



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

# Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

November-December 2021 / Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet 5782/ Vol. LXXVII No. 2

## Chanukah Festivities at FHJC

### Share the Light FHJC Community Chanukiah Lighting

Tuesday, 11/30; 5:30- 6:15 pm  
Outdoors on 69th Rd.



### COOKING DEMO

*for Chanukah*



COOK SOME FRIED TREATS  
HEAR IMANI TELL HER STORY  
ALL WELCOME

Featuring Imani Jackson  
December 5 at 5:00-6:15  
on zoom

co sponsored by SURJE & fhjc RS



See Page 4 for more info about  
Chanukah programs at FHJC!

### Scholastic Book Fair



### FHJC BOOK FAIR

Sunday, November 21—9:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Nursery Only: Monday, December 9—9:00 AM - Noon  
FHJC Heller Ballroom

Proof of vaccination is required for everyone 12 and over entering the building. Masks are required for everyone over 2 years of age. Please bring your own bags if you can.



# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

### Coming Around Again...

For as long as I've lived in the house on 70th Avenue, it's always been a bit of a game figuring out exactly when to turn the heat on. Most apartment houses have fixed dates when building management does that, and also when they turn it off. But houses do not. The upside of this is that, if you enjoy the cool, crisp mornings and evenings of autumn, you can enjoy them for as long as you want. On the other hand- and, of course, there is always another hand- it can get pretty cold, especially getting out of bed in the morning.

As we move into November and the months that follow, even the heartiest among us will have to admit that we are transitioning into a very different time of year. This is, of course, as it should be, since the orderly transition (even if sometimes late or early) from one season to another is one of those constants that we depend on to ground ourselves in a particular kind of normalcy. Day leads to night, summer leads to autumn...

But even as the macro setting of changing seasons reminds us that there are still some things that we can depend on (global warming notwithstanding), the reality is that we are still, in the micro, trying very hard to find secure footing in the here and now. We are straining at the

leash to be out of our masks, and able to plan events for the days and even weeks and months to come. Yet any talk of an end to our struggle with COVID-19 is, I'm afraid, premature. Can we plan to travel over vacation breaks? Can we be meeting in person for programs in the synagogue, or is ZOOM still our preferred method of connecting? Can we safely be with our extended families?

As I write, the CDC and FDA have just okayed booster shots for Moderna and J and J vaccinations, and even more importantly, are moving inexorably towards allowing vaccinations for children ages 5-12. If that happens- and it might by the time you read this- our reality vis-à-vis COVID will dramatically change- like the season. How great will it be to be able to welcome children safely back into synagogue on Shabbat! Soon, soon...

I am hopeful. But just for the record, I turned on the heat in my house, and brought my snow blower in for a tune-up. You can't be too careful! Please take care of yourselves as we await continuing good news on our pandemic... and enjoy the fall!

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Sundays at 9:25AM: Yoga with Lorain.** Email Lorain for details.

**Mondays at 1:30PM: Study with Rabbi Skolnik** as we deconstruct the liturgy of the High Holidays. Click [here](#) for the registration sheet and [here](#) for the Zoom link.

**Mondays at 5:00PM: De-stress** with Dr. Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder, M.D.

**Tuesdays at 2:00PM: Sisterhood** invites you to knit, crochet, or just relax with the **Woolgatherers**.

**Wednesdays at 4:45PM: The FHJC Watch Party** - Stay tuned for the next series coming soon!

**Wednesdays at 6:25PM: Yoga with Lorain.** Email Lorain for details.

**Wednesdays at 8:15PM: Men's Club Watch Party** resumes with the award-winning Netflix series, Schitt'\$ Creek.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

**See the [FHJC Calendar](#) for links to these events.**

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# NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

