



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

Spring 2023/ Aviv 5783/ Vol. LXXVIII No. 4

FHJC TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

Thursday, May 25, 2023 | 9 PM - Midnight

Live and in-person!

9:00pm - Ma'ariv followed by light dinner and learning featuring

Rabbi Gerald Skolnik, Hazzan Randy Levin,

Dr. Jay Luger, and Dr. Mitchell Frank

RSVPs required for dinner by 5/22

<https://tinyurl.com/Shavuot-Tikkun-2023>



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
**FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, June 15, 2023 | 8:00 PM
in person & Zoom

Please see Page 9 for agenda and nominations.



FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

PRIDE SHABBAT

14 Sivan 5783 | June 3, 2023 | 9 AM

Join us for Shabbat services

as FHJC celebrates

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

Let's celebrate our community together.

For more information and to participate,
contact Zach Wichter, event chair, at
zlwichter@gmail.com

Kiddush luncheon to follow, generously sponsored by
Bentzy Rosengarten and Azi Graeber in honor of
their wedding.



**ANNUAL
FOREST HILLS
JEWISH CENTER
TENNIS EVENT**

August 14, 2023

Mark Your Calendar
& Watch for Details





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

A Very Fond Farewell

Having been reminded by Karen Stein, our *Message* editor, that it was time to submit an article for the upcoming issue, it suddenly dawned upon me that this would be my final opportunity to address you all in this format. My tenure at the FHJC ends as of June 30, and a new era is about to begin...

People often ask me what I'm feeling as I approach that day, and I think I can safely say that I am the walking, talking incarnation of "mixed emotions." I cannot deny that there is a piece of me- a significant piece- that eagerly anticipates being free of the responsibilities that have essentially defined the contours of my life for more than forty years. Other than my marriage and, with Robin, raising our four children, this synagogue and community have occupied not only my time, but also my focus and energy over literally decades. I don't think it's widely understood that most working people don't live where they work. They go to work, put in their hours, and go home, away from the workplace. It doesn't work like that for most clergy people, who very much live where they work. My home has been an extension of my office (and vice versa) for what feels like forever, and over time, that takes a definite toll. And, of course, technology like smart phones has made it impossible to "be away" even when you're actually away. So it would be disingenuous for me to pretend that leaving that behind is not a very appealing prospect.

But of course, that said, beyond my biological family, the Forest Hills Jewish Center has in every sense been my family for all these years. It's hard to write these sentences without having them sound cliché, but really- we have laughed together, cried together, celebrated together, mourned together, travelled together, studied and learned together, raised our children together,

and on and on and on. There is literally no end to the degree of our interconnected-ness, and that truth has, in no small measure, been the reason why this partnership of rabbi (and family) and synagogue has been such a great success. This kind of relationship is what both rabbis and synagogues pray for. Rabbis desperately want a synagogue that will respect and honor them and treat them well, and synagogues want the same from their rabbis (and cantors). It doesn't happen all that often that one rabbi stays with the same congregation for his entire, 42-year pulpit career. It doesn't happen because it's hard to find the right cast of characters. I've been a very fortunate rabbi indeed to hang my rabbinic hat in Forest Hills for all these years, but I'd like to think (with all appropriate modesty) that the synagogue has been fortunate as well. It's been a great marriage.

So...

I think the proper way to sign off is not to say goodbye, but rather Shalom Ul'hitra'ot...goodbye, and hope to see you soon. As I've said to countless people, West Orange, NJ is not in Europe, and you can get there from here (and we can get here from there!). We have every intention of remaining a part of the Forest Hills Jewish Center family even as we find a new home, physical and spiritual. We'll miss you all, and what we wish for you is what we wish for ourselves... good health, good times, and many reasons to celebrate together. Thanks for the memories, and so much more...

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

The Message USPS 340-300 Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248. 718-263-7000. Website: <http://www.fhjc.org>. Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Published bi-monthly September-June.

Subscription: \$25 per year (included in membership dues.) Periodicals postage paid at the Post Office in Flushing, NY.

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

Editorial Board: Karen L. Stein (Editor), Gerald C. Skolnik (Rabbi), Randall Levin (Hazzan), Deborah Gregor (Executive Director), Jessica Braginsky (Director of Education and Engagement), Lynn Fisher (Director, Early Childhood Education), Laurie Worthman (Office Manager).

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Arms: Sisterhood: Judy Gostl (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

Growing up in sunny Akron, Ohio, I remember well how the springtime Shabbatot were packed with B'nei Mitzvah celebrations. On account of the snowy winters, the weeks between Pesach and the onset of summer featured a Bar or Bat Mitzvah nearly every week, with readings and divrei-Torah from the book of Vayikra, known in English as Leviticus.

The book of Leviticus is referred to in our tradition by the name "Torat Kohanim," or "instructions for the Priests." At first blush studying, and reading from these verses of Torah, dealing with such topics as sacrifices, initiation of the Aaronide priesthood, the performance of the sacred rite, and ritual purity, may seem a bit daunting for a 13 year-old to tackle in preparation for a bar mitzvah. These chapters, though, also contain laws dealing with Kashrut, Yom Kippur, the Holiness Code, and the famous injunction in Chapter 19 to "Love your neighbor as yourself" - all vital information to understanding the instructions that would eventually become not just a guide for the priesthood, but for the entire Jewish nation. Traditionally, a child's Torah study would begin with the book of Vayikra. There is another overall theme of Vayikra that connects to the B'nai Mitzvah more directly: an emphasis on the importance of ritual. In the words of Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, "ritual is a way of giving voice to ultimate values. Each of us needs a sense of holiness to navigate the relentless secularity of our lives."

