



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

May-June 2025 /Iyar-Sivan 5785/ Vol. LXXX No. 5

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Celebrate with learning centered on

עולם חסד יבנה
Building a
World of
Kindness

Sunday June 1st | 9:00pm

Ma'ariv followed by light dinner and cheesecake

Learning presented by
Rabbi Daniel Graber, Yonah Kirschner
Dr. Jay Luger, and Ira Beer

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

PRIDE SHABBAT

25 Sivan 5785 | June 21, 2025 | 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



Please show your support and help make this
year's Pride Shabbat festivities extra special by
contributing to the congregational Kiddush
luncheon. Any amount is appreciated!



ANNUAL FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER SUMMER EVENT

August 18, 2025

Mark Your Calendar
& Watch for Details



You are invited to attend the
**FHJC
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

8:00 PM

in person & Zoom

See Page 8 for details.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Daniel Graber

Dear friends,

In our tradition, when a person completes studying a tractate of Talmud or comparable work of rabbinic text, they hold a siyyum—a celebration of completion. I held a siyyum just before Pesah of Tractate Makkot. Anyone who is studying with the *daf yomi* daily Talmud study cycle will have a chance to hold a siyyum both in May and in June this year. We also call our Religious School end-of-year program a Siyyum, recognizing the completion of a year of learning, and for our eighth graders, the completion of their childhood education as they move up into Hebrew High School.

Many of us feel a sense of conclusion at this time of year. The warmth of summer draws us outside from our routines, schools come to a close, many of us attend graduations and celebrations. Even our Jewish calendar, with our celebration of Shavuot, marks the completion of the major holidays until Rosh Hashanah (though technically Sukkot is the end of the festival cycle).

But a siyyum is never only about endings. At its heart of the siyyum ritual is the recitation of the Hadran, a short but profound statement:

הָדָרְנוּ עֲלֶיךָ וְהָדָרְנוּ עָלֶיךָ – We will return to you, and you will return to us.

It's a declaration that although we've reached the end of a section, we are not finished. In fact, the process of learning has changed us. When we return to the same text in the future, it will not look the same—not because it has changed, but because we have.

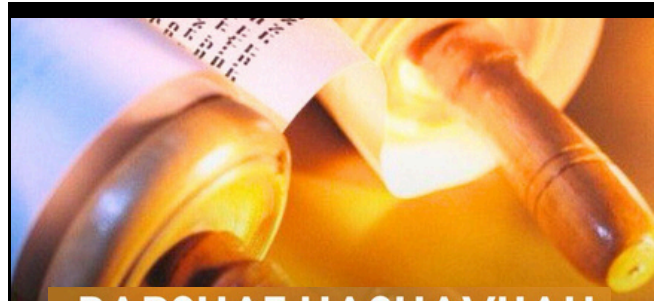
This is the something we can carry into this season of endings – that it is really a season of transitions. The milestones in our lives are not just conclusions—they are points of return. We pause to joyfully recognize growth and also to recommit to the next steps.

On Graduation Shabbat, May 24th, we gathered as a community to honor our graduates and their accomplishments. But more than that, we honored their potential—the next layer of wisdom, responsibility, and Jewish life they are stepping into. And just one week later, on Shavuot, we celebrate the ultimate moment of return: standing again at Sinai to receive the Torah. Our tradition invites us to hear it as if for the first time, even as we come back to the same words year after year. This year our learning will be linked to the theme of “Olam Chesed Yibaneh – Building a World of Kindness,” a project to which we must constantly return.

In the season of Siyyumim, I hope that you find yourself better off for the processes which have brought you to this point, and that we all can look at the learning we have done with the fondness to say “Hadran Alach” – we will return to you.

Bivracha – with blessings,

Rabbi Daniel Graber



PARSHAT HASHAVUAH

**STUDY THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION
WITH RABBI GRABER**

Every Monday after minyan at 7:50pm
In Person & Zoom

The Message USPS 340-300 Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248. 718-263-7000.

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NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

Hazzan Randall Levin

During these weeks following Passover, like many Jews, I am confronted with the tension created by spring, a season of graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, and other celebrations, and also the Jewish tradition of counting of the Omer. During the Omer we observe a period of semi-mourning, traditionally marked by restrictions such as refraining from weddings, live music, and haircuts.