## Hazzan Randall Levin

The Jewish calendar has particular ebb and flow to it: a particular ta'am derived from the Jewish holidays within. Passover begins the liturgical year, providing us with a myriad of rituals that occur both in synagogue and home. Indeed, the rabbis replaced the centrality of the Temple rite with a three-pronged approach to maintaining the tradition: rituals for the synagogue; rituals for the home; and individual practice. The Pilgrimage Festivals represent a complete realization of this approach, with prominent observances in all three spheres. At first blush, the High Holidays and Chanukah seem diametrically opposed in this regard. The High Holidays take part largely in synagogue, with a massive liturgy and a distinct lack of home observance, or any rituals that occur apart from the liturgy. Even the waterside Tashlich service was a relatively late ritual addition, tracing its roots to Maharil in the late 14th century. The tashlich custom was also a highly contentious one, considered heathenish by many authorities, including the Vilna Gaon! The rabbinic concern was that people would think that casting bread into the water would be seen as an alternative to the requirement of making true teshuva through prayer (presumably taking place in synagogue) and acts of lovingkindness. One reason the Yom Kippur day prayers are so lengthy, in fact, is that the rabbis were concerned about keeping the "Jews in the pews," lest they return home where they might be tempted to engage in prohibited activities.

Chanukah, on the other hand, has a particular set of rituals that can be observed almost entirely in the home. There are no prohibitions on work, eating, or anything else that happens on a "normal" day. We spin the dreidel, we sing traditional hymns in metered song, we light the menorah, we give out "gelt," we make latkes

and eat donuts. To the extent that we have prescribed Jewish law on these days, much of it is focused on how and when to light the candles! While there are a few prayers added to regular service, there is no liturgical corpus, or megillah specific to Hanukkah. Whereas on Yom Kippur we say penitential prayers, on Hanukkah these prayers are actually prohibited. Hanukkah seems to be the polar opposite of Yom Kippur from a ritual perspective. And yet, the eighth day of Hanukkah is designated in some circles by a special name: Zot Hanukkah. The exact nature of this day is not clear, but it has come to be connected with Yom Kippur. Though the Zohar identifies Hashana Rabbah, the end of Sukkot, as the last day we might receive God's divine mercy through teshuva, later Hassidic sources extend the potential for compassion all the way until this last day of Hanukkah. We can again marvel at the multifaceted approach of the rabbinic collective. It's as though they are saying that in each season we have a different modality in which to encounter the divine and renew our souls. In the fall we connect in the synagogue through deep, and sometimes lengthy, introspection and prayer, and in the winter we light candles and sing songs in the warmth of our homes. In this way, every season, and each unique holiday observance, holds potential for renewal and a realization of our most virtuous endeavors.

Hazzan Randall Levin

## Musical Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, 11/21; 11:30-12:15

Indoors in the FHJC Heller Ballroom.



Dance and sing with Lyrical Landon  
(formerly our amazing Nursery School music teacher!).

Guaranteed to get you and your child or grandchild up and moving!

RSVP early-limited availability







## THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

### Romi Narov

Last month the Forest Hills Jewish Center community voted overwhelmingly in favor of the sale of our property to JU Forest Hill Development LLC. The vote took place during a special membership meeting. 287 members voted in favor of the sale, 17 voted against and there was one abstention. This vote signaled the beginning of the road towards finding a new home for our community. It was a bittersweet moment. We all understand that this is a necessary move to ensure our future. Our current building is aging. If any of its systems fails, we will be hard pressed to find the funds to replace it. At the same time, we need to be aware that many of us spent much of our lifetime in this sanctuary and the change will evoke some sad feelings as well.

We now must begin our efforts to build a new home for FHJC. It is our hope that this new home will serve the needs of our community for many years to come. I hope you will join me on the journey to find a new location for our building where we can design and build a beautiful modern facility that we will all be proud to call our new home.

I find it very appropriate that the vote and the resulting action took place in the weeks leading to Hanukkah, the holiday that celebrates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem. It celebrates a new beginning as does our vote. All beginnings are difficult. I hope and pray that this one will lead us to the dedication of a new home במהירה בימינו. Soon and in our time.

We have still a lot to do to get there. Rest assured that the work is beginning to set us on our way, even as I write this.

As the days are getting shorter, I am looking forward to celebrating Chanukah, the festival of lights, with all of you. Please join us for in person and Zoom events that will be announced as the holiday draws near.

