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January-February 2021 / Tevet-Shevat-Adar 5781 / Vol. LXXVI No. 2



The Officers and Trustees of The Forest Hills Jewish Center cordially invite you to attend the

Journal Gala on Zoom

Celebrating 40 years of Dedication & Leadership of

Rabbi Gerald & Robin Skolnik

March 14, 2021 | 3:00 PM | 1 Nisan 5781

This year we are honoring Rabbi Gerald Skolnik and Robin Segal Skolnik at our Annual Gala Journal Event which will take place virtually on March 14, 2021.

Rabbi Skolnik is celebrating his 40th year as the spiritual leader of our community, a remarkable milestone. Our community has been immeasurably enriched as the Rabbi and Robin shared our most joyous moments and consoled us during times of individual and community-wide loss. Whether it has been with acts of kindness, a gesture, insightful words of Torah, or just simply a hug, the Rabbi and Robin have been a resource for all of us seeking guidance, a shoulder to lean on or an answer when words fail us and we find even asking the question difficult.

In the greater Jewish community their outstanding work has contributed so much to so many. Rabbi Skolnik is a past President of the Rabbinical Assembly, the 1700-member international organization of Conservative rabbis, a Vice-President of the Zamir Choral Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Masorti and Masorti Olami Foundations and UJA/Federation. Robin is recognized for her passionate work as Middle School Librarian at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in Manhattan. She is an outspoken supporter of Israel and Camp Ramah, and cares deeply about Judaism, our Jewish community and educational issues. As a member of the Committee on Education of the Solomon Schechter School of Queens, she was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the annual eighth- grade trip to Israel, and in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Robin has spent countless days ensuring that the FHJC family is fully engaged on a virtual platform.

Our Annual Gala Journal Event this year will be unlike anything we have ever done before. We are planning a joyous celebration worthy of the honor we are bestowing on the Skolniks, and we hope that every member of FHJC will join us to show them our respect and appreciation. Your support of the journal which will accompany this celebration recognizes Rabbi Skolnik and Robin's countless and boundless contributions to our community and to every member of FHJC.

We thank you in advance for generously giving and soliciting ads for this journal in their honor.

With warmest wishes,

The Current and Past Presidents of Forest Hills Jewish Center: Ilana Altman, Matt Beizer, Henry Burger, Joe Fox, Jack Gostl, Temma Kingsley, Haskell Klaristenfeld, Carl Koerner, Jack Leibler, Valerie Leibler, Romi Narov, Mark Raphael and Meir Toshav.

RSVP & Purchase Journal Ads at www.FHJC.org/Gala-RSVP



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Hoping for Something Better...

As we move slowly but inexorably towards marking a full year since we began to deal in earnest with COVID-19- if you remember, it was right around Purim last year, and we are now, as I write, barely six weeks from Purim this year- it is only natural to wonder if, when, and how things are going to get seriously better. The way these questions are most commonly phrased is "when are we going to get back to normal?"

The classically Jewish way to respond to these questions would be to say "lo navi anohi, v'lo bennavi anohi"; I am neither a prophet, nor the son of a prophet. Anyone who claims to have definitive answers to these vexing questions is, at best, being disingenuous; either wildly optimistic, or unnecessarily pessimistic. By nature, I tend to be skeptical of our waking up one morning and discovering that we have "turned a corner" and there's no going back. I'd love to be wrong, but like I said, my nature is other than that.

Having said that, though, I do believe that there are reasons to be more positive now as we look towards the future, and hopeful that, while "returning to normal" may be a pipe dream, returning to a "new normal" that is better than where we are now is a realistic reason to feel better.

First and foremost, though so many of us have experienced great frustration in our efforts to secure even a first injection of vaccine, the bottom line is that there is a vaccine- actually a number of them- and the difficulties that we have all been experiencing will, ultimately, be resolved. The roll-out of the immunization efforts has been achingly slow and arguably inexcusable, but the challenge of vaccinating millions of Americans is daunting in previously unimaginable ways. It is quite a remarkable thing that multiple vaccines have been developed in such a relatively short period of time, and if we are able to maintain those basic health practices that we can all recite in our sleep about social distancing, washing hands, and wearing masks, we will, indeed, move steadily towards a better and healthier future.

Second- with the inauguration of a new President and Vice President on January 20, we will have national leadership that will devote its fullest attention to dealing with this crisis. The reality on the ground won't change overnight. People will still be sick, and there will be many more thousands of deaths. But what will change immediately is that our government won't pretend that this pandemic is going to disappear on its own. No one in national leadership will insult our intelligence by claiming that. Our leadership will care- and the difference will be palpable.

Like all of you, I long for that "new normal" that will enable us once again to be in the same physical space, for prayer, for celebration and also for mourning, and just for the sheer pleasure of each other's company. I believe that it is coming, sooner than later. I hope you can believe that too.

Seul ! Gedrick

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Parashat Hashuvah Group

Mondays, 1:30-2:45 PM via Zoom

Join Rabbi Skolnik each Monday on Zoom to discuss the fascinating weekly Torah portion.

See online calendar for Zoom link or click here.

The Message USPS 340-300 Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248. 718-263-7000, Fax: 718-520-4369.

Website: http://www.fhjc.org. Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Published bi-monthly September-June. Subscription: \$25 per year (included in membership dues.) Periodicals postage paid at the Post Office in Flushing, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Forest Hills Jewish Center. 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248.

Editorial Board: Karen L. Stein (Editor), Gerald C. Skolnik (Rabbi), Henry Rosenblum (Hazzan), Deborah Gregor (Executive Director), Jessica Braginsky (Director of Education and Engagement), Lynn Fisher (Director, Early Childhood Education), Laurie Worthman (Office Manager). Officers: Romi Narov (President), Deborah Ball Witlin (Vice President), Eric Kober (Vice President), Carrie Leifer (Vice President), Dr. David Zipkowitz (Vice President), Rabbi David Cavill (Treasurer), Robert Samuel (Secretary). Arms: Men's Club, Warren Wankoff (President), Minyan Club, Betty Korb (President), Sisterhood, Debra Weil (President). Opinions expressed in The Message are the authors' and do not necessarily represent those of the Forest Hills Jewish Center, its officers and Board, or the Editorial Board.



NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

Hazzan Henry R. Rosenblum

Dear friends,

Susan and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support surrounding the outstanding evening honoring us for the past 10 years of service to the Synagogue. It was wonderful to see so many of you on the screen and to receive so many beautiful letters, emails, texts and even "chat" messages. We were so glad that we could share some of our close friends and performers with you, helping to make the evening so festive. It was so special to receive the "in person" messages from our 3 children, Leora, Shira and Ari, and our dear, dear friends, Rabbi Gerald and Robin Skolnik. Maybe even above all, we also loved seeing our delicious grandchildren steal the show together with our son-in-law Hazzan Jesse Holzer. This was a truly memorable event for us.

The Forest Hills Jewish Center very quickly became a home for us and you all became our extended family. In spite of the complications brought on by quarantining, social distancing and forced separations, we have remained a supportive and loving community. We are so fortunate that we are able to join together virtually for study, services, classes, lectures, Sisterhood and Men's Club programs, support groups, and so much more. If you have not yet taken advantage of all that continues to be offered, we strongly urge you to start now. This wonderful community is here for you and at the same time, needs you. Join us for the next lecture in the Lecture Series that will be presented by the new JTS Chancellor, Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz. Plan to make your reservation soon for the March 14th Gala honoring Rabbi Gerald and Robin Skolnik on their 40th Anniversary at FHJC and start submitting your photos featuring them at your family s'mahot ASAP. We can emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever if you will continue investing in the spiritual and physical wellbeing of our shul. It's up to you! Our thanks once again for the virtual "Anniversary party." We loved every moment of it!!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy 2021.

Hazzan Henry Rosenblum







THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Romi Narov

הימים חולפים שנה עוברת

Thankfully, we have the year 2020 in our rearview mirror. It has not been an easy year. For 9 out of 12 months we were confined to our homes with rare occasions of venturing out, mostly to take care of most urgent needs: A trip to the supermarket, a visit to the doctor and a rare socially distanced meeting with friends or family. So, when 2021 showed up on our threshold we were all wishing each other a "better year." Well, it has yet to keep that promise. It did not exactly start on the right foot but I remain optimistic that things are going to get better.

After almost three months of in-person presence in the sanctuary, we had to retreat to an all-virtual calendar due to an increase in infection rate combined with a very cold sanctuary (we kept the windows open to circulate fresh air while we were in the sanctuary). We do hope to be able to return to the sanctuary in February when we are again celebrating a number of B'nai/B'not Mitzvah.

We are very busy, however in our virtual world. Over Hanukkah we celebrated Hazzan Rosenblum and Susan Ticker's tenth anniversary in Forest Hills. It was an amazingly moving event and we were joined by family, friends and colleagues of Henry's and Susan's for an evening of singing and reminiscing.

We had two magnificent lectures in our FHJC Lecture Series. We heard from Professor Sarna and Cantor Schiller and are looking forward to hearing a lecture by the new JTS Chancellor, Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz on January 31, 2021. These lectures are sponsored by the Sevin family in memory of Malvin Peace Sevin. Our thanks are extended to the Sevin family for their generosity that enables us to create such a magnificent program.

We also found a new format for our Shabbaton At Home thanks to a very creative adult education committee. Our weeks are full of learning and community opportunities. I am looking forward to a time when all of these can migrate back into our physical space but am thankful, like most of you, for the opportunity to see and talk to each other even if it is on small Zoom boxes.

In a couple of weeks we will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat which in Israel is the harbinger of spring, followed a month later, by Purim. Purim was the last holiday we celebrated in person last year. I hope and pray that it may close the cycle on the virtual world, or at least be the beginning of the transition to the world the way we knew it before the pandemic.

Last but most definitely not least I am looking forward to this year's gala event. On March 14th we will be celebrating Rabbi Skolnik's and Robin Segal Skolnik's 40th anniversary at the FHJC. By now you may have already received some information about the event. I hope that all of you will join in the celebration.

Finally, I hope and pray that in this New Year we will be able to get vaccinated for COVID-19 which will enable us to greet each other with a hug instead of an elbow "shake."

Romi Narov

FHJC Scholars Lecture Series Leading JTS in a Uniquely Challenging Time



Sunday, January 31, 2021 - 10:15 AM Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary

Watch the Listserv for the link to RSVP for this Zoom event.

This series of lectures is made possible by the Sevin family in memory of Malvin Peace Sevin.

Bake with Malka Challah



Thursday, January 28 8:00PM

Amy Bochner Newman, baking instructor

Amy will not only teach us how to bake delicious challah but will also explain what is required to fulfill the mitzvah in order to recite the blessing.

\$5.00 for Sisterhood Members \$10.00 for Friends of Sisterhood

Email sisterhoodefhjc.org by January 25 to receive the ingredients list and the unique Zoom link.



VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

Carrie Leifer

As the incoming VP of Education this past June, I knew how fortunate I was that things were in great hands and running smoothly. During the months that followed, I gained a deeper understanding of just how fortunate all of us at FHJC are in this regard. Having our Nursery School's efforts recognized by the greater Jewish Community, as you'll read about below, really brings this to life.

We've used the word "pivot" a lot since last Spring, when we quickly switched from learning in person to learning online. Since March, outreach has been extended, to ensure our FHJC community was safe and cared for. From providing the opportunity to purchase Passover meals to those who weren't able to shop, to popular weekly online support sessions, TV watch parties, Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve drop-in sessions, and more, including an upcoming plan to match those who need technical help arranging for a

COVID vaccine with those who can better navigate the online world, Community Engagement has been strong, if not stronger, than ever.