I recognize that many modern Jews struggle to connect with the Omer ritual because it feels distant from their daily lives and lacks immediate relevance. Even in our own religiously committed community, strict observance of the Omer period may not resonate fully. For myself, the growing of a beard is a practice that perplexes me yearly, most especially as it aligns with the season of b'nei mitzvah and other "youthful" celebrations with which I am both personally and professionally connected. My ambivalent thoughts on the subject, though, also likely stem from my knowledge that a beard is historically understood as a requirement for serving as shaliach tzibbur, for leading Jewish adults in prayer.

At the age of bar/bat mitzvah, we celebrate a coming of age for our young boys and girls – an age at which they become responsible for observing Jewish law, and thus responsible for their own behavior. We acknowledge this in practice by allowing our children, now "adults," to count fully in a minyan, to bless the Torah, and even to read from the Torah. And yet, traditional sources indicate that, although it is technically permissible for a 13-year old to lead prayer, it is preferable for someone to be at least 20 years of age, i.e. fully grown. There seem to be two categories: one indicating an age of obligation; and another category, a different age, at which one is fit to assume a role of leadership.

The Mishna asserts that the shaliach tzibbur must be "ragil," a term initially used to mean "conversant" or "experienced." Over time, ragil came to be understood more broadly to mean someone who is able perform their duty in a trustworthy and professional manner: one who is conversant in the prayers, possessing of a pleasant voice, and acceptable to the people (well-liked). According to the Rambam, "only a person of great stature within the community in both wisdom and deed should be appointed as the prayer leader. If he is an older man, it is very praiseworthy. An effort should be made to appoint as the leader of the congregation, someone

who has a pleasant voice and is familiar with reading [Biblical verses]. A person who does not have a full beard should not be appointed as prayer leader even if he is a wise man of great stature, as a gesture of respect to the congregation..."

The requirement that the leader be an older person, according to Rambam, is "very praiseworthy" (meshubach be-yoter), but not indispensable. Appointing a prayer leader with a pleasant voice falls into another category of something for which "an effort should be made" (mishtadelin). The ability to grow a beard (zakan) seems to be a third, separate category, and, somewhat curiously, the most important of the qualifications. Why would the Rambam view the beard as so important? It is because the beard is somehow, in the Rambam's world-view, related to this issue of "respect." The Hebrew word for beard, zakan, is a direct reference to age. The verb zaken, means to grow old, and also is used to refer to one who is an "an elder." Likewise, the word ziknah, refers to old age. Thus, the word indicating a beard, in our cultural tradition, is a metaphor for wisdom, or maturity. It is not the beard that is important, but the concept that, in the Jewish tradition, having respect for the prayer of the community is tantamount to having respect for the community. Before one can be ragil, or fit, to lead the congregation in prayer, they must first demonstrate some mastery of the Torah and other sacred texts (this is also, not coincidentally, how we structure b'nei mitzvah preparation here at FHJC).

To provide a bit of closure regarding my Omer beard: The Babylonian Talmud tells a story about one of our more famous sages, Rabbi Akiva, and his students. The Talmud warns that all of Rabbi Akiva's wisdom was once completely lost to the world, as a result of a terrible plague that swept through his beit midrash, killing all 24,000 of his students during the first 33 days of the Omer. According to the Talmud, the plague that wiped out Rabbi Akiva's students was divine punishment. These students did not treat one another with respect, the Talmud says, and this was unacceptable. May we, during the coming weeks and months, treat our prayers, and each other, with both kavanah, and kavod.

Hazzan Randall Levin



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gary Kerzner

The Trouble with Tribbles

I've always enjoyed reading science fiction and watching movies and television shows on that theme. When Star Trek came out in the 60's I was addicted to the series and eagerly followed the exploits of Captain Kirk and Commander Spock (William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy – both Jews!) as they traveled where no man had gone before. One of my favorite episodes was "The Trouble with Tribbles." It has remained with me for many years and perhaps you, too, recall the fuzzy little creatures that could proliferate quicker than rabbits and had a keen sense of who was friendly and who wasn't.

I found myself thinking of Tribbles as I watched the campus encampments, protests and violent demonstrations being led by Palestinian students and their supporters at universities throughout the U.S. – from elite institutions like Harvard, Columbia, U. of Penn and NYU to small rural colleges. The hate-filled atmosphere that's been created on many campuses has, as its target, Jewish students, faculty and staff. And simply having a Hillel or Chabad House available does little to protect Jews who must go to class, teach courses or work on campus from being subjected to hate and violence. The Anti-Defamation League sponsored a recent survey that showed a HUGE increase in anti-Semitic acts at colleges across America, and organizations like Secure Community Network (SCN) and Community Security Initiative (CSI) now offer programs to educate prospective college students and their parents on what they need

to ask when applying to colleges, to help ensure the safety of Jewish students on campus.