At just thirteen years of age, a young Jewish person is obviously not really yet a "man" or a "woman." And yet, in celebrating and ritualizing B'nei Mitzvah, we are marking an important moment in the life of a child, and in the life of his or her family. Though we know that a young person does not yet have, and is not capable of, all of the responsibilities of an adult, at thirteen years old we nonetheless begin to bestow the moral and ethical responsibilities of our religion upon our young people. Through this ritual we begin the process of acknowledging the child as a unique individual within our community with responsibilities and privileges. No longer is he or she to be seen as a mere appendage of his or her parents, but viewed by the community as someone who is responsible in their own right for the fruits of their labors: for their shortcomings and achievements alike.

According to rabbinic tradition, the age of understanding is what determines the age of responsibility. This notion of obligation and liability traces back to Adam and Eve partaking of the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden. We mark this transitional stage in life by a ritual in order to signify the onset of understanding: a cognitive maturity that is connected to the onset of one's physical maturity. The Bar Mitzvah, then, is the age at which, according to Rabbi David Kraemer, we become "beings with a knowledge that is (or, at least, ought to be) mature enough to distinguish between good and evil."

As in the book of Vayikra, in the public observance of this milestone we focus on certain ritual mitzvot, essential to our tradition, that center around the Torah: the ability to read from the Torah and our other sacred texts (Haftarah) in public, showing understanding of the texts by teaching something about them to the community and their peers (d'var Torah) and also, if possible, the ability to serve as a shaliach tizibbur, an emissary of the congregation, leading the community in the sacred prayer ritual that further strengthens our connection to the divine. May this spring and the ensuing summer, as we mark our own transitions in life, be a time of ongoing joy and continued commitment to our Jewish values and tradition.

Hazzan Randall Levin



THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Romi Narov

As I am sitting here writing my last column for The Message my mind wanders to this month three years ago. Just as I was about to take over as President of FHJC, the world shut down. Who can forget those days? Both the Religious School and Nursery School closed. All our rental income evaporated. Practically every source of income that we relied on for operation became questionable. Was I going to be the one presiding over the demise of FHJC? To say I lost sleep at night would be an understatement. The feeling of gloom and doom lasted for quite a while but slowly and surely we started lifting our heads above water. We reconvened for virtual daily study sessions with Rabbi Skolnik on Zoom. PPP money became available to allow us to keep our doors open. Debbie Gregor spent hours upon hours trying to figure out how to make it work and how to apply for the assistance that was offered. She figured it out! But life as we knew it has changed and may never be the same again, for better or worse.

But as I write these lines three years later, there is no question that our vitality has returned. Our building went quiet in March of 2020. But if you visit us any day of the week these days, you will again hear the pitter patter of our children around the building. And although there have been changes in our operation, the pulse of life returned to our community. Life almost feels normal again! We have reclaimed many of our pre-pandemic activities. And although the impact of the pandemic is and always will be underlying everything that we do, we boldly resumed

some of our traditional activities in person: Shabbat services, High Holiday services, modified weekly minyanim, Purim Carnival, Dinner Dance, Tennis Outing, Second Seder and the list goes on and on. This year, we are even celebrating Israel's 75 birthday with an in person *Zimriya* again!

When Hazzan Rosenblum announced his retirement two years ago, we hired Hazzan Levin to be our *Shliach Tzibur* and when Rabbi Skolnik announced his retirement in June of 2023 we embarked on a Rabbi Search and are about to hire Rabbi Graber as our new Rabbi. And it has only been three years!!!

So as I am about to become another past president, the relief is mixed with some sadness. We are definitely at an end of an era. Our Rabbi of 42 years is retiring. We are about to change our physical location and a new lay leadership is about to take over.

I hope that you continue to extend the support you showed me and my Executive Board to the new incoming leadership.

I am also sure that you join me in wishing Robin and Rabbi Skolnik a Healthy, Happy and Fruitful retirement. *Tzetchem LeShalom*.

B'Todah,
Romi Narov

HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP



The Hebrew Literature Group is continuing its year-long project of reading and discussing the biblical Book of Job, using the new translation and interpretation of Prof. Edward Greenstein of Bar Ilan University. It's been a fascinating ride thus far and it promises to be even more so as we move towards the end of the year. Job takes God to trial in the next chapters and, in the end, God thunderously testifies, in a speech that has thrilled some, dismayed many, and has been boldly reinterpreted in the new Greenstein translation. Don't think that if you've missed the first sessions it's too late to join. Not so! And even if your Hebrew is at a beginner's level, no worries! We read the text in Hebrew and in English translation, and discussion is in English.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 27 at 5:00 PM and final meeting until September will be June 1st. Look for the Zoom link in listserv announcements as the date approaches. Come join us!

Mitchell Frank

NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher



The Forest Hills Jewish Center Early Childhood Program's mission is to provide a complete, well-balanced education to our littlest learners. Our educational philosophy, based on the Reggio Emilia approach to education, includes a set of beliefs and core values that all children are unique and must have a supportive, stimulating, and educational environment where they can develop mentally, emotionally, and socially. Our Reggio Emilia-inspired practices are anchored by our understanding of children as being capable, eager to explore, competent, and full of wonder and delight. The Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative (JECEI) applied a Jewish perspective to the Reggio concepts, and over 10 years ago, we started on our Reggio Emilia Journey and have incorporated these concepts into the Forest Hills Jewish Center Early Childhood Program.



