



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

February - March 2023/ Tevet - Sh'vat - Adar 5783/ Vol. LXXVIII No. 3

THE FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER DINNER DANCE

HONORING

CARL SELDIN KOERNER

AND KEEPERS OF THE FAITH AWARD RECIPIENTS

BARBARA AND JERRY KLIBANOFF

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023 • 7:30PM



RSVP at www.FHJC.org/gala-2023



SAVE THE DATE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

March 24-25, 2023

Dr. Daniel Matt

The preeminent teacher of the Zohar and expert on Jewish mysticism will be with us for an extraordinary Shabbat of learning. Daniel Matt is a scholar of Kabbalah. He has been featured in *Time* and *Newsweek* and on National Public Radio. His books include *The Essential Kabbalah* (translated into eight languages) and *God and the Big Bang*. Last year, his biography of Elijah the Prophet (*Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation*) was published by Yale University Press in their series *Jewish Lives*. Recently *Becoming Elijah* was awarded the inaugural Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Book Prize, established by Yeshiva University.

Join us for a fascinating discussion and presentation on Shekhina, the Zohar and Torah, and Finding God in the Material World. Watch for details to register and sponsor Shabbat Dinner and Kiddush Luncheon. FHJC's Scholar-in-Residence Program is made possible through the generous support of the Sevin family, in loving memory of Malvin Peace Sevin.



CELEBRATE PURIM WITH FHJC!

Order "*Happy Purim*" Mishloach Manot!
Watch for details in your email.

Sunday - March 5

Mask Making Workshop - 11:30-1:30pm

Monday - March 6

Pre-Megillah Madness: Purim Crafts, Costume Parade & Pizza - 6pm
Mishloach Manot Pick-up - 6:30pm
Megillah Reading in Main Sanctuary - 7pm

Tuesday, March 7

Shacharit & Megillah Reading
Little Synagogue - 6:30am





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Letting Go...

As Robin and I prepare for my retirement, a necessary part of that process involves preparing to physically leave the very lovely home, owned by our synagogue, that has been our home since 1986. Actually, we moved in on New Years Eve in 1985. But no matter how you calculate the time, we've had a lot of years to accumulate enormous amounts of "stuff."

In addition to our own purchases and the like, we've raised four children there, and the remnants of four bar/bat mitzvahs, three weddings, camp materials, textbooks and papers from a variety of colleges... you get the picture. Like I said, it's a lot of "stuff." A whole lot of stuff, much of which we have no intention of taking with us when we move.

Robin has plunged into the project of appropriately dealing with this challenge, true to form. When she engages in a project, she really leans in to it. What she discovered- which I'm sure many of you know about - is a Facebook page called "Buy Nothing." Lots of communities have their own page, and Forest Hills is no exception. Basically, this page affords people looking to offload things - not to charge for them, but to give away - a chance to post pictures of what they're looking to give away, have people visit the page and see what's being offered, and say "I'd like that." Things can be new or gently used, in relatively good condition, and those who are looking to save money can simply adopt these items... thus the "buy nothing" name of the page. We just leave them outside our back door, appropriately packaged and labeled, and they're gone.

You'd be amazed at what some people put out there hoping there would be people interested. It reinforced in both Robin and me an appreciation

of the fact that there are, indeed, some things that deserve to be discarded, and should be. I know that Robin has contributed pitchers and plates, mugs, toys and books... all things that have been living in our basement for many years and now are finding a new home.

I share this with you all because I realize that, on some deeper level, in the context of making a major life change like we are, deciding what might best be left behind or discarded and what needs to travel with us, is a metaphor for a much larger issue.

Over more than forty years, the regular (and sometimes irregular) pulse of the Forest Hills Jewish Center has been one of the major rhythms by which we have lived our lives. Some years have definitely been easier and kinder than others, and I have no doubt that there are members of our community who are ready for a different model of rabbinic leadership. There are some memories that I might, if I could, "leave behind," as it were, as I try to rediscover what it means to be a "Jew in the pews" again, as opposed to a leader standing in front. That said, the human mind doesn't afford us a chance to "give away" our memories to others. They travel with us wherever we go, through life, even when we move from one home and community to another.