So how does this relate to the Tribbles of Star Trek? I suspect (and many say it's beyond doubt) that the protests, encampments and violent acts of many Palestinian students and their supporters are the products of years-long efforts of certain Arab countries to promote intolerance of Israel and outright hatred of Jews. The professional banners, placards and signs, as well as brand new tents and camping equipment used by the protesters, weren't spur-of-the-moment purchases. Their source was the same one that brought a massive influx of money to fund Middle East studies departments that promote a very narrow, prejudiced view of the region. If, before accepting money from such questionable sources Harvard, Columbia and other institutions gave would-be donors the "Tribble Test" and saw that behind the seemingly friendly attitude and generous donations were prejudice and intolerance, they might not be as beholden to promote the Jew-hating practices of their student radicals.

If you have a child or grandchild who's considering which college to apply to, please look into the webinars and materials available from SCN, CSI and others and factor it into the decision process.

Gary

Welcome Donna!

FHJC Welcomes New Executive Director



Donna Bartolomeo is honored to be part of the Forest Hills Jewish Center congregational family as the Executive Director.

Donna grew up in Corona and started her family in Forest Hills before moving to Long Island. Over the past 18 years, she has served as Executive Director at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn Heights and the Merrick Jewish Centre. In these roles, she worked to foster a strong connection between members and the synagogue, helping to build community and ensure financial stability.

Donna has four children—Jennifer, Jason (Lisa), Samantha (Steven), and Alex—and has been blessed with six grandchildren: Giavana, Luciano, Christopher, Thomas, Dominic, and Emily. When not at work, Donna enjoys spending time with her family, reading, knitting, and watching football and hockey.

She invites all members to stop by the office, send her an email, or give her a call to share more about yourself and your family.

You can reach Donna Bartolomeo at dbartolomeo@fhjc.org, or (718) 263-7000 x293.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

Silvia Kogan

In the wake of October 7th, the role of Jewish educators has transcended mere response. It has become a profound responsibility to elevate the entire Jewish educational ecosystem to meet the challenges and emotional weight of this moment. As we navigate the aftermath of a tragic event, our actions are not only about reacting to the present, but also about shaping how history will be understood by future generations. Every lesson, every conversation, and every school program holds the potential to shape the collective understanding of what it means to be Jewish in times of crisis while helping to create positive memories.

The responsibility we carry is not only to impart knowledge, but to foster a deep sense of identity, continuity, and community. In the aftermath of tragedy, the stories we tell, the rituals we observe, and the way we frame the experiences of those directly affected are all part of crafting a narrative that will strengthen the Jewish

identity of our students. By empowering them with the tools to process grief, trauma, and hope, we help them become not just passive recipients of history, but active contributors to the living, evolving memory of the Jewish people.

It has been a true pleasure to experience my first year at FHJC. I'm incredibly proud of what we achieved this year, not only during class but also through a variety of hands-on projects, field trips, events and making connections with students, families, staff and members of the community.

This past school year our HaKen (PreK) program was filled to capacity on both semesters, allowing our younger students and their families to have a taste of the years ahead

Kitot Gan (K) through Dalet (4) held Family Learning experiences, inviting families into the classrooms to learn together. Kita Gimel (3) celebrated a special moment when they received their first siddur in a meaningful ceremony during Shabbat morning services.

Kita Vav (6) through Hebrew High had a unique opportunity to visit a replica of the Anne Frank House Annex right here in NYC. A few weeks ago, Kita Hay (5) and their parents visited the Jewish Museum. FHJC is so fortunate to be located at the heart of Jewish life, which offers endless learning opportunities, right at our doorstep (and just a subway ride away)!

Throughout the year, younger children participated in our Shabbat programs: Kids Kongregation, Shir L'Shabbat, and PJ Shabbat. We also launched a new and revitalized monthly Shabbat program for children in grades Bet (2) through Pre-B'nai Mitzvah, Kehilat Yeladim.