These concepts include:

Divine Image/ *Tzelem Elohim* - dignity and potential

Reggio's central value—an image of the child as capable—mirrors the idea that every individual is created in the image of G-d. The entire school community honors everyone's uniqueness and diversity is celebrated. Children are provided with the opportunity to explore and express themselves through "Reggio's hundred languages," including music, movement, writing, art, stories, dramatic play, cooking, games, discussions, block play, physical education, and nature.

Holy Space/ *K'dusha* - intentionality and presence

We endeavor to create beautiful and sacred spaces for our children. This is reflected in our classrooms where materials, books, nature and Jewish traditions are honored. Families come together to appreciate the blessing of having a community.

Interpretation/ *D'rash* - inquiry, dialogue, and transmission

We have a rich culture of inquiry and dialogue. In Reggio, educators believe that the documentation of these processes is powerful. Our entire staff engages in meaningful documentation of children's work in an effort to share what transpires in the classroom and give honor to children's creativity.

Journey/ *Masa* - reflection, return and renewal

History is ripe with examples of famed journeys. We believe in the power of the journey, and so we allow children the time to journey toward their own conclusions in their own way. It is clearly understood that each child is a unique individual with his/her own pace of development that must be considered and respected at all times.

Covenant/ *B'rit* - belonging and commitment

We believe that the relationships we, as educators, forge with our families are what enable each of us—parent, teacher, and child—to achieve our divine potential.

Awakening and Awareness/ *Hitorerut* - amazement and gratitude

We advocate a playful, relaxed, non-pressured environment rich in experiences that foster imagination, curiosity, creativity and independence. We seek to stimulate children's natural sense of amazement, wonder and joy of discovery.

Repairing the World/ *Tikkun Olam* (Repair of the World) - responsibility

We are all obligated to walk the world mindfully. We teach all of our children to act with kavod - respect; to realize their responsibilities toward one another and the earth.

Our educators cultivate the children's love of learning by encouraging them to become confident, independent, responsible and creative thinkers. Our children build a solid foundation for moving forward while each child grows at their own pace. Obviously, no two children are alike and our school community honors and celebrates everyone's uniqueness. Our amazing educators help ensure the productive years of learning that lie ahead.



EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Jessica Braginsky

Anti-Semitism - Don't Be Afraid to Talk About It

Recently Rabbi Skolnik joined our 5th -7th graders before minyan for a session of "Ask The Rabbi." Surprisingly the students did not want to ask about the Passover story. They were not looking for answers to the big questions, like why is there evil in the world. They weren't even remotely interested in what is going on in Israel. They wanted to talk about anti-Semitism.

Some students related personal incidents with classmates. Some had heard about the local vandalism. Many wanted to understand why people are anti-Semitic; where did this bigotry come from? What was clear was that the students wanted a way to address their experiences and concerns.

Rabbi Skolnik patiently and directly answered these questions and concerns, reassuring students that FHJC is a safe place for this conversation and that no one deserves to be treated poorly especially because of their religion. He clarified that not all Christians are anti-Semitic and that the Catholic church has changed its teachings about Judaism and Jews. He also spoke warmly of his relationships with local clergy of other faiths and their support for him as a Jewish leader and of their Jewish neighbors. He was a great model for discussing anti-Semitism with children.

Talking to children about charged, difficult or sensitive topics can seem intimidating. However, not talking about them is worse; it sends the message that these topics are too scary to be handled even by their parents. Experts suggest that you check in with your child and validate their emotions. For instance, if you hear a news story together about anti-Semitism you can ask your child how she feels about it or what emotions it brings up. You can assure him that it is understandable to feel angry, afraid or any other way. Encourage questions. Clarify any misconceptions or misinformation and reassure them that many people are not anti-Semitic. Remember that there is nothing wrong with saying you don't know or calmly expressing your own emotions.

Making a plan as to how to respond to anti-Semitic comments is also recommended. You can practice responses with your child such as "What an unkind thing to say." "Excuse me? Could you repeat that?" or "I disagree with you, and here's why..." Brainstorm with trusted adults in their clubs, teams or schools whom they can turn to address any hateful situations that might arise.

Finally, keep the conversation going. This is not a 'one and done' talk. Unfortunately, your child may have to confront anti-Semitism in high school and college, too.

Here are some helpful resources: for younger children:

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2022/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>

For older children:

<https://childmind.org/article/racism-and-violence-how-to-help-kids-handle-the-news/>

For all ages: <http://giveanhour.org/wp-content/uploads/Talking-to-kids-about-Pittsburgh-and-Anti-Semitism-Final5b15d.pdf>

Feel free to be in touch with me to continue this conversation.

Forest Hills Jewish Center

BEACH CLEAN UP

Come and join us at Rockaway Beach to keep our beach safe and clean for people and other living things

07 | May | 11:30-2:30

We will have a bus & snack
Bring a picnic lunch and water
All clean up supplies will be provided

FHJC
FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER
MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT



ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl & David Snyder

We have had a very busy period for Adult Education in March with some amazing programs. And we have another group of wonderful programs from the end of April until mid-May. We even have two people who have volunteered to teach next year! If you have a topic in mind or if you love to teach and you will find a topic, please talk to David or Judy. For so many of our members who have taught in the Shabbaton from Home program, it is a labor of love to prepare a topic and present it. Our congregation benefits from our members' insights and research.

