and Gabe Rizzi  
Harris Richter and Cheryl Mintz  
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Gayle and Rick Wagner  
Suki and Matt Wasserman  
Sue Weiner  
Danna and Ben Weiss  
Staci and Matthew Wilson  
Wendy and Joshua Wilton  
Anne and Brian Zecher  
Zhaoliang Zhu and Zilan Shen

As the school year draws to an end, we celebrated Community Day on May 16. The day was full of exciting things to do. We visited "TJC Airlines" and spoke with a real commercial airline pilot. The children received wings to show they stopped off at the airport! At the doctor's office, they were weighed and measured; beaded necklaces were made at the jewelry store; letters were written and mailed home from the post office; books were received at the library and plants were potted at the florist. Of course, they spent time in their synagogue and went through the car wash (in our case, the bike wash) before heading to the field where a Walk-A-Thon was held for the students' participation in the Playground Fundraiser. A community is not complete unless it is visited by the ice cream man and ours was no different. After each class completed their part in the Walk-A-Thon, the children all enjoyed an ice cream treat. It was a perfect ending to a great day.

And now it is time to honor our students and the accomplishments they have achieved this year. On Monday, June 4, the children will present their end of the year musical presentation at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Immediately following the show, we will exit to the playground for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. You are all invited to attend these special events and I truly hope you do. Please join us for brunch after the playground's grand opening and entertainment with Kid Rock Star, Mr. Ray. I am looking forward to a very exciting morning.

Then, on Tuesday evening, June 5, we celebrate our students in Kitah Kachol and Kitah Yarok with their Moving On Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is the culmination of their early education experience here at The Joan Levin Nursery School. You are cordially invited to share this evening with us.

The year was filled with wondrous times; and while it's always sad to say goodbye, I look back on the school year with awe as I realize how much we all have grown—the children, the staff and me!

Wishing you all a lazy summer filled with whatever it is that makes you happy. Enjoy!

*B'Shalom  
Gayle Wagner*

Please join the Joan Levin Nursery School  
at The Jewish Center for a

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



as we celebrate  
our new Playground  
named in memory of  
Gloria T. Shavzel

Monday, June 4  
10:30 AM

See you on the Playground!

**SAVE THE DATE:**

# *Lashir*

In Concert

Sunday, June 10

at Richardson Auditorium  
on the Princeton University campus

Doors open at 2:00 p.m.

Concert begins at 2:30 p.m.

The concert is free and  
open to the entire community.

# Shabbat Of Appreciation

Friday, June 22

8:00 P.M.

**Join Us As We Install Our New President, Michael Feldstein,  
Our New Officers, Trustees And Board Of Directors**

**We Will Also Honor Irene Goldfarb,  
The 2006-2007 Congregant Of The Year,  
and Thank Our Staff and Volunteers For  
Another Great Year at The Jewish Center!**

## Religious School News

There is a quote in the Talmud in Pesikta Buber, paraphrasing King David in Psalm 16 Verse 11 that says, David said "Oh Lord, many groups of Tzaddikim shall be admitted into Thy Presence. Which one of them is most beloved before Thee? God answered, "The teachers of the young, who perform their works in sincerity and with joy shall sit at my right side." The Jewish Center is indeed fortunate to have a teaching staff that is imbued with that sincerity and joy.

Teaching and education have long been a part of the history of the Jewish people. We have heard many times that we are the people of the book, the Torah. The word Torah comes from the word *Yarah*...which means to aim. This can also be interpreted to mean pointing someone in the right direction or teaching, so that the very word Torah implies teaching. Going further, the *Shema*, the most basic prayer in Judaism also talks about teaching in that it instructs us to teach the contents of the Torah diligently to our children, in not one place but two. And, after the Biblical period, when the prophets were replaced by sages and rabbis, the study of Torah, not just its reading, became the defining element of the Jewish people. This dedication to learning and teaching Torah has continued among Jews throughout history and learning in general has permeated Jewish secular life as well.

As a Jewish educator, I see our role as teachers as instilling a love of Judaism

and pride in being Jewish. I also see Jewish learning as the key to becoming responsible members of society in that Jewish education provides our students with both roots to grow and wings to fly. By providing studies in Torah and history, prophets and holidays, life cycle events and Israel, we strive to ground our students in Jewish values and skills necessary to function as members of the world community. And as these Jewish roots grow deep into the ground, our children also grow in the world above the ground so that we also need to give them the wings to fly. We need to make them more informed, more aware, more insightful, more perceptive, more appreciative and more involved and to use what they have learned — to fly, as responsible Jewish young adults.

In doing so, the influence of our teachers has no limits. The *Mishna* says that when you find a teacher, you find a friend and the philosopher, Henry Adams stated that "a teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops."

