

Lifelong Learning

2024 - 2025



Neve Shalom



Temple Emanu-El
WHERE DIVERSITY EQUALS STRENGTH



Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County
"Community is Our Middle Name"

We are pleased to unveil our 2024-25 Lifelong Learning Program. This year's Lifelong Learning program is once again a collaboration of Temple Emanu-El (TEE), the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Middlesex County, and Congregation Neve Shalom. Together our three organizations will provide an expanded and diverse curriculum to meet the educational and social needs of our greater community at large.

The program includes classes, lectures, and concerts - to name a few of the offerings. The courses will be presented to you by an assemblage of esteemed Rabbis, Cantors, Teachers, Authors, and other lay professionals.

Temple Emanu-El, the JCC, and Neve Shalom will be offering its Lifelong Learning programs with classes taught in person and/or on Zoom. When you register you will receive the appropriate dates, times, name of the presenter(s), course locations, and Zoom links. These learning, social and entertainment opportunities will be held on various days and at convenient times to accommodate the schedules of many of our community members. Print the registration form in this booklet or use the link to the electronic form.

This year members of Temple Emanu-El, the JCC, and Neve Shalom will pay \$72 per year for as many of the listed classes as you wish to take. This is the same fee for each of the organizations. For non-affiliated registrants, there will be a charge of \$90 per year. Selected courses or events, may have additional fees. Neve Shalom and Temple Emanu-El have a special benefactor/patron fee for those who would like to make a tax-deductible contribution which will entitle those donors to ALL Lifelong Learning courses without additional fee (see your own organization's registration form).

Each of the three collaborating organizations should have their participating members pay their home organizations. If a person belongs solely to Temple Emanu-El or solely to the JCC, or solely to Neve Shalom, they should pay that organization. If Temple Emanu-El or Neve Shalom congregants also belong to the JCC, they will pay TEE or Neve Shalom. If the JCC member does not belong to either TEE or Neve Shalom, they should pay the JCC. If a person (non- member), does not belong to one of the three organizations, they can pay the organization of their choosing. This understanding was arranged and agreed to by all three organizations.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifelong Learning offerings and/or any special events, please contact:

Temple Emanu-El: Dana Shectman, executivedirector@edison temple.org, 732-549-4442 x 104

Neve Shalom: Judy Slutzky, judyrs lu@icloud.com or call the Neve office, 732-548-2238 x 112

JCC: Esther Fendrick, efendrick@jccmc.org, 732 593-5969

Zoom Information

Temple Emanu-El [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8357221415?
pwd=cFlWY0tJdlRH a3dpNys3UFVLWEplZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8357221415?pwd=cFlWY0tJdlRH a3dpNys3UFVLWEplZz09)

JCC [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84035813469?
pwd=SCt3bUN4UnYvTUdCRWI4RG5ZUkNh
QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84035813469?pwd=SCt3bUN4UnYvTUdCRWI4RG5ZUkNhQT09)

Neve Shalom <https://us0web.zoom.us/j/82472289017>

Classes may be rescheduled or cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, particularly if Clergy has to handle an emergency situation. Notification will be sent to registered participants ahead of class time.

Clergy Instructors

Rabbi Dr. Vicki L. Axe, *Senior Rabbi and Cantor of Temple Emanu-El*

Rabbi Dr. Vicki L. Axe serves Temple Emanu-El as both rabbi and cantor. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Temple University, an MA in Music Education from The Ohio State University, and Cantorial Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In 2008 she was awarded Doctor of Music, honoris causa from HUC-JIR, and Rabbinic Ordination from the Rabbinical Academy of America. In 2016 she earned her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from HUC-JIR.

With teaching at the very core of everything she does, her stated goal is to bring the world of Jewish culture, history, language, and practice to learners of all ages, to open the hearts of our people to Jewish life and experience so that they can make informed choices about their Jewish identity.