The upcoming programs for spring 2023:

Hebrew Literature – Thursday, April 27 at 5:00PM – The Book of Job

Lenny Picker Interview – Sunday, April 30, at 10:00AM – Lenny will ask Rabbi Michael Strassfeld about his new book, *Judaism Disrupted: A Spiritual Manifesto for the 21st Century*. Click [HERE](#) to register and receive the Zoom link.

Ira Beer – Monday, May 15, 2023 – Items observed in the book of B'Midbar during 23.5 years as a Torah Reader. We all know Ira – so strap in for a wild ride through the fourth book of the Torah. Click [IRA](#) to RSVP and receive the unique Zoom link.

Nora Mandel – Monday, May 22, 2023 – The Baron de Hirsch Fund and Jewish American Farmers in the Early 20th Century – Nora will explore this topic through the story of her great-uncle, Leo Steckel, his experiences with the De Hirsch Fund, and the Jewish immigrants the fund helped to settle in U.S. agriculture. Click [NORA](#) to RSVP and receive the unique Zoom link.

Final Hebrew Lit for the year – Thursday, June 1 at 5:00PM – The Book of Job



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!](#)

www.FHJC.org/kiddush

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



- April 1: Barbara & Jerry Klibanoff in honor of Jerry's 90th birthday
- April 29: Tami & Preston Forman in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah
- May 6: Jaci Flug & David Kronenberg in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah
- May 13: Mei Kin Chow & Josh Rubenstein in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
- May 20: Nancy Grey & Mark Berman in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
- June 3: Pride Shabbat; Bentzy Rosengarten & Azi Graeber, on the occasion of their marriage.



SISTERHOOD

Judy Gostl

The Sisterhood Board has become a truly cohesive group that works together seamlessly and has welded the ten of us into a strong friendship circle. We are still delving into our lives and experiences and using this information to create new programming for the women (and sometimes the men) of FHJC. But, like any Board, we need to bring in new members to prevent burnout and stale ideas.

Spring is the time of renewal and renewal is the job of a nominating committee within any organization: to find people who want to become part of an effective group, people whose goal is to be of service whether it is to its members or the wider community.

You have seen our work and our programming. Many of you have participated in the wide variety that we have presented. When you are approached by a member of our Presidium: Debra, Judy, Laurie, or Rae; asking for your help, please say "yes!" You won't regret it. Don't worry that you do not know anything about how this organization works - we will teach you. You will step into leadership when you are ready. Becoming part of a circle of strong women who share true sisterhood has brought all of us joy. We hope you will share this feeling by actively participating in our Sisterhood.

Please watch for the fliers about our upcoming programs in this spring and summer:

- The History of Kosher Wine in America with Jhos Singer on April 24 at 8:00PM
- BQLI Helen Cytryn Study Day on Thursday, April 27 at East Meadow Beth-El Jewish Center at 10:00AM
- A book discussion with SURJE on May 4 of *Golem Girl* by Riva Lehrer led by Debbie Bochner
- Daytime Readers discussion of *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus on Thursday, May 18 at 2:00PM
- Daytime Readers discussion of *The Golem & The Jinni* by Helene Wecker on Thursday, July 18 at 2:00PM

There are a lot of books scheduled because so many of you are avid readers who love to discuss what you have read.

Judy Gostl, Presiding Officer of FHJC Sisterhood for March and April

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.



Mark
YOUR
Calendar

Save the date for a special Shabbat celebrating the Skolnik family as we say *L'hitraot* June 16-17, 2023



FROM THE VP of EDUCATION

Carrie Leifer



As my three year term as VP of Education comes to an end, I want to express what a pleasure it's been to have held this position. Working alongside this particular Executive Board has exceeded my expectations. Their commitment and hard work has inspired me to grow and push myself. And they have jumped in to help me out more times than I can say, as have Deborah Gregor and Laurie Worthman.

All the people I've gotten to know better through this position have left me with a stronger love for FHJC than I had before, and I am grateful for that.

Rabbi Skolnik's voice from the bima is forever etched in my head, but interacting with him in smaller settings has provided me with a new appreciation for his wisdom and humanity. And getting to know Hazzan Levin as he has navigated his introduction to FHJC has let me see how much he truly cares for our congregation and our children. I'll always be grateful for how he rolled up his sleeves and pitched in to help our first outdoor Simchat Torah celebration become the success it was.

Working with the School Board and getting to know many of our parents and their wonderful children has given me a more optimistic view of the future. Our parents are smart, caring and willing to offer help and advice where needed. And FHJC's children have shown time and again how bright and talented they are. It's hard to forget the resilience and grace that those with COVID Bar and Bat Mitzvahs exhibited, and all our children continue to impress every day.

This School Board has accomplished a lot these past years, but if FHJC didn't have Lynn Fisher and Jessica Braginsky at their respective helms, my time with the School Board would have been very different, and much more challenging. Instead, the School Board has been able to focus on providing Lynn and Jessica with the support and guidance they needed, and we've had the luxury of watching them take the feedback and create their magic. And these past three years have been filled with creativity and magic. Lynn and Jessica are wonderful, caring educators and they work together well to support us all.

With the School Board's insight, and the support of FHJC's amazing and dedicated teachers and staff, Lynn and Jessica have gotten us through COVID to a place where the programming they've created is continually on target, meeting our families' needs as they evolve, and creating a strong sense of community along the way. From providing the right amount of Zoom programming during the height of COVID, to the much welcomed outdoor events, to our current successful programs both indoor and out, they are there meeting the needs of our families, providing places for them to interact with each other and with the congregation as a whole. Reaching beyond the Schools, so many new connections have been made while learning, praying, socializing and doing acts of chesed together with Lynn and Jessica.

