



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

# Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

November-December 2023 / Heshvan-Kislev-Tevet 5784 / Vol. LXXIX No. 2

THE OFFICERS &  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER  
INVITE YOU TO THE INSTALLATION OF

## Rabbi Daniel Graber

November 10-11, 2023  
27 Heshvan 5784

Friday, November 10th

5:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat in the  
Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser Sanctuary

6:30 pm: Shabbat Dinner in the  
Heller Family Ballroom (by reservation.)

Saturday, November 11th

9:00 am: Shabbat services in the  
Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser Sanctuary

Installation Officiant: Rabbi Steven Graber

*Kiddush Lunch to follow services*



FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER  
THE REFORM TEMPLE OF FOREST HILLS

invite you to join us for an

## EVENING FOR ISRAEL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 6:00 PM  
FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER  
106-06 QUEENS BLVD.



6:00 PM  
DAIRY DINNER

6:45 PM  
UPDATE FROM  
**ISRAEL NITZAN**  
FORMER ACTING CONSUL  
GENERAL OF ISRAEL

**RSVP**

SUGGESTED MINIMUM DONATION:  
\$18 PER PERSON.  
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Thanks to the generosity of IZ Catering, 100% of the  
proceeds will fill urgent needs in Israel through the  
American Jewish Committee (AJC) Emergency Fund



CO-SPONSORED BY  
FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER  
THE REFORM TEMPLE OF FOREST HILLS



RTFH  
The Reform Temple  
of Forest Hills

SAVE THE DATE   
**MASSIVE RALLY  
& MARCH ON WASHINGTON**  
TUESDAY, NOV 14 IN DC



## Forest Hills Interfaith Thanksgiving Service SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 4:00PM

The beautiful Thanksgiving Interfaith Service  
is taking place at FHJC! Join family, friends, and  
neighbors at the FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

Feel the joy of being  
together once again. FHJC's  
Nagilah and Youth will be  
singing!  
Collation to follow.





# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## Rabbi Daniel Graber

Dear Friends,

On October 7th a tragedy happened that reintroduced for many of us the darkest times in Jewish history. The Hamas terror attack and the resulting war have exposed antisemitism around the world, and make many Jewish people feel less safe. My own grandmother instructed me to walk around with a baseball cap instead of my typical kippah so that I would be less of a target. We are living in a dark time.

But the Jewish people are not strangers to dark times. It was a dark time when the Israelites were in Egypt. And it was a dark time when the Babylonians exiled the kingdom of Israel. It was dark when the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. It was dark in the Crusades, and in the pogroms and in the Shoah.

And when it gets dark, the Jewish people act as a source of light to each other and to the world. This is one of the insights we can glean from filling up the lights on the Hanukkah (Hanukkah menorah) so that there is one more each night than the last. As Hanukkah goes on, the night gets longer and longer and darker and colder. And the Jewish people compensate by adding more light to the darkness.

This encouraging note is taught to children (and adults) with the Israeli children's Hanukkah song, "Banu Choshech Legaresh - We have come to banish the darkness":

English:	Transliteration:	Hebrew:
We have come to vanquish the dark	Banu cho-she-ch leh-ga-rehsh	בָּאֲנוּ חוֹשֶׁךְ לְגַרֵשׁ
In our hands light and flame	Beya-deinu ohr va'esh	בְּיָדֵינוּ אוֹר וָאֵשׁ
Each of us is a small light	Kol echad hu ohr katan	כָּל אֶחָד הוּא אוֹר קָטָן
But together we are dazzling	V'chu-lanu ohr eitan	וְכָלֵנוּ אוֹר אֵיתָן
Turn away darkness,	Surah cho-shech hal-ah sh'chor	סוּרָה חוֹשֶׁךְ הָלֵאָה שְׁחֹר
Be gone shadows	Surah mipnei haor	סוּרָה מִפְּנֵי הָאוֹר
Run away from our light		

In these dark times, the more we are together, and the more we are actively spreading light into the world, the brighter we shine and the more of the darkness which can seem enveloping, will be overcome and negated. When we gather for Shabbat, or learn together, or have our kids play together, share a meal, and feel connected, the more support we build into our community for every person. Simple phone calls can be a big relief.