Rabbi Stefanie Gedan, *Rabbi of Neve Shalom*

Rabbi Stefanie Gedan is the rabbi at Neve Shalom. Rabbi Gedan was ordained in 2023 from JTS during which she served as the rabbinic intern at the Glen Rock Jewish Center and Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation. She completed a chaplain residency program through NewYork-Presbyterian-Brooklyn Methodist Hospital following ordination. Rabbi Gedan is originally from Minnetonka, MN and is an alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. When not working, Rabbi Gedan enjoys spending time with her family, especially her three nephews, in New Rochelle, and is on the lookout for new, exciting things to do in her new home of Metuchen.

Cantor Anna Ott, *Cantor Emerita at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple*

Cantor Emerita at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick, after a 21-year career that included expansion of choral and band programs, instruction in guitar and songleading, and many community and Interfaith programs that served to create community through singing together. Currently, she is involved in direction of three Jewish choirs: Makhelat HaMercaz in Highland Park; Kol Dodi in Morristown; and the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble.

Bishop Nikolaos G Brown, *Lead Pastor of Ignite Church (Cathedral)*

Bishop Brown is no stranger to our community having served us since 2020. A son of the city of Edison, Bishop Brown has served as the Lead Pastor of Ignite: Church (Cathedral), a convergent church plant on the south side of Edison since 2010. He is the Diocesan Bishop for the Diocese of Christ the Reformer, a member of the house of Bishops of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches and serves various other houses of worship of varying denominations and faith traditions. He is a past chairman of the Edison Township Human Relations Commission and the current chair of religious affairs for the Metuchen Edison Piscataway Branch of the NAACP. Currently, he is matriculating at New Brunswick Theological Seminary toward a Master of Theological Studies with hopes of continuing on to PhD work.

Bishop Brown is the father of three children, the uncle of fifteen, friend of many, colleague of even more. He is a scholar, a sought after conference and lecture speaker (and tech person), a musician playing both organ and piano, a New York Yankees and Kansas City Chiefs fan, an avid traveler and learner and more.

Lifelong Learning Classes September 2024 - May 2025

Sunday Classes

Prepping for the Holidays, *Rabbi Stefanie Gedan*

September 8, 22, 29 at 10:00 am Neve Shalom

The High Holidays are upon us and there is so much to do between atoning and cooking. But what do we really need to know in order to make this season meaningful? Is it possible to force meaning and make it special? Join us as we explore the high holiday season's themes and expectations and how (or if) we can make the most of it.

Exploring our Relationship to the Commandments Through Halachic Creativity, *Rabbi Stefanie Gedan*

October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:00 am at Neve Shalom

This class will be taught again each week on Thursdays at 10:00 am on Zoom. Thanksgiving week, class will be on Wednesday.

What does a string around a city, a closed pantry with the word chametz on it, and a top layer of soil all have in common? They are all humanity's attempts at observing God's commandments. Do these loopholes circumvent Shabbat, Passover, and the Sabbatical Year or enable us to observe them? Why are legal loopholes valid in our observance of Jewish law and how do they affect our relationship with it?

Hebrew Reading, *Michele Rosenfield*

Sundays at 11:15 am on Neve Zoom

Beginners and Not-So-Beginners welcome. Practice reading prayers and texts. Learn how to recognize some vocabulary and basic grammatical structures to ease understanding of the Hebrew you do read. Each verse, or line of a prayer, is read in English first so that if it is not your turn to read out loud you can try to identify words or roots to make a stab at translating the Hebrew. Before you know it, you will be experiencing the joy of text study as well building confidence in your reading skills. Individual online study materials with personal support are available for those who want to learn or brush up on the Hebrew letters and vowels. For additional information, contact Michele Rosenfield at mr399@optonline.net

Worldly Jewish Dining: Do You Like To Eat Deli?

Sundays at 12:30pm Nov. 3, Dec. 8, Feb. 9, March 2 and May 4

Locations and menus will be announced weeks prior to each class.