Watching the "Buy Nothing" exodus of items from our house, I'm glad that we get to take those memories with us, all of them. I'm not ready to give them up, and I hope I never will be.

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

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Arms: Sisterhood: Laurie Lax (Presiding Officer), Men's Club, Hal Berkowitz (Presiding Officer). 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 Randall Levin

So much has been happening in our synagogue that I have scarcely had the time to allow myself to get excited about our upcoming congregational trip to Israel. In the last few weeks we have had a Gimmel Siddur ceremony, family Shabbatot, our B'nei Mitzvah Workshop and Chesed projects. Soon we will celebrate Tu Bishvat and Purim. How wonderful it has been to be praying and singing together, eating together, and fulfilling mitzvot as a community! It's a return to the synagogue life many of us remember, an opportunity to reflect on familiar experiences, such as the Kiddush meal after services — and a chance to see how our community can make change in a positive way.

Tu Bishvat offers an example of both intentional and organic changes, over many centuries. It began as timely reminder to the people to bring fruit offerings to the Temple, and it later was transformed by 16th century Kabbalists into a "Feast of Fruits," culminating in the creation of *Pri Eitz Hadar*, a Haggadah to be used in a Tu Bishvat Seder. Early Zionists transformed the holiday again, by planning elaborate tree-planting ceremonies to rejuvenate both the land and their spirits. It made me think about the transformations I've experienced in my own prayer.

When I first entered the Jewish Theological Seminary, I already had musical prayer experience in many different Jewish settings. I had been raised in a Conservative synagogue by parents who were very involved in shul life. I was trained for my bar mitzvah by a Hazzan and sang in the junior and adult choirs. I went to a Jewish summer camp and served as president of an active USY chapter. As a young adult, in some weeks I sang as a professional in The Park Synagogue choir, and my other Shabbatot were spent with my frum cousin, davening at Young Israel in Cleveland Heights. In graduate school, I spent several years singing in the choir (with orchestra!) at Hebrew Union College. So I was quite confident, as I entered JTS, that my experiences in those diverse settings had well prepared me for seminary training and my professional life beyond. In other words, I thought I already knew everything.

What I experienced upon entering JTS was both humbling and enlightening. Most of the young rabbis-in-training I encountered at the Seminary had a particular Jewish experience that I lacked. They had experienced Judaism as young adults through attending Shabbat services at various Hillel Houses, at universities with high Jewish populations, and/or with other non-denominational, independent minyanim. Those experiences allowed each one of them to experience Judaism on their own terms, apart from the particular form of Judaism of their upbringing. For some, this was their only significant experience with traditional Jewish prayer. Many of them regularly spent Shabbatot at a fairly new independent minyan in Manhattan: Hadar, a community of young, traditional-minded Jews from various backgrounds.

I was oddly confused as I sat through my first few student-led Shabbat services at JTS, with the repetitive "5-note symphonies" of Shlomo Carlebach, et al, resonating through the prayer space, in an unending cacophony of Hebrew words that I couldn't quite get out of my mouth fast enough. I felt like a

foreigner in my own religion! How could I possibly be so unprepared for this? From a musical perspective, I struggled to wrap my mind around the idea that these somewhat crude sounds were considered an acceptable (actually preferable) form of synagogue prayer music. This was a significantly less refined, less artistic, and frankly less dignified treatment of the prayers than I had ever considered. Sure, the Orthodox services I had attended were fast and less than musical, but on the other hand, those communities weren't really attempting to make music. This new sound and approach from my fellow seminarians was another thing altogether, and I wasn't sure how I felt about it!