In a similar way, our impressive Adult Education team has provided FHJC with an innovative assortment of top-notch learning opportunities through COVID and beyond. With Jessica leading Education & Engagement, and Judy Gostl as our tireless lay leader, the opportunities to learn have been seemingly non-stop. We are fortunate to have a wealth of talented congregants willing and capable of teaching, and these past three years have really been a treat, especially thanks to Judy's foresight in morphing our tried-and-true Shabbaton format into our now cherished Shabbaton-at-Home series.

FHJC will be embracing a different set of changes and challenges in the coming years. I strongly believe that our core strength is in our members and our staff, and the sense of community we feel for each other. I have every confidence in our success, and look forward to continuing to be a part of it.

Carrie Leifer



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.

Children in our Toddler/3K programs have priority enrollment in our 3K/Pre-K For All programs.

Early Drop-Off and Late Pick-Up Available

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

106-06 QUEENS BLVD.
FOREST HILLS, NY 11375

www.fhjc.org/education/nursery-school

Contact us for more information:
718-263-7000 x220
nursery@fhjc.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 8 PM
in-person and on Zoom.

Agenda

- A Call to Order and Anthems
- Romi Narov - Outgoing President's Annual Report
- Rabbi Gerald Skolnik - Official Discharge of Officers & Trustees
- A Tribute to the Outgoing Officers & Members of the Board of Trustees
- Election and Installation of New Officers and Trustees
- Rabbi Daniel Graber, D'var Torah
- Carl Koerner - New Building Progress Report
- Remarks from Our New President, Gary Kerzner

Candidates for Office Nominated by the Nominating Committee and Recommended by the

Board of Trustees:

- Gary Kerzner - President
- Richard Chase, Vice President
- Mitchell Frank, Vice President
- Debra Weil, Vice President
- Zach Wichter, Vice President
- Preston Forman, Treasurer
- Suzanne Vick, Secretary

Candidates for the Board of Trustees:

- Ilana Altman
- Heather Cook
- Helaine Fox
- Norman Gursen
- Jack Gostl
- David Haas
- Jonathan Kastin
- Gary Kerzner
- Rae Theise Kerzner
- Temma Kingsley
- Yona Kirschner
- Jerry Klibanoff
- Jack Leibler
- Valerie Leibler
- Romi Narov

Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by petition signed by ten (10) members. Such petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Center at least six (6) days prior to the date of election, and only members in good standing may be nominated.

Please join us.
Respectfully submitted,
Rob Samuel, Secretary

Join us on
Wednesday, May 10, at 7PM
as

FHJC Men's Club Celebrates



WARREN WANKOFF
Man of the Year
and



MYRON BAER
Ma'asim Tovim Award

Emcee: Carl Koerner

\$50.00 per person

Email FHJCMen'sclub@gmail.com

to RSVP.

Click [here](#) to pay via PayPal,
or send a check made payable to
FHJC Men's Club - Dinner

Email Gary Weil at geedubs1953@gmail.com
for information about placing ads in the
virtual journal for the event.



Samuel Forman

Bar Mitzvah, April 29, 2023

Samuel Thomas Forman was born in Manhattan and is a lifelong Forest Hills resident. He attends Tiegerman Middle School in Glen Cove. Sam loves Minecraft, Fortnite and also writing stories. He would like to be a food scientist or a kindergarten teacher someday. Sam would like to thank everyone who helped him prepare for his bar mitzvah, especially Hazzan Levin and his FHJC religious school classmates who've been good friends to him since he started back in kindergarten. He also thanks his grandparents, Linda Forman and Fabian Forman, and Thomas and Theresa Monahan. For his Chesed project Sam wanted to raise awareness about Joubert's syndrome, a genetic disorder that is so rare most doctors have never heard of it. He set up a table outside the synagogue and passed out information from the Joubert's Syndrome Foundation. You can learn more at their website, www.jsrdf.org



Rachel Kronenberg

Bat Mitzvah, May 6, 2023

Rachel Sally Kronenberg is a proud alum of FHJC Nursery School, PS 101 School in the Gardens and currently is an honors student at Russell Sage Middle School. Rachel spends her summers at Hidden Valley Camp in Freedom, ME. She is a dancer, clarinet player and member of the debate team. Rachel is the youngest grandchild in both the Flug family and Kronenberg family. Accordingly, she is the last bat mitzvah in a generation of mitzvahs. She is lucky to have all ten of her cousins join her for this special event.



Noah Rubenstein

Bar Mitzvah, May 13, 2023

Have you ever felt the sheer awe that comes with looking out at a vast body of water and wondered about the creatures that live within its depths? Well, you can put your search engine away and just ask Noah. Beyond being a budding scientist possessing encyclopedic knowledge of all things oceanographic, Noah is a 7th grade honors student at Halsey Junior High with a talent focus on STEM. He's been a consistent part of FHJC's religious school since beginning Gan in 2015. More recently, he joined the congregational trip to Israel in February where he prayed at the Western Wall, adopted the memory of Alfred Handel at Yad Vashem, and was called to open the Aron Kodesh during Shabbat services at the Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism in Jerusalem. True to form, Noah also zipped off to Eilat to scuba dive Earth's northernmost coral reef to observe, but not touch, wild sea creatures. Noah is focusing his mitzvah project on ocean conservation. He plans to support existing science-based conservation groups and is taking steps to reduce his own environmental impact.