We have also created opportunities at the synagogue to band together to support each other and to support Israel. I was very touched by the sharing that occurred with our trained mental health professionals for people to get how they are feeling off of their chests and gain tools for coping. I am impressed by the thousands of kidnapped flyers FHJC members spread around the area. And I am hopeful that we we continue to band together for more of these projects, like the Israel donation dinner on Nov 20th with a prominent speaker.

The more we are together, the more light we share with each other and the more darkness we keep at bay. The more we lend our joint light to the world to help, the less room there is for darkness. Come be together, be with friends, and be the light.

Bivracha - with blessings,  
Rabbi Daniel Graber

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# NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

## Hazzan Randall Levin

At this time last year, I wrote about different ways Jews express thanksgiving in our tradition, and included an anecdote about Rabbi Avraham Danzig, who held a yearly seudat hoda'ah (meal of Thanksgiving) to commemorate his family having miraculously survived a fire that killed thirty-one people in his village: *Danzig felt that a meal of thanksgiving was an appropriate way to acknowledge just how precious and precarious life is.*

How different those words ring to me now, imagining our brethren in Israel, grieving for their loved ones, experiencing existential fear, and watching their children and grandchildren called into service to defend their country, their homes, and their very lives! I find myself again seeking connections between the upcoming Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and the celebration of Hanukkah. This year, the Thanksgiving celebration takes place barely two weeks before Hanukkah, and the connections between the two observances are profound and yet also completely different. Two themes from the Jewish holiday, giving thanks and a sense of nationhood, or common purpose, also predominate the American celebration of Thanksgiving. From its inception, Thanksgiving has been a holiday that gives Americans of nearly any religious inclination an opportunity to express gratitude and acknowledge our great privilege to live in a free (albeit imperfect) country, informed by values of individual liberty, religious freedom, and the rule of law – all values consonant with the Jewish religion (and ultimately foundational in the governmental structure of Israel). Thanksgiving also celebrates the common Jewish values of gratefulness, hospitality, and generosity to those in need. On Hanukkah we are taught that after rededicating the Temple the Israelites literally printed their own money (minted coins) as a symbol of their independence. This is said to be the origin for giving “gelt” on Hanukkah. Money was given to Jewish children in order to give to their teachers to distribute as charity. Thus the gelt represents both the spirit of freedom and also the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Just as the rabbis sought to redirect our attention from the Hasmonean victory to the miracle of the oil burning for eight days, Thanksgiving represents our own, uniquely American, humanitarian pause from strife and disagreement. In 1863, in the midst of a bloody Civil War, President Lincoln invoked the spirit of Al Hanissim in his Thanksgiving Proclamation, “To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.” Lincoln continues, “No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.”

The horrific attack in Israel and painful strains of anti-semitism here at home and around the world are distressing to us all, but we cannot let it devour us. Rather we must, especially at this time, bond together with one another and with the broader faith community to give thanks to our Creator for our many blessings, and to pray for peace in Israel and around the world. We must pray for Israelis and Palestinians alike, and for the elimination of those evil forces which surround and enslave us all.

Hazzan Levin

## SAVE THE DATE DAVEN & DINE

**Celebrate Shabbat Hanukkah with FHJC**  
**Friday, December 8, 2023**  
**Watch for details.**





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Gary Kerzner**

### Making (not just praying for) A Hanukkah Miracle

I'm writing this nine days after hearing of the unspeakable brutalities that Israelis suffered at the hands of Hamas terrorists. Much has been learned about the horrific, inhumane acts committed by Hamas and, undoubtedly, more will be revealed. Yet we can expect that the world will quickly turn from sympathizing with Israel to comforting the Palestinians of Gaza in the wake of an Israeli counterattack that will surely come. We know that public media, including the *NY Times* and *Washington Post*, will become echo chambers for Hamas propagandists who call for Israel to be punished for committing war crimes. Yet there is a comparison to be made with the Maccabees of old and their struggle against the Syrian Greeks. Then, too, Jews were terrorized and killed by an intolerant foe for practicing their faith. It took a dedicated, resolute force to fight and vanquish the evil that came from the north. In similar fashion, the dedicated, resolute members of Israel's Defense Forces must now fight and vanquish the evil that has risen from the south and may possibly come from the north, as well.