I remember a particular Saturday morning service in the Women's League Seminary Synagogue – a special Shabbaton that many of the "older" Rabbinic and Cantorial students had stayed home from their pulpits to attend. At the end of the service came a glorious prayer, *Shir HaKavod*, sung to an equally glorious tune -- nether of which I had heard before. I remember the hairs on the back of my neck standing up and a feeling of euphoria rushing over me as a room full of young adults sang joyously together in prayer. It was a feeling I will never forget and a moment that I am always searching to recreate as a prayer leader and a davener. That feeling, and my curiosity, made me determined to understand this worship style, and I was fortunate to have friends in the rabbinic school who (I would like to think) sensed that I had just enough intellectual and musical humility to appreciate this new experience.

Though I have had considerable questions about how this prayer modality can work in a larger, multi-generational setting, I learned to appreciate it, and began integrating elements of it into my own davening. I attended Hadar (and other minyanim) when I was not away at my own student pulpit. Emily and I eventually moved to a wonderful community in Washington Heights, heavily populated by Hadar expatriates. We truly loved our time there, as we became parents for the first time in a community where we could have an immersive Jewish experience. Truth be told, the davening was not always wonderful, but the focus of their intention was pervasive and infectious, both in prayer and in other mitzvot. This was, in many ways, my first experience as an adult congregant, and even though I knew that it was a fleeting moment in my Jewish journey,

continued on next page.



THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Romi Narov

BRR...it is most definitely cold outside. This winter has brought upon us sub-freezing temperatures. It is very difficult to keep warm outdoors, but when you enter our building, whether for a Shabbat service or a celebration of a holiday, or for any other activity, it must warm your heart to see how life is returning to our community. We are again holding Kiddushim after services on Shabbat. We are having extremely well attended Daven and Dine meals on Friday nights and many of you came out to celebrate Hannukah with us. Our book and gift fair run by the School Board was very successful, bringing in much needed funds for extracurricular activities.

I know that we still have to be cautious, in everything we do as a community, to promote the health and safety of our members, but it is nice to see many of you in person for many of our programs.

The next few months promise to continue and be busy months at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. We welcomed three candidates identified by the Rabbi Search Committee to spend a Shabbat with us to have a chance to meet them as part of the interview process. It was very important to us that many of you participate in these events so that we can get input from a large number of our members. In the coming months we will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat and Purim. We are gearing up for Mishloach Manot and we hope to have many of you participating in this as well.

Now, a Shabbat Kiddush, a Friday night meal or any other activity that happens at the Forest Hills Jewish Center happens because many of you step up and volunteer to run these events. If you are already involved, I want to extend many thanks to you for your efforts. If you have not yet volunteered, I hope that you will consider stepping up to help and I thank you in advance!

Hazzan's notes, continued from previous page.

I took from it some important lessons. The first is that it's a tremendous gift to have the experience of living in a Jewish world that does *not* conform to our preconceived notions – a gift that I would wish on most anyone who is committed to living a Jewish life. A second revelation, perhaps more significant, was that being part of a Jewish community, indeed *any* group endeavor, requires both acceptance and sacrifice. No community can be perfect as seen through the eyes of only one person, or from the perspective of any single family. Choosing to be part of a community, for both congregant and clergy, requires us not only to accept things that we might not completely love at first, but also to *experience* – as a community – new beautiful ways of expressing our Judaism.

Hazzan Randall Levin

Our planning for this year's gala event is taking shape. We are very happy to announce that this year's honoree will be Carl S. Koerner. Carl has been the wind beneath the wings of the Forest Hill Jewish Center Renewal Project. He has been working for more than 20 years to build our future home. This search is nearing its conclusion and it is the right time to celebrate Carl and recognize his commitment to the future of the FHJC.

This year we will also be giving a special award "Shomrei Emunah" (Keepers of the Faith) to Barbara and Jerry Klibanoff. This award will be presented to them at the Gala. The Gala will take place on March 4th, 2023. I am looking forward to seeing you there!!!!

There is more happening at The Forest Hills Jewish Center! Please check for our announcements!

I will end by wishing you all a Healthy and Happy 2023.

Stay warm and safe!
B'Shalom
Romi Narov

DON'T MISS IT!
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023
4:00PM

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO
RABBI GERALD AND ROBIN
SKOLNIK

PERFORMANCES BY
NAGILAH
HAZZAN RANDALL LEVIN AND
EMILY LANDA LEVIN
THE FHJC HOUSE BAND

RSVP link coming soon!



NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher

Winter, the coldest season of the year is associated with plunging temperatures and snowy/icy weather and its impact is significant. Usually, winter symbolism refers to a time of self-reflection and a time of transition. Winter has the longest dark hours and can feel longer than the other seasons. Most people feel that winter is pretty drab. It's understandable; it's cold with very little daylight, short days, and even longer nights. Winter is a time when some animals go into hibernation. Winter is a season to sit back and think. Think about the past year. Think about what you have achieved and what you have planned. This is also a time to plan for the future and prepare for new beginnings ahead.

If you look at winter solely through a negative lens, that's all you will see. If you examine it more specifically, though, you will be able to see that, like all other things, winter has its perks. The winter solstice brings shifts, and this is when we start to see the biggest changes in our littlest learners.

The Hebrew word for offspring is "zerah" which means seed. The Early Childhood Program families have entrusted their "seeds" to us. Our objective is to give our children nourishment as we embrace them for who they are. We water. We provide sunshine. We allow children to make choices; we work collaboratively with them in the learning process; we help them to be curious and question, and we encourage critical thinking and problem solving. We also realize that just because we may not see growth right away, that doesn't mean nothing is happening. Often, we don't notice the small stages in a tree until it reaches its full maturity. This, too, holds true with our children.

Together we must allow each child to blossom and grow at their own pace. We must make sure that all of our seeds are deeply rooted just as our children become deeply rooted in the love of learning. Together we will cultivate the growth of our children's physical and cognitive growth to make sure they reach their full potential.

Lynn Fisher



FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

Award Winning Nursery Program

Our educational methods encourage children to become confident, independent, responsible, and creative thinkers, as well as help them develop interpersonal skills that support the productive years of learning that lie ahead.

TODDLER PROGRAM

Through our rich Judaic curriculum, children participate in exploratory activities that use all their senses to experience their world through a play-based environment. They will begin to develop communication, social, physical and problem-solving skills.

Early Drop-Off and Late Pick-Up Options Available

Children in our Toddler/3K programs have priority in our 3K/Pre-K for all programs.

Nursery School Registration is soon upon us for the 2023-2024 School Year

Watch for Summer Camp 2023 Registration!

Please contact Lynn Fisher at (718) 263-7000 ext. 220 or nursery@fhjc.org

Catch the Early Bird Specials!

www.fhjc.org/nursery-school

FREE **3-K FOR ALL** **PRE-K FOR ALL**

DOE approved secular curricula. Optional morning Judaic enrichment classes.

Our Summer Programs for 2, 3, and 4 year olds offer the opportunity for fun, friendships, and exploration.





EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Jessica Braginsky



One of the major goals of Jewish education is to instill in our students a strong Jewish identity. As a teacher and a thoughtful Jew myself, I have learned that this goal is complex. Within it there are, at times, competing interests and world views that are in tension with each other.

Moshe Halbertal posits that there are three ways to look at Jewish identity. The first iteration is the idea of Judaism as a tribe, a family. You are Jewish because that is who you are. This is illustrated in the book of Genesis where we tell our family story. God tells Abraham to go forth and God will make of Abraham and Sarah a great nation. No particular beliefs or values are described here to be included in this "nation," if you go along for the ride, you are Jewish.

The second iteration is the covenantal Jewish identity. You are Jewish because of what you do or believe. This is the Judaism of Exodus, when we receive the Torah. It is a Judaism that is aspirational and purposeful; content matters. We are Jews because we act according to the laws of the Torah. The third iteration is a new idea of Jewish identity that Halbertal calls "cosmopolitan Judaism." This is an identity based upon principals of tikkun olam. A cosmopolitan Jew exhibits her identity by forefronting her social values of compassion and social justice because it is connected with the Jewish position as a marginalized group. To paraphrase the Torah, we must act to protect the vulnerable because we Jews were vulnerable outsiders.