Noah Berman

Bar Mitzvah, May 20, 2023

Noah Berman looks forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. He has been a student at FHJC since Kindergarten. A student in the Honors Program at Halsey Junior High School in Rego Park, Noah loves art, playing ukulele, and Greek myths. Noah is passionate about the environment and animal welfare. He has been a vegetarian since birth, and for his Mitzvah project, Noah is supporting the And-Hof Animal Sanctuary in Catskill, which provides a safe home for abused and neglected farm animals. In addition to volunteering at the And-Hof Animal Sanctuary in the summer, Noah intends to donate proceeds from the sale of his artwork based on the sanctuary's animals.

Life Cycles

Mazal Tov מזל טוב

...to those in our Center family who are celebrating a simcha:
 to Tami & Preston Forman on the bar mitzvah of their son, Sam
 to Jaci Flug & David Kronenberg on the bat mitzvah of their
 daughter, Rachel
 to Mei Kin Chow & Josh Rubenstein on the bar mitzvah of their
 son, Noah
 to Nancy Grey & Mark Berman on the bar mitzvah of their son,
 Noah
 to Jerry Klibinoff on the occasion of his special birthday

Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

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

to David Lerner on the loss of his dear mother, Maureen
 to Lee Miller and Nancy Lerner on the loss of their dear mother,
 Rose Miller
 to Jessica Braginsky and Phillip Braginsky on the loss of their dear
 mother, Sharon Braginsky

May their memories be for a blessing



**CELEBRATE
ISRAEL
PARADE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023
 11am - 4pm • 57th-74th St. on Fifth Ave.

Join us at the 58th annual CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE, the world's
 largest gathering in celebration of Israel LIVE on FOX's My9 and
 CelebrateIsraelNY.org starting at Noon EDT. A project of JCRC-NY.



CelebrateIsraelNY.org
[CelebrateIsraelParade](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateIsraelParade) [@celebrateisrael](https://twitter.com/celebrateisrael)



- Max Amram from Binghamton University
- Ranana Chernin, graduated from SUNY/New Paltz
- Lauren Grosz is graduating Binghamton University
- Maddy Hellman from 5th grade from PS 196.
- Gabriel Koatz from Columbia School of Professional Studies with a Masters in Sports Management
- Ellen Leifer from University of Maryland, MS in Quantitative Methodology
- Sam Leifer from SUNY Buffalo, BS in Business Administration
- Madison Pollack from Halsey Middle School
- Hailey Pollack PS 196
- Melissa Pollack PS 196
- Tess Taub from Forest Hills HS.
- Maya Turner from Brooklyn Technical High School
- Faith Farrah Walcott from Forest Hills High School- Drama Academy
- Ashley Weintraub from University of Wisconsin

Pre-K Graduates:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Dylan Foster | Adam Marcovich |
| Gavi Miranda | Andrew Mumlauri |
| Hannah Moshashvili | Avihu Schneider |
| Harel Moshel | Charlie Kaplan |
| Isla de los Santos | Christian Perez Jr. |
| Jackson McNulty | Henry Edelstein |
| Johnny Cohen Assif | Isla Roth |
| Julian Matos | Jacob Ziv |
| Luke Chiu | Julianna Bretscher |
| Nicole Yusopov | Karina Chow |
| Noah Wallace | Lincoln Ziegelbauer |
| Olivia Israel | Samantha Haas |
| Shoshana Kupperman | Sylvie Shaw |

*Mazel
Tov!*



Thank you for pitching in!

Thank you to the volunteers who came to help with some of the Hased/ Mitzvah projects this Spring-- Purim Mishloach Manot packing, Passover packages, Yellow Candle distribution, Kiddush committee, and more!



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.

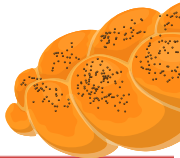
**11:30 AM-12:15 PM
May 6, May 20**



**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
April 29, May 27**



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.

SHAVUOT ICE CREAM

Shabbat morning,
May 27
following services

Acknowledgements

PULPIT FUND

Michael Abrams & Lisa Lazerson
Bill & Ilana Altman in memory of the
yahrzeit of Bill's sister, **Judith Greenfield**
Aryeh & Pearl Buitron as a thank you to
Judy Beizer for honors received
Bochner, Neuman, and Malitz families
to **Jessica, Howard, Philip and Sharon**
in memory of their mother,
Sharon Braginsky
Keith & Bonnie Chernin in memory of the
yahrzeit of Keith's mother,
Marilyn Chernin
Carl & Elaine David in honor of
Carl Koerner and Mr. and Mrs.
Klibanoff, this year's honorees at the
dinner/dance
Carl & Elaine David in appreciation to
Matt and Judy Beizer for their
dedication to FHJC in overseeing the
congregation's search for a new Rabbi
Georgette and Anthony Dankner
wishing everyone a Happy Purim!
Sharon Felman in memory of parents,
Edith and Irving Felman, and
grandparents, **Ida and Philip Lunin**,
and aunt, **Elsie Lunin**
Michael Friedman
Miriam Gartenberg
Regina Geber in honor of naming of
Romi Narov's granddaughter
Regina Geber in honor of **Carl Koerner**
Regina Geber in honor of **Barbara and**
Jerry Klibanoff on occasion of Dinner
Dance
Regina Geber in memory of the yahrzeit
of her father, **Benedicto Geber**
(26 Nisan)
Yoram & Gloria Bloch Golan in memory
of the yahrzeit of Gloria's father,
Sam Bloch
Glaubiger Family in memory of the
Rabinowitz, Domroe and Ellis families
Stuart Herman
Devorah Goldstein in memory of the
yahrzeit of her husband,
Herbert Goldstein
Rae & Gary Kerzner in honor of
Jerry Klibanoff's birthday
Janet Klein
Jerry & Barbara Klibanoff
Catherine Koatz