This is our Eleventh Year of Worldly Jewish Dining. This year we are going to focus on Delicatessens in New Jersey (and Beyond). Jewish delis feature prominently in Jewish and American cultures. We will dine in “kosher style” restaurants. Here is a sampling of some traditional Jewish foods we will have the opportunity to eat: Chopped liver, pastrami, corned beef, brisket, tongue, stuffed cabbage, gefilte fish, lox, smoked sable, whitefish salad, blintzes, borscht, kasha or potato knishes, latkes, kugels, and, of course, pickles, health salad, and matzo ball or mushroom-barley soup. Participants will arrange their own transportation, meet at the restaurant, and pay for their own meals. Locations will be sent to registrants in advance.

Jewish International Film Festival - Cranford Movie Theater

On Sun. November 3rd at 3:00pm there is a Jewish Film Festival at the Cranford Theatre: “The Performance”. Pre-registration is required. https://fb.watch/u8TFLE_NAC/

The Lunch and Learn group will attend together.

Monday Classes

Unetaneh Tokef: Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die? *Rabbi Vicki Axe*

September 30 at 10:00 am on TEE Zoom

In preparation for the High Holy Days, Rabbi Axe will explore the text of Unetaneh Tokef, the legend, the poetry, and the themes.

Embracing Life's Journey from the Two Faith Perspectives, *Rabbi Vicki Axe and Bishop Nikolaos Brown*

Mondays at 10:00 am November 4, 11, 18, 25 on TEE Zoom

In dialogue with each other and in conversation with the participants, Rabbi Axe and Bishop Brown will explore various aspects of sacred practices and traditions. Each session is stand-alone; come for any one session or all of them.

1. Holy Days and Feasts
2. Religious Customs and Family Traditions
3. Biblical Stories
4. Life Cycle Rituals

Tuesday Classes

John Kenrick - Hail Caesar!: How Sid & His Legion Conquered the World of Comedy

Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 pm on the JCC Zoom

Sid Caesar was playing saxophone at a Catskills resort when he discovered he could make audiences laugh. For TV's Your Show of Shows, he headed a team of performers and writers who would triumph on stage and screen, shaping modern comedy as we know it. How did Caesar, who never told a joke, become a comic icon? And why is his work almost unknown today? Entertainment historian John Kenrick answers these questions in this laugh-packed presentation.

Art Historian, Janet Mandel: Camille Pissarro: "Have but One Master—Nature"

January 7 at 7:00 pm on the JCC Zoom

Camille Pissarro has been called the father figure and peacemaker of the Impressionists because he was the oldest in the group, had the least quarrelsome temperament, and he took new artists under his wing and gave them advice and encouragement. Although he painted a variety of subjects, he is mostly known for his luminous portrayal of the natural world, which inspired not only the young artists of the 19th Century avant-garde, but which continues to enthral art lovers today.

Topics in Jewish Popular Music, Cantor Anna Ott

January 21, 28, February 11, 18 at 11:00 am on TEE Zoom

The Jewish voice has always been expressed through music – its heart, its soul, its history. We will explore some history and some current trends as music continues to evolve across generations and denominations.

1. Shirei Eretz Yisrael: The creation of "Israeli-ness" through the music of pre-State Israel
2. The Life and Music of Naomi Shemer
3. Modern Trends in Jewish Popular Music
4. Culture in Our Community – popular Jewish performers in our midst!

Treasure in the Attic: What to do with Sentimental Stuff My Kids Don't Want, *Jamie Novak*

March 4 at 7:00 pm on the JCC Zoom

Did the kids tell you they don't want your candlesticks? Are you attached to your treasures, collections, and sentimental items? If so, this virtual program is for you! During this online program, organizing humorist and author of *Keep This Toss That*, Jamie Novak reveals her method for decluttering sentimental items. By the end of this laugh-out-loud funny program you'll have a plan for how to keep the memories without keeping all the stuff.

Wednesday Classes

Lunch and Learn, *Rabbi Vicki Axe and Rabbi Stefanie Gedan*

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm beginning on October 30 at Beans and Bread, 600 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen. This is in person only.

We will explore Jewish texts in relation to the lives we lead today. All texts are read in English and serve as jumping-off points to explore our own voices and stories and how Jewish wisdom can play a part.