Considering these three views, how do we teach to instill each student with a strong Jewish identity? We endeavor to balance all three. When we teach about Israel and our connection to Jews around the world, we are connecting our students to the idea of Judaism as a tribe. When we teach about the rituals of Shabbat, we are highlighting the covenantal identity. And when we make sandwiches for the Commonpoint Food Pantry, we are acting as cosmopolitan Jews and strengthening our students' Jewish ethics.

I would love to hear your thoughts on how these three views of Jewish identity play out in your life.

Jessica

De-Stress with FHJC

Mondays, 5pm via Zoom

Warm company and professional support from Dr. Mitchell Frank and Ariela Frieder, M.D. Come share your concerns and hopes. See the FHJC listserv for the link.



HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP



The Hebrew Literature Group will hold its fourth meeting of the year 5783 on **Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 5:00 pm**. A Zoom link will go out as part of a listserv announcement as the date approaches. We are reading and discussing the biblical book of Job, using a new translation by Professor Edward Greenstein (it's helpful, but not required, to have the book by Professor Greenstein). It's been fascinating thus far and promises to continue to be as we move forward in the book. Even if you've missed the first meetings, it's never too late to catch up. So come join us!

Mitchell Frank

Junior Congregation
 Shabbat morning, March 11
 Grades 2-6 | 10:30-Noon



ADULT EDUCATION

JUDY GOSTL & DAVID SNYDER

Our Adult Education programming is about halfway through its year. We have had some wonderful lectures, and turnout has been high. So, we on the Adult Education Committee thank you for supporting what we are providing. In the next two months we have more wonderful programs coming to FHJC with the help of our fellow congregants.

March will begin with the next installment of the Hebrew Literature Group's examination of the Book of Job on March 2 at 5:00pm on Zoom. Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor and Jack Gostl both present online in March. Also in March will be the first in-person Scholar-in-Residence weekend since the onset of the pandemic (this programming will also be simulcast on Zoom). Save March 24 & 25 when we will welcome Dr. Daniel Matt into our congregation to discuss Jewish mysticism and the Zohar. Save April 30 for another exiting interview done by Lenny Picker. Watch for the fliers for each event and please register in a timely manner.

Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor – Monday, March 13, 2023 - Chana's Song and the Triumph of a King: After Chana dedicates her longed-for son to Temple service at Shiloh, she recites a Psalm about kingship. Scholars have long wondered about its purpose. I think I may have the answer.

Jack Gostl – Monday, March 20, 2023 - The Role of Psychiatry in the Holocaust - The perception of the Holocaust, especially among non-Jews, is that an anti-Semite came into power in Germany and killed six million Jews. While correct, the emotional content of that number, and the individual stories behind it, obscure a considerable amount of important information. Quite literally the trees obscure the forest. While doing research for a future documentary on the Holocaust, information turned up showing the involvement of the German psychiatric establishment, and the pseudo-science of eugenics, as major underlying causes of the Holocaust. These root causes can be traced to the 19th century and, unfortunately, some remain in place today. A word of caution: This presentation includes words, pictures and film clips that are disturbing.

Sunday April 30 at 10:00AM – Lenny Picker interviews Rabbi Michael Strassfeld. They will discuss Rabbi Strassfeld's new book: *Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century*.



Shabbat Kiddushim are back and we need your help!

If you can contribute time and effort, please consider joining the Kiddush Committee. Many hands make light work. Contact Jonathan Kastin if you would like to be involved or have any questions – jkastin@mac.com or 917-789-0490.

If you can contribute funds to sponsor a kiddush; full sponsorship cost is \$1,200. An individual can sponsor or a group of people can sponsor together. Please also consider celebrating your birthdays and other special events by contributing \$36 (or more) to the kiddush fund, and your simcha will be acknowledged on that Shabbat. Any amount is appreciated and will be collected in a kiddush fund for monthly kiddushim.



Click to contribute!

Thank you!

Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush:

February 11: Romi Narov in honor of the naming of her granddaughter

March 11: Randi Zwick-Marks and Michael Marks in honor of Eliana's Bat Mitzvah

March 18: Gary Kerzner in honor of Rae's special birthday.



