



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

March-April-May 2024 / Adar I - Adar II - Nisan - Iyar 5784/ Vol. LXXIX No. 4



FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

PURIM 2024

**SATURDAY EVE.
MARCH 23**

8:30
PM

MEGILLAH READING

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

8:20
AM

**PURIM
SHACHARIT**

9:00
AM

**COSTUME
PARADE**

9:15
AM

**MEGILLAH
READING**

**FESTIVE PURIM BRUNCH, CHESED PROJECT &
PERFORMANCE, & CARNIVAL!**



11:30
AM

Featuring:

John Pizzi



FHJC PURIM CARNIVAL

Bounce House - Inflatable Obstacle
Course - Games - Crafts

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24
12:30-3:00 PM**

*** Kids under 5 can enter at noon! ***

\$5 Per Child (13 and under) Includes
Inflatables/Crafts/10 Tickets for Games.

Hot Dogs, Drinks, & Popcorn
Available for Purchase.

**OPEN
TO ALL!**



FESTIVE PURIM BRUNCH

& CHESED PROJECT

Sunday, March 24, 2024 | 10:15 AM

Purim Chesed Project
Let's do a mitzvah!



Enjoy a fun Purim
seudah/ brunch
including Cocktails,
Mocktails, and More

**RSVP
NOW!**

For FHJC Members & Guests of Members
Adults: \$8 (includes 1 Drink);
Children: \$2. RSVP by March 20

BRUNCH SIGN-UP



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Daniel Graber

Dear friends,

As we approach the joyous celebrations of Purim and the Festival of Passover, many are wondering "How can we celebrate this year"? So many of us have our hearts tied to the war in Gaza, are fearful for the fate of the hostages, and are shaken by the rising levels of antisemitism around the globe, including in America.

The way that we celebrate our joyful holidays this spring must be to engage in them and truly feel their lessons. We are reminded in the rituals of these holidays of the timeless themes of redemption, resilience, and renewal that resonate deeply within our tradition.

Purim recounts the salvation of the Jewish people from the hands of Haman in ancient Persia who sought to kill every Jew. Esther and Mordechai defeat his wicked plot by holding on to their connection as part of the Jewish people and adroitly self-advocating despite the risk of speaking up. It teaches us that even in the face of such evil, the bravery of individuals and cleaving to one's Jewish identity can provide the means to overcome the meanest persecution.

Similarly, Passover, a time when we gather around the Seder table to retell the story of our ancestors' exodus from Egypt, reminds us of the transformative power of liberation. As we recount the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and the journey to freedom, we are called to reflect on the enduring legacy of our people's resilience in the face of oppression. "In every generation they stand over us to afflict us", we intone in the haggadah, yet the Jewish people endure and even flourish.

In the midst of our own trials and tribulations, both personal and communal, we can find solace and strength in the narratives of Purim and Passover. They remind us that redemption is possible, even in the most challenging of circumstances. As we come together to celebrate these festivals, let us draw inspiration from the courage of Esther, the wisdom of Mordechai, and the faith of our ancestors.

May this Purim be a time of joy and celebration, and may this Passover be a time of reflection and renewal. May we be blessed with the courage to confront injustice, the strength to overcome adversity, and the faith to believe in the possibility of redemption.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Chag Purim Sameach and a meaningful Passover,

Rabbi Daniel Graber



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) or Rabbi Graber (rabbid@fhjc.org) or Debbie Bochner (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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NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

Hazzan Randall Levin

Springtime is a time of rejuvenation for many people, as the days get longer and longer. No wonder our tradition teaches that as we enter the month of Adar our joy increases! During the upcoming weeks we will celebrate Purim, and also Passover, referred to in our prayers as *z'man cheruteinu*, the season of our freedom. Many sources make the connection between the two holidays as one in which the joy of Adar and Purim logically lead into Passover. This framing works well because, on some level, Purim has a lower level of *kedusha*, both in terms of our home observances, and in terms of the synagogue ritual relative to the construction of the liturgy. It is easy to imagine a holiday with no *yom tov*, or Torah-mandated observance, as a prelude to a longer, more important festival not only mentioned in the Torah, but indeed the greater narrative subject of the entire Five Books of Moses. Other sources, however, provide a different perspective, pointing to Pesach as the very beginning of the Jewish year. While Rosh Hashana is the New Year of the

World (it really celebrates a new year for the entire universe - not just for Jews, but for all creation), the Jewish year actually begins in the spring, in the month of Nissan, with Passover. Where does that leave us, then, with Purim? Well, logically, this places Purim at the very end of the liturgical calendar, as the culmination of the Jewish year. Looking at it in this way, we might imagine Passover as the very beginning of our covenantal relationship with God, with the Jewish people as a throng of slaves, redeemed by signs and wonders, and experiencing together a primary encounter with Torah at Sinai. In this light we can see Purim as an ultimate expression of our nationhood: one in which we celebrate together, creating our own sense of holiness through traditions and teachings perhaps more fully realized in our post-biblical narrative.