I have been most fortunate in my tenure at The Jewish Center to be surrounded by a community that is committed to education and learning. Our teaching staff is one that is devoted to children and to the love of Jewish learning and being Jewish. I thank them for their hard work and creativity. I also thank the Congregation, The Jewish Center Boards and School Committees for their commitment to providing the best educational environment possible and for their support throughout the last ten years. Our Vice Presidents and school chairs have given so much of

themselves to provide guidance, insight and the willingness to plan new and exciting programs and initiatives each year. I thank my colleagues on The Jewish Center staff for the day-to-day support and friendship that we share, and to everyone on the staff for making things happen and run so smoothly every day. I thank all of the parents of the Religious School for their spirit of volunteerism in the activities of the Religious School and for their trust in giving their most precious children to us. I have been blessed to watch so many of those children grow up at The Jewish Center as students in the Nursery School and in the Religious School and develop in to committed and successful young men and women. Many have come back to work as aides in the schools and some have even come back to teach.

On April 21, we had a glorious Shabbat Service honoring our excellent teachers. I was thrilled to be a part of the morning's events and for the recognition of my ten years as the Religious School Principal. On behalf of the Religious School teachers, I thank you for the extraordinary honor and recognition. May we all continue to work together to provide quality programs for our children.

*B'Shalom,  
Fran Amir*

### Important Events in June

#### **Thursday, June 7**

School Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Thursday, June 14**

Religious School Honors Night

## New York Jewish Environmental Bike Ride



Congregants Warren and Molly Mitlak plan to participate in the sixth annual Jewish Environmental Bike Ride on August 31 to September 3. This event is sponsored by Hazon.

Hazon's mission is to create and support a range of programs, especially (though not exclusively) focused on Jewish outdoor and environmental education, in order to bring joy and meaning to people's lives and thus to foster new vision in the Jewish community and the world beyond.

The events begin with a Shabbat Retreat on Friday, August 31. The ride starts Sunday morning in Falls Village, Connecticut and

ends approximately 120 miles later on Monday in Manhattan. There will be about 200 riders all committed to raising money for Hazon.

Warren and Molly have fund raising targets of \$1500 and \$1200 respectively. They will be training throughout the summer to be ready for two days of riding. Please support them on their ride. Donations are tax-deductible. You can learn more about Hazon on their website at [www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org).

You can sponsor Warren or Molly by making a donation through the website. Warren's page is: [hazon.kintera.org/2007nyride/wmitlak](http://hazon.kintera.org/2007nyride/wmitlak). Molly's page is [hazon.kintera.org/2007nyride/mmitlak](http://hazon.kintera.org/2007nyride/mmitlak). Please contact Warren at 609-936-1060 for details.

# Mike Schwartz



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# Israel Affairs

Have you ever wondered why so many towns in the U.S. have Hebrew names or why so many prominent personalities in early America had seemingly Jewish or biblical names? In a 1982 article in *Parade Magazine*, "Hebrew: National Language of the U.S.", Irwin Wallace wrote of a little known movement launched during the American Revolution to replace English with Hebrew. Wallace wrote:

"In 1776, anything associated with the British monarchy had a bad taste to the American rebels. Hebrew, on the other hand, was held in high regard by the former British colonists, who viewed it as the mother of all languages, the key to the scriptures and the cornerstone of liberal education....They named their towns after those cited in the Bible such as Salem and Bethlehem, and their children were named after Biblical figures."

Until 1817, the Harvard commencement address was given in Hebrew and from its founding in the late 1700s well into the 1830s, my own alma mater, Williams College in Massachusetts, made the study of Hebrew compulsory for all students.

Today, Hebrew is not much of a threat to English as the national language of the U.S., but as we all know, it is the national language of the State of Israel and the common language of prayer and study for Jews around the world. Many of us are familiar with the Hebrew alphabet and can read the *siddur*, but far fewer of us can order a falafel on Ben Yehuda street or negotiate with an irate *sherut* driver in God's holy language. For those that want to improve their Hebrew language skills, we have organized a monthly *Shulchan Ivrit* at The Jewish Center where we can practice Hebrew in a supportive atmosphere.

To compliment our efforts with the *Shulchan*, we are always on the lookout for other opportunities to Israel and the Hebrew language to our community. The Jewish Agency for Israel is engaging in an experiment in Hebrew education and you are all welcome to participate. They have created a Virtual Ulpan Pilot Program that begins in July. The program begins with a

16

free pilot session, which will include:

- \* 4 lessons
- \* Live, interactive contact with Jewish Agency teachers
- \* Independent study assignments

Each lesson is scheduled to last an hour and a half and will focus on helping students acquire the full range of language skills - speaking, reading, writing, listening and visual comprehension.