Monica & Ezra Lagnado with gratitude to
Dr. Mitchell Frank for honors received
Benjamin & Felicia Leeman in honor of **Rae**
Kerzner's birthday
Benjamin & Felicia Leeman in honor of
Jerry Klibanoff's birthday
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna, and Dorothy
Mahlab in celebration of **Jerry Klibanoff's**
special birthday
Oskar & Roz Matzner in memory of **Sharon**
Braginsky
Oskar & Roz Matzner in memory of yahrzeit
of her brother, **Lawrence Farkas**
Anita Miller, Dr. Larry Miller and Wendy
Lurie in memory of **Maurice Miller** on his
yahrzeit
Curtis Renkin
Akiva Sklar & Zlata Golubitskaya
Glenn & Dina Tanzer
Gary & Debra Weil in memory of the yahrzeit
of his father, **Leopold Weil**
Miriam Weintraub in memory of the yahrzeit
of her uncle, **Marin Bear**
Judy Wichter in honor of **Barbara and Jerry**
Klibanoff's honor at the gala
Judy Wichter in honor of **Jerry Klibanoff's**
90th birthday
David & Judy Zipkowitz in honor of **Jerry**
Klibanoff's 90th birthday
David & Judy Zipkowitz in honor of
Rae Kerzner's special birthday

HAZZAN'S MUSIC FUND

Keith & Bonnie Chernin
Jason & Maureen Dunkel
Diane & Leonard Fogelman in memory of
father, grandfather, FHJC Choir member
Philip Fogelman
Michael & Judi Silverstein

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

Michael Abrams & Lisa Lazerson
Bill & Ilana Altman in honor of **Jerry**
Klibanoff's 90th birthday
Monica, Ezra, Caroline and Evelyn
Lagnado in memory of **Aron Friedlich**
(23rd Yahrzeit)
Mark & Pauline Raphael in honor of
Rae Kerzner's birthday
David & Judy Zipkowitz in honor of
Eliana Marks' Bat Mitzvah

KIDDUSH FUND

Frank & Soraya Baharestani in memory of the
yahrzeit of her father, **Massoud Rastegar**
Barbara Bernstein in honor of **Barbara and**
Jerry Klibanoff
Aryeh & Pearl Buitron
Ellis & Marcia Hittner in memory of
Gladys Miller Friedman and Dr. Ira Friedman
Rae & Gary Kerzner in honor of
Jerry Klibanoff
Alan & Susan Moskowitz Kirschner with
gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Eric Kober and Laurie Lax in honor of
Rae Kerzner's birthday
Eric Kober and Laurie Lax in memory of the
first yahrzeit of her mother, **Dr. Judith Lax**
(18 Nisan 5783)
Ezra & Monica Lagnado with gratitude to **Rae**
Kerzner for honors received
Sharon Hoosak-Larish in memory of the
yahrzeit of her father, **Dovid ben Yacov**
Ruth Lax in recognition of honors received from
Judy Beizer
Stephen & Sarah Markowitz in honor of
Jonathan & Eve
Gail Port in honor of **Jerry Klibanoff's** 90th
milestone birthday
Gail Port in honor of **Rae Kerzner's** milestone
birthday
Mark & Pauline Raphael in honor of **Jerry &**
Barbara Klibanoff
Lisa Rich in honor of **Rae Kerzner's** birthday
Lisl Topper in honor of the yahrzeit of her
mother, **Elsa Pisk**

DEBRA DANIS SEIDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

Matt & Judy Beizer
Harold & Dorrie Berkowitz
Howard & Jessica Berman
Aaron Blum
Naomi Danis
Bonnie Dassa
Anne Frankel
Mitchell & Lari Frank
Ariela & Felipe Dorregaray-Frieder
Norman & Carol Guttman
Al & Temma Kingsley
Eric Kober & Laurie Lax
Daniel & Betty Korb
Jay & Zita Luger
Rosalind Okun
Michael Seiden
Lauren & Warren Wankoff

Book of Remembrance

On all designated holidays when Yizkor is recited, Rabbi Skolnik will read the names of those inscribed in the Book of Remembrance.