Stay safe and warm,.

Romi Narov

# Chanukah Festivities at FHJC



**FHJC Scholastic Book Fair Sunday, 11/21; 9-3:00, Indoors in the FHJC Heller Ballroom** Books, games and more! Get your Chanukah gifts at FHJC, easy and convenient. Profits go to support our Religious School and Early Childhood program! Bring your own bag to tote home your treasures.

**Musical Chanukah Celebration Sunday, 11/21; 11:30-12:15, Indoors in the FHJC Heller Ballroom.** Dance and sing with Lyrical Landon (formerly our amazing Nursery School music teacher!). Guaranteed to get you and your child or grandchild up and moving! RSVP early-limited availability.

**Share the Light-FHJC Community Chanukah Lighting Tuesday, 11/30; 5:30- 6:15 pm, Outdoors on 69th Rd.** Bring your Chanukah ruach (spirit) and dancing shoes for a different way to spread the light of the Chanukah miracle. Group lighting, Israeli dancing in the street and holiday goodies! Plus, we are collecting new unwrapped children's gifts to donate to families in need in our area. Get ready for some fun!

**Sisterhood Presents: New Moons & Menorahs, Thursday, 12/2; 8:00pm on Zoom.** An interactive Chanukah program presented by Hazzan Randall Levin.

**Chanukah Cooking Demonstration Sunday evening, 12/5; 5-6:15 pm on Zoom** Imani Jackson is a chef, activist and Jew of Color. Join us as she shows us how to fry up a Chanukah treat and tells her story of how she lives her Jewish values. Funny, engaging, joyous! For adults, parent and child teams, and students in 6th grade and up.

**Links to all events can be found on the FHJC Listserve and on the FHJC Calendar.**

# NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

## Lynn Fisher



Over the past many months, I have read so many articles about how this pandemic has been disastrous for early childhood education - for both children and adults. So much has been reported about how the pandemic has disrupted every facet of education. Over the past 19 months, young children have experienced learning setbacks and fewer social experiences, while educators have endured difficult working conditions, stress from job uncertainty and mental health decline. There was a sharp decline in program enrollment during the pandemic that continued beyond the initial weeks and months of the crisis. In many cases, lower enrollment translated to missed learning opportunities for children, lost income for childcare programs and less work for educators. Decreased enrollment was caused by the fear some families felt about the virus. Others were suddenly working remotely or laid off and decided to keep their child with them at home. Still others just didn't see the value in remote learning for such a young child.

On top of that, many programs such as ours were saddled with group size restrictions and social distancing measures that forced smaller class sizes and lower enrollment.

We opened our doors for the 2021-2022 school year on September 9th, and the overall picture that I see is much brighter. Our Nursery program is bursting at the seams. I am delighted to see joy and excitement each day in the faces of our 99 students, families, and staff of 18. After a year and a half of social distancing and hybrid in-

person and remote learning, our transition back to a classroom routine starts with social and emotional learning. Play must be at the forefront in our classrooms. While play has always been an important part of early childhood, our teachers are prioritizing intentional play to promote social and emotional development. In doing so, the children are relearning how to play and work with others, take turns, manage impulses, and keep trying when struggling.

I am witnessing the wonder of learning every day. I see creativity playing a key role in children's development. This year's staff is playing an important role in helping young children achieve their potential in an ever-changing world. Our students may be little, but our educators have big impacts - long lasting and positive effects on the children and families.

Perspective can often be hard to find when you're caught up in the day-to-day bustle of being an adult. Working with young children, the staff and I are often provided with some excellent moments that can make us pause and appreciate their point of view. We should all celebrate the extraordinary resilience of young people and educators.