Kita Zayin (7) led the Yom Hashoa School remembrance ceremony this past April 22, where they shared their personal research on individual personalities from that time and lit the six memorial candles in a very meaningful and intimate ceremony. Together with the older grades, all classes participated in an ADL workshop and met with 2nd and 3rd generation Holocaust survivors to listen to their stories.

Kitot Zayin (7) and Chet (8) met with Rabbi Graber and Hazzan Levin, on alternate weeks, to discuss Israel history and Jewish culture.

Hebrew High students participated in engaging sessions with the current Israel Shaliach, discussing and connecting Jewish identity to current events in Israel. 'Rabbi's Teen Table,' a monthly meeting with Rabbi Graber, became a space for meaningful conversations and reflections on Jewish life and values, and of course, a safe space to discuss current Israel events.

And we're not done yet! Our students and community have been working hard to bring several amazing events and end-of-year projects to life. On Shabbat May 10th, we will hold a Family Shabbat, when students will participate and lead Shabbat morning prayers and readings. On Sunday, May 18th, during the Siyyum, we will honor our Kita Chet (8) students with a Moving Up Ceremony, recognizing their achievements in Jewish learning as they prepare to transition to Hebrew High School. We will also celebrate our Madrichim, who volunteer in the classrooms, assisting teachers and little ones, while infusing the space with their youthful energy and enthusiasm.

To wrap up a busy and exciting month, we're thrilled to announce that as we do every year, FHJC will march in the Israel Parade on Sunday, May 18th. Since this is the final bulletin of our Jewish school year, I want to take a moment to thank many people:

TODA RABA! to the dedicated teachers, school staff, FHJC staff and lay leaders—your incredible support this year truly helped make the transition smoother. Your commitment, care, and teamwork made a meaningful difference. A special thank you to our teachers, the true backbone of the school, whose dedication to education and unwavering commitment to our students continue to inspire and uplift our community.

TODA RABA! to our school families and our congregants. Your support and faith in us mean everything. You remain the lifeblood of FHJC.

Registration for the upcoming school year is open. Please look for a link to sign up in your email. If you know anyone who would like to sign up for school, learn with us and explore what it means to be Jewish today, please let them know! We'd love to welcome them into our community.

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer break!

Silvia Kogan
FHJC Religious School Director

NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher

In early childhood education we often witness the many ways children show up in the world. Some children are filled with questions, others observe quietly. Some challenge boundaries, some lead with empathy. Each child brings a unique way of learning, growing, and being. As we prepared for Passover, I found myself reflecting on the Four Children in the Haggadah—the wise, the wicked, the simple, and the one who doesn't know enough to ask.

Traditionally, we think of these four children as different personalities. But what if we saw them not as four distinct children—but as four ways of being that live in each of us?

At times, we are wise—thoughtful, confident, full of insight. Other times, we push back or react from a place of frustration, like the so-called "wicked" child. There are moments when we appreciate the world in its beautiful simplicity, and moments when we're too overwhelmed or unsure to even form the question we need to ask. Our children experience all of this too—and our classrooms are spaces where they can safely explore, express, and evolve.

In many ways, our teachers embody all four children—curious, reflective, bold, and quietly observant—using the best of each quality to meet children where they are and gently lead them forward. As we prepare to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, we are especially grateful for our educators' wisdom, heart, and unwavering presence in the lives of our littlest learners. Their impact is lasting, and we honor them now and always.

As Passover invited us to ask questions and reflect on growth, we should continue to remember that all the children live in each of us. May we show up for one another with empathy, knowing that we all have our wise, challenging, curious, and quiet moments. And may our community continue to be a place where every child—and every part of ourselves—feels seen, supported, and truly at home.

Debra Bochner, VP Education

The school year is almost coming to a close. As you are reading the last *Message* until after the summer, I hope you will reflect on the wonderful school year everyone has had.

I want to thank Lynn Fisher our wonderful Early Childhood director and her assistant, Susan Kass for all their hard work and a fabulous school year for the children and their families. To all the amazing staff for teaching and collaborating to make a wonderful year for our children. Thank you to our Religious School director Silvia Kogan and her wonderful assistant, Eve Kastin who both had a very successful first year in our Religious School. They brought many new programs to our children and families. Thank you to their wonderful staff who worked so hard this year with our children.

Thank you to Rabbi Graber and Hazzan Levin for your teaching and new programs you have brought to both schools. As parents, think back to September and the High Holidays and here we are it's almost Shavuot- think about how your children have grown and how much they have learned.