Talmud Le'at, *Steve Gross*

Every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm beginning September 4th on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88037928521?pwd=cG4yaEVOTTFDS3VIR0hwU1VGaFhodzO9>

Always wanted to learn Talmud but didn't know how to start? Welcome to Talmud Le'at (Slow Talmud)! There's something in Talmud for everyone:

- Study the classic text of Judaism that has engaged Jews for 2,000 years
- Learn analytical and argumentative skills
- Improve your Hebrew knowledge
- Open a window to the daily life of our ancestors in ancient Israel
- Enhance your observance

We will be studying the tractate Berachot which deals with prayer. We will analyze the text line by line and word by word, looking for a deep understanding of the concepts and terms of Talmudic thought and why it continues to inspire and teach after 2000 years. No prior experience or background is necessary. The class will be conducted in English. You can drop in or out as you wish.

Book Club

New this year on WEDNESDAY evenings at 7:30 PM on TEE Zoom except as noted below.

If you love a good book, this is the club for you. Each session the group reads and discusses a book with a Jewish topic or character. We will be joined by several authors. Join for one session or all. You are guaranteed to enjoy. (See class listings for locations.)

Oct. 30 *Mahjong at Mara's* by Debra Green. The author will be joining us at Neve Shalom.

Nov. 20 *Jackpot Summer* by Elyssa Friedland

Jan. 8 *In the Hands of Woman and Threadbare* (the prequel) by Jane Rubin. The author will be joining us via Zoom.

Feb. 19 *Women on Fire* by Lisa Barr. New Release: The Goddess of Warsaw

March 19 *The Boy with the Star Tattoo* by Talia Carner. The author will be joining us via Zoom.

April 9 *The Winthrop Agreement* by Alice Sherman

May 14 *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum* by Margalit Fox. The author will be joining us in person. Location TBD.

Thursday Classes

Presentation & Cooking Demonstrations, *Linda Matza Silverman*

November 21 and May 1, 12:00 - 1:00, Neve Shalom's kitchen

Join Linda Matza Silverman (the bearer of the flame, enamored with her legacy, and determined to share the flavor of her Romaniote heritage with the next generations). What better way than through FOOD! Linda will share information and recipes from her highly acclaimed book: "The Story Behind the Aprons". A Family History of the Naphtali Family. She will share her passion for cooking with 2 demonstrations of preparing traditional Greek foods. Autographed cookbooks will be available for purchase. A snack and refreshments will be served. Class size will be limited to 18 people, please sign up early.

Post Holocaust: Jewish Survival from 1945 and Beyond, *Debra Maller*

Thursdays at 7:30 pm February 6, 13, 20, 27 on TEE Zoom

The Holocaust had a deep effect on society both in Europe and the rest of the World, and today its consequences are still being felt, both by children and adults whose ancestors were victims of this genocide. We will explore the post Holocaust through informative accountings of individuals who survived the Holocaust. We will explore written material and verbal accounts from the moderator and guest speakers who had close associations with the topic.

There will be a Neve class in the second semester, on Sundays at 10am (and Thursdays at 10 AM on zoom), topic TBA.

2024 Special Events

Marking One Year - October 7th - October 7, 2024 @ 7pm at the JCC

Veterans Day Program - November 12, 2024 @ 7pm at the JCC

JCC/MENCH Chapter of Hadassah Dinner and Comedy Night - November 16, 2024 @ 6:30pm at the JCC. (Registration Required. Go to <https://jccmc.org/hadassahcomedyntight> for more information and to register.)

Community Menorah Lighting - December 19, 2024 @ 7pm at the JCC

2025 Special Events

Neve Shalom Donald and Ruth Kahn Book and Author Event

March 30 at 10:00 am at Neve Shalom

Join us at this event which showcases Jewish authors and books with Jewish content. We are busy selecting a panel of exciting authors who will stimulate our community, in person.

Interfaith Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program - April 23 at 7pm at the JCC

Temple Emanu-El Spring Concert - April 26th at First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave. in Metuchen

Neve Shalom Gilbert and Claudie Hayat Speaker Series

January 19 at 11:00 am at Neve Shalom and on Neve Zoom

Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg, Ancient Jerusalem: The Bible, the Archeology, the Controversies, and the Secrets Revealed.