How did the time of the Maccabees, almost 2,200 years ago, differ from today? For one thing, we are much more integrated with and, to an extent, dependent upon other nations. They profit from Jewish values, genius, industriousness and ingenuity. I've not heard anyone refuse to take a polio vaccine because Jonas Salk was Jewish, or demand that we rewrite the laws of physics to remove Einstein's

discoveries. At the same time, we find a great deal to admire and learn from the art, music, science and values of other cultures. It's a two-way street. We're also becoming more tolerant of other lifestyles. The term LGBTQ+ no longer causes people to scratch their heads in wonder. However, the world appears to be becoming less tolerant of Jews.

Over the next few weeks and months, as Israel exterminates Hamas terrorists and, hopefully, frees the hostages, many of our allies will come under intense pressure to criticize and even condemn the Jewish state. The time to write to our elected municipal, state and federal officials and urge them to remain strong in their support of Israel, is NOW. PLEASE TAKE ACTION! Donate money and time, write letters, attend demonstrations, talk to neighbors and friends who need to understand why their support for Israel is so critical. Make the right noise and help people recognize that evil cannot be ignored; it must be actively fought and vanquished. Be a Maccabee! They led by example and inspired the Jewish nation to achieve victory. We must do no less.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Gary Kerzner, President

## Lights & Latkes

Tuesday, December 12, 6-7 pm



## Scholastic Book Fair



### FHJC BOOK & VENDOR FAIR

Sunday, December 3  
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Nursery Only: Monday, December 4—9:00 AM – Noon  
FHJC Heller Ballroom

Please bring your own bags if you can.



# EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

## Jessica Braginsky

### The Power of Community

Saying kaddish for my mother since February has reinforced for me the power of community in Jewish life. Hearing the response by the kehilla, the other congregants, to my recitation of the Kaddish Yatom, Mourners Kaddish, both buoys and comforts me. I feel that I have been held by people who understand what I am going through.

I was reminded of this by two things that I heard recently. One congregant reached out to me to see if I had a connection to any college groups that were working to support Israel since the invasion by Hamas. This person's son was away from home and he was now aching to be in community with fellow Jews who felt as he did. Another FHJ Cer told me about the lukewarm reaction she received to comments she made to her non-Jewish coworkers about her anguish over the death of innocent civilians in Israel. She felt the need to connect to people who "got it;" to feel that her emotions were valid.

In times of strong emotions, both sadness (saying Mourners Kaddish) and joy (saying the Sheva Brachot at a wedding), Judaism prescribes that we come together as a community; as a minyan. Recently, positive relationships has been found to be one of the five elements that can help us flourish. There is a reason, as Rabbi Jill Jacobs says, we do not call ourselves the religion of Judaism but the "People of Israel." Community matters to Jews.

At FHJC we value and nurture our community. From support groups to book clubs to Open Gym, we sing together, pray together and play together. Being in community is what FHJC is here for. Whether you seek out the community at services on Shabbat, on-line at an educational event or doing acts of chesed at a cemetery clean up, the FHJC community is here for you.

In Religious School our students have the opportunity to be with their Jewish community, other Jews their age. This is a much rarer occurrence in Forest Hills than you may imagine. During this time of crisis we have taken the community-building opportunities that are always built into our time together and leaned on them to provide support, calm and comfort to our students. We have used various modalities to process the crisis, such as art, discussion and stories. Our aim is to inform, comfort and empower our students. We want them to know the facts at an age-appropriate level. We want them to know that they are safe and that Am Yisrael Chai, Israel will not be defeated. We want them to know that they can make a difference through tzedakah and acts of chesed. And most of all, we want them to know, feel, and believe that they are an integral part of the Jewish community and act on that belief.