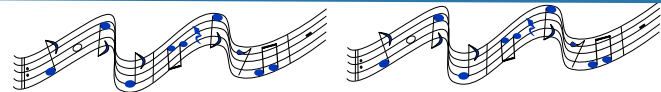
Even for many observant Jews, the exact nature of the observance of Purim has a certain intrigue to it. On the one hand, the holiday allows for a high level of creativity, and on the other, the looser structure often leaves us wondering about exactly how important this holiday really is. Part of the reason for this ambiguity stems from the fact that Purim does not fit neatly into the broader taxonomy of Jewish holidays. Purim is not directly connected with any other holiday, but rather shares some common traits and distinct differences with several holidays.

The most obvious connection is with the Hanukkah, being that they are both considered post-biblical (more accurately, post-Pentateuchal), non-sacrificial holidays. As such, they are treated similarly in the liturgy with the recitation of the *Al Hanissim* prayers inserted into the Modim prayer. However, in homage to the modern Latke vs Hamantaschen Debate, we should not fail to note that the differences between these two holidays are really quite stark. On the surface, one holiday is celebrated at the early onset of spring for just a single day, while the other is celebrated in midwinter as an eight day Festival (connecting it to Sukkot). Digging a bit deeper we can also observe that Purim is in the Jewish Bible, while Hanukkah is not (interestingly, Hanukkah is mentioned in the Christian Bible, while Purim is not). Purim is about a physical threat to the Jewish people, while Hanukkah represents victory over a spiritual threat. Purim is typically celebrated as a community, in the synagogue, while Hanukkah is predominantly celebrated in the home with candles and fried foods. Purim is an occasion to dress in costumes, and traditionally involves jokes and riddles, and frivolity, and an overall sense of joy (for this reason, Purim is sometimes conflated with Simchat Torah, although one occurs upon the completion of the penitential season, and celebrates God's saving our souls, while the other, Purim, celebrates God's saving of the Jewish nation).

In addition to the seasonal connection discussed above, Passover and Purim share a similarly unique set of connections and contradictions. On both Pesach and Purim we celebrate with a meal. On Purim, this is a simple *seudah*, while on Passover we have a highly structured Seder. Though Purim occurs in a communal setting and the Passover Seder occurs in the home, the dominant theme of both holidays ultimately revolves around story-telling. Despite their profound differences, both holidays revolve around the fate of the entire nation (including women and children), and the predominant *mitzvah* is the telling and hearing of our national story.

No matter how, or with whom, we celebrate, may we all observe the upcoming holidays with a *lev shalem*, a full heart, and a commitment to gathering together and continuing to tell our story.

Chag Sameach!
Hazzan Levin



FHJC Annual Zimriyah

76 Years of Israel

Monday, May 13, 2024

7:30 PM - Ma'ariv

8:00 PM - Celebrate with song in the Heller Family Ballroom.

Refreshments will be served.

The event is offered free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Avidor and Rezak families in loving memory of Arie Avidor.





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gary Kerzner

A Purim Story: Is It Possible To Be Too Warm and Welcoming?

On a cold winter's day, a stranger walked into FHJC's town. He wore a mask and fur coat and looked strangely like my uncle twice-removed, Izzy Uman. No one noticed him, at first, but he soon made his presence known and became a source of great worry and consternation to our Maintenance staff. Much effort was given to tracking him down but finally, with the aid of an expert whose skill at capturing such desperados is applauded far and wide, he was taken alive!

Below is a photo of The Prisoner in a holding cell:



I can only speculate that he must have heard of the wonderful reputation FHJC has earned for its warm and welcoming services, kiddushes and events. And far be it from me to discriminate against any creature, two-legged or more, who desires to join our congregation. However, the sheer chutzpah he showed by not bothering to notify the office of his intention to take up residence at FHJC, in addition to his inability to sit still during the D'var Torah, made me less than kindly disposed toward his membership application. Accordingly, once he was in custody, we immediately stamped the application REJECTED and had him removed from the premises. He can apply for

membership at any other nearby religious institution but has been assured that should he attempt to re-enter FHJC in search of a warm, welcoming environment, he will not be greeted and made to feel welcome.

And that brings me to the real point of this column: Everyone who visits FHJC should feel welcome and be able to feel the warmth of our clergy, our members and staff. We recently implemented a Shabbat Greeters program to ensure the first faces you see and voices you hear upon entering the building on Shabbat help you to feel welcome. (Please contact Susie Spodek to join the program, which requires only one hour/month of your time.) I'm very grateful that so many people have sponsored a special kiddush to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or other event. It's no surprise that people remain at kiddush, shmoozing and having a good time long after Shabbat services.

Aside from our wonderful clergy and the great relations they promote with new and long-time members, the Shabbat kiddush has done more than anything else to make us a warm and welcoming place. Let's keep it going. If you or a family member have a special event coming up, please let us know and let's plan to celebrate it with the entire congregation. (We'll make sure that Rocky and friends aren't invited.)