Davora Abraham	Randy Fox	Arthur Heller	Elayne Leef	Stephen Reich
Yakov Hassid Abraham	Sam Fox	Jesse Heller	Larry Leef	Feiga Remetier
David Abrahams	Stella Frank	Morris Heller	Mark Leef	Frank E. Riesenfeld
Madeline Abrahams	John Steven Fuchs	Albert Hirsch	Rabbi Albert Leeman	Sylvia Rolnick
Barney W. Adler	Josef Samuel Fuchs	Herta Hirsch	Lillian Gutman Leeman	William Rolnick
Henrietta K. Adler	Rosalie Fuchsberg	Sybil Hyman	Edward Lehem	Carla Rosenblum Bromberg
Esther Anapolsky	Meyer Fuchsberg	Nathan Hyman	Fortuna Lehem	Carolyn Rosenblum Lubin
Samuel Anapolsky	Dr. J. Savin Garber	Eva Lea Jaari	Marco Lehem	Howard Rosenblum
Arthur Ball	Syd Garber	Lochem Avichai Jaari	Palomba Lehem	Jonathan Rosenblum
Otto Josef Baruch	Faith Garfield	Julius D. Kahn	Sol Lehem	Dr. Louis Rosenblum
Berthold Bear	Philip Garfield	Kate Kahn	Charles Leibler	Lillian Rosenthal
Lisa Bear	Benedicto Geber	Frances Kalikow	Frieda Leibler	Seymour Rosenthal
Martin Bear	Marta Geber	Morris Kalikow	Abraham Lerner	Sidney Roth
Toni Bear	Feiga Rosa Ginsburg	Nathaniel Saul Kane	Clara Lerner	George Rozsa
Victoria Benghiat	Albert Glazer	Benjamin B. Katz	Maurice Lerner	Toni Pernitz Ruda
Ida Benghiat	Cecelia Glazer	Haskel Katz	Joseph Lestz	Sabina Safier
Edwin Berger	Clara Glazer	Helen F. Katz	Leon Levin	Simon A. Safier
Julie Berger	David Glazer	Miriam Katz	Charles Levy	Gladys Salup
Sol Berley	Gussie Glazer	Morris M. Katz	Pearl Levy	Abraham Salzmann
Sydell Berley	Arnold Glick	Fred E. Katzner	Ludwig Loewenstein	Elizabeth Samuel
Jean Roberta Biegelson	Fannie Glick	Gladys Kenner	Margaret Loewenstein	Siegfried Samuel
Sidney Biegelson	Irving Glick	Max Kenner	Dr. Jack London	Irving Savitz
Edward Birnbaum	Max Glick	Herman Kingsley	Dr. Edward Mahlab	Ruth Savitz
Evelyn Blum	Ruth Rhoda Glick	Marion Kingsley	Suzette Mahlab	Jack Schaeffer
Robert Blum	Helen Goldenberg	Henry Kletter	Lionel Malamed	Lillian Schaeffer
Abe Blumstein	Sherry Sue Goldenberg	Sophie Kohn	David Maryasin	Leo Schain
Rabbi Baruch Micah Bokser	Martin Goldman	Louis Kohn	Leopold Lipot Mayer	Martha Schain
Kallia Bokser	Lola Joy Goldman	Aaron Korn	Rose Guttman Mayer	Harold Schantz
Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser	Celia Goldman	Lillian Korn	Theodore Mayer	Elias Segal
Aaron Broder	Norman Peter Goldman	Fortuna Kovalsky	Michael Mayorowitz	Mildred Segal
Jennie Broder	Abraham Goldsmith	Max Kovolick	Gertrude Mayorowitz Lukacs	Irwin Seitenbach
Sylvia Broder	Harold Goldsmith	Leo Kra	Harry Mesard	Malvin Sevin
Milton Bruck	Mary Goldsmith	Adolph G. Kraus	Lily R. Mesard	Albert Shaw
Ruth Bruck	Benjamin Goldstein	Samuel Kravitz	Rabbi Amos W. Miller	Ruth Shulim
Henry Burger	Carl Goldstein	Melanie Krieger	Hannah B. Miller	Annette Silberman
Henry Burger	Dave Goldstein	Abraham Krumbein	Chaskel Morgenstern	Ruby Silberman
Dora Butnick	Herb Goldstein	Sarah Krumbein	Irene Morgenstern	David Skolnik
Milton Butnick	Nettie Goldstein	Benjamin Krumholz	Carl J. Moskowitz	Lillian Skolnik
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Abraham Obiedzinski Fink	Solomon G. Heiferman	Harry B. Lader	Raphael Raphael	Sally Tenenbaum
Philip Fogelman	Jean Claude Heilberg	Helen J. Lader	Irwin Reich	
Rose Fogelman	Ray F. Heitner	Murray Landau		
Pauline Fox	Solomon Heitner	Dorothy Lapin		
	Anna Heller	Samuel Lapin		

continued on next page.

Book of Remembrance Continued

Fred Theise
Leslie Ticker
Marvin Ticker
Max Troper
Jack Vogel
Laura Vogel
Bessie Walker
Ellen Bea Walker
Joseph Walker
Leon Walker
Marie M. Walker
Robert Walker
Rose Walker
Jacob Wallach
Raoul Wallenberg
Stanley Weg

Alfred A. Weinberg
Selma Weinberg
Anna Weiner
Morris Weiner
Isidore Weinkselbaum
Jennie Weinkselbaum
Jerry Weinkselbaum
Walter Weintraub
Herbert Weiser
Milton Winograd
Estelle Zafran
Ira Zalbe
Frieda Zielonka
Harry Zielonka
Abraham Zwick
Dora Feldman Zwick



SCHOLARSTREAM

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

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 #7: Counting the Days & Making Every Day Count

Wednesdays, April 19, 26 and May 3, 10 at 12 PM ET / 9 AM PT

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 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.



Sisterhood & SURJE Book Discussion

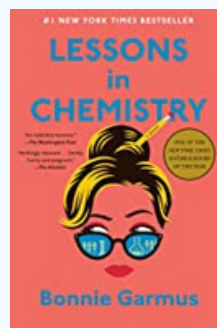


**Thursday, May 4,
8:00 PM (ZOOM)**

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.

[Click here to register.](#) There is no charge for this program.

Sisterhood Daytime Readers



**Thursday, May 18
2:00 PM (ZOOM)**

Meet Elizabeth Zott: an unapologetic and inspiring scientist in 1960s California. Her career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. (Amazon review)

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

Looking for the
Calendar?
Please visit the FHJC
website for
our up-to-date calendar.
www.FHJC.org

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