Requirements for the program are as follows:

- \* Geared to students between 15 and 99 years of age
- \* No previous knowledge of Hebrew, except the Hebrew alphabet (Alef-Bet)
- \* Access to a PC computer with a Broadband Internet connection and microphone (in order to participate in the sessions)

Webconferences will be held at 5:00 p.m. Israel time on the following dates:

- \* July 7
- \* July 9
- \* July 16
- \* July 23

In between classes, students will be expected to complete assignments (about 1 to 2 hours a week); books will be sent straight to students' homes.

If you are interested in this exciting program sponsored and organized by the Jewish Agency, please email SandrineB@jafi.org with a cc to Rabbi Paul Freedman at freedman@uscj.org. The registration deadline is June 14 and spaces are limited.

*Kol Tw,*

Adam Scheer  
Co-chair, Israel Affairs  
[israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org)

## Board of Directors MEETINGS

There will be a meeting of The Jewish Center Board of Directors on Monday, June 25 at 8:00 p.m.

# BeCOOL

## Come to SHUL!

**Mazal Tov to the newest**  
Minyanaires and Mini-Minyanaires

### **Minyanaires:**

Alex Costin  
Gabriela Bloom  
Liana Bloom  
Ellis Bloom  
Amy Hauer  
Stephanie Hauer  
Leah Falcon  
Hannah Mitlak  
Etana Cheskis  
Benjamin Goldman  
Rebecca Goldman  
Rachel Glasser  
Jacob Lichtblau  
Allison Hubert  
Samuel Koffman  
Elizabeth Frieder  
Adlai Ostret  
Martine Appel  
Nathaniel Kaufman  
Harrison Paszamant  
Sam Merkovitz

### **Mini-Minyanaires:**

Jaclyn Perlman  
Brooke Perlman  
Hunter Sporn  
Eliza Rosenthale  
Noah Cheskis  
Daniel Hubert  
Emily Kleinbart  
Emma Glasser

### **Todah Rabbah to:**

Michal and Adam Scheer for sponsoring Kiddush at Tot Shabbat in honor of their daughter Ilana's fifth birthday.

Lori and Michael Feldstein for sponsoring Kiddush at Mini-Minyan and Jr. Congregation in honor of their daughter Carly's fifth birthday and their son Jacob's eighth birthday.

# Report of the Annual Fund Committee 2006-07

**In the beginning**, there was the recognition of a need. We must do a better job of fundraising for The Jewish Center (TJC). The cost of running The Center was out pacing our ability to raise funds.

Budget years 2004-05 and 2005-06 produced operating deficits. It was costing more to run the day-to-day operations of TJC and to maintain our aging facility than we were generating through dues and our fundraising efforts. We had to dip into our reserves both years just to meet our operating costs.

The revenue produced by dues was never meant to cover all our costs. However, to have raised dues to a level to do that would have placed an undue burden on our membership. In fact, absent any fundraising at all, we would have had to raise dues by 24% to cover all of our costs.

As with any congregation, TJC generated income through various fundraising activities. Unfortunately, our past fundraising efforts neither met our needs (to cover 12% of our costs to balance our budget) nor our expectations.

Our annual fundraising consisted of four components: The Kol Nidre Appeal; a major fundraising event; secondary events; and sustaining dues. The Kol Nidre Appeal generated approximately \$50,000, from about 40% of the congregation. Sustaining dues covered another \$35,000. In a good year, our best fundraising events (like the 2005-06 Night in Persia) would combine with the secondary fundraisers to contribute another \$100,000. Yet we still ran an operating deficit. We needed to do better, both in dollars generated and in congregational participation.

A Fundraising Task Force was established. It studied the best practices of other synagogues, queried experts, and spoke with staff and lay leaders at other congregations. It became apparent that Annual Funds, often used as a replacement for a Kol Nidre Appeal, have proven enormously successful. And the call went out again, and the Annual Fund Committee, made up of 19 congregants and professional staff, was formed.

**We wandered in the desert.** We were about to enter an uncharted land, trying to change the tradition and culture of giving to TJC. We had no idea what reaction to expect to the concept of an Annual Fund and to the concept that it is a congregational responsibility to donate.

We knew where we wanted to go, and set our first year objectives based upon the need to increase fundraising by 22% to balance our 2006-2007 budget. That translated into raising \$240,000 from a significantly larger percentage of the congregation. The objective of the journey seemed fraught with uncertainty.

To smooth the path as much as possible, the Annual Fund committee took several actions. The Committee:

- \* Developed a slogan that became its guiding principle, "Support The Jewish Center of Our Lives."

- \* Promised that there would no longer be a traditional Kol Nidre Appeal, as long as we were meeting our projections.

- \* Agreed to an end to high-cost social events designed to raise funds, but rather to hold social events for which attendees would only be charged fees necessary to cover actual costs.