Gary Kerzner, President

FHJC Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 7:30 PM



Lighting of memorial candles,
Poetry read by Ruth Baran Gerold,
Musical presentation by Hazzan Levin,
Remarks by Rabbi Graber
Special Yom Hashoah Presentation
Memorial prayer recited, along with
communal Kaddish.

EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Jessica Braginsky

Let's Give Thanks for our Teachers

The first full week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a perfect Jewish celebration. After all, what could be more Jewish than (1) showing gratitude and (2) celebrating teaching and learning?

The Mishneh Torah says that it is an obligation for all wise people to teach all students even if they are not one's own children. I would wholeheartedly agree that our teachers are wise however, I do not believe that they teach solely from a sense of obligation.

Many Jewish texts extol teachers and education. The Talmud preserves a *baraita* (a teaching) that says "... they who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; ...And they who turn many to righteousness like the stars for ever and ever; these are schoolteachers." Yet I do not believe that our teachers spend their Sunday mornings at FHJC for the accolades.

And even though it says in the Talmud, "Anyone who loves to teach in abundance, before the multitudes, to him shall be increase..." I don't think our teachers are doing what they do so well because of the money.

On our faculty we have a Rhodes Scholar, an engineer, a teacher who brings experience from all parts of the Jewish professional world who also has a Masters in Jewish Education, and teachers who have taught as master teachers in Israel. We have teachers who bring knowledge they have accumulated over years of their own Jewish education and teachers who are bringing cutting-edge knowledge of pedagogy straight from their Ed classes to our students. We even have home-grown talent who learned at the knee of the great Torah scholar, Rabbi Gerald Skolnik. So why do these amazing people spend hours preparing lessons that engage students, that build community and at the same time teach ancient Jewish learning and rituals in a way that makes the material vibrant and meaningful?

I believe it is because our teachers live their lives according to the teaching of Rav, who Rav Yehuda cites as saying "the Torah is an inheritance for all of the Jewish people." The teachers at the Religious School are dedicated to sharing their passion for Judaism with all of their students. They believe that Judaism can enrich each and every student's life. And beyond that, they want to share the inheritance of the Torah; the belief that, as Rabbi Yitz Greenberg says, "Judaism is founded on human faith and divine promise that the world can be perfected."

Psychology has shown that relationships are fundamental to well-being. The teachers at the Forest Hills Jewish Center Religious School are more than founts of knowledge and great role models, they are also caring, wonderful adults who build warm relationships with each child and who are devoted to ensuring that each child in the school thrives. There's no reason to wait until May. We can be inspired at any time to do the mitzvah of "*hakarat ha'tov*," (recognizing) appreciating the good in our lives that has been gifted to our children, by this beautiful quote from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks:

"Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence. They teach us to ask questions. They connect us to our past and future. They're the guardians of our social heritage. We have lots of heroes today - sportsmen, supermodels, media personalities. They come, they have their fifteen minutes of fame, and they go. But the influence of good teachers stays with us. They are the people who really shape our life."
(From Optimism to Hope p. 132)

Thank you to:

Maayan Sandowski - HaKen
Michelle Polonetsky - Gan
Nitza Golan - Gan Assistant
Orly Rechany - Aleph, Gimmel and Daled
Julia Hakim - Bet
Kayla Rose and Ariel Creditor - Gimmel
Eli Bursteyn - Daled
Josh Altman - Hay
Ruti Schneider - Hay
Karen Stein - Vav, Chet, Tet & Yud
Dov Frank - Zayin
Sami Gubin - Chet
Michael David - Hebrew High 11th grade
Marcy Mirkin - Music Enrichment and Prayer Leader

NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher

In our synagogue community, we understand the importance of family connections, especially during the years of early childhood. We are committed to fostering these connections through meaningful and engaging initiatives that involve not only the children but also their parents and caregivers. Our recent focus has been on enhancing our Shabbat family programs to better meet the needs and wants of our families with young children. To ensure that our efforts are aligned with the preferences of our community, we conducted a survey among families with young children. We wanted to hear directly from them about their experiences, interests, and suggestions for our Shabbat family programs.

Our commitment to engaging parents in early childhood education initiatives resonates deeply with our school's Reggio Emilia philosophy. Central to this approach is the belief that learning should be child-centered and responsive to the needs and interests of each individual child. Just as we conducted a survey to gather insights from our families, in line with Reggio Emilia principles, we continuously strive to understand the unique needs, interests, and abilities of our littlest learners in our school program. This collaborative approach to curriculum development ensures that our programs remain dynamic and relevant. By valuing the input of parents and children alike, we uphold the principles of respect, collaboration, and community engagement that lie at the heart of our Reggio Emilia philosophy.

