



## FHJC New Building Gets Its Start!

At long last, FHJC's new home is truly moving forward, as construction is beginning on our new building. On September 17, all the stakeholders involved in the project attended a "glass breaking" ceremony at the site (not a groundbreaking, since the existing structure will largely remain intact). There's still a lot of work to be done-- the asbestos abatement, a complete redesign and reconstruction of the interior space, and finishing are likely to take some time, but we're anticipating being able to move into our new space sometime in 2027.

Meanwhile, the New Building Committee continues to finalize the exact design and work with our consultants and project advisors to make sure the project is beautiful, cost-effective and secure, and will be a proud home for FHJC for many generations to come.

We will continue to update the congregation on the project's progress, but we wanted to make sure to mark this moment in the *Message* as we move into the next chapter for both the building and the community.

On behalf of the New Building Committee,  
Zach Wichter, Vice President of Membership

## THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

Sunday, November 23

4:00PM

The Reform Temple of  
Forest Hills

71-11 112 Street

Feel the warmth of community and  
the power of faith  
at this annual gathering of  
neighbors and friends.



*Collation to follow the service —  
all are welcome!*



## DAVEN & DINE

Friday, November 21, 2025

5:00 PM - Snacks/Meet & Greet

5:30 PM - DAVEN Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma'ariv

6:30 PM - DINE in the ballroom  
(Bring your own Kosher wine!)

8:00 PM - Dessert with special guest speaker  
Itay Sagy of the IDF\*

On October 11, 2023, during  
combat against Hamas  
terrorists, Itay was  
severely wounded. But  
instead of letting his injury  
define him, he chose to  
transform it into a mission  
of impact, resilience, and  
giving back.



Click [HERE](#) for reservations  
MUST be received by November 16

\*Free for those coming just for dessert

\$30/adult | \$20/child (6-18) | Under 5 free!  
\$75/family (parent[s] + children up to 18)  
Please add 3% surcharge for PayPal



# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

**Rabbi Daniel Graber**

## Something to be Thankful for

Each year I deeply enjoy our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The songs, readings, funds collected for charity, and sitting in fellowship form a moment that feels both natural and extraordinary. Natural, because many of us live, work, and build community alongside Christian neighbors every day. Extraordinary, because Jewish-Christian partnership is not an ancient tradition. It is recent, hard-earned history.

For most of the last two thousand years, Jews and Christians did not gather in friendship. Our relationship was shaped by misunderstanding, theological rivalry, and often hostility. Jews lived under suspicion, exclusion, threat of violence, and pressure to conform. The idea that we would stand together in mutual respect, offering prayers of gratitude side by side, would have been unimaginable for our ancestors. That is precisely why this gathering matters.

Only in the last few generations have we begun to write a different chapter. In the 1960s, the Catholic Church issued *Nostra Aetate*, rejecting the idea of collective Jewish guilt, condemning antisemitism, and affirming the enduring covenant between God and the Jewish people. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel played a critical role in that moment, urging Christian leaders to see Judaism not as a precursor to be replaced, but as a living faith deserving dignity and respect. Protestant denominations followed with their own commitments to dialogue and learning.

Those shifts didn't erase the past. They created the possibility of a different future. That future requires tending. Interfaith friendship is not automatic, as many of us have seen in the last two years. It is cultivated through presence, honesty, humility, and sometimes courage. It asks us to remember where we have been, to acknowledge differences without fear, and to meet one another not in naïveté but in trust. It requires us to bring ourselves outside of our Jewish settings and interact with our gentile neighbors, and to do so as Jews.

When we gather with our Christian neighbors for Thanksgiving, we do not blur our identities. We bring our Jewish language of gratitude, *hoda'ah* and *bracha*, and we bring it with full hearts. We offer our tradition as a gift, and receive the gifts of others with respect.

The service is not a symbol; it is a practice. It teaches us that differences do not diminish dignity, that faith communities can stand together without surrendering themselves, and that gratitude grows when shared. In a time when public life is often fractured, this quiet act of fellowship carries weight. Our grandparents would not have imagined this moment. Their grandchildren must not take it for granted.

As we enter this season, may we give thanks not only for the blessings in our lives, but for the blessings of partnership and peace. May we honor the history that brought us here, and commit ourselves to relationships rooted in honesty, reverence, and hope. And may our gathering serve as a reminder that when faith traditions stand side by side in respect we strengthen our humanity.

Wishing you a meaningful Thanksgiving and a season of light and peace,

Rabbi Daniel Graber

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# NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

## Hazzan Randall Levin

More than one Jewish scholar has noted that the survival of our religious culture was assured through extensive, fixed, and public prayer rituals. There have been many scholarly works written about the Jewish liturgy and countless others about Jewish music, yet a relative few have made comprehensive studies of the relationship between the two. One of the most intriguing of these attempts is Jonathan Friedman's *The Social Function of Jewish Music: A Durkheimian Approach*, in which Friedman applies French sociologist Emile Durkheim's social-theoretical understanding of ceremonial ritual to synagogue music.