Adult Education has taken advantage of the digital shift. Through Rabbi Skolnik's connections and a generous gift from the Sevin family, we've had the opportunity to learn from distinguished speakers who might not have otherwise been available to travel to Forest Hills for a Scholar-in-Residence program. Similarly, our Members Teach program has allowed each of us to attend every program, as opposed to having to choose two at our in-person Shabbaton.

Our Nursery and Religious Schools have mastered the challenges of in-person and virtual learning, varying with grade and day of the week, sometimes shifting to all virtual, always keeping our children engaged. Extra-curricular Youth programs, too, have evolved. They went from learning how to Zoom, to being "Zoomed out," to finding the sweet spot and providing the right amount of fun and engaging programming just when the urge to connect started to set in. From musical outdoor havdalah for our young ones, to holiday fun for all, and Youth group and Kadima activities for older children, attendance has been great, with smiling faces all around. It's been especially nice to see grandparents who live across the country have the opportunity to attend family events.

So much has been done without fanfare, and if you weren't paying attention or directly involved, you might not know about it. As I mentioned earlier, our Nursery School was honored by United Synagogue and we should all know about it and feel proud.

FHJC's Nursery School and Pre-K for All has been so dedicated in finding creative ways to keep our littlest learners safe and feeling connected throughout the pandemic. Their hard work was acknowledged this past December with METNY USCJ's Gold Solomon Schechter Award in Early Childhood Education. I love taking every opportunity to repeat what this award recognizes, specifically, "the incredible resilience, imagination, and diligence that has resulted in some of the most creative programming and ideas that any synagogue has likely undertaken for many decades." Yes, that says they did it better than "any synagogue... for many decades". That's pretty impressive, and so well-deserved.

I invite you all to keep up with FHJC's virtual opportunities to learn and connect via the FHJC listserv, reading *The Message*, and the weekly eShabbat Shalom. There is truly something for everyone.



An a amazing virtual Hanukkah celebration with an original story by Mr. Jeff Hopkins, Hanukkah songs with the Rabbi and Hazzan and candlelighting with Morah Marcy.



Observing similarities and differences between brown eggs and white eggs. Making predictions about what is inside. The children learned about the importance and strengths of differences.



NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher

As early childhood educators, our staff spends much of their time building a child's success in their first years of school. They provide structure and help children grow as our educational methods encourage children to become confident, independent, responsible and creative thinkers. Our children are exposed to language arts, science, music, pre-reading and pre-writing skills and math curriculum to give them a solid foundation for moving forward.

As we watch skills develop in our students, for example when children begin to learn to write, we know that they are often trying to reproduce what they see in adults. We see this beginning writing or mark making stage as an important milestone. Drawing is a central aspect of a child's learning to write, as it demonstrates their understanding to visualize how they feel and convey a message. The scribbles that children make in their early years give them the opportunity to express. Research shows that mark-making is crucial for a child's development and learning. When children are making these early marks, they are practicing to hold a pencil and are attempting to control their marks with their muscles. This enhances their physical development by improving their fine motor skills and helps to develop their hand-eye coordination. Mark-making can also represent a child's thoughts and ideas. It gives children the opportunity to express themselves creatively and allows them to communicate their feelings through their drawings or even use their marks to tell a story! As they develop, their marks become more complex and sophisticated and their creativity blossoms. By giving children the opportunity to explore different mediums of mark-making, it engages them in sensory play and allows them to discover new, exciting materials. This enhances a child's critical thinking, brain development and language development, which gives them the ability to build towards more complex learning tasks in the future.

Along with these education responsibilities, our teachers also perform caring tasks. In the past, it may have felt as though tasks such as changing diapers or wiping noses were getting in the way of teaching. However, we have adopted a way of thinking about care and incorporated it into our pedagogy. We know that for a young child, each moment is a learning opportunity. Each moment of caring for a child holds all the essential components of teaching such as observing, listening, and scaffolding. We take the ordinary tasks of caring and value them as educational.

Our basic caring stance is to respect the child. Children are learning from the moment they are born and the most meaningful lessons are embedded in care. Our early childhood teachers practice slowing down and creating respectful, intelligent care partnerships throughout the day. Daily rituals such as hand washing, serving meals, diapering and zipping coats transform into teachable moments. In the past, caring tasks may have been viewed as babysitting. We view care as an honorable teaching practice requiring specialized knowledge about learning and early development. These tasks encourage relationship building, independence, and even problem solving. Caring rituals include thoughtful organization that allows us to celebrate the teaching opportunities that exist in everyday moments. Teachers are skillful in using care as teaching tools—such as voice, touch, listening, and being present. We think about time as a material and practice slowing down. We offer children the opportunities to care for materials, small animals, plants, and one another.

Milton Mayeroff, an American philosopher, wrote the book *On Caring* in 1971 providing a detailed description and explanation of the experiences of caring and being cared for. "We sometimes speak as if caring did not require knowledge, as if caring for someone, for example, were simply a matter of good intentions or warm regard. But in order to care I must understand the other's needs and I must be able to respond properly to them, and clearly good intentions do not guarantee this. To care for someone, I must know many things."—Milton Mayeroff

Almost 50 years later, this concept is in the forefront of our education philosophy in our Nursery School. To care for another is to help the other grow, whether the "other" is one of our students or a member of their family, an idea, a work of art, or our community.



EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Jessica Braginsky

Religious School: It's Not Just What You Expect

I am sure that when I say "Religious School" you have a mental image of what that looks like. And you may be accurate. At FHJC we teach and learn. Our students practice Hebrew. Our young learners are led by Morah Marcy in Hanukkah songs and begin to learn foundational prayers. Our middle grades learn about holidays, Torah stories and the rituals of the Jewish life cycle. Our older learners learn about the Holocaust, Jewish values and midrash and commentary.

And it is so much more than that. This year we look very different. Some of our students are in person and some are online, sometimes in the same classroom. All of our students in 3rd – 7th grade are The Rabbis say that "there are seventy faces to engaging in Hebrew Reading Tutoring. Besides minyan and Hebrew in class, students meet online weekly in pairs with a wonderful and engaging teacher. They drill their Hebrew reading and letters and play games while getting personal attention to advance their Hebrew reading ability.