Lynn Fisher



*While exploring Chanukah, the children investigated different media*

**SHABBAT**  
**ON THE STOOP**  
MINDFULNESS, STORIES & SONGS  
**SATURDAYS**  
EMAIL US AT [shabbatFHJC@gmail.com](mailto:shabbatFHJC@gmail.com) FOR INFO & DETAILS  
ALL FAMILIES WELCOME  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
**PJ Library**  
Bringing Jewish stories home  
**FHJC**

This Shabbat-Saturday at 11:00 shmooze.  
Program 11:15-noon!!!  
Right out front on the Queens Boulevard side.  
Great for Families with kids 2-7 years old and their sibs.  
Can't Wait To See You There!

Let's share a Shabbat experience for tots - seven year-olds and families linking Shabbat, Jewish values and mindfulness. Songs, stories and tools to manage stress, build focus and foster gratitude with a goal to growing resilience and optimism in your child and your family. Selected Saturdays at the Queens Blvd. entrance to FHJC at 11:15 AM



# EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

## Jessica Braginsky



I love to hear from seasoned FHJC members of how things were in the Religious School before I became part of the FHJC family. It is thrilling to imagine a Forest Hills flooded with Jewish families and a Religious School teeming with hundreds of students. Much has changed since then.

Things have even changed over the past three years since I began at FHJC. COVID has persuaded quite a few families to leave Forest Hills for the suburbs. Last year we shrank from the previous year's 120 student to just over 70 students. We did not even have a Gan/Kindergarten class.

But even at our lowest point, the essence of what FHJC is all about, community, was still evident and strong. This foundation will help us build back better. The friend groups that were born at FHJC, some going back to nursery school, were physically distant but emotionally strong. The Religious School teachers worked hard and successfully to engage every student, whether they were on-line or in person. They reinvigorated the bedrock FHJC priority of teaching content while also making sure each child feels cared for and safe, all in a Jewish context and with an underpinning of Jewish values. That commitment to building a community by caring for each student has made us stronger. This year we have 93 students enrolled so far and we are still growing. (Yes, parents are still registering new students!) and we are ready to spread the love.

A cared-for student has the wherewithal to care for others. Our Bet class, led by Morah Allison Bernstein Shine, is highlighting the theme of "b'yachad" which means "together." Her students are examining how they are building a classroom community that cares for every member and how their community is part of a larger whole. Our Gan/Kindergarten families learned about the mitzvah of walking in God's ways by feeding the hungry. They put their learning into action and prepped 16 meals that the Commonpoint food pantry will distribute to home-bound elderly in our community. And our Chet students are working to strengthen our community by focusing on becoming maariv service mavens. Together they are studying with Hazzan Levin to learn how to lead a Mourner's Minyan.

As the year goes on, please look for your opportunity to engage with our FHJC community. By together doing acts of chesed, kindness, we, Religious School families, Early Childhood families, and all members of FHJC can build back better.

Be well,  
Jessica

## HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

The Hebrew Literature Group will next meet via Zoom on Thursday, December 16th at 5:00 pm. We began our yearlong theme of the Five Megillot (and related books) in our October meeting and will continue in December with Kohelet, Ecclesiastes (Kohelet means "the assembler" in Hebrew and Ecclesiastes is a Greek translation of that word). There are so many questions that immediately come to mind when we read this megillah, as we do in shul on Sukkot. Who is this Kohelet? When did he write this book? What was he trying to say? What were his influences? We will wrestle with these questions and more while reading selections from this often exquisitely poetic text.

Typically in the Hebrew Literature Group, the text material is provided in Hebrew with English translation. Part of the reason the Five Megillot was chosen as the theme for the year is that most of us own a full Bible with translation. The advantage here is that, meeting as we are on Zoom, coming to the session with our own texts will allow us to avoid screen sharing, which gets in the way of seeing one another's faces in the full Zoom gallery. This should make it easier to fully enjoy a lively discussion (in English), almost as if in person.

A Zoom link will follow in a listserv announcement a week or two before the meeting. Come join us!

**Mitchell Frank**







## SISTERHOOD

### Rae Theise Kerzner, Presiding Officer

As I write this column, we are entering the month of Heshvan, the only month in the Jewish calendar without any holidays. That is one explanation for the commonly-used Hebrew name "Marheshvan", or bitter Heshvan. The name may also be derived from the Akkadian words for "eighth month."