SISTERHOOD

Rae These Kerzner

The Power of Song

In Memory of Lisa Geffen Schlesinger, Z"l

The mother of our former Sisterhood President and incoming Presiding Officer, Debra Weil, passed recently. As Debra was sitting shiva, we offered to write this column to honor her mother's memory.



Lisa Geffen Schlesinger was indomitable. She was active in her synagogue and was a past president of her Sisterhood at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn. She served as Torah Fund Director of BQLI and was also active in Women's League. The daughter and granddaughter of Rabbis, she was very proud of her heritage and her yichus. But most of all, Lisa loved singing.

As Debra wrote in the eulogy for her mother:

"My mother knew all the Jewish songs for every holiday - Atzei Zetim Omdim, Zum Gali Gali, and my personal favorite, the Frog Song for Pesach (which we sang at our Seder long into adulthood). She sang in the Temple Choir and instilled in me a love for singing along with services (we would sing along with the choir during the High Holidays and always on Shabbat). During this last week in the hospital, even when she appeared to be out of it, all we had to do was start singing and she was there! Singing at the top of her lungs, even when she was having difficulty breathing while at rest. She sang along with the Zoom services, she sang with each of her Israeli grandchildren when they called, and last Tuesday night we sang for almost an hour."

Singing must have given Lisa tremendous comfort, support and solace. Somehow, she found the strength to sing even as her body was failing. Perhaps the angels were singing with her.

How much more can music help us during the rest of our lives? It can inspire us and elevate us. Singing can unite us and give us strength.

May we draw inspiration from Lisa's life, love of family and dedication to Judaism.

May her memory be a blessing.
Rae Kerzner and Judy Gostl
Debra Weil, Presiding Officer



Let's share a Shabbat experience for tots - seven year-olds and families.

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.

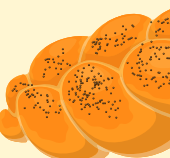
**11:30 AM-12:15 PM
Feb 11, March 4, March 18,
April 1, April 22, May 6, May 20**



**Come Celebrate with Friends
Singing, dancing, praying & story telling with
Morah Riki.**

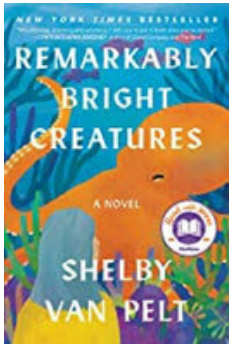
Shabbat treats and grape juice for all!

**10:45-12:00 in the Crystal Room
Feb 18, March 25, April 29, May 27**



SISTERHOOD DAYTIME READERS

February 16 | 2:00 PM | Zoom



For the next Sisterhood Daytime Readers we will read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. This is “a charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow’s unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.”

Save Thursday, February 16 at 2:00PM to join us for this discussion.

SISTERHOOD PRESENTS HEALTHY COOKING

Jackie Topol will be teaching healthy cooking again after a long absence. When she lived in Forest hills and was able to do in-person events, she did wonderful programs for Sisterhood. Please save Wednesday, March 15 at 8:00pm for a Zoom cooking program. Watch for the flier and please reply promptly with your reservation.



Parenting Is Hard – We Are Here To Help

In-person Facilitated Parent Partnership Support Group, Monday, April 3 at 8:00 PM

Parenting can be the most rewarding job a person does but it can also be the most difficult. When our children struggle, we often feel their frustration and their pain, as well. Between changing world dynamics, the wake of the COVID pandemic, social pressures and ever-increasing mental health conditions, our children are faced with numerous challenges every day.

If your child is struggling in school, with friends, at home, or if they are showing signs of mental health needs, please join our new support group for parents. We'll be addressing the impact of these issues on our children and how we, as parents, can take care of ourselves while we help them work their way through.

This in-person group will have its next meeting on Monday, April 3, at 8:00 pm and continue to meet the first Monday of every month. Our facilitator is Aaron Yavelberg, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a teacher in our Religious School. He has fifteen years of experience working with children and families in the mental health field and is excited to lend his knowledge to the parents in our synagogue community.