David Haas, my school board co-chair--there is none like you. You are an extraordinary, outstanding, impressive, and a man of many hands. There is nothing you can't juggle. Thank you this year to all the school board members who brought us through our successful year.

I hope to see all of you back in our Early Childhood program or our Religious School in September. I also hope to see many new, smiling faces.

I wish you all a wonderful, restful and healthy summer.

Debbie Bochner

Vice President of Education.



ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl

Azi Graeber

David Snyder

The Adult Education committee has a new film series that is currently being developed. We'll begin with a Sunday evening screening this summer, followed by two Saturday night events during the winter. Each film will spark engaging discussions around the issues presented and will be led by Rabbi Graber, focusing on the Jewish dimensions. We will also welcome guests offering professional insights. Our three featured topics will be: memory, relationships, and family closeness; abortion; and assisted suicide. Watch for the flyer announcing this summer's film once the details are finalized.

We wrapped up the 2024-2025 Shabbaton-at-Home and at Shul series and will begin again after the High Holidays. Azi Graeber is lined up to be our first presenter for the 2025-2026 season.

Our committee is already planning for next year's Shabbaton-at-Home and at Shul. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for programs. If you're interested in teaching or presenting, let us know by clicking [here](#), by responding to the flyer posted in the coming months, or by emailing Azi, David, or Judy your ideas for new programs.

The History Readers Book group continues to grow its devoted following. They are reading *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza* by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole, with the next discussion scheduled for June 26, 2025 at 8:00 PM on Zoom.

The Hebrew Literature group will hold its final meeting of the year on June 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM, on Zoom. They will restart next year with a new topic on September 18, 2025.

Thank you to presenters and attendees for participating in this year's programming. We look forward to welcoming you back next year for more learning, connection, and community.



HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

Mitchell Frank

The Hebrew Literature Group's theme for 5785 has been Poems Written in Israel Post-October 7. The encounter with this writing has been profound and moving. We will meet one more time, June 19, 2025 at 5:00pm on ZOOM before breaking for the summer.

The Hebrew Literature Group meets on Zoom once every other month. Selections are read in Hebrew with English translation, and discussion is in English. Join us!

Mitchell Frank



SISTERHOOD

Debra Weil & Laurie Lax, Presiding Officers, May-June

Sisterhood is preparing for Spring and Summer programming and a number of us are getting ready for the shul's Israel mission, which should be amazing. It's a very busy time, including the observance of Shavuot in early June.

We are looking forward to celebrating our Women of Achievement, Bonnie Dassa, and our L'Dor v Dor honoree, Rebecca Dunkel at the annual BQLI Women of Achievement Gala on Thursday, June 12 at Temple Beth Shalom in Roslyn Heights. This gala event recognizes the contributions of a Sisterhood member and a teen member for their contributions both to Sisterhood and to FHJC. All FHJC members and friends are welcome to attend. You can now register and place ads in their honor.

We are planning a trip to the Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College on Tuesday,

June 17, to explore their exhibits in a special curated tour. We are also planning a Jewish Museum tour on July 13. Watch for information on both events in The Blast and eShabbat Shalom. Daytime Readers will meet on June 16 to discuss *We Would Never*, by Tova Mirvis. Our well-subscribed Pilates and Yoga classes continue through the Spring and Summer, with Yoga on Monday evenings on Zoom with Lorain. Pilates classes with Dana meet on Friday mornings with two classes: 9:30 am for mat Pilates and 10:40 for chair Pilates. Although our Wine and Cheese tasting night with Men's Club has been temporarily postponed, it will be rescheduled soon, so stay tuned for updates. June is a great time to join or renew your Sisterhood membership, as our membership year begins July 1. We already have programs lined up for the Fall.

Stay tuned!

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

on Thursday, June 18, 2025 at 8 PM in-person and on Zoom.

Agenda

Call to Order and Anthems

Gary Kerzner - President's Annual Report

Rabbi Daniel Graber - 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

Carl Koerner - New Building Progress Report

Preston Forman - Treasury Report

Candidates for Office Nominated by the

Nominating Committee and Recommended by the Board of Trustees:

Gary Kerzner, President, Vice Presidents: Debra Bochner, Mitchell Frank, Howard Pollack, Zach Wichter, Preston Forman, Treasurer, Suzanne Vick, Secretary

Candidates for the Board of Trustees: Debbie Bochner, Risa Matzner, Pauline Raphael, Richard Chase, Carrie Leifer, Ron Amram, Judy Gostl, Len Fogelman, Ben Leeman, Sara Kaufman

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,
Suzanne Vick, Secretary



FHJC BIKUR CHOLIM

Every day, every week, every month is different when it comes to members in need.