How or why do we experience bitterness? Is it because we feel more distant from the Divine Presence, who felt so much closer to us during the High Holidays? As the days get shorter, with dreary weather descending, we may also experience a darkness in our souls. Not to mention the still omnipresent COVID-19 threat, which has been hanging over us for over a year and a half now.

How can we cope with these feelings? What can enable us to experience physical and existential lightness? Traditional Jewish rituals and observance provide us with sparks of light on a daily and weekly basis. In our morning prayers, we praise G-d for creating light and darkness (*yotzer ohr u'vray hoshech*) and during the Havdalah service, we use a multi-wick candle to celebrate the separation of light from darkness as we re-enter the secular week. Next month, we look forward to Chanukah and the increasing number of candles joyously lit each night.

In my own life, I recently celebrated my 50th High School reunion. It was an incredible, life-affirming event in which I re-connected with old friends and forged new connections. We were all sparks of light for each other.

Sisterhood can also provide you with sparks of light through our programs and fellowship. On November 11, Robin Skolnik will lead our Book Review discussing "The Last Watchman of Old Cairo" and on November 15th, Susie Spodek will continue her presentation focusing on Fall Veggies. Look for the announcement about a special Chanukah program with Hazzan Levin. Also coming up - join us as we virtually travel to the new ANU museum in Tel Aviv for a guided tour. Help us in our drives for Transition House when we can transform ourselves into beacons of light for victims of domestic abuse. For more information, see [Sisterhood@fhjc.org](mailto:Sisterhood@fhjc.org).

As the daylight wanes, let us all seek out sources of light for ourselves and strive to be sparks of light in each other's lives.

Rae Theise Kerzner, FHJC Sisterhood Presiding Board Member



FHJC SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

## New Moons & Menorahs

an interactive Chanukah program presented by Hazzan Randall Levin

Thursday, Dec 2 | 8:00 PM | ZOOM

All are welcome.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase prior to the event. Watch for details.

If you would like to join us, click here by Monday, November 29, so we can send the information in time to access this Zoom event.

## TRANSITION HOUSE COLLECTION DECEMBER 13-16

It's time for Sisterhood's Winter Transition House Collection event. Watch for details about time and place to drop off items.

Take this opportunity to clear out your closets and drawers to help others. Remember: The families at Transition House often arrive with just the clothes on their backs. You can make a big difference in their lives.



## ADULT EDUCATION

### JUDY GOSTL & LISA LEVY

The Holidays start the year off and then we jump into planning Adult Education programs for our members. This year we are pleased that we will have several special programs as well as the Shabbaton from Home series. Our starting program has already been advertised. On **Sunday, November 14, at 10:00AM** Lenny Picker is going to interview Max Gross, the award-winning author of *The Lost Shtetl*. This novel raises major questions about separateness and assimilation in an amusing novel that struggles with the clash of an old world shtetl and its inhabitants dealing with our modern life. Lenny hopes to be able to bring another major writer to interview later in the year.

Our second special program will be a special program for Partition Day. Jay Luger asks us if we have ever been to Rabin Way? No it's not in Israel, it is right here in Queens, less than four miles from FHJC. That is where Rabin Way is located. If you are not familiar with Partition Day, you need to show up and learn how Israel took its initial steps towards becoming a state at Rabin Way right here in Queens. **Save November 29, 2021 at 8:10PM.**



Our **Shabbaton from Home** has five events so far and more may be added later. We will lead off with Ira Beer reprising his Simchat Torah sermon, and then we move on to some who have presented previously and one newcomer to this program.

Here is the program so far. We hope it excites you as much as it does us.

#### **Ira Beer - December 11 - After Havdalah**

More Musings of a Baal Korei - A discussion of more things in the Torah not commonly addressed in Sermons. As I noted on Simchat Torah, after 22.5 years as the Torah reader at FHJC and 8 years reading between 1 and 3 aliyot each week before that time, you notice things within the text that you find interesting. This will be a discussion of some more of those items that did not make it into the Simchat Torah Sermon.