One of the findings from the survey was the desire for interactive programs that had a component allowing for our families to socialize during our Shabbat family gatherings. Parents expressed the importance of creating meaningful experiences that would not only deepen their children's connection to Jewish traditions but also strengthen their bond as a family and their connections to other Jewish families in our community. Armed with this feedback, we are looking to strengthen our Shabbat programs with a renewed focus on interactive learning and shared experiences. Over the coming months, we will introduce a variety of engaging activities designed to cater to our families with young children, from interactive storytelling that bring Jewish tales to life to celebrating Shabbat rituals. We will also incorporate song and prayer into our gatherings and a light bite which always fosters joy and connection.

We hope to see the strengthening of family bonds as families and children come together to celebrate Shabbat in a warm and inclusive environment. Through collaborative learning, meaningful rituals, and shared experiences, we are building a foundation for lifelong connections within our synagogue community. Let's continue to create together a supportive and enriching environment where families can grow, learn, and thrive together.

Sisterhood, Men's Club, Membership, and School Board Presents:

Jurassic Pork:

What Could a Jewish Time Traveler Eat?

Sunday, March 17 - 4:00 PM (Zoom)

Discussions about the Bible and science almost always focus on the relatively small segments of the text dealing with creation and how it conflicts, when read literally, with scientific views of the age and history of the Earth.

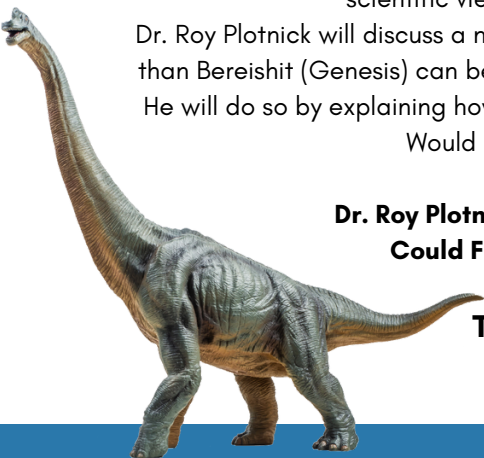
Dr. Roy Plotnick will discuss a novel approach: that knowledge of the biblical texts other than Bereishit (Genesis) can be used to spark an interest in evolution and paleontology.

He will do so by explaining how paleontologists would answer a hypothetical question:

Would a fossil animal have been kosher?

**Dr. Roy Plotnick will answer the burning question:
Could Fred Flintstone have kept kosher?**

To find out: [Click Here](#)



ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl and David Snyder

This is being written on a rare snowy day but the schedule that follows is all our spring offerings for our FHJC Adult Education program. We take pride that so many of our programs are given by our own members who welcome the opportunity to teach about their interests and their acquired knowledge.

The **Hebrew Literature** group has 2 sessions scheduled to complete their year of studying **Hebrew Poems of Resistance and Hope**. Watch for the fliers for the poems to be studied at each session and save these dates: **March 28 and May 23** – both are Thursdays, and the time is 5:00PM.

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 how we will run our Seders as well as our menus.

Jack Gostl will continue his look into the Holocaust, a theme 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.

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, May 7 at 8:00PM**

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

After Ira's presentation we will be on the hunt for next year's programs. Speak to David or Judy if you have an idea for a class that you can teach next year. We already have a couple of volunteers, but we still need at least six more teachers to round out the program.



HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

Mitchell Frank

The Hebrew Literature Group's ongoing theme for the year is Poems of Resistance and Hope. In each session we've read and discussed a modern Hebrew poem on this theme, matched by an ancient one. In our most recent meeting, on February 15th, the modern text was Natan Alterman's classic “Magash Hakesef”, or “Silver Platter”, written in 1947 as nascent Israel prepared for the war it knew was coming. Alongside it, we read a first installment of the biblical Song of Deborah (Judges, ch. 5), and looked at archaeological findings that shed light on that ancient battle against Sisera's Canaanite army. In our next meeting, scheduled for **Thursday, March 28th**, we will continue reading the Song of Deborah, and also read Haim Guri's legendary War of Independence poem/song, “Bab el Wad”, commemorating the battle to open the road to besieged Jerusalem.

In the Hebrew Literature Group, now entirely on Zoom, texts are read in Hebrew with English translation, and discussion is in English. Join us!

Mitchell Frank





MEN'S CLUB

Hal Berkowitz

January brought the revival of Coffee House which was sponsored by Men's Club for the first time and was truly a successful event. Twenty-two performances and a packed ballroom made for a fabulous night, and people are already lining up for next year's event.

On February 8, Men's Club sponsored a New York Islander game, and those attending had a wonderful time. Sunday, February 11, was Super Bowl Sunday and that means World Wide Wrap. Men's Clubs around the world layed tefillin. FHJC men and women and our Religious School children learned how to put on tefillin, for many it's their first time. Rabbi Graber and Hazzan Levin along with Men's Club volunteers helped people put on tefillin. After morning services was a breakfast and a presentation. Men and women were welcomed to learn with Rabbi Graber.