We are a large FHJC family. We have members who have long-term illnesses, short-term illnesses, are homebound, in nursing homes, rehab centers, recuperating from surgeries, assisted living facilities and getting up from sitting shiva. Rabbi Graber, Hazzan Levin, my small committee, and I are very busy, coordinating calls, visits, and cards sent out to many members.

Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who is not well. You can call Laurie in the office and leave a message with her 718-263-7000 x203, or call or email one of us.

Debbie Bochner, Committee Chair
Debbiebochner@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

PULPIT FUND

Susie & the Lambert Family – in honor of **Senta Baum's** special birthday
Ralph & Susan Strauss – in honor of **Senta Baum's** 104th birthday
Marian & Martin Krasilovsky – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received

Donations have been made in memory of **Jack Gostl** by:

Judy & Stuart Rosen
Penny Sommers & Doug Gotthoffer
Michele & Doug Weiner
Ellen Cahn
Dorothy, Tikva, Hanna & Zahava Mahlab
Gail Port
Chrissy Johnston
Donald Rubin
Melanie & Martin Topol
Carrie & George Leifer
Men's Club
Regina Geber

Dorothy, Tikva, Hanna & Zahava Mahlab – in memory of **Soraya Baharestani's** mother, **Parvin Leah Salem Rastegar**

KIDDUSH FUND

Bonnie & Alan Edelman – in honor of **Warren Wankoff's** 80th birthday
Monica Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Ezra Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer & Norman Gursen** for honors received
Laura Valentine – in memory of **Jack Gostl**

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Amy & Kevin Manheim – in honor of the 50th anniversary of **Nicola Belzer's** Bat Mitzvah
Monica Lagnado – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Judy & David Zipkowitz – in honor of the baby naming of **Mindy & Mark Weinblatt's** granddaughter, **Judah Gershon**
Amy & Kevin Manheim – in memory of **Dina Tanzer's** beloved mother
Susan Moskowitz & Alan Kirschner – in memory of the yahrzeit of **Elizabeth Moskowitz**

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush in March, April, & May

March 8: The Korn Family

March 15: Simcha Kiddush: Debra Karsif Baer & Myron Baer, Matthew & Judy Beizer, Gary and Debra Weil, Gary and Rae Kerzner, Dorrie and Hal Berkowitz, Laurie Lax and Eric Kober, Joshua Lowy, Elizabeth Caudle, Pearl Berger Buitron, Ron Sternberg

March 29: Kiddush Celebrating Ashleigh Elizabeth Caudle & Matthew Ziegelbaum, Gary & Rae Kerzner, Ariella Liebman & Jacob Stone, Melissa Needles & Justin Tesser, Alanna Rosenblatt, Bentzy Rosengarten & Azi Graeber, Zach Wichter

April 5: The Weinblatt Family

April 26: Mitchell & Lari Frank

April 30: Yom HaAtzmaut Zimriyah: The Avidor Family

May 3: Kiddush sponsored by Joshua Rubenstein & Mei Kin Chow in honor of Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah

May 17: Liberman and Elluman Family

May 24 Graduation Kiddush

Nira Avidor, Flug/Kronenberg Family, Gordon-Zolov Family, Pamela Haas, Haas Family, Heitner Family, Horodniceanu Family, Gary & Rae Kerzner, former RS Student Curtis R Knight, Leinwand Family, Rivera Family, Spodek/Turner Family, Stein/Monaco Family, Miriam Weintraub

Life Cycles

Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Rabbi Gerald & Robin Skolnik on the birth of their grandson, Rami Gal, son of Talya and Adam Dicterow
to Joshua Rubenstein & Mei Kin Chow in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Benjamin
to Mindy & Mark Weinblatt on the baby naming of their granddaughter, Judah Gershon
to Warren Wankoff on the occasion of his 80th birthday
to Ellen Elowitz becoming a great grandmother to a baby girl born to Jake & Racheli Elowitz
to Marvin Deluty and Evelyn Wortsman Deluty on the engagement of their daughter, Alisha Deluty, to Noah Garfinkle.
to Rebecca Leeman and Maor Gordon-Guterman on the birth of a baby boy
to Stella and Michael Kandelman on the baby naming of their daughter Lyra.
to Robin and Glenn Rothbort on the birth of their grandson Noah.