- \* Established six target levels of giving:

• Giborim	Heroes	\$5,400 and above
• Amudim	Pillars	3,600 - 5,399
• Shomrim	Guardians	1,800 - 3,599
• Bonim	Builders	900 - 1,799
• Tomchim	Supporters	500 - 899
• Haverim	Friends	180 - 499

- \* Decided to give recognition, on a donor wall, at these levels

The committee communicated with the congregation through a variety of modes including letters in the Newsletter, a brochure and a FAQ sheet. We also held a telethon.

By the High Holidays, the Annual Fund had received pledges in the amount of \$200,000. The Kol Nidre Appeal didn't have to be made. We no longer had to reach out to members for sustaining dues contributions.

However, we could not stop before raising the full \$240,000. We did not wish to have to pull from our reserves. We continued communicating with the congregation through the Newsletter. Our membership responded.

**We entered the Promised Land.** We balanced our budget and budgeted a capital reserve line for 2007-08 for needed improvements. A total of 339 donors pledged \$288,058. As of May 2, \$273,681 had been paid. The cost of the fundraising effort through the Annual Fund was only \$8,700, far below the \$45,000 that had been budgeted for fundraising through the traditional means. We increased our net annual fundraising by 43% or \$85,000 over 2005-2006. This was double the targeted 22% increase.

Name	Donors	Pledged	Paid	Balance
Giborim (Heroes) \$5,400 & above	12	\$64,836.00	\$56,089.54	\$8,746.46
Amudim (Pillars) \$3,600 - \$5,399	14	\$51,228.98	\$51,228.98	\$0.00
Shomrim (Guardians) \$1,800 - \$3,599	36	\$67,325.00	\$64,900.06	\$2,424.94
Bonim (Builders) \$900 - \$1,799	43	\$43,106.45	\$40,537.45	\$2,569.00
Tomchim (Supporters) \$500 - \$899	59	\$31,792.35	\$31,256.10	\$536.25
Haverim (Friends) \$180 - \$499	120	\$25,379.43	\$25,379.43	\$0.00
Up to \$179	55	\$4,390.00	\$4,290.00	\$100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>\$288,058.21</b>	<b>\$273,681.56</b>	<b>\$14,376.65</b>

*As of 5/2/07*

It was a good start, but just as the Israelites faced challenges so do we. TJC needs even a greater commitment. The Committee looks forward to greater congregational participation next year and in the future.

**With many thanks to all those who chose to Support the Jewish Center of Our Lives.**

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Michael and Linda Grenis  
Jonathan and Susan Gross  
Herb and Maxine Gurk

Elliot Gursky and Cheryl Levine  
Bruce and Gabriella Hecht  
Harold Heft and Martha Friedman  
Israel and Harriet Heilweil  
Joel and Susan Heymsfeld  
Jeffrey Hiller and Laurie Londoner  
Herb and Carol Horowitz  
Zola and Marlene Horovitz  
Steven and Randy Hubert  
Stephen Hudis and Merrye Shavel  
Hanan and Helaine Isaacs  
Curtis Johnson and Melissa Hager  
Steven and Sara Just  
Antoine and Marcy Kahn  
Marc and Eve Kanoff  
Howard and Vida Kaplan  
Robert Karp and Linda Oppenheim  
Gregg and Jill Kaufman  
Kenneth and Christine Kaufman  
Lawrence and Hilda Kaufman  
Lorne and Nina Keller  
Martha Kingsley  
Marc and Lois Klaben  
Al and Rena Klein  
George Kleinman  
Ruth Klein  
Ric and Cyndi Kleinbart  
Keith and Abby Knuckey  
Dana Kramer  
Myles and Mildred Kranzler  
Shelley Kuchin  
Martin and Ann Kugel  
Jay and Ellen Kuris  
Jerome and Phyllis Kurshan  
Lance and Dana Ladic  
Corey and Mindy Langer  
Cynthia Laskin  
Louis and Magda Laszlo  
Brad and Barbara Lawrence  
Trish Leader  
Amy Lebowitz  
Michael and Luanne Lebwohl  
Arthur Lehrhaupt  
Rachel Lehr  
Marian Leibowitz  
Sher and Jeanne Leiman  
Michael and Judy Leopold  
Gadi and Gila Levin  
Mark and Joan Levin  
Marcie Levinson  
Morton and Susan Levine  
Robert and Judy Levine  
Neil and Nancy Lewis  
Josh Lichtblau and Linda Schwimmer  
David and Marci Lieberman  
Diane Lieberman  
Lawrence and Lisa Lieberman  
Martha Liebman  
Harold and Susan Loew  
Judith Logue  
George Lovitt and Judith Bronston