This month we have three very different family programs coming up that will challenge our ideas of what a Religious School looks like. Our fifth-

grade families are going on a virtual field trip to the Jewish Museum. They will be guided by Museum staff to explore the Museum resources relating to the Jewish Lifecycle. Our fourthgraders will be enjoying a family book group.

This virtual book group will be reading the book Wonder by R.J. Pallacio and delve into issues of friendship, kindness and empathy. The second grade families will expand their knowledge of the Shema by each creating a beautiful mezuzah. Each family will have its own kit at home and also be sharing and learning together

the Torah (Numbers Rabbah 13:15-16)" to emphasize that there are multiple entry points to Judaism. Engaging students both in the traditional classroom setting and in ways very far from what one might expect is one way that we work to strengthen their Jewish identity and their link to l'dor v'dor.

Mindfully Helping our Children Deal with Stress

A Grant for Our Nursery and Religious School! Mindfully Helping our Children Deal with Stress

We recognize that our children today are growing up in a high-pressured and uncertain world. Compounded by the profound difficulties of living through a global pandemic, the strains on families are enormous. At FHJC we believe that it is crucially important that we provide emotional support for our children and parents, and that we teach them tools for managing adversity with resilience, awareness, kindness and joy.



The Religious School and Nursery School are excited to announce that FHJC has been selected to receive a grant from the Jewish Education Project to do just that!

The grant will fund Klei Kodesh, Holy Tools, a program to support the mental health of our students ages 3-teens. Within the loving Jewish context of our education programs, we will train students from the Nursery through the Religious School to identify feelings of stress and anxiety and give them tools to express and manage these emotions using mindfulness-based practices. Teachers and parents will have their own training to support our children and to receive the powerful benefits of these valuable tools. This will help maintain our own sense of balance and perspective in these troubling times. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Liz Slade, an experienced teacher and consultant in the area of social and emotional learning.

Parents: Please save the evening of February 10th for your opportunity to experience Klei Kodesh for yourself and learn how to support your child.



SISTERHOOD

Debra Weil

As the cycle of the year progresses, I always feel kind of lost when we get to January and February. We are well past the High Holidays and the beginning of a New Year, and Hanukkah has come and gone. It's cold, wet (sometimes snowy) and rather gray, with little to look forward to except work, school, and routine. I always try to plan a trip or something special to do during these months, just to give me something to look forward to.

Fortunately for me, FHJC Sisterhood is providing some exciting programs coming up for the FHJC community. We are continuing our Zoom programming with Challah Baking with Amy Bochner Newman on January 28th (who knew you could bake on Zoom?!), Our Torah Fund Tea honoring Lorain Wankoff on February 7th, and Trivia Games on February 21st together with the Men's Club. Although we are still all at home, participating in these programs helps us to be together and socialize together.

This time of year also brings Tu Be'shvat - the New Year of the Trees. In Israel the trees and the flowers are getting ready to bloom, as the rainy season provides needed water for them to grow. If we can't actually travel to Israel, Sisterhood will be having a "virtual" trip to Israel on Sunday, March 14th, when we will welcome speakers from Masorti who will be taking us on a virtual tour of the Kotel, and will be speaking about the Women of the Wall and their struggle for religious pluralism in Israel. If we can't actually travel to Israel, this will be the next best thing to being there (without the high cost of a ticket and hotel).

By the time we get back from our "visit" to Israel it will be Spring; Purim will have passed by and it will be time to prepare for the next "big" holiday. With so much to look forward to – who has time for Winter Doldrums! Be in touch with us at sisterhood@fhjc.org; looking forward to seeing you on Zoom!

-Debra Schlesinger Weil

Tu B'Sh'vat is January 27-28 FHJC Nursery & Religious School

Plant a Tree for Tu B'Sh'vat

https://my.jnf.org/FHJC-nursery-and-religious-school/Donate/Tickets



Tu B'Sh'vat is the New Year for Trees, and we have partnered with the Jewish National Fund (JNF) to celebrate this holiday. Support the Nursery and Religious schools by visiting our personalized page here to plant one or more trees.

Each tree costs \$18.

If not already selected, please select General as the recipient on the page. Family and friends are welcome to participate. Each school has the chance to plant trees in Israel by participating in JNF's annual tree competition.

If not already selected, please select General as the recipient on the page. Family and friends are welcome to participate. Each school has the chance to plant trees in Israel by participating in JNF's annual tree competition.

Participating schools will be entered for a chance to win two round-trip tickets to Israel, as well as earn cash prizes.

Online tree sales must be completed by Monday, March 1, 2021 to be included in the raffle and to win some great cash prizes!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday night, February 27 7:30PM

It's...

Cough-Free House 2021!

Live music from your FHJC faves! Stay tuned for Zoomin' details!





ADULT EDUCATION Judy Gostl and Lisa Levy

Adult Education is off to a good start for this 2020/2021 study year. We had a wonderful turnout on Zoom for Jay Luger's opening lecture for the **Shabbaton from Home: Our Members Teach** series. If you missed it, you may find the recording of this lecture on the FHJC website under the Adult Education heading.

Three lectures are coming up in this series in January, one in February and two in March. Each requires a separate reservation in order to get the Zoom link.

This is all in addition to **The FHJC Scholar Lecture Series** that replaced the Scholar-in-Residence weekend and is underwritten by the Sevin family in memory of Malvin Peace Sevin. The **Hebrew Literature** group is meeting one Thursday a month at 5:00 PM. Rabbi Skolnik is teaching **Parshat HaShavuah** each week on Mondays at 1:30 PM and ShimonYaakov Laxer is teaching on Thursdays.

The most up-to-date information is always in the weekly online eShabbat Shalom. Judy & Lisa

Shabbaton from Home

Session 3 - Wednesday, January 20, 8:00 PM
Finding Hope in Text and Tech
Jessica Braginsky, presenter

This evening will bring together text and tech to unlock meaning, creativity, and connection. We will explore Jewish text by using some fun apps. Whether you like tinkering on the internet or are a complete technophobe, if you can click you can enjoy a new way to engage with Jewish learning.