**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  
November 18, December 2, 16**



**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  
November 11, December 9**



# NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

## Lynn Fisher

I wrote this article late in September and it is even more relevant today, in the situation in which we as Jews, and supporters of Israel find ourselves.

Racism is an issue that affects societies around the world, regardless of faith or culture. Judaism is a religion deeply rooted in principles of justice, compassion, and equality, and racism stands as a clearly unacceptable belief. The Torah provides us with valuable guidance on this matter.

The Torah teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God, emphasizing the worth and equality of every individual. This principle makes it clear that racism and discrimination go against the core values of Judaism.

Recently, I encountered a situation where someone close to me faced overt racism. It was an unpleasant reminder that racism exists, in our immediate surroundings and at any time. As an ally, my initial response was anger, and rightly so. But it also served as a wake-up call, highlighting the urgency of addressing this issue.

It is our responsibility to instill the values of acceptance, tolerance, and support in our littlest learners from an early age. Children must understand that differences in race, ethnicity, or background should never be the basis for discrimination or prejudice. Children are inherently compassionate, and by nurturing these qualities, we can lay a strong foundation for a future where racism has no place. Through age-appropriate conversations, books, and activities, we can encourage young children to embrace differences, appreciate diversity, and stand up against discrimination.

Teaching acceptance begins at home and in our communities. As educators, we will work together with families to communicate the values of justice and equality that are central to Judaism and many other faiths. We should nurture our young learners to embrace diversity and promote inclusivity. By fostering a sense of empathy and curiosity about other cultures and backgrounds, we empower children to be ambassadors of change who celebrate the uniqueness of every individual they encounter. Ultimately, as responsible adults, it's our duty to equip the next generation with the tools to build a more inclusive and tolerant world.

## HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

### Mitchell Frank

In the Hebrew Literature Group's first 5784 meeting on October 12th, Dan Korb led an English-language session covering three works of world literature that bear on our theme last year, the *Book of Job*. Discussing Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, Alistair Macleash's *JB*, and Robert Blake's art depicting Job alongside his poem, "The Tyger," we encountered Job from new and fascinating perspectives. What an amazing opening to our new year!

Our theme for the coming year's meetings was announced in a recent flyer to be the evolution of the Hebrew language during the second temple period from the language of the Bible to Mishnaic Hebrew. In response to the war in Israel, we are tabling this topic for now and here announcing our new theme for the upcoming year: poems (and other short works), ancient and new, on the topic of Jewish resistance and hope. The plan is to cover two short works in every meeting, one ancient or pre-modern and the other, modern Israeli. Our next meeting will be via Zoom (Meeting ID: 895 6542 2025) on Thursday, November 16th, at 5:30 pm. Flyers will go out as the date approaches with Zoom links.

We look forward to your participation!  
Mitchell Frank

The season to

# GIVE

## BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, November 26, 2023

10:00am – 2:30pm

### Forest Hills Jewish Center

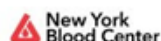
106-06 Queens Blvd. Forest Hills, NY 11375  
Crystal Room

To schedule an appointment scan the QR code

Or

[Click here to schedule an appointment](#)

Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Visit [nyc.gov/covid19](https://nyc.gov/covid19) for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



800.933.BLOOD - nybc.org #nybloodcenter



## ADULT EDUCATION

### Judy Gostl and David Snyder

Adult education kicked off the year with the Hebrew Literature Group meetings to finish study of the Book of Job. They are moving, in light of the current war in Israel, to **Hebrew Poems of Resistance and Hope**. The next session will be on **Thursday, November 16 at 5:30**. Watch for the flier for more information.

Rabbi Graber has started his **Parsha Class** every Monday at 8:00PM in person and on Zoom with Parshat Bereishit. It continues every Monday night looking at the weekly parsha. You are welcome every week – join us when you can. No registration is required for this class. Either come to the Little Synagogue or use the regular FHJC Zoom link to join in.

The Adult Education program, **Shabbaton at Home and at Shul**, has recruited 9 members to teach this year. The first of these is already being advertised. **Mitchell Frank** will be teaching at the very beginning of November, and he will start the year off strongly. His topic is ***What Do the Five Megillot Tell Us About Jewish Life in the Second Temple Period***.