*Annual Fund (Continued from page 8)*

Avron and Sally Magram  
Ken and Debbie Maisel  
Mitch Marder and Mara Feldman  
Morris and Constance Marks  
Deborah Marinsky  
Jack and Sheila Marrero  
Henry and Joyce Maso  
Jeff Mattes and Amy Becker-Mattes  
Alan Medvin and Harriet Kass  
Al and Marilyn Medwin  
Arthur and Linda Meisel  
Cy and Jackie Meisel  
Leonie Menasche  
Ruth Mendelson  
Mark and Wendy Merkovitz  
Walter and Linda Meyer  
Arthur and Arlene Miller  
Jeffrey and Lisa Miller  
Stephen Skoczylas and Madelyn Miller  
Andrew and Carol Milstein  
Joshua and Linda Milstein  
Warren Mitlak and Tirza Wahrman  
Sam and Debra Morgenstern  
Edith Neimark  
Jerry Neumann and Naomi Richman  
Irv Newman and Myra Weiner  
Gerard and Lily Noble  
Abby Notterman  
Nelson Obus and Eve Coulson  
Henry and Arlene Opatut  
Steven and Reba Orszag  
Simon and Melissa Pankove  
Sybil Parnes  
Jay and Darlene Paszamant  
Adam and Lauren Pechter  
Brian and Lois Perkins  
Barry and Naomi Perlman  
Eric and Laura Perlman  
Jeff and Robin Persky  
Bruce and Amy Pfau  
Robert and Mary Pickens  
Donald and Karen Polokoff  
David and Alison Politziner  
Lawrence and Nedda Pollack  
Mark and Carol Pollard  
Allen and Rhona Porter  
Andrew and Summer Pramer  
George and Ellen Pristach  
Joseph and Sheryl Punia  
Leonard and Renee Punia  
Eva Rapkin  
Eric and Anita Rau  
Joel and Elizabeth Reichbart  
Bruce and Maia Reim  
Simon and Wendy Richmond  
Betty Rimalover  
Igor and Wendy Roitburg  
Martin and Rogie Rome  
Annette Rosenberg  
Donna Rosen  
Donald and Betsy Rosen

Joseph and Michelle Rosenthal  
Mik Rosenthal  
Norman and Tricia Rosenthal  
Sherry Rosen  
Stephen and Susan Rosen  
William and Gail Rose  
Barry and Terri Rossman  
Martin and Martha Rossman  
Josephine Rothbart  
Phillip and Anne Rutman  
Jan and Lois Safer  
Jeffrey and Rona Sands  
Meyer and Lynn Joy Sapoff  
Jonathan and Susan Sasportas  
Maurice and Brigitte Sasson  
Daniel and Betsy Sauder  
Jeff Savlov and Monica Blum  
Adam and Michal Scheer  
Jeff and Monica Schneider  
Ronald Schnur and Sandra Sussman  
Steven and Iris Schulman  
Alicia Schwarcz  
Ken and Ellie Schweber  
Mitchell and Diane Schwartz  
Robert and Carol Schwartz  
Gerald Seid  
Robert Seidenstein and Marilyn Riley  
Fredric and Mitzi Seinfeld  
Martin and Lena Shane  
Harold and Vivian Shapiro  
Larry and Carol Shatoff  
Douglas and Marcie Shavel  
Jonathan Shavel  
Matthew and Hedy Shavel  
Andrew and Ricki Shechtel  
Larry and Lois Shindelman  
Randall and Corinne Siegel  
Leonard Sigal and Barbara Snyder  
Rabbi David and Ziona Silverman  
Jane Silverman  
Kenneth and Hillary Silverstein  
Cantor Murray and Toby Simon  
Ed and Lori Simon  
Eric and Ellen Sklansky  
Andrew and Lisa Smukler  
Ed and Debbie Soffen  
Joyce Sokolic  
Ken and Ann Sokoloff  
Fredric and Winifred Spar  
Jerry and Roberta Spector  
Cary and Elisa Spiegel  
Aaron and Beverly Sporn  
Richard and Helane Staller  
Larry and Rochelle Steinberger  
Paul and Nancy Steinhardt  
Hazel Stix  
Alan and Audrey Straus  
Joseph Straus and Sally Goldfarb  
Rick and Polly Strauss  
Rita Swirsky  
Erel and Marilyn Tal  
Mark and Elana Tenenzapf  
Evelyn Thurm