Session 4 - Saturday, January 30, after havdalah The Epic of Mount Tabor ShimonYaakov Laxer, presenter

Once upon a time, armies of Israelites and Canaanites would clash on the slopes of Mount Tabor, fighting to the death for control of the Jezreel Valley. Shortly after the war, a master-poet and storyteller would take all of this and weave it into The Epic of Mount Tabor, a poem whose greatness matches the grandeur of the events. In this limud, we explore some of the wonders of this ancient epic.

Session 5 - Saturday, February 20, after havdalah Who was Haman, really? Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor, presenter

What was an Agagite doing in Persia? Why did he expect Mordecai to bow down to him? Learn the surprising answers to these and other questions as we explore the structure and intertextuality of the Book of Esther.



Men's Club Invites You to Happy Hour at Home!

Join the Mens Club January 26th as we take you into the world of cocktail crafting. You're going to need some items so take a look below if your bar is stocked accordingly.

In addition to the ingredients, the Men's Club is asking for a \$12 donation to participate with us for what will be a delightful evening of safe imbibing.

Payment for this event will be via PayPal only. Paypal payment should be sent to: fhjcmensclub@gmail.com (Only if you still do not have a PayPal account, we can PayPal invoice you for it.) Please send your request for the participation portion to: Myron.Baer@hotmail.com.

Once we've received your donation, you will receive a special Zoom invite. Cheers to another great year!

We hope to see you January 26th!

For questions, please contact the organizer, Peter Taub at ptaub44egmail.com

MAZAL TOV TO OUR B'NEI MITZVAH



ABIGAIL SARAH CHASEBat Mitzvah, February 6, 2021



Abby is very excited to be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah here at FHJC, which she has attended since she was in the toddler class with Morah Rina and Morah Riki. Abby is in seventh grade and is in the Honors Program at Stephen A. Halsey Junior High School. She loves to dance and is on the competitive dance team of All Star Studios, where she has taken a variety of classes since she was three years old. She has performed in numerous recitals and, along with the other students at her dance school, has raised money for Autism Speaks. Abby goes to Camp Perlman in Lake Como, Pennsylvania, and cannot wait to return there this summer. For her Mitzvah project, Abby partnered with an organization, Donate2Dance, and collected used dancewear for individuals in need. Abby enjoys spending time with her friends, family and her cat, Nala.



JACOB SCOTT CHASE

Bar Mitzvah, February 6, 2021

Jacob is very thankful to be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah here at FHJC. He is a seventh grade honor student at Stephen A. Halsey Junior High School and has been attending FHJC his whole life, beginning with the Nursery School. Jacob loves sports, but his true passion is basketball. He was named the Most Valuable Player of the Freshman Basketball Division of the Forest Hills Youth Athletic League during the 2017–18 season and helped his team win the championship twice. He is also on the Travel Basketball Team of Commonpoint Queens. Jacob loves spending time with his friends and family, and riding his scooter, skateboard and bicycle. For his Mitzvah project, Jacob coached young children with special needs at Commonpoint Queens. Unfortunately, when COVID–19 started, he was unable to continue this very meaningful endeavor. However, he soon decided to raise money for The Parkinson's Foundation to help combat Parkinson's Disease, an illness his grandfather suffered from for several years. Jacob would like everyone to know that he is the older twin, by one minute.



2021 FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER GALA HONORING

Rabbi Gerald & Robin Skolnik

As our Rabbi, Rabbi Skolnik has shepherded generations of families through every stage of life - joyous and sad - from baby namings and brit milah, to Bar and Bat Mitzvah, weddings and finally funerals. In these, our most emotionally intense moments, Rabbi Sklonik has touched our lives forever. The babies he named and welcomed to our tribe, the young men and women whom he blessed on the bima as B'nei and B'not Mitzvah, the brides and grooms who stood nervously before him under the chuppah, and the people he embraced as they buried loved ones - all are an unending testimony to the impact of these 40 years of his remarkable career.

Please consider honoring Rabbi Skolnik in our celebratory journal with a Simcha listing.

Visit www.FHJC.org/Journal to add your occasion to our Simcha listing.

Ilana Altman, Carl Koerner, Howard Pollack and Mark Raphael, Gala Journal Chairs

Schedule of Services

Unless otherwise indicated, our current schedule of services is as follows: **Ma'ariv**, Tuesday, Thursday -- In-Person (By RSVP) and <u>Zoom</u>, 7:30 PM **Limud**, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday evenings -- <u>Zoom</u>, 7:30 PM **Friday Kabbalat Shabbat**, <u>Zoom</u>, 5:45 PM

Shabbat Morning, In-Person (By RSVP), <u>Zoom</u>, 9:30 AM

Havdalah, Zoom, See Calendar

All events/classes will meet on Zoom unless otherwise noted.