Next up is our newest program – **The History Readers Book Group**. They are reading *The Betrayal of the Duchess: The Scandal That Unmade the Bourbon Monarchy and Made France Modern* by Maurice Samuels. Their first meeting on Zoom is Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 8:00PM. **Click [HERE](#) to register and receive the Zoom link**. The group will pick their next book together.

Then we start with the additional eight **Shabbaton at Home and at Shul** presenters. Three of the eight have chosen to teach in Shul after Kiddush. They will teach in the Ben Zion Bokser Sanctuary so that it can be a hybrid event, as services are now. In order for this to work, we need Adult Education supporters to make donations to the Kiddush Committee and to note that the donation is in support of the Shabbaton in Shul Kiddushim.

**Jonathan Kastin**, of FHJC Kiddush Committee fame and recent Hattan Torah, will teach about **Sidney Morgenbesser and the Jewish Style in Contemporary Philosophy**. Save **Wednesday evening, December 6 at 8:00 PM** for a Zoom. The flier will explain more about this topic.

**Jay Luger** will be the first of the three members who prefer to teach after Shabbat Kiddush. His topic will be ***Fugitive Slave Laws: An historical perspective***. This will be a specific narrow presentation on purpose. Watch for the flier for more details and join us in shul and on Zoom on **Shabbat, December 16**.

**Josh Lowy** is also teaching on Shabbat after the Kiddush in person and on Zoom. Save **January 20** when Josh will teach ***Human Consciousness, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Humanity***. This is a discussion of the origin and development of consciousness in the brain, expansion to Artificial Intelligence and its ramifications for society. The discussion will reference connection to religion and the divine. A science background is not required.

**Azi Graeber** is next on our calendar. His topic is **Major Rabbinic Disputes in European Jewish History**. Eastern European Jewish history is replete with rabbinical feuds. Sometimes these quarrels took place by letter or at the pulpit, other times in the streets (including literal stone-throwing at times). In one particularly dramatic and drawn-out war of words, a prominent rabbi and his followers accused another of allegiance to notorious false messiah Shabbetai Zevi. Competition over communal territory even led to the occasional riot. In this survey of famous rabbinic

rumblings, we will dive into several such examples from the 17th through the early 20th centuries. Save **Tuesday, February 13 at 8:00PM** for the Zoom.

**David Zucker** will be looking at Rabbi Menassah Ben Israel, the renowned scholar who petitioned Cromwell and attended the Whitehall Conference in December 1655. David is fascinated by this period in history. Save Tuesday, **March 5 at 8:00PM**

**David Zipkowitz** is up next, and he has also chosen to teach on Shabbat after the Kiddush in person and on Zoom. He will explore the origin of the concept of **“diminishing our joy” when reciting the plagues** during the Seder. His presentation will be on **Shabbat, March 30** while we are still in the run-up to Pesach and want to think about our Seder planning.

**Jack Gostl** will continue his look into the Holocaust that he started last year. His theme this time is **They Didn't All Walk In Quietly**. We are all familiar with Tevya's famous quote: "We are Your chosen people. But, once in a while, can't You choose someone else?" Jack says he is also fond of the quote by Steve (Daniel Craig) in the movie Munich. He says: "The world has to learn that you don't \*BLEEP\* with the Jews." The flier will have a fuller explanation of Jack's topic. Save **Tuesday, April 2 at 8:00PM** for the Zoom.

And **Ira Beer** will close out the year with something on **May 21 at 8:00PM** on Zoom. He promised me that he will come up with a topic and I am sure he will. And we will all have a great time with whatever he comes up with.

## SISTERHOOD

### Judy Gostl, Presiding Officer, November/December

The Sisterhood Board has been very pleasantly surprised by the creativity and brainstorming that has occurred at every Board meeting. This has resulted in easily planning out programs for almost the entire year. Details still need to be nailed down, but we know where and what will happen this year and I am very excited to share some of this with you.