Ward Titus and Elena Taratuta  
Mark and Lisa Tobias  
Bruce and Frayda Topolosky  
Jesse and Marissa Treu  
Rabbi Annie Tucker  
David and Roslyn Vanderbilt  
David and Barbara Vilkomerson  
Daniel Wagner and Meryl Baurmash  
Rick and Gayle Wagner  
Alan and Robin Wallack  
Robert and Linda Weber  
Andrew Weiss and Eve Niedergang  
Harlan and Sally Weisman  
Lewis and Mildred Weisblatt  
Ron and Kimberly Weiss  
Jeffrey and Bonnie Weizman  
Robert Willig and Ginny Mason  
Thomas and Stephanie Will  
Warren and Anna Willingham  
Marc and Audrey Wisotsky  
Nir and Beth Yakoby  
Howard and Marilyn Zagorin  
Betty Zaitz  
Fran Zeitler  
Joshua and Advah Zinder  
Anonymous

**The Annual Fund Committee (2006-2007)**

Richard Fishbane, Annual Fund Co-Chair  
Nancy Lewis, Annual Fund Co-Chair  
Susan Falcon, Fundraising Co-Chair  
Walt Meyer, Fundraising Co-Chair  
Stuart Axelrod  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
Michael Feldstein  
David Goldfarb  
Irene Goldfarb  
David Greenberg  
Linda Grenis  
Mark Killingsworth  
Mark Merkovitz  
Linda Meyer  
Jerry Neumann  
Joyce Sokolic  
Jesse Treu  
Marissa Treu  
Bob Weber  
Ross Wishnick

# KIDS STUFF

Erica Borsack, a Zayin student at TJC, worked with the children from HomeFront as part of her Bat Mitzvah *hesed* project. HomeFront is a local organization that helps families break the chain of poverty by providing temporary housing, food, and family counseling. Erica organized and hosted the children at a “fun and games” afternoon at TJC where TJC children and HomeFront children played indoor and outdoor games and ate delicious pizza, donated by Levy’s Gourmet Kosher Italian Catering. Erica also went to the HomeFront Preservation Center, a housing complex for HomeFront families, to make Mothers’ Day gifts with the children. For more information on HomeFront, call (609) 989-9417 or visit <http://www.homefrontnj.org>.



In connection to their FLAMES program on caring for animals at home, in our community and in the world, the Religious School Bet Classes earmarked their weekly *tzedakah* contributions to SAVE Animal Rescue and to the Wildlife Foundation. Under the leadership of teachers Barbara Schwartz and Carol Alpert, the students studied about the *mitzvah* of *Tza’ar Ba’alei Hayyim*, compassion for animals and contributed a total of \$242 to these organizations.



# 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 Schaffer 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.

## Our High School Graduates...and the places they'll go



Galia Abramson	New York University	Melanie Pauker	Rowan University
Craig Abramson	George Washington University	Meredith Perry	University of Pennsylvania
Andrew Bergman	Princeton	Benjamin Rose	University of Southern California
Gregory Brav	Indiana University	Stephanie Rossman	Boston University
Danny Devery	Nazareth University	Marielle Roth	SIACH gap year program in Israel Goucher College
Elyssa Feder	George Washington University	Zachary Shechtel	Boston University
Gregory Franzblau	Northeastern	Erin Shylit	Towson University
Naomi Gilens	Princeton	Brian Solomon	Dartmouth
Jaimie Goldstein	Rutgers University	Andrea Spector	Harvard
Arielle Greenberg	Skidmore	Eric Spiegel	University of Miami
Jordan Greenblatt	Yale	William Steinhardt	Cal Tech
Ali Hiller	Dartmouth	Jordan Tenenbaum	Temple University
Michael Karp	Wesley College	Jayne Tobias	Indiana University
Max Marder	Tufts	Danielle Tobias	Indiana University
Daniel Milstein	Brown	Daniel Weisman	Quinnipiac University
Daniel Neumann	University of Michigan	Samuel Weber	Northwestern
William Newton	Tulane	Michael Weizman	Penn State
Philip O'Driscoll	William Patterson		
Lucy Obus	Georgetown		

Mazel Tov from our Jewish Center family  
to all our high school graduates!

*If we inadvertently omitted your name, please let Nancy Lewis know at [nlewis@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:nlewis@thejewishcenter.org) and we will put it in next month's Newsletter.*

## Condolences

To Brian Zecher and his family on the loss of his father, Sidney Zecher.

To Lonny Kaplan and his family on the loss of his mother, Marjorie Kaplan.

To Michael Lebwohl and his family on the loss of his father, Alexander Lebwohl.

To Lorece Cohen and her family on the loss of her father-in-law, Isadore Rosenblatt.

The congregation mourns the loss of long time congregant Evelyn Thurm.

## New to Our Jewish Center Family

### Welcome

Randi and Robert Gelbard and their sons, Joshua (12) and Simon (9).  
28 McDowell Court, Bridgewater.

Robert and Laura Goldman and their children, Andrea (17) Michael (16) Julia (14) and Jessica (11). 31 Updikes Mill Road, Belle Mead.