March 2 at 11:00 am at Neve Shalom and on Neve Zoom

Milton Heumann - The Supreme Court and Democracy

Additional speakers to be announced.

Temple Emanu-El Partners with Neve Shalom Weaving Program

We are proud to announce a partnership with the Neve Shalom Sisterhood Weaving Program in Metuchen. Available to our entire synagogue membership, this program allows you to weave a custom tallit, tallit or tefillin bag. Or maybe a challah cover or matzoh cover. No experience is necessary!! Volunteers from Neve Shalom Loom Room will guide you through the process – from design to completion. With their help, you can weave.

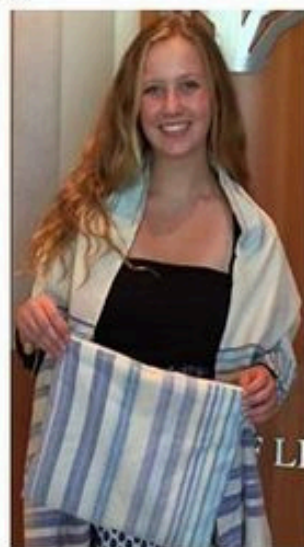
Weave an heirloom for yourself or a loved one!! You do not have to know how to weave or even be someone who has done creative handiwork in the past. The Neve Shalom Loom Room volunteers will guide you through the process from design to completion.

With their help, you can weave!! This ongoing program is open to the entire community - women and men, girls and boys. See what inexperienced weavers have created --- Go to their webpage at www.NeveShalom.net/loomroom



Weaving is done in the
Neve Shalom Loom Room
250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ

For information contact:
Cory Schneider
717-574-1807; corstan65@gmail.com
Jennifer Bullock
908-510-4005; RNJbullock@aol.com



Neve Shalom Scholar-in-Residence - Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen

Friday, Feb. 7 - The program begins with a Community Dinner followed by services at 7:30 pm.
Saturday, Feb. 8 - Services begin at 9:30 am followed by Kiddush Luncheon and continued presentation.

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen is the Pearl Resnick Dean of The Rabbinical School and Dean of the Division of Religious Leadership at JTS. As leader of The Rabbinical School and H. L. Miller Cantorial School she works to shape the next generation of Jewish clergy, cultivating students' spiritual and intellectual lives so they can meet the challenges of Jewish life with wisdom, creativity, and resilience. Rabbi Cohen assumed this position in 2022, becoming the first woman to hold this role since the founding of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

A nationally recognized activist and writer, Rabbi Cohen is the author of prayers and liturgy used by communities around the world. For more than a decade, she served as a rabbi at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the world's largest LGBTQ synagogue serving Jews of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Her rabbinate has included leadership roles at the New Israel Fund and the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan.

Rabbi Cohen earned her rabbinical ordination and MA at JTS and her BA from Brown University. She is the author of *Changing Lives, Making History: Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, the First Forty Years*, and co-editor of *Siddur B'chol L'vavcha*. She serves on the board of Plaza Jewish Community Chapel.

Temple Emanu-El Diana S. Herman Memorial Scholar-in-Residence - Rabbi Richard F. Address, D.Min

Sunday, April 6 at Neve Shalom, There will be two sessions with lunch offered in between.

OUR LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Seeking Meaning from Sacred Texts in Life's Third and Fourth Stages

Four Values that Shape our Future | New Rituals for New Life Stages

Founder and Director of Jewish Sacred Aging, a resource for Jewish Baby Boomers and their families, Rabbi Richard F. Address is a sought-after speaker and consultant on issues related to healthy aging and spirituality. A talented and dedicated religious leader, Rabbi Address spent twenty-five years as a congregational rabbi. served for thirty-three at the Union for Reform Judaism, where he founded and directed the Department of Jewish Family Concerns and served on the adjunct faculty at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. With a Doctor of Ministry from HUC-JIR and Certification in Pastoral Counseling, Rabbi Address hosts a weekly podcast, "Seekers of Meaning" and has visited many congregations and JCCs as Scholar-in-Residence to share his expertise in the issues facing aging Jewish adults and their families. His programs are instructive and inspiring. With a sense of humor, he tackles some of the most challenging subjects.