October started our year with two wonderful programs. We had a very large Zoom turnout to hear Fern Kershon talk about her career and experience working on Broadway. The recording is available if you email [sisterhood@fhjc.org](mailto:sisterhood@fhjc.org). Daytime Readers had another solid discussion this month on *The Age of Vice* by Deepti Kapur. They have chosen *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro as their next book which will be discussed on November 30 at 2:00PM. Watch for the flier!

November starts The BQLI Region Torah Fund Kickoff on November 1. The topic was Barbie, Bombshell of Jewish Feminist Icon. This was quickly followed by the in-person tour of Kehillah Kedosha Jenina, the Greek Romaniote Synagogue and Museum on the Lower East Side on November 5.

It is not too late to join us as we welcome author, Maggie Anton, on Zoom on November 15 at 8:00PM. She will discuss her most recent novel, *The Choice, a Novel of Love, Faith, and the Talmud*. This book asks the question: Where are the women in Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* and *The Promise*? And more to the point, Maggie Anton explores the lives of Jewish women in the fifties. This is a midrash on Chaim Potok's work. To make a reservation for the Zoom link click [HERE](#).



*Sisterhood organized a wonderful trip to the Romaniote Synagogue in lower Manhattan. The Synagogue, which was established by Greek Jews in 1927, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in a few years. It has a wonderful trove of Jewish ritual objects, family momentos, photos and documents that attest to the vibrant culture of the lower New York Greek Jewish community.*



In December, Benita Gayle-Almeleh, known as NiceJewishGirlMeetsVikingStove, (on Instagram and Facebook under that name) is an accomplished cook. She will share her knowledge about using Sephardic spices in cooking, recommend places to purchase these spices, and talk about the cookbooks she recommends. Save Tuesday, December 19 at 8:00PM and watch for the flier. This program will be in person and on Zoom.

January will again be focused on food – more specifically – challah. Amy Bochner Newman will do challah baking in person. Watch for the flier and make your reservations.

Do you have any ideas you wish to share with us? Do you want to be part of the Sisterhood Board? It is one of the many well run committees at FHJC. But being well run does not mean being closed to new members. Talk to our presidium members, Judy Gostl, Rae Kerzner, Laurie Lax or Debra Weil. We would love to hear from you.



## MEN'S CLUB

### Hal Berkowitz

#### Men's Club Is Alive and Kicking

Men's Club had a very successful BBQ in the Sukkah. We exceeded our expectations on attendees and came in under budget! We are now working on a Havdalah Night in January as well as Coffee House (January 27). We are planning a fantastic Purim Carnival event that will include something for everyone. More upcoming events: Hockey outing, Mets game, and possibly a tour of Citi Field.

Now that the holidays have passed, we are starting our annual Men's Club dues appeal. A synagogue needs a Men's Club and FHJC is no exception. We need your financial support to continue to support our B'nai Mitzvah kiddush cup program, the Yellow Candle program, as well as other FHJC events.

Men's Club dues are \$40.00. If you haven't been a member, consider joining and know that Men's Club will also be there for you.

Interim President  
Hal Berkowitz



#### Nagilah The Chorus of Forest Hills Jewish Center

We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00AM

Don't read music? Don't worry!

Voice memos are provided for every selection!

Contact [Heidi Nelson Rolnick](#) for more information.



## Shabbat Kiddush at FHJC

FHJC holds a weekly congregational kiddush, starting immediately after Shabbat Musaf services. When there is a simcha or other special event, this is typically a seated luncheon in the Heller Ballroom; on others weeks, we serve light refreshments in the Crystal Room. If you can contribute time and effort, please consider volunteering with the Kiddush Committee. Many hands make light work.

If you can contribute funds to sponsor a kiddush in honor of a simcha, either individually or as part of a group of co-sponsors, there is no minimum, and we can work with any budget. For reference, a luncheon with bagels, cream cheese, tuna salad, egg salad, desserts, etc. costs about \$1,200.