Hamakom Y'naheem המקום ינחם

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

to Marcia Hittner on the loss of her husband, Ellis Hittner
to Judy Gostl on the loss of her husband, Jack Gostl
to Dina Tanzer on the loss of her mother

We mourn the loss of our dear Center member
and Past President Jack Gostl
May his memory be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO MAY BAR MITZVAH



Benjamin Rubenstein

Bar Mitzvah, May 3, 2025

Benjamin's presence is typically marked by his famous crescent moon smile and the accompanying chorus of laughter by those in his orbit, in other words, the telltale signs of gentle mischief. Benjamin's blessings go beyond his ability to make just about any situation amusing. He's a 7th grade honors student at Halsey Junior High with a talent focused on STEM and a competitor on the E-sports team. Benjamin's been a student in FHJC's religious school since beginning Gan in 2017. Experimentally, he joined the congregational trip to Israel in 2023 connecting to Judaism and Jewish history at places such as the Western Wall, Masada, and Yad Vashem. Inspiration to persevere for good also comes from visits to the Anne Frank House, the Old-New Synagogue of the mythical Golem in Prague, and the infamous concentration camp at Terezin. Benjamin is focusing his mitzvah project on small acts of help for the community including cleanup efforts, food distribution, and donation. Benjamin's goal is to make tikkun olam, repairing the world, a lifelong effort.

ONGOING EVENTS

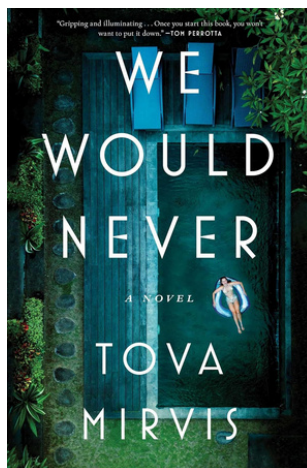
YOGA WITH LORAIN on Zoom — Mondays @ 6:25PM. Email [Lorain](#) for information.

WEEKLY PARSHA STUDY WITH RABBI GRABER — Mondays @ 7:50PM in the Little Synagogue and on Zoom.

WEEKLY WATCH PARTY on Zoom — Wednesdays @ 8:00PM. Now showing: The Man Inside, with Ted Danson, Season 1.

PILATES — Fridays @ 9:30AM and 10:40AM. Click [here](#) to register.

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



FHJC Sisterhood Presents

The Daytime Readers

We Would Never
By Tova Mirvis

**Thursday, June 26, 2025
1:00 PM**

Click Here to register and join the discussion.
And if you haven't read the book, join us anyway.
It might inspire you!



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Debbie Bochner: debbiebochner@gmail.com

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 Friedenberg	Albert Hirsch	Rabbi Albert Leeman	Sylvia Rolnick
Barney W. Adler	Peter Friedenberg	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 Salzmann
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	Benjamin Krumholz	Carl J. Moskowitz	Lillian Skolnik
Irving Cahn	Herb Goldstein	Henry Krumholz	Charlotte Moskowitz	Edward Skornicki
Hugo N. Cahnman	Nettie Goldstein	Jack Krumholz	George Moss	Natalie Skornicki
Elaine Charap	Rita Goldstein	Mera Krumholz	Irving Moss	Mildred F. Smith
Hyman Sid Citron	Cantor Isaac Gorsky	Rose Krumholz	Jack Nelson	Agnes Sobel
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Marcia DePinna	Ann Grossman	Eugene Kule	Abraham Okun	Ivan Sobel
Abram Dykerman	Cantor Erno Grosz	Geraldine Kule	Celia Okun	William Sobel
Alfred Dykerman	Gertrude B. Gruenberg	Philip Kule	Theodore Okun	Deena Soloway
Erna Dykerman	Jascha Gurewitz	Isidore Kulichefsky	Harvey L. Perlstein	Joseph Stark
Herman Dykerman	Bella Hahn	Jennie Kulichefsky	Jeanne S. Perlstein	Katalin Stark
Ester Dylewski	Fred Hahn	Barbara Kupferberg	Isidore Platkin	Pearl Strauss
Lola Eckstein	Celia Haims	Herbert Kupferberg	Shep Porter	Amy Lisa Sturm
Helene Falik	George Haims	Cantor David Kusevitsky	Taubas Potik	Judith Susan Sturm
Estelle Feiner	Joseph Haupt	Elaine Kusevitsky	Yefim Potik	Ida Sumerfeld
Sonia Gurewitz Fink	Celia F. Heiferman	Patricia Lily Kusevitsky	Perla Raphael	Meyer Sumerfeld
Abraham Obiedzinski Fink	Cookie Heiferman	Harry B. Lader	Raphael Raphael	Sally Tenenbaum
Philip Fogelman	(Esther Rose Signet)	Helen J. Lader	Irwin Reich	
Rose Fogelman	Solomon G. Heiferman	Murray Landau		
Pauline Fox	Jean Claude Heilberg	Dorothy Lapin		
	Ray F. Heitner	Samuel Lapin		
	Solomon Heitner			
	Anna Heller			