On February 21, at 8:00 PM on Zoom, The International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs held their monthly meeting. The guest speakers were FHJC's own Sam Forman and Bentzy Rosengarten. They spoke about inclusion at the Forest Hills Jewish Center.

March means Purim, and this year it falls on a Saturday night and Sunday, March 23-24. Plans are under way for a festive day which will include a megillah reading (of course), a chesed project,

a Purim Brunch, and a performance by nationally known ventriloquist John Pizzi. John has appeared on America's Got Talent and has traveled around the US and Europe. Two members of this congregation appeared in his act at last June at the International Federation of Men's Clubs convention in Philadelphia. You don't want to miss this magic and puppet show! All are welcome, and don't forget to bring your kids and grandkids. Our annual carnival will follow after the amazing morning. RSVP information coming soon!

April means Passover, Yom Hashoah, and the FHJC Men's Club Yellow Candle Program. You'll be receiving a free candle to light to keep alive the memory of those 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and help us with a contribution to this program.

June is a busy month, and Men's Club will be celebrating with Men's Club Shabbat on Saturday, June 15. Our Club will be leading services, and we are sponsoring a kiddush, but we also plan to have our deli and beer luncheon, which will be open to all with a reservation. More details will follow.

Hal Berkowitz
FHJC Men's Club Interim President



SISTERHOOD

Debra Weil, Presiding Officer, March/April

An on-line Kaddish Study Group/Minyan that I enjoy tuning into each day draws people from all over the country (and sometimes the world) for a 10-minute moment each day to learn from the "Rabbi of the day" and to say Kaddish together at the end of the session. As each participant unmutes themselves a cacophony of sound ensues; and the Zoom boxes that have been static and locked in place begin to shuffle themselves. Though listening to multiple people speaking at one time on Zoom is usually annoying to me, I admit that I have truly enjoyed the disconnected prayers and, especially, watching the ever-changing group of people that pop in and out on my screen. For those few moments as we say Kaddish we are all in the same room hearing each other and responding to each other's prayers.

The FHJC Sisterhood, 90+ years strong, also draws participants from all over and continues to provide a variety of programs to the FHJC family and the entire community. Each month we provide both in-person and on-line programming appealing to all ages and all interests. Do you like to cook and experiment with new spices and new taste experiences? We hope you attended our **Cooking with Spices program with Benita Gayle-Almeleh**. Are you wondering about planning your financial future as you age (or have aging relatives)? We hosted **Deborah Ball-Witlin who filled us in about The Documents Everyone Needs**, including estate planning, wills and trusts,

power of attorney and advanced healthcare directives. (If you missed these, we can send you the link for the recording) Want to discuss books with a reading group - join us for **Daytime Readers on March 21st** at 2pm on Zoom as we discuss **"The Dictionary of Lost Words"** by Pip Williams. And don't miss our journey back to the Jurassic World as we explore **"Jurassic Pork: What Could a Jewish Time Traveler Eat"** an on-line presentation by **Dr. Roy Plotnick Sunday March 17th at 4pm**.

FHJC Sisterhood is also part of the larger world of the Brooklyn Queens Long Island Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, and we proudly participate in our regional programming - and are honored to have 2 members of the BQLI Board from FHJC! This year BQLI is holding their Regional Conference - "Building Bridges, Sisters Connecting" on Thursday, April 4th; and as part of the Conference FHJC Sisterhood will receive a special Sisterhood Milestone Award recognizing our membership in Women's League for more than 90 years. Several of our Board members will be representing FHJC Sisterhood at the Conference and registration is open to all paid up members of Sisterhood. We look forward to expanding out of our FHJC "box" and being part of the ever-changing group of Sisterhood women in attendance. We look forward to seeing you join us, too.

Challah & Chesed: FHJC in Action

FHJC's bakers young and old(er) gathered at the recent Sisterhood/ School Board Challah Bake, following the expertise of Amy Bochner Newman.



Volunteers made more than 300 soy nut butter and jelly sandwiches in addition to dozens of toiletry kits. All the items were delivered to the food pantry at Queens Commonpoint.

MAZAL TOV TO OUR MARCH-APRIL B'NEI MITZVAH



Jordan Melzer-Mitchell

Bar Mitzvah, March 16, 2024

Jordan Melzer-Mitchell has resided in Forest Hills since his birth in 2011. He is currently attending Halsey JHS in Rego Park, where his talent is STEM. Since Jordan was still in a baby carrier, we've taken him on hikes and to National Parks. Through this and numerous classes at Alley Pond Environmental Center, the local zoos and aquarium, Jordan has developed a deep reverence for all things wild, and nature. For his Bar Mitzvah project he is working closely with the Painted Dog Conservation organization located in Zimbabwe. He hopes to raise both awareness and funds for these amazing animals. They are endangered mainly due to human activity, negatively impacting their habitats.