Contact Jonathan Kastin to sponsor, to volunteer, or for any questions:  
[jkastin@mac.com](mailto:jkastin@mac.com) or 917-789-0490. See our website at: [www.FHJC.org/kiddush](http://www.FHJC.org/kiddush)



**Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush from October through December. A list of sponsors will be distributed for each event.**

- October 28: October / November birthdays and anniversaries
- November 4: Mayor Adams' visit
- November 11: Installation of Rabbi Daniel Graber
- November 18: Welcome to the Jewish community for Alexa Filonchuk
- December 2: Lillian and William Regen in honor of the bar mitzvah of their grandson
- December 9: Chanukah / Special birthdays and anniversaries

# Thank You

# תודה רבה

## 2023–5784 KOL NIDRE APPEAL TODAH RABAH LISTINGS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE KOL NIDRE CAMPAIGN 5784

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed so generously to our 2023–5784 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.

*Gary Kerzner, President and the members of the Executive Board:*

*Mitchell Frank, Richard Chase, Zach Wichter, Debra Weil, Preston Forman, and Suzanne Vick*

#### **Pillar**

Meir & Jill Toshav

#### **Builder**

Audrey Lou Sevin

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#### **Ruby**

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Romi Narov

Rosalind Okun

Gail Port

Matthew Ziegelbaum & Elizabeth Caudle

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Ms. Zahava Mahlab

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Oskar & Roz Matzner

Dan Shaham & Tal Klausner

Yona Sharoni

L. David & Rana Silver

Lisl Topper

Rena Wirshba

# Kol Nidre Continued

## Other

Michael D. & Sharon Victoria  
Azizollahoff  
Harold & Dorrie Berkowitz  
Arthur Cader  
Pauline Clements  
Ms. Bonnie Dassa  
Marvin & Evelyn Deluty  
Harris A. & Roberta Drusin  
Jason & Maureen Dunkel  
Lee Elovitch  
Mr. Alex Feingold  
Judy Feldman  
Mitchell & Lari Frank  
Paul & Paula Steisel Goldfarb  
Jack & Sara Judith Gostl  
Ellen Gottlich

Norman Gursen  
David & Ilana Haas  
Jonathan Jaffe  
Murry & Miriam-Galvin Kalinsky  
Doria Kalt  
Philip & Joanne Kaminowitz  
Alan M. & Susan Moskowitz  
Kirschner  
Eva Klaus  
Steve & Susan Krochak  
Ezra & Monica Lagnado  
George & Carrie Leifer  
Ms. Dorothy Mahlab  
Adam & Nicole Malitz  
Joshua Lowy & Mollie Mandel  
Jerold & Frances Marmer  
Oskar & Roz Matzner

Ami & Cindy Megiddo  
Adam Monaco & Karen Stein  
Barbara Nevis  
Jared & Amy Newman  
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Peter & Jennifer Taub  
Martin & Melanie Topol  
Jonathan & Suzanne Vick  
Aaron Weil  
Doug & Michele Weiner  
Mark & Mindy Weinblatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Zeev Zamir

## Life Cycles

### Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Lillian & Bill Regen on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson

to Candice & Carl Koerner on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, James Griffin, son of Elizabeth (Koerner) Griffin and Dr. Cornelius Griffin

### Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

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

to David Greenbaum on the loss of his dear father, Alan Greenbaum

to Robert Koenigsberg on the loss of his dear mother, Rhoda Koenigsberg

to Sara Kaufman-Greenberg on the loss of her dear father, Jack Henry Kaufman

to Howard Pollack on the loss of his dear mother, Rebecca Pollack

to Barbara Cooper on the loss of her dear father, Herbert Rubin.

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:

Dorothy Buch and Malcah Toor

May their memories be for a blessing



Friday morning, October 20th, Rabbi Graber, Hazzan Levin, Mitchell Frank, Debbie Gregor and Gary Kerzner attended an in-person meeting with Senator Charles Schumer at the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism (ICCJ).

## Sisterhood Daytime Readers

Thursday, November 30, 2023

2:00PM (ZOOM)



Urgent and compassionate, *Signal Fires* is a magical story for our times, a literary tour de force by a masterful storyteller at the height of her powers. A luminous meditation on family, memory, and the healing power of interconnectedness. -Amazon

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

Sundays at 9:25AM: Yoga with Lorain.