continued on next page.

Book of Remembrance Continued

Fred Theise	Stanley Weg
Leslie Ticker	Alfred A. Weinberg
Marvin Ticker	Selma Weinberg
Max Troper	Anna Weiner
Elaine Vogel	Morris Weiner
Jack Vogel	Isidore Weinkselbaum
Norman Vogel	Jennie Weinkselbaum
Laura Vogel	Jerry Weinkselbaum
Bessie Walker	Walter Weintraub
Ellen Bea Walker	Herbert Weiser
Joseph Walker	Milton Winograd
Leon Walker	Estelle Zafran
Marie M. Walker	Ira Zalbe
Robert Walker	Frieda Zielonka
Rose Walker	Harry Zielonka
Jacob Wallach	Abraham Zwick
Raoul Wallenberg	Dora Feldman Zwick

A COMMUNITY FILM SCREENING

OCTOBER 8TH

Hosted by The Reform Temple of Forest Hills & the FHJC

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:30 – 9:30 PM

71-11 112th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Join us for an evening of reflection and connection as we come together to watch the powerful film October 8th.

The film explores the alarming rise of anti-Semitism on college campuses, across social media, and in our streets following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel.

Free Admission – RSVP Required

RSVP at <https://rtfh.org/october8th>



Advanced Degrees

Lauren Grosz – Fordham University, Masters in Early Childhood Education
Ashley Weintraub – NYU, Masters in Speech Therapy

College

Tamar Picker – Macaulay Honors College®, Queens, B.A.
Maya Rezak – Emory University, BA with Honors
Asher Turner – SUNY Binghamton, Bachelor of Science (BS)
Ethan Weintraub – University of Miami, Business Degree

Pre-K Graduates:

Penelope Almonte Diaz	Luca Mazzoni
Naim Garcia Altuve	Matthew Mendoza Reynoso
Aiko Araki	Bari Moshel
Maxine Balgobin	Miriam Nisen
Esther Baradani	Eliana Pinhas
Scarlett Cheung	Ivanka Ramayo
Logan Cintron	Odessa Rosenberg
Ari Dworkis	Chloe Roth
Reya Ganguli-Troy	Kelly Shechtman
Noah Herz	Hazel Slomowitz
Nicole Israel	Maia Trestman
Max Itzkowitz	Olivia White
Naomi Jolovitz	Valerie Xu
Sam Kagen	Gabriel Zarrin
Dylan Komito	Abigail Ziegelbaum
Kennedy Lopez	Elijah Ziv
Claire Marshall	
Noah Margareten	

Elementary School

Elizabeth Haas – PS196Q The Grand Central Parkway School
Hattie Heitner – PS303Q
Penelope Rivera – PS101Q

Middle School

Anna Goldfarb – Stephen A. Halsey JHS 157
Jonah Monaco – Stephen A. Halsey JHS 157
Naomi Gordon-Zolov – Stephen A. Halsey JHS 157
Matias Horodniceanu – NEST+m

High School

Madeline Forman – Academy of American Studies
Charlie Goldfarb – Bronx High School of Science
Sascha Gordon-Zolov – Stuyvesant High School
Adi Horodniceanu – Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
Abigail Kronenberg – Townsend Harris High School
Jonah Leinwand – North Shore Hebrew Academy High School
Alex Turner – Urban Academy Laboratory High School

FHJC Religious School Chet Class:

Anna Goldfarb	Jonah Monaco
Naomi Gordon-Zolov	Benjy Parness
Henry Greenbaum	Eliana Santamaria Zakry
Matias Horodcianu	Jonah White

*Mazel
Tov!*



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