Matias Horodniceanu

Bar Mitzvah, March 23, 2024

Matias has been a student at FHJC since Kindergarten. He is a seventh grader at Nest + M school in lower Manhattan. Matias plays tennis and placed in the top 50 in his age group for Archery in a recent National tournament. He also plays drums and enjoys snowboarding. For his Mitzvah project, Matias is beginning to train his dog Ozzy to be a therapy dog for young children. Matias spends his summers at Brant Lake Camp and Sababa Surf Camp.



Jonah White

Bar Mitzvah, April 13, 2024

Jonah White has been attending FHJC since he was 2 1/2 years old! He is currently a student at Halsey JHS. Jonah has always loved Legos, his family (which includes his dog, Mocha), cars and family vacations/adventures. For his mitzvah project, Jonah will be raising money for The Asher House Animal Sanctuary, an organization that rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes animals that have been abused or abandoned and provides them with a safe home. Jonah attends day camp every summer and this year he will be going to Usdan where he will major in band. His instrument is the saxophone.



Eliana Santamaria Zakry

Bat Mitzvah, April 20, 2024

Eliana has been a student at FHJC since first grade. She is a student at Halsey Junior High School in Rego Park. Eliana loves dancing, jewelry making, fashion, sports such as playing volleyball and soccer and hanging out with her friends. Her favorite subject has always been math and loves geography. Eliana is very kind and good hearted. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Eliana joined the fight to help end childhood cancer by participating in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital fundraisers for kids of St. Jude, who are battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases. In addition to St. Jude, Eliana loves to make her own jewelry and for the past two summers, she participated in an annual Volleyball tournament event where a percentage of the proceeds went to Stonewall Initiative Gives Back which helps children in need.



Jonah Monaco

Bar Mitzvah, May 4, 2024

Jonah Eliav Monaco started at the Forest Hills Jewish Center Nursery when he was two years old, eager to join the fun. He started Religious School in Kindergarten. Now, Jonah is in seventh grade at Halsey Junior High School where he plays the flute in the school band and enjoys science. Jonah spends his summer at Sababa Beachaway, where he loves sailing and surfing, and this year will complete his SCUBA certification. Jonah loves most animals, doing crafts, Legos, Roblox, fishing, and hanging out with his friends, older brother, and cousins. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Jonah is exploring ways to help the environment, animals, and Israel.



Naomi Gordon-Zolov

Bat Mitzvah, May 11, 2024

Naomi Gordon-Zolov has been a student at the Forest Hills Jewish Center since Kindergarten. She is currently in seventh grade at Halsey Junior High School, where her talent is theater. She plays on the FHYAA softball and soccer teams and has spent the last few summers at USDAN Summer Camp for the Arts, where she has majored in sculpture and ceramics, painting and drawing, and metalsmithing. In her free time, she loves to draw and jam on her electric guitar. She also likes baking with her siblings, Chloe and Sascha. She is grateful to Rabbi Graber, Hazzan Levin, Jessica Braginsky, and all her teachers at the FHJC for providing a vibrant Jewish community.



Anna Goldfarb

Bat Mitzvah, May 18, 2024

Anna Goldfarb is a lifelong resident of Forest Hills along with her older brother Charlie, her younger brother Jacob, and parents Paula and Paul. Anna first entered the FHJC as a baby initially at Kids Kongregation and continuing through the Religious School. Anna attended PS303Q and she is now an honors student at Halsey JHS 157 where she is on the debate team and specializes in STEM. Anna has played soccer and basketball but her favorite sport is playing on her softball team as catcher. In her free time, Anna is a voracious reader, loves being creative and working on art projects, listening to music, and most of all, spending time with her family and friends. Anna has attended the Commonpoint Queens COY Explorers and Island Quest camps. For her mitzvah project, Anna will be raising funds to support Commonpoint Camps.



Michelle Carchman

Bat Mitzvah, June 1, 2024

Michelle is a student at the Baccalaureate School for Global Studies and enjoys the substance and challenge of what she is learning as well as hanging out with her classmates. She is a student representative at school and enjoys planning school functions and activities. History is her favorite subject and she loves to read books that have a Jewish theme, especially books about the Holocaust. Her Jewish identity is something very important to her and she is very curious about all aspects of Judaism. Her favorite trip was a family vacation to Israel which she still loves to reminisce about today. She is very excited about her Bat Mitzvah and reaching this important milestone.