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER



PURIM

MARCH 5
11:30-1:30

(Re)discover art making as an intergenerational space to build community and caring relationships

MASK MAKING

Masks are the image we share with the world, knowing that there's always something underneath. Join us in exploring our relationships to masks—and what they reveal and conceal about ourselves—through making our very own masks. We'll be playing with recycled materials, as well as traditional art supplies.

This is a space for all ages—no previous art experience is necessary.

RSVP & MORE INFORMATION



MAZAL TOV ON YOUR BAT MITZVAH



Eliana Marks

Bat Mitzvah, March 11, 2023

Eliana Marks is very excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at the Forest Hills Jewish Center! She has been part of FHJC her whole life and has attended classes in the Nursery and Religious schools since she was two years old. Eliana is a 7th grade Honors student at Halsey Junior High in Rego Park. She loves to dance and has been taking classes since she was two. She is currently on the Competition Dance Team at All Star Studios in Forest Hills. Eliana is artistic and enjoys crafts. She spends her summers at Perlman Camp in Lake Como, Pennsylvania which has become one her favorite places to be. For her Mitzvah project, Eliana chose to give to her camp community by updating the siddurim used for Shabbat services and the materials used for Birkat. She will design a new cover and have the siddurim bound as part of her project.

FHJC Chesed - Thank you to all the volunteers!

Thank You

Thank you to all those who donated toiletries, packed toiletry bags and made sandwiches for our neighbors in need. The Commonpoint Food Pantry guests got more than 200 sandwiches and a minivan full of toiletries, diapers and more!

Thank you to Jaci Flug and her School Board Subcommittee, Yonah Kirschner and Randi Zwick-Marks. Thank you to Oded Horodniceanu for transporting all the boxes. Thank you to Diana Kashunsky, the Religious School Program Administrator and Jessica Braginsky for event coordination.



Play in the Gym

Shabbat afternoon fun in the FHJC gym!

Toddlers - 5th Grade -- 1:00 - 4:00 PM

6th Grade and Up -- 4:00 - 6:00 PM



This is not a drop-off event. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar for our
**Passover Food Packing
Chesed Event
on April 2**



Acknowledgements

PULPIT FUND

- Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in celebration of **Madison Pollack's** Bat Mitzvah
- Sharon & Stephen Clements** – in honor of **Al Kingsley's** special birthday
- Pauline Clements** – in honor of **Al Kingsley's** 80th birthday
- Francie & Stephen Teitelbaum** – in honor of the engagement of **Felicia & Ben Leeman's** daughter, **Rebecca** to **Maor Gordon-Guterman**
- Laurie Lax & Eric Kober** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
- Eric Kober** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
- Eric Kober** – in gratitude to **Rae Kerzner** for honors received
- Deborah Weber** – in gratitude to **Dr. Arnold Weg** for all his good care & concern
- Esther Feldman** – in memory of **Stanley Greenwald**
- Esther Feldman** – in memory of **Elias Strausser (48th yearzeit)**
- Anne Sullivan** – in memory of Stanley Greenwald
- Norman Eliaser** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Sarah & Stephen Markowitz** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Lisa & Michael Abrams** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Monica, Ezra, Caroline & Evelyn Lagnado** – in memory of **Jenny Friedlich (18th yearzeit)**
- Anita Miller, Dr Larry Miller and Wendy Lurie** – in memory of **Maurice Miller (yearzeit)**
- Lili Bloch, Gloria Bloch Golan and Family** in memory of **Sam Block (yearzeit)**

KIDDUSH FUND

- Judy & Matt Beizer** – in honor of **Al Kingsley's** 80th birthday
- Monica & Ezra Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Rae Kerzner** for honors received