January 27-28

| | ~ January 2 | 021 ~ Tevet-S | h'vat 5781 ~ | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| Mondays, a Warm comp Mitchell Fro Come share | 5:00 pm via Zoo cany and profess ank and Ariela Fri e your concerns o | om ional support fro eder. and hopes. | | 1 New Year's Day 17th of Tevet 10:30am Study with ShimonYakov 4:22pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Zoom) | 2 18th of Tevet Parashat Vayechi 10am Shabbat Services (Zoom) 5:10pm Limud and Havdallah (Zoom) 5:20pm Limud and |
| | | I_ | l - | 0 | Havdallah (Zoom) |
| - | - | - | 22-d of Tours | - | 9 25th of Tevet |
| 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | 2pm Sisterhood Woolgatherers 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | 4:30pm The Good Place (Zoom) 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | 12pm Study with ShimonYakov 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 8pm Card Night Fundraiser-Zoom | 10:30am Study with ShimonYakov 4:28pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Zoom) | Parashat Shemot Shabbat Mevarchir Chodesh Sh'vat 10am Shabbat Services (Zoom) 5:20pm Limud and |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 1.4 | 15 | Havdallah (Zoom) |
| | | | | | 3rd of Sh'vat |
| Hashavua Study with Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) Spm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud | Woolgatherers | Place (Zoom) 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | 12pm Study with ShimonYakov 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 8pm Sisterhood- zoom | ShimonYakov 4:36pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Zoom) | 10am Shabbat Services (Zoom) 5:30pm Limud and Havdallah (Zoom) |
| | 19 | 20 Inauguration Day | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 5th of Sh'vat 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with | 6th of Sh'vat 2pm Sisterhood | 7th of Sh'vat 4:30pm The Good Place (Zoom) 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 8pm Shabbaton at Home - Jessica Braginsky (Zoom) | 8th of Sh'vat 12pm Study with ShimonYakov 2pm Daytime Readers 5pm Hebrew Literature Group 7:30pm Limud | 9th of Sh'vat 10:30am Study with ShimonYakov 4:44pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Zoom) | 10th of Sh'vat Parashat Bo 10am Shabbat Services (Zoom) 5:40pm Limud and Havdallah (Zoom) |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | 29 | 30 |
| 0 11101 1117 | | 14th of Sh'vat 4:30pm The Good Place (Zoom) 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | 15th of Sh'vat 12pm Study with ShimonYakov 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 8pm Virtual Challah Baking | 16th of Sh'vat 10:30am Study with ShimonYakov 4:52pm Candle Lighting 5:45pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Zoom) | 17th of Sh'vat Parashat Beshalach 10am Shabbat Services (Zoom) 5:45pm Limud and Havdallah (Zoom) 6pm Shabbaton at Home - ShimonYaakov Laxe (Zoom) |
| | Mondays, Warm comp Mitchell Fro Come share See the FH. 4 20th of Tevet 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 11 27th of Tevet 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 18 Martin Luther King 5th of Sh'vat 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 25 12th of Sh'vat 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) 25 12th of Sh'vat 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder 7:30pm Limud Frieder 7:30pm Limud Frieder 7:30pm Limud | Mondays, 5:00 pm via Zoo Warm company and profess Mitchell Frank and Ariela Fri Come share your concerns of See the FHJC listserv for the 4 | Mondays, 5:00 pm via Zoom Warm company and professional support from Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder. Come share your concerns and hopes. See the FHJC listserv for the link. 4 | De-Stress with FHJC Mondays, 5:00 pm via Zoom Warm company and professional support from Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder. Come share your concerns and hopes. See the FHJC listserv for the link. 4 | Mondays, 5:00 pm via Zoom Warm company and professional support from Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder Zoom) 1 |

Schedule of Services

Unless otherwise indicated, our current schedule of services is as follows: **Ma'ariv**, Tuesday, Thursday -- In-Person (By RSVP) and <u>Zoom</u>, 7:30 PM **Limud**, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday evenings -- <u>Zoom</u>, 7:30 PM **Friday Kabbalat Shabbat**, <u>Zoom</u>, 5:45 PM

Shabbat Morning, In-Person (By RSVP), Zoom, 9:30 AM

Havdalah, <u>Zoom</u>, See Calendar

All events/classes will meet on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Purim is Coming!