Staci and Matthew Wilson and their children Ari (5) and Noah (almost 1).  
4 Roosevelt Ave., Pennington, NJ.

Dr. Mort and Sally Shakun. 6 Labaw Drive, Cranbury, NJ.

Brad and Andrea Ackerman and their sons, Alexander (7) and Jacob (5).  
90 Christopher Drive, Princeton, NJ.

**Contributions** (continued from pg. 12)

**Prayer Book Fund**

In honor of  
Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun  
*by The Braun Family*

**Prayer Books**

Humash  
In honor of  
Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun  
*by The Braun Family*

In memory of  
Joseph Alperin  
*by Myra Weiner and Irv Newman*

**Religious Affairs**

In honor of  
Nadivah Greenberg receiving her Doctorate from  
the University of Pennsylvania  
*by Gail and Bill Rose*  
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Miller  
*by Gaby and Chaim Schreiber*

**Rabbis' Discretionary Fund**

In honor of  
Rabbi Adam Feldman  
*by Barbara and Michael Snyder and family,  
Stephanie and Bob Gittleman*  
Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun  
*by The Braun Family*  
Baby naming of Sara Rose Flax  
*by Deirdra and Edward Flax*  
Ricky Shechtel  
*by Betsy Rosen*

In memory of  
Philip Zirulnick  
*by Gayle and Rick Wagner*

Lawrence Swirsky  
*by Marsha and Eliot Freeman*  
Joseph Alperin  
*by Mindy and Corey Langer*

**Religious School Special Shabbat**

Naomi Richman Neumann and Jerry Neumann  
Kimberly Vine  
Lisa and Mark Bergman  
Elsa and Stan Lapidus  
Mara Feldman, Mitch Marder, Max and Sam  
Eileen and Bob Garber  
Teddy and Caroline Friedman  
Debby and Alan Tipermas  
The Borrow Family  
Diane and Mitch Schwartz and family

**Religious School Professional  
Development Fund**

In honor of  
Gila Levin  
*by Barbara and Michael Snyder and family*  
Fran Amir and the Religious School Teachers  
*by The Paley Family*

**Sapoff Art Purchase and Restoration Fund**

In memory of  
Ruth Dansky and Janet Sapoff  
*by Lynn Joy and Meyer Sapoff*

**Shabbat Meal for Mourners**

In honor of  
Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun  
*by The Braun Family*

In memory of  
Judy Miller and Henrietta Miller  
*by Ruth Schulman*

**Silver Circle Scholarship Fund**

In honor of  
Irene Goldfarb  
*by Sally Goldfarb and Joseph Straus*

**Social Concerns**

In honor of  
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Dobkin  
*by Sally Steinberg and Dan Brent*  
Graduations of Sarah and Daniel Weisman  
*by Alison and David Politziner*  
Bar Mitzvah of Steven Braun  
*by The Braun Family*  
Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Soffen  
*by The Paley Family*

**Teen Girls Rosh Hodesh Group**

In honor of  
Bat Mitzvah of Caroline Grenis  
*by Michal and Adam Scheer*

**Torah Repair Fund**

In memory of  
Elaine Ellerstein  
*by Mildred Gershen*  
Joseph Alperin  
*by Gail, Bill, Ben and Josh Rose*

**Tree of Life**

In honor of  
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Miller  
*by Gaby and Chaim Schreiber*

**Youth and Family Program**

In memory of  
Ruth Schiff  
*by Carol and Herb Horowitz*

**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.

**SHOPPING ON AMAZON.COM?  
HELP THE JEWISH CENTER!**



Whenever you shop on Amazon.com for anything Amazon sells (books, CDs, tools, clothing, software, toys, etc.), you can help The Jewish Center at no extra cost. Simply go to our website at [www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org) and click on the Amazon link. You'll have full access to the Amazon.com site and you'll pay exactly the same price as you would normally - the difference is that TJC gets a sales commission. It's simple, free, and a great way for you to help our congregation while stocking up on books, music, games, and the hundreds of other items Amazon.com sells.

# **JEWISH CENTER YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

## **Job & Community Service Matching Program**

Helping to find opportunities for our youth and give assistance to our community

### **\*JOBS OFFERED\***

Need help checking coats at your next TJC function?

Need a helper at your child's birthday party?

How about a Tutor? Dog Walker? Babysitter? Shlepper?

### **\*COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED\***

Do you have a program or a project that would provide our kids/teenagers with an opportunity to perform a mitzvah?

### **\*JOBS OR COMMUNITY SERVICE SOUGHT\***

Need to find work for the summer? Want to find a service project to participate in?

**We can put our kids to work!**

**The TJC Website can make the PERFECT MATCH**

Notice: TJC and the Youth Department are not an employment service. Employment of any kind will be solely between the Employer and the Employee. TJC shall not be deemed a third party to the employment and shall bear no responsibility for any losses or injuries. No application or contract review is provided by TJC. References may and should be sought directly by the potential employer.