Classes At a Glance

Sunday Classes

Prepping for the Holidays, Rabbi Stefanie Gedan, September 8, 22, 29 at 10:00 am at Neve Shalom

Exploring our Relationship to the Commandments Through Halachic Creativity, Rabbi Stefanie Gedan, October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:00 am at Neve Shalom

Hebrew Reading, Michele Rosenfield, Sundays at 11:15 am on Neve Zoom

Worldly Jewish Dining: Do You Like to Eat Deli?, 12:30 pm on Nov. 3, Dec. 8, Feb. 9 March 2, and May 4

Jewish International Film Festival, Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 3, Cranford Movie Theater

Monday Classes

Unetaneh Tokef: Who Shall Live and who Shall Die?, Rabbi Vicki Axe, September 30

Embracing Life's Journey from the Two Faith Perspectives, Rabbi Vicki Axe and Bishop Nikolaos Brown, November 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10:00 am on TEE Zoom

Tuesday Classes

John Kenrick - Hail Caesar!: How Sid & His Legion Conquered the World of Comedy, November 19 at 7:00 pm on JCC Zoom

Art Historian, Janet Mandel: Camille Pissarro: Have but One Master - Nature, January 7 at 7:00 pm on JCC Zoom

Topics in Jewish Popular Music, Cantor Anna Ott, January 21, 28, February 11 at 11:00 am on TEE Zoom

Treasure in the Attic: What to do with Sentimental Stuff My Kids Don't Want, Jamie Novak, March 4 at 7:00 pm on JCC Zoom

Wednesday Classes

Lunch and Learn, Rabbi Vicki Axe and Rabbi Stefanie Gedan, Wednesdays at 12:30 beginning October 30 at Beans and Bread, 600 Middlesex Avenue in Metuchen

Talmud Le'at, Steve Gross, Every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm on Steve's Zoom

Book Club, Oct 30, Nov 20, Jan 8, Feb 19, March 19, April 9, May 14 See class listings for locations

Thursday Classes

Exploring our Relationship to the Commandments Through Halachic Creativity, Rabbi Stefanie Gedan, October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 27 (last class is a Wednesday due to Thanksgiving)

Presentation and Cooking Demonstrations, Linda Matza Silerman, November 21 and May 1, 12:00pm in the Neve Shalom kitchen

Post Holocaust: Jewish Survival from 1945 and Beyond, Debra Maller, Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7:30 pm on TEE Zoom

Registration Form

Name, Person #1 _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

Name, Person #2 _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____

Person
1 2

- Prepping for the Holidays
- Exploring our Relationship to the Commandments, Sundays
- Exploring our Relationship to the Commandments, Thursdays
- Hebrew Reading
- Worldly Jewish Dining
- Unetaneh Tokef
- Embracing Life's Journey
- John Kenrick - Hail Caesar!
- Art Historian
- Topics in Jewish Popular Music
- Treasure in the Attic

Person
1 2

- Lunch and Learn
- Talmud Le'at
- Wednesday Book Club
- Presentation and Cooking Demonstrations
- Post Holocaust
- Donald and Ruth Kahn Book and Author Event
- Gilbert and Claudie Hayat Speaker Series
- Neve Shalom Scholar-in-Residence
- Temple Emanu-El Diana S. Herman Memorial Scholar-in-Residence
- Temple Emanu-El Spring Concert*
* There will be an additional fee

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Make checks payable to JCC of Middlesex County.

Please mail or bring this form and the fees to the JCC of Middlesex County (1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ 08820). Submit to the attention of Esther Fendrick. Any questions please contact Esther at efendrick@jccmc.org OR 732-593-5969.

Cost \$72 for JCC members

(see page 2 for information about pricing for non-members or members of Neve Shalom and TEE)