Acknowledgements

PULPIT FUND

Ellen Cahn – in honor of **Jay Luger's** 80th birthday
Renee' & Mitchell Kornet – in honor of **Jay Luger's** 80th birthday
Monica Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received (yahrzeit of **Jenny Friedlich**)
Susan Moskowitz & Alan Kirschner – in memory of **Joseph Moskowitz** (50th yahrzeit)

The following donations were made in memory of **Bill Altman:**
Ellen Cahn
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab
Esther Feldman

KIDDUSH FUND

Esty Feldman – with sincere appreciation to **Gary Kerzner** for his caring & menschlichkeit
Monica Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Elaine & Carl David – in honor of **Ira Beer's** 25+ years of reading Torah
Ezra Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Ezra Lagnado – in gratitude to **Norman Gursen** for honors received
Roz Okun – in memory of **Felisa Bienstock**
Susan Moskowitz & Alan Kirschner – in memory of **Bill Altman**
Monica, Ezra, Caroline & Evelyn Lagnado – in memory of **Aron Friedlich** (24th yahrzeit)

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Judy & David Zipkowitz – in honor of **Jay Luger's** 80th birthday
Monica & Ezra Lagnado – in gratitude to **Rae Kerzner** for honors received

The following donations were made in memory of **Bill Altman:**
Carol & Howard Hankin
Sarah & Stephen Markowitz
Nancy & Richard Chase
Cheryl & Steven Topal
Danielle Gilman

HAZZAN'S MUSIC FUND

Laurie Lax – in gratitude to the **Hazzan** for his haftarah class



Spring Kiddush Sponsors

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

- February 14 -- In honor of the birthdays of Esty Feldman, Doria Kalt, Josh Lowy, and Susie Spodek
- February 24 -- The Beer Family in honor of Ira's 26th Year of reading Torah, and Mindy and Mark Weinblatt in honor of the birth of their grandson, Nathaniel Asher
- March 16 -- Heather Mitchell and Andrew Melzer in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jordan
- March 23 -- Kate and Oded Horodniceanu in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Matias
- April 6 -- In honor of the special birthday of Senta Baum
- April 13 -- Jessica White in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Jonah
- April 20 -- Marina Zakry and Diego Santamaria in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eliana
- May 4 -- Karen Stein and Adam Monaco in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonah
- May 11-- Terri Gordon and Eric Zolov in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Naomi
- May 18 -- Paul and Paula Goldfarb in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Anna
- June 1 -- Danielle Feldman and Fred Carchman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Michelle

FHJC holds a weekly congregational kiddush, starting immediately after Shabbat Musaf services. It may be a seated luncheon in the Heller Ballroom, or 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. Contact the office to sponsor, or Stephen Markowitz to volunteer or for any questions. See our website at: www.FHJC.org/kiddush

Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Pauline Clements on the forthcoming marriage of grandson, Ari Clements to Maayan Schmidt (April 11th 2024)

to Mindy and Mark Weinblatt in honor of the birth of their grandson, Nathaniel Asher

to Ruth Baran-Gerold on the birth of her granddaughter, Billie Hazel Gerold and to the parents, Jana & Sam Gerold

to Senta Baum on the occasion of her special birthday

to Heather Mitchell and Andrew Melzer in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jordan

to Kate and Oded Horodniceanu in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Matias

to Jessica White in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her son Jonah

to Marina Zakry and Diego Santamaria in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eliana

to Karen Stein and Adam Monaco in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonah

to Terri Gordon and Eric Zolov in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Naomi

to Paul and Paula Goldfarb in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Anna

to Danielle Feldman and Fred Carchman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Michelle

Hamakom Y'nahem

המקום ינחם

...may God grant comfort and consolation to those

who have lost a loved one.

to Warren Feuer on the passing of Warren's beloved mother, Roslyn Feuer

to Peter Glick on the passing of his beloved mother, Renee Glick.

to Mark Bienstock, Pearl Cohen, and Leah Muroff on the passing of their beloved mother, Felisa Bienstock.

to Eva Subotnik, Eric Pelz and their children Eli and Emma on the loss of her beloved father, Daniel Subotnik

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:

Felisa Bienstock, Roslyn Feuer, Renee Glick

May their memory be for a blessing.

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

Award-Winning Early Childhood 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.

Registration is still open for Toddler and Summer Program but has closed for 3K PreK.

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

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Optional morning Judaic enrichment classes.

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



Book of Remembrance

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

continued on next page.

Fred Theise
 Leslie Ticker
 Marvin Ticker
 Max Troper
 Elaine Vogel
 Jack Vogel
 Norman Vogel
 Laura Vogel
 Bessie Walker
 Ellen Bea Walker
 Joseph Walker
 Leon Walker
 Marie M. Walker
 Robert Walker
 Rose Walker
 Jacob Wallach
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 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

ONGOING EVENTS

Sundays at 9:25AM: Yoga with Lorain. Email Lorain for details at LLSW@AOL.COM.

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

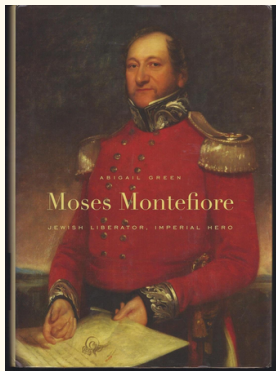
Wednesdays at 4:45PM: The FHJC Watch Party - The votes are in – we are watching the award-winning series, The Bear! Join the party in the kitchen!