Monday at 8:00PM: Parasha Study with Rabbi Graber

Wednesdays at 4:45PM: The FHJC Watch Party

Wednesdays at 6:25PM: Yoga with Lorain.

**See the [FHJC Calendar](#) for more!**

NOVEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

# Acknowledgements

## PULPIT FUND

**Romi Narov** – in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of **Valerie & Jack Leibler**  
**Dorothy Mahlab** – in honor of **Dorrie Berkowitz** being chosen Kallah B'reishit & **Jonathan Kastin** being chosen Hattan Torah  
**Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in gratitude to **Deborah Gregor** for her support  
**Alan Kirschner** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Mahlab Family** – in gratitude to **Jonathan Kastin** for his kindness  
**Marian & Martin Krasilovsky** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Marian & Martin Krasilovsky** – in gratitude to **Rae Theise Kerzner** for honors received  
**Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in loving memory of their parents, **Dr. Edward & Suzette Mahlab**  
**Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in memory of **Howard Pollack's** mother, **Rebecca Pollack**  
**Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab** – in memory of **Sara Kaufman-Greenberg's** father, **Jack Henry Kaufman**  
**Gail Port** – in memory of **Sara Kaufman-Greenberg's** father, **Jack Henry Kaufman**  
**Nadyne Turner** – in memory of **Susie Spodek's** father, **Howard Spodek**  
**Teri & Steve Goffner** – in memory of **Robert Koenigsberg's** mother, **Rhoda**  
**Teri & Steve Goffner** – in memory of **Sara Kaufman-Greenberg's** father, **Jack Henry Greenberg**

## KIDDUSH FUND

**Bonnie & Keith Chernin** – in honor of **Dorrie Berkowitz's** dedicated service to FHJC  
**Bonnie & Keith Chernin** – in honor of **Jonathan Kastin's** dedicated service to FHJC  
**Ezra Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Monica & Ezra Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Thelma Goldstein** – in honor of **Shirley & David Zucker's** anniversary  
**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in memory of **Ira Beer's** mother, **Sally Beer**  
**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in memory of **Marilyn Hertz's** husband, **Eli Hertz**  
**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in memory of **Zev Spiro's** parents, **Janice & Joseph Spiro**  
**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in memory of **Fran Spiro's** parents, **Ray & Lester Shapiro**  
**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in memory of **Fran Spiro's** grandmother, **Sylvia Rosenblatt Koppel**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Pauline & Mark Raphael** – in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of **Romi Narov's** grandson  
**Pauline & Mark Raphael** – in honor of **Valerie & Jack Leibler's** special anniversary  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Sarah Markowitz's** special birthday  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Sarah & Stephen Markowitz's** special anniversary  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Jonathan Kastin** being Chattan Torah  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Dorrie Berkowitz** being Kallat Be'reshit  
**Bonnie & Keith Chernin** – in honor of the birth of **Mindy & Mark Weinblatt's** grandson, **Nathaniel Asher Cordova**  
**Tikva Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Dorothy Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Zahava Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Dorothy Mahlab** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for her kindness  
**Robyn Cimbol** – in gratitude to **Bill Altman** for his kindness  
**Rita & Michael Lieberman** – in memory of **Howard Pollack's** mother, **Rebecca Pollack**  
**George Cohen** – in memory of **Pauline Raphael's** father, **Norman Vogel**  
**Bonnie & Keith Chernin** – in memory of **Susie Spodek's** father, **Howard Spodek**  
**Alice Housel** – in memory of **Pauline Raphael's** father, **Norman Vogel**



## FHJC BIKUR CHOLIM

*Bikur Cholim* is working and helping our membership when needed. If you need a visit or phone call or know someone in need please email Hazzan Levin ([rlevin@fhjc.org](mailto:rlevin@fhjc.org)) or Rabbi Graber ([rabbie@fhjc.org](mailto:rabbie@fhjc.org)) or Debbie Bochner ([Debbiebochner@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiebochner@gmail.com))

If you would like to have someone on the *misheberach* list please call Laurie Worthman in the center office 718-263-7000

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