#### **Nora Mandel - after Havdalah - Monday, January 31 - 8:10PM**

Revisiting "Hester Street": Joan Micklin Silver's 1975 Oscar-nominee has been restored. Based on Abraham Cahan's 1897 novella, Nora will explore how the film stands up as a Jewish feminist classic.

#### **Jay Luger -Monday, February 14-8:10PM**

Nine Entered Paradise During Their Lifetimes. Who were these people and why did they deserve to enter the Garden of Eden? This is a fun midrash, that is light and informative. In fact there are two midrashim and so there are more than nine. Three of them are mentioned in the Torah. How many can you name?

#### **Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor - March 5 -7:00PM after Havdalah**

Who are the deliverers of Israel? -- A study and comparison of the unlikely heroes God sends to deliver the Israelites from their oppressors and their enemies. They might include Moses, Gideon, Samson and Saul (among other possible candidates).

#### **David Zucker - March 21**

Use of the Jewish Tanach in the English Enlightenment: An Informal Survey - We will explore writings concerning the question of the authority of the monarchy. This was not a period of quiet political philosophical thinking. It was a period of regicide, political intrigue, intolerance, executions, civil war, imprisonment, spies, exiles, abductions, bloody revenge and the most corrupt trial in British history. We hope to have some fun with this topic.

**Questions? Email Judy Gostl or Lisa Levy.**



# Thank You

# תודה רבה

## 2021–5782 KOL NIDRE APPEAL TODAH RABAH LISTINGS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE KOL NIDRE CAMPAIGN 5782

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed so generously to our 2021-5782 Kol Nidre Campaign. A number of donors have chosen to remain anonymous and we have done our best to respect those requests. If your name is not here and should be here, please let us know. We will correct any mistakes and publish a notice of correction in the next *Message*.

Even if your name is not here, it's not too late. We'll be happy to say *todah rabah*—thank you, in the next *Message*.

The responsibility of ensuring the viability of our shul for future generations now falls upon us. We hope that every member of our shul will join us in this important mission so we can reach our goal of 100% participation.

*The Kol Nidre Campaign Committee:* Rae Theise Kerzner, Betty Korb and Carl Koerner, Kol Nidre Appeal Co-Chairs  
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**Hanna Mahlab** - in gratitude and support of her sisters  
**Zahava Mahlab** - in gratitude and support of her sisters  
**Farrel Powsner** - In honor of **Amanda Powsner's** Bat Mitzvah & **Rabbi Skolnik's** wonderful words!  
**Fred Levine** - in gratitude to **Dr. Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Regina Geber** - in gratitude to **Dr. Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Pauline Clements** - in appreciation of the Zoom services on Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur  
**Monica Lagnado** - in gratitude to **Norman Gursen** for honors received  
**Ellis & Marcia Kane Hittner** - in gratitude to **Dr. Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Anne Frankel** - in memory of her beloved mother, **Belle Frankel** (yahrzeit)  
**Marian & Martin Krasilovsky** - in memory of beloved father, **Irving Thorner**  
**Trudy Emanuel** - in memory of her beloved mother, **Rita Emanuel** on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of her passing  
**Regina Geber** - in memory of **Clara & Leon Holcman** (yahrzeit 5 Chesvan)  
**Regina Geber** - in memory of **Martin Topol's** mother, **Esther Topol**  
**Regina Geber** - in memory of **Ted Gonon's** wife  
**Marian & Martin Krasilovsky** - in memory of beloved father, **Harry Krasilovsky**  
**Georgette & Anthony Dankner** - in memory of **Georgette's** beloved father, **Alexander Verbes**

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

**Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** - in appreciation of their friendship with **Norman Gursen**  
**Nicola Belzer & Bradley Korn** - in memory of **Leah Weinkelbaum**  
**Ellis & Marcia Kane Hittner** - in memory of **Ruth Friedman** (19 Elul yahrzeit)