February 25-26

Watch for details about this year's Mishloach Manot

| ~ February 2021 ~ Sh'vat-Adar 5781~ | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| | 19th of Sh'vat | 20th of Sh'vat | 21st of Sh'vat | 22nd of Sh'vat | 23rd of Sh'vat | 24th of Sh'vat | | | |
| | 1:30pm Par'shat Hashavua Study with | 2pm Sisterhood Woolgatherers | 2:15pm Online Limud with ShimonYaakov | 12pm Study with ShimonYakov | 10:30am Study with ShimonYakov | B'nai Mitzvah of Jacob and Abigail | | | |
| | Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) | 7:30pm Limud | Laxer | 7:30pm Limud | 5:01pm Candle | Chase | | | |
| | 5pm De-stress with | (Zoom) | 4:30pm The Good | (Zoom) | Lighting | Parashat Yitro | | | |
| | Mitchell Frank and | (20011) | Place (Zoom) | (200111) | 5:45pm Kabbalat | Shabbat Mevarchin | | | |
| | Ariela Frieder | | 7:30pm Limud | | Shabbat (Zoom) | Chodesh Adar | | | |
| | 7:30pm Limud | | (Zoom) | | , , | 9:30am Shabbat | | | |
| | (Zoom) | | | | | Services (Zoom/In | | | |
| | | | | | Person by RSVP) | | | | |
| | | | | | 5:55pm Limud and | | | | |
| | | | | | | Havdallah (Zoom) | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 5th of Sh'vat | 26th of Sh'vat | 27th of Sh'vat | 28th of Sh'vat | 29th of Sh'vat | 30th of Sh'vat | 1st of Adar | | | |
| :30pm Limud | 1:30pm Par'shat | 2pm Sisterhood | 4:30pm The Good | 12pm Study with | Rosh Chodesh Adar | Parashat Mishpatim | | | |
| Zoom) | Hashavua Study with | Woolgatherers | Place (Zoom) | ShimonYakov | 10:30am Study with | Rosh Chodesh Adar | | | |
| | Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) | 7:30pm Limud | 7:30pm Limud | 7:30pm Limud | ShimonYakov | Shabbat Shekalim | | | |
| | 5pm De-stress with Mitchell Frank and | (Zoom) | (Zoom) | (Zoom) | 5:10pm Candle | 9:30am Shabbat | | | |
| | Ariela Frieder | | 8pm Parenting | | Lighting | Services (Zoom/In | | | |
| 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | | | Workshop | | 5:45pm Kabbalat | Person by RSVP) | | | |
| | | | | | Shabbat (Zoom) | 6:05pm Limud and Havdallah (Zoom) | | | |
| 14 | 15 Presidents Day | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| nd of Adar | 3rd of Adar | 4th of Adar | 5th of Adar | 6th of Adar | 7th of Adar | 8th of Adar | | | |
| 30pm Limud | Building Closed | 2pm Sisterhood | 4:30pm The Good | 12pm Study with | 10:30am Study with | Parashat Terumah | | | |
| Zoom) | 1:30pm Par'shat | Woolgatherers | Place (Zoom) | ShimonYakov | ShimonYakov | Shabbat Zachor | | | |
| | Hashavua Study with | 7:30pm Limud | 7:30pm Limud | 7:30pm Limud | 5:18pm Candle | 9:30am Shabbat | | | |
| | Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) | (Zoom) | (Zoom) | (Zoom) | Lighting | Services (Zoom/In | | | |
| | 5pm De-stress with | , | , | , | 5:45pm Kabbalat | Person by RSVP) | | | |
| | Mitchell Frank and | | | | Shabbat (Zoom) | 6:15pm Limud and | | | |
| | | | | | | Havdallah (Zoom) | | | |
| | | | | | | 7pm Shabbaton fro Home, Rabbi Chana | | | |
| | , | | | | | Thompson Shor | | | |
| | | | | | | (Zoom) | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Purim | 27 | | | |
| th of Adar | 10th of Adar | 11th of Adar | 12th of Adar | 13th of Adar | 14th of Adar | 15th of Adar | | | |
| pm Trivia with | 1:30pm Par'shat | 2pm Sisterhood | 4:30pm The Good | Erev Purim | Megillah Reading | Parashat Tetzaveh | | | |
| Sisterhood and Men's | Hashavua Study with | Woolgatherers | Place (Zoom) | Ta'anit Esther | 10:30am Study with | 9:30am Shabbat | | | |
| Club | Rabbi Skolnik (Zoom) | 7:30pm Limud | 7:30pm Limud | 12pm Study with | ShimonYakov | Services (Zoom/In | | | |
| 7:30pm Limud | 5pm De-stress with | (Zoom) | (Zoom) | ShimonYakov | 5:26pm Candle | Person by RSVP) | | | |
| Zoom) | Mitchell Frank and | | | Erev Purim: Megillah | Lighting | 6:20pm Limud and | | | |
| | Ariela Frieder | | | Reading | 5:45pm Kabbalat | Havdallah (Zoom) | | | |
| | 7:30pm Limud (Zoom) | | | 7:30pm Limud | Shabbat (Zoom) | 7pm Cough-Free | | | |
| | (20011) | | | (Zoom) | | House (Zoom) | | | |
| 28 | | | | | | | | | |
| L6th of Adar | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTH OF AGAI | | | | | | | | | |
| Shushan Purim | | | | | | | | | |
| Shushan Purim 7:30pm Limud | | | | | | | | | |
| hushan Purim 7:30pm Limud | | | | | | | | | |
| hushan Purim | | | | | | | | | |

HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

The Hebrew Literature Group has continued to meet on Zoom through these months of COVID. We've taken advantage of meeting on a weekday instead of Shabbat by combining text study with listening to music. Our text selections these past months have either been classic texts put to music or lyrics to contemporary songs. We've had sessions devoted to songs taken from Shir HaShirim (the Biblical Song of Songs), poems of Yehudah HaLevi that have been put to music, as well as modern Israeli songs. In our most recent meeting we listened to Hanukkah songs in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino, a few of them with fascinating musical back stories. We've had guest presenters - David Silberfeld (former organizer of the Hebrew Lit Group and now living in Miami) co-presented the session on Yehudah HaLevi and Ruth Baran co-presented our recent Hanukkah fest, providing backdrops to the Yiddish and one of the Ladino selections and singing live one of the Yiddish songs. In short, the Hebrew Literature Group is active and thriving! Our next meeting will be via Zoom (link to be provided at a later date) on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 5:00 pm. Sessions last about an hour or a bit more. You don't need to be conversant in Hebrew to participate and enjoy. Texts are in Hebrew with English translation, and discussion is in English. One of the greatest miracles of Jewish history is the revival of our ancient language. In the Hebrew Literature Group we participate in that miracle, and read texts as ancient as the psalms and as modern as yesterday. Come join us! Mitchell Frank



WEEKLY ONLINE LEARNING ShimonYaakov Laxer

Our weekly Isaiah Havura continues to go strong! We just recently finished a unit that we've been working on for some time; Chapters 7-12, a section which includes the oracles that Isaiah delivered during the infamous Syro-Ephramite Crisis of the 730s BCE. This

was a hugely impactful episode, when the growing threat of the ever-expanding Assyrian Empire sent the smaller kingdoms throughout the ancient near east panicking. It was during this crisis that Isaiah would optimistically look forward to a moment when a heroic, kingly figure from the royal-Davidic line would one day usher in an era of total peace, such that even predator and prey (wolf and lamb) would be able to lie together in tranquility (chapter 11).

We have since jumped ahead to chapter 24, which begins a section called Isaiah's Apocalypse. The author of this section, which might not have been Isaiah himself, is one of the most playful of poets in the TaNaKh, relishing opportunities to play around with words and sounds as he describes in vivid detail what the totality of humankind has to look forward to if we bring the wrath of the Almighty upon us. (Spoiler alert - It's not pleasant!) While we've been meeting on Friday mornings for awhile, our schedule might change moving forward. For anyone with an interest in joining, please feel free to email me for more information as well as for final updates to the schedule, at shimon yaakoveaol.com.



SURJE: Standing Up for Racial Justice & Equity

Interested in participating in (or even leading) community conversations about racial justice in a Jewish context? SURJE is currently developing an exciting new project to help make our community more welcoming and inclusive! We recently received a competitive grant from the UJA to help us better implement long-term structural change as an organization working on racial justice. Beginning in February, we are bringing in a talented, Jewish Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consultant who will train a cadre of FHJC members from nearly every demographic in the shul. These trained facilitators will spend the month of March leading their own community conversations, reaching every member of the shul, from Nursery School parents to clergy. Rooted in Jewish text and themes, these conversations will be an opportunity to connect with and learn from each other in unique ways. A flyer and schedule of events will be released in the coming weeks. If you're interested in being a leader in this project, and participating in a unique training opportunity, please contact us at FHJC.SURJE@gmail.com. No matter your skills or knowledge, we each have a voice in creating a community that is welcoming to all types of people from all walks of life.