A portion of the proceeds of any employment may be directed by the employer or the employee to TJC or another charitable organization at the discretion of the parties.

**To SEARCH or to POST, go to [www.thejewishcenter.org](http://www.thejewishcenter.org)**

**MAZAL TOV TO  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEACHERS**

**Ellen Pristach  
Tziporah Neuwirth  
Jason Kay**

**ON RECEIVING THE FABIAN AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
AND COMMITMENT TO JEWISH EDUCATION**



# Israel Affairs

## COMMITTEE NEWS

This has been a great year for Israel Affairs, from the launch of our *Shulhan Ivrit*, to our AIPAC event, to our Israeli speaker but one could imagine no better cap to our year than the extraordinary Yom Ha'Zikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities this year at The Jewish Center.



Our Yom Ha'Zikaron commemoration on April 21 drew a large group to The Center sanctuary to commemorate the fallen soldiers and victims of terror. One Israeli member of The Jewish Center said that the solemn readings in Hebrew and the tone of the evening transported him back to his childhood in Israel. Indeed, Hebrew was the dominant language of the night and it was gratifying to all that The Jewish Center was able to draw Israelis from beyond the synagogue's membership to commemorate Yom Ha'Zikaron as part of a broader community.

The next day, our Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration drew many of our families to celebrate Israel's independence with music, dancing, food, art and culture drawn from the State of Israel. The weather cooperated, the mood was festive and the day offered a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see, feel, taste and hear Israel in our little corner of Princeton. And for those individuals lucky enough to take part in our congregational trip to Israel, the day provided a fitting send off with special t-shirts to celebrate their decision to see Israel firsthand.

These activities were made possible through the vision and hard work of several people who deserve acknowledgement. Our staff and volunteers, including our very hard-working custodians, under the direction of Administrator, Nancy Lewis, worked selflessly to set everything

up our programs. Our clergy have been consistent and enthusiastic supporters of the Israel Affairs Committee and have done much to inspire the committee to pursue aggressive goals; it was Rabbi Feldman's idea many months ago to make Yom Ha'Atzmaut a large, visible and inclusive event for our entire community. Our Executive Committee members have been phenomenal supporters by actively participating in our meetings and providing much valued guidance and direction; in particular, Linda Grenis, Michael Feldstein and Gil Gordon have all made significant personal investments in the success of the Israel Affairs Committee and without them, many of our activities would not have been possible. Rob Davidson single handedly put AIPAC on the map in Princeton and through his dedication and hard work generated momentum for the organization throughout the broader community. Nira Lavid served as the *morah* at our *Shulhan Ivrit* and corrected our *dikduk* in a supportive and gentle manner making our evenings together enjoyable and educational. Our interim Youth Director, Cyndi Kleinbart and Principal Fran Amir made the best out of a short schedule and limited budget to create a first class Yom Ha'Atzmaut event that not only captured the spirit of Israel but was aesthetically beautiful - from the flags, to the banners, to the El AL plane (designed by Lisa Tenenbaum) to the tents.

But, perhaps most importantly, one person who deserves more thanks than can be communicated in words is Gila Levin. From day one, she has worked tirelessly and energetically to make sure that The Jewish Center is a place that celebrates all that Israel is for the Jewish community and the world at large. Her efforts made every Israel Affairs event possible. We are all lucky to have a person like Gila in our community. *Today rabbah, and yashir koach to Gila!*

As we gear up for next year, we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Israel Affairs committee so if you have any interest in working with us, send an email to [israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org).

*Kol Tuw,  
Adam Scheer  
Chair, Israel Affairs Committee  
[israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org](mailto:israelaffairs@thejewishcenter.org)*

## GENRES AND THEMES OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE:

With Rebekah Marks Costin

Sunday morning, May 6  
(after Morning Minyan)

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

in the Beit Midrash

You attend services at The Jewish Center every Shabbat, you study *Parashat ha'Shavua* with Rabbi Tucker and you even chant Torah every once and a while. So are you ready for another level of biblical study?

This class will introduce you to some of the tools and concepts for the literary study of Biblical narrative and Biblical poetry. These tools offer another dimension for reading and understanding the *Tanakh*.

Although knowledge of Hebrew is not required for the class, we will also explore some of the linguistic characteristics of the Biblical literature which distinguish it from other ancient texts. And for the Torah readers, we will review how the *ta'amei ha'miqra* (the trope chants) contribute to the flow and understanding of the verse.

Rebekah Marks Costin, a former NJ Deputy Attorney General, is completing her Master of Arts in Jewish Studies degree from Hebrew College in Boston, Massachusetts.



