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

Friday morning – Pilates: 9:30 mat class (bring your own mat); 10:40 chair class. Both sessions meet in the Heller Family Ballroom.

Once a Month on Tuesdays at 8:00PM: Yiddish Conversation Group. Join us for a bit of *mameh loshen*.

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



History Readers Book Club

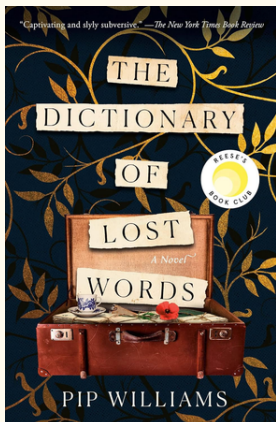
Thursday, March 14, 2024

8:00 PM (ZOOM)

Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator, Imperial Hero
 by Abigail Green

Humanitarian, philanthropist, and campaigner for Jewish emancipation on a grand scale, Sir Moses Montefiore (1784–1885) was the preeminent Jewish figure of the nineteenth century—and one of the first truly global celebrities. Abigail Green's sweeping biography follows Montefiore through the realms of court and ghetto, tsar and sultan, synagogue and stock exchange.

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



Sisterhood Daytime Readers

Thursday, May 21, 2024

2:00 PM (ZOOM)

The Dictionary of Lost Words
 by Pip Williams

Esme, motherless and irrepressibly curious, spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, an Oxford garden shed in which her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. One day a slip of paper with the word "bondmaid" flutters beneath the table. She rescues the slip and, learning that it means "slave girl," begins to collect other words that have been discarded by the dictionary men. And so she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words.

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

Passover Guides & Information

The holiday of Passover (Pesach) is a celebration!

Passover, one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the Jewish calendar commemorates the exodus from Egypt, the journey toward redemption, and our personal paths as we move toward freedom.

Celebrated with the Passover Seder, an organized meal, we tell the story of the exodus, the trials and tribulations of the people, the rabbinic interpretations of the text, and seek to find ourselves amidst the story.

In 2024/5784, the first night of Passover begins Monday evening, April 22nd, and concludes (for those in the diaspora) on Tuesday night, April 30th.

Read more about Passover, including

- What is Passover?
- Preparing for Passover
- How to observe Passover
- The Seder
- Passover Reflections
- Passover with Children
- Passover Prayers and Kavanot
- Synagogue and Intermediate Days

on Exploring Judaism's website [here](https://www.exploringjudaism.org/holidays/passover/):

<https://www.exploringjudaism.org/holidays/passover/>

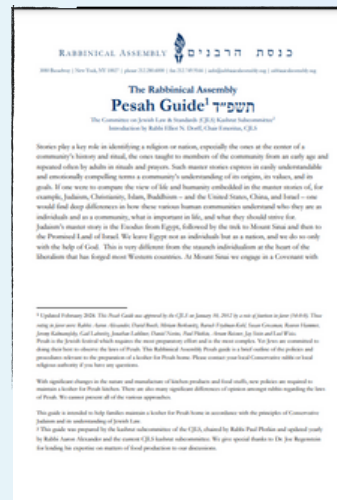
Hametz Sale

On the holiday of Passover, we are commanded not to have any *hametz* in our possession. Any food that is made out of grain that has been allowed to rise (ferment) is *hametz*. Common *hametz* items include bread, cakes, breakfast cereals, pastas, many liquors and more.

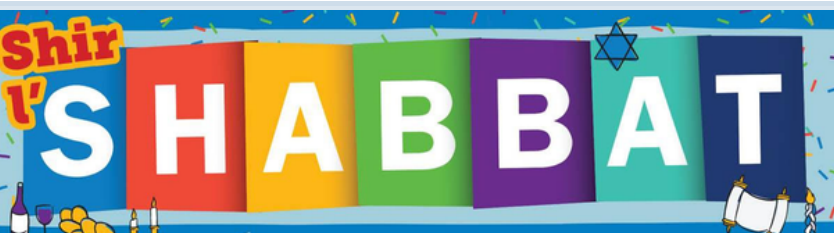


To authorize Rabbi Graber to sell your hametz on your behalf, please use this form, or visit the FHJC Office.

<https://tinyurl.com/2024-Hametz>



The Rabbinical Assembly Pesach guide, which can be downloaded [here](#), outlines the policies and procedures relevant to the preparation of a kosher for Pesach home in accordance with the principles of Conservative Judaism's understanding of Jewish Law.



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

Featuring interactive, age appropriate stories, songs and prayers with wonderful, warm, engaging leader, Marcy Mirkin. New time, 11-noon and location, Little Synagogue, plus kiddush snack and grape juice.

Come Celebrate with Friends
Singing, dancing, praying & story telling with Morah Riki.
Shabbat treats and grape juice for all!

March 2, 23
April 6
May 4, 18



10:45-12:00 in the Crystal Room
March 9, 30
April 13, 20
May 11



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