Tuesdays at 2:00 PM, via Zoom
Email sisterhood@fhjc.org to receive the
Zoom link.



Helen Newton – in honor of **Helaine & Joe Fox**

Leora Rezak - in honor of Nira Avidor

Esther Wolberger- in memory of Malka Jagendors

Marian & Martin Krasilovsky – in memory of Harry

Krasilovsky

Marian & Martin Krasilovsky – in memory of Irving Thorner Esther Wolberger – in memory of her beloved sister,

Shoshana Strauss

Cindy & Ami Megiddo – in memory of Mark Weinblatt's mother, Eileen Weinblatt

Romi Narov- in memory of Jerry Klibanoff's brother, Dr.

Edward Klibanoff

Marian & Martin Krasilovsky - in memory of Jerry

Klibanoff's brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff

Joanne & Haskell Klaristenfeld – in memory of Jerry

Klibanoff's brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff

Joanne & Haskell Klaristenfeld – in memory of Hilda

Chusid's mother, Greta Mares

Jeremy Loewenberger – in memory of Bradley Chain Barbara Finkel – in memory of Ruth Goldschmidt

Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab - in memory of

Jerry Klibanoff's brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff

Monica, Ezra, Caroline & Evelyn

Lagnado - in memory of Jenny Friedlich (16th yahrzeit)

Rita & Michael Lieberman - in memory of Jerry Klibanoff's

brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff

Marian & Martin Krasilovsky – in memory of Norman

Fassler's brother Leonard Fassler

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

Rae & Gary Kerzner – in honor of the birth of their grandson, Zeke Theise Firestone

Romi Narov – in honor of the birth of Rae & Gary Kerzner's arandson, Zeke Theise Firestone

Nancy Chase –in memory of her mother, Barbara Berkson (yahrzeit)

Pauline & Mark Raphael - in memory of Jerry Klibanoff's brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff

Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab – in memory of their dear friend, **Bernie Berko**

Monica Lagnado – with appreciation to Judy Beizer for honors received

Pauline & Mark Raphael – in memory of Murray Miller Pauline & Mark Raphael – in memory of Leonard Fassler

JACK VOGEL FUND

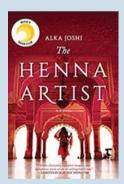
Rita & Michael Lieberman – in memory of Nicole & Adam Malitz' grandmother, Jack's great-grandmother, Martha Drossman

HAZZAN'S MUSIC FUND

Judy & David Zipkowitz – in honor of **Ben Leeman's** special birthday

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DONATION

Lottie & Henry Burger – in memory of Jerry Klibanoff's brother, Dr. Edward Klibanoff



Sisterhood

Day Time Readers Presents THE HENNA ARTIST

by Alka Joshi

Thursday, January 21, 2021 - 2:00 PM (Zoom)

Email sisterhood@fhjc.org to receive the Zoom link.

Trivia with Sisterhood and Men's Club Sunday, February 21 - 3 PM (ZOOM)



Get ready to play trivia on Zoom with Jessica Braginsky, Director of Education and Engagement, for fun and prizes.



Registration Opens for FHJC Nursery

We are so excited to announce that it is registration time for the 2021-2022 school year at FHJC!

As the current school year continues and we watch the children thrive at school, we are looking forward to filling the halls with more smiling faces while still adhering to all COVID health and safety protocols.

PLEASE NOTE: We are offering the 2020–2021 tuition rates to those who register by February 28, 2021.

Please email **nursery@fhjc.org** for further information.

Life Cycles

מזל טוב Mazal Tov

...to those in our Center family who are celebrating a simcha:

to Roz Feuer on the marriage of her granddaughter Alison to Matt Borkonsky to Nancy and Richard Chase on the B'nei Mitzvah of their children,
Abigail and Jacob
to Rae Theise-Kerzner and Gary Kerzner
on the birth of their grandson,
Zeke Theise Firestone
to Fern & Paul Karchawer on the
birth of their grandson, Miles
to Rita & Michael Lieberman on the birth of their grandson,

Levi Max Ellman to Lottie & Henry Burger on the birth of their great grandson,

Levi Max Ellman

Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

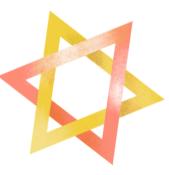
...may God grant comfort and consolation to those who have lost a loved one:

Jerry Klibanoff in memory of his dear brother,
Edward Klibanoff
Heidi & Herbert Chain in memory of their dear son,
Bradley Chain
Norman Fassler in memory of his dear brother,
Leonard Fassler

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:

Bernie Berko Harold Bloom Ruth Goldschmidt Dr. Murray Miller May their memories be for a blessing

MAZAL TOV TO OUR GIMMEL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON RECEIVING THEIR FIRST SIDDUR!



Aaron Chays
Naomi Fisher
Maddy Hellman
Jordan Melzer-Mitchell
Hailey Pollack
Melissa Pollack
Benjamin Rubenstein
Nora Stern
Ezra Wolf
Eitan Yavelberg



Thursday evening, February 25
Friday, February 26

Watch for Megillah Reading Info!



The Good Place Watch Party

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM via Zoom

Watch an episode of The Good Place with your FHJC friends. We begin with a recap, so you can join in even if you have never watched the show before. And if you have, it's even funnier the second time.

See online calendar for Zoom link or click here.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

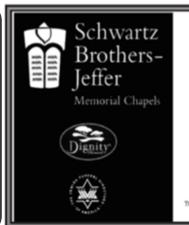
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Medicaid, Special Needs and Disability Planning
Probate and Estate Administration
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