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

- Toby & Allan Silvera** – in honor of **Madison Pollack's** Bat Mitzvah
- Carol & Norman Guttman** – in honor of **Madison Pollack's** Bat Mitzvah
- Nancy & Richard Chase** – in honor of the birth of **Romi Narov's** grandson
- Carrie & George Leifer** – in honor of the birth of **Romi Narov's** grandson
- Carrie & George Leifer** – in honor of the birth of **Romi Narov's** granddaughter
- Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of the marriage of **Sarah Braginsky** to **Mickey Ruddy**
- Pauline & Mark Raphael** – in honor of **Al Kingsley's** special birthday
- Lisa & Michael Abrams** – in honor of the engagement of **Felicia & Ben Leeman's** daughter, **Rebecca** to **Maor Gordon-Guterman**
- Monica Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
- Pauline & Mark Raphael** – in memory of **Sandy Zalbe's** dear friend, **Elaine Vogel**
- Rita & Michael Lieberman** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Lillian & Bill Regen** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- Francie & Stephen Teitelbaum** – in memory of **Debra Weil's** mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**

JACK VOGEL FUND

- Robin & Glenn Rothbort** – in memory of **Elaine Vogel**
- Rita & Michael Lieberman** – in memory of **Elaine Vogel**

Life Cycles

Mazal Tov מזל טוב

- ...to those in our Center family who are celebrating a simcha:
- to **Randi Zwick-Marks and Michael Marks** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, **Eliana**
- to **Lorain and Warren Wankoff** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Sienna Rose Covitt**
- to **Ellen Jacobs** on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, **Cooper Isaac Jacobs**, son of **Jesse and Joanna Murstein Jacobs**
- to **Al Kingsley** on the occasion of his special birthday
- to **Rae Theise-Kerzner** on the occasion of her special birthday

Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

- ...may God grant comfort and consolation to those who have lost a loved one.
- to **Debra Weil** on the loss of her dear mother, **Lisa Geffen Schlesinger**
- to **Marilyn Hertz** on the loss of her dear mother, **Celia Levinsky**
- to **David, Cary, and Beth** on the loss of their dear mother, **Elaine Vogel**
- to **Raquel Greenwald** on the loss of her beloved husband **Stanley**
- to **Bonnie Chernin** on the loss of her dear mother, **Lorraine Kaplan**

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:
Stanley Greenwald and **Elaine Vogel**
May their memories be for a blessing

See below for special code for FHJC members to participate at no charge!

We are excited to announce the full year of ScholarStream learning in 5783! Beginning in August and spanning all the way to Shavuot, Conservative Movement seminaries and institutions are partnering to offer seven series that will bring our community face-to-face with the brightest and most engaging scholars our movement has to offer.

Series #5: How the Conservative Movement's Law Committee Impacts our Lives Today

Wednesdays, February 8, 15, 22 and March 1 at 8 PM ET

Series #6: Living our Values: Social Justice and Social Action

Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29 at 8 PM ET

Click [here](#) for the link for FHJC members to register for any of the seven ScholarStream series offered this year, spanning August 2022 to May 2023. **Coupon Code: FHJC5783** Enter this coupon code on the registration page under "Event Fees," then click "Apply." That will allow you to register for each of the series we are sponsoring at **no cost**. Please note that the coupon code is case sensitive.

ONGOING EVENTS

Saturday afternoons: Open Gym - 1-4PM (Toddlers-5th Grade);
4-6PM (6th grade and up)

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

Mondays at 1:30PM: Study with Rabbi Skolnik *on haitus*.

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

Wednesdays at 4:45PM: The FHJC Watch Party

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

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




YOUTH GROUP

Sundays
March 5, 19 & 26
FHJC Youth Lounge
12:15-1:30 PM

Tween Youth Group
for 6-7th graders

Youth Group
for 3-5th graders



Sisterhood & SURJE Book Discussion

Thursday, May 4
8:00 PM (ZOOM)

Sisterhood is joining up with SURJE to present another book discussion that covers difficult topics of modern society.

Save Thursday, May 4 at 8:00PM for Golem Girl by Riva Lehrer. This is a memoir of growing up disabled, Jewish and gay. She explores the "othering" and dismissal of her as a full person that she encountered in her life. Debbie Bochner will moderate this discussion.

Watch for the flier which will be posted in April.

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