### HAZZAN'S MUSIC FUND

**Ariela Frieder Dorregaray & Felipe Dorregaray & Family** - in gratitude to **Rabbi Skolnik**  
**Ariela Frieder Dorregaray & Felipe Dorregaray & Family** - in gratitude to **Hazzan Levin**  
**Ellis & Marcia Kane Hittner** - in memory of **Howard Kane** (11 Av yahrzeit)

### LEAH WEINBERG FUND

**Ellis & Marcia Kane Hittner** - in memory of **Sydell Kane** (17 Tishrei yahrzeit)

### RITA BERGER MEMORIAL FUND

With love from **Dana Friedenberg-Storr Family & Lori Friedenberg-Rudolph Family** - in memory of **Edwin Berger**  
With love from **Dana Friedenberg-Storr Family & Lori Friedenberg-Rudolph Family** - in memory of **Rita Berger**  
With love from **Dana Friedenberg-Storr Family & Lori Friedenberg-Rudolph Family** - in memory of **Julie Berger**  
With love from **Dana Friedenberg-Storr Family & Lori Friedenberg-Rudolph Family** - in memory of **Cynthia Berger Friedenberg**  
With love from **Dana Friedenberg-Storr Family and Lori Friedenberg-Rudolph Family** - in memory of **Peter and Cynthia Friedenberg**

# Life Cycles

## Mazal Tov מזל טוב

...to those in our Center family who are celebrating a simcha:  
to Carol Braham & Howard Hankin on the birth of their granddaughter, Lia Charlotte Shapiro  
to Daniel and Sabrina Wengier and Raquel and Stanley Greenwald on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and great niece, Sephora Wengier

## Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

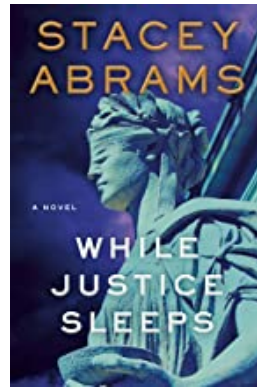
...may God grant comfort and consolation to those who have lost a loved one.

to David Eshaghian on the loss of his dear sister, Helen Iloulian  
to Mark Weinblatt on the loss of his dear father, Stanley Weinblatt

We mourn the loss of our dear Center member:

Patricia Altman

May their memories be for a blessing



## SISTERHOOD DAYTIME READERS

Thursday, December 9, 2:00PM  
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER!

From celebrated national leader and bestselling author Stacey Abrams, a gripping thriller set within the halls of the U.S. Supreme Court – where a young law clerk finds herself embroiled in a shocking mystery plotted by one of the most preeminent judges in America.

Click [here](#) to register and receive the Zoom link.



Keep Calm AND Eat Latkes

Happy Chanukah from FHJC



**Bat Mitzvah of Sephora Wengier December 18, 2021**

Sephora Wengier is the daughter of Daniel and Sabrina Wengier, and she has an older brother, Isaac, and a younger brother, Nathaniel. She moved to Bonaire, Georgia with her family in 2012. Sabrina is involved in her school's chorus, show choir, and is a part of the Academic Bowl team. Sephora's Bat Mitzvah was originally set to take place in France (where her mom is from) in June 2020. The temple, party venue, photographer, and DJ had all been booked. The invitations had just come in and were ready to be sent out when the world was forced to shut down in March of 2020. Ever since that day, the question has been "When will Sephora's Bat Mitzvah happen?" The answer is now!

Why New York City? Sephora's dad grew up in upstate New York and often visited his grandmother, Babi, and his Aunt Raquel and Uncle Stanley in Forest Hills. Sephora also loves New York City, so it seemed like a fitting backdrop for an event she has been awaiting for so long. Aunt Raquel and Uncle Stanley are long-time members of the Forest Hills Jewish Center and were even married there. As it happens, Sephora and her family attend Congregation Sha'arey Israel in Macon, Georgia. The Rabbi, Rabbi Rubinstein, started his career at the Forest Hills Jewish Center, so the connection is strong.



**Looking for the Calendar?  
Please visit the FHJC website for  
our up-to-date calendar.  
[www.FHJC.org](http://www.FHJC.org)**



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