Friedman subdivides the social function of Jewish prayer song into the following categories: Discipline, Cohesion, Revitalization, and Euphoria. Included in the category of *Discipline* would be musical structures that aid in the learning, transmission, and preservation of text. This category would include Jewish cantillation, but also could include piyyutim and hymns that contain a "lyrical theology." In *Cohesion*, Friedman cites anthems and unison prayer as prime exponents of this function. According to Friedman, "the process of collectively producing or listening to sounds like patriotic songs and liturgical recitations can coalesce constituent individual minds... bolster intra-group solidarity and... integrate individuals into a single entity." *Revitalization* is seen as the means by which an individual community uses music to strengthen group relationships and to assert identity within the community. Lastly, *Euphoria*, which presumes that some sacred music is, above all, designed to create "ritually induced feelings of social well-being," in which the ritual "becomes its own effect."

Likewise, in our upcoming Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, we will engage prayerfully and musically in a service that is entirely unique to our Forest Hills community, and in a way that draws from the same powerful ritual forces found in our respective prayer traditions. We will read from Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1864, which invokes the "fruitful field and healthful skies," reminds us of our thankfulness to God, and speaks to our desire for national repentance, healing, and ultimately peace. We will sing hymns of **cohesion**, sung in unison, such as "We Gather Together" and "America the Beautiful," that assert our national bond and common values. We will also sing Woody Guthrie's protest song "This Land is Your Land," which was written as a critique of social inequality in our country. Each respective choir and religious tradition will bring its own unique (and sometimes quirky) contributions to the whole. This potpourri of musical expression is emblematic of our Forest Hills faith community as one in which our differences can exist together alongside our commonalities. This juxtaposition can hopefully serve to **revitalize** us in recognizing a shared humanity that transcends political and religious affiliation. Most certainly we will experience the **euphoria** of singing together - and there is nothing more human, or Godly, than that!

This year's **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** will be held on **Sunday, November 23**, at **4pm** at the Reform Temple of Forest Hills. I hope to see (and hear) you and your family there!

Hazzan Randall Levin



Volunteers gathered together to decorate the FHJC Sukkah

## MITZVAH of the MONTH

Thanksgiving is right around the corner.  
Join us in supporting our local NYC community!  
**November 9th-16th**

Bring nonperishable food items to FHJC. The collection bin will be set up by the security entrance.

**Let's contribute to City Harvest food bank during this season.**





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Gary Kerzner**

### Have I Given Enough.....

That's the question Rae and I are faced with, especially at this time of year, and it's one I know we all ask ourselves. The Jewish holidays are an especially busy time for charitable organizations and, like you, we literally receive dozens of solicitations between August and November – everything from Magen David Adom to Hadassah, JNF, Hatzalah, ADL, Yad Sarah, and many more. With very few exceptions, I know they're all worthy and deserve our support (Charity Navigator is a BIG help if you want to confirm that). First and foremost, though, in our hearts is the Forest Hills Jewish Center. It has to be, and today I was reminded why that is.

This morning, along with other members of FHJC, we attended the graveside service for Miriam Chait, a long-time member of FHJC, a good friend and mentor to members of Sisterhood. She passed away with no surviving family. We stood together as friends shared fond memories of Miriam, and then as Rabbi Graber recited El Moleh Rahamim. We were her community, her family, her mourners who performed Hesed Shel Emet, the last righteous act that can be performed for a person.

And we did it without expectation of thanks or recognition but because she was a friend and member of the community of FHJC.

At such times, ensuring that our community thrives takes on the greatest meaning. Yes, continuing our religious practices is of great importance. Yes, the Early Childhood Program and Religious School are also of great importance. Yes, the many social, educational and cultural events we sponsor throughout the year are of great importance. But the single most important thing of all is the continuity of our community and the care and concern we have for its members. And that comes with the responsibility to make FHJC a priority in our charitable giving. The Kol Nidre Appeal is the time to say: I will be responsible for ensuring the continuity of FHJC so it will be there for me, for my family and friends, and for all members of our community.

Please be generous and contribute to the Kol Nidre Appeal. Add your support and help ensure this warm, caring community continues to provide for its members for years to come.



### Debra Bochner, VP Education

Wow... All the Jewish holidays were fabulous this year. The children were in various services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur led by our Professional staff and volunteers. There were also services and events for Sukkot and Simchat Torah for all the children. Our nursery school and religious school children were busy learning about the holidays and creating projects for the classrooms and our hallways and for the Sukkah. Our Forest Hills Jewish Center community is like an extended family to all our children. Lots of laughter, praying, singing, dancing, and smiling faces.

As adults, we are passing on traditions to our children and grandchildren. Our clergy and educators are fostering a strong Jewish foundation for generations to come. As parents, you can help us by volunteering at activities with your children or volunteer to help set up an activity or an event. You are the mentors and examples for your children.

Please join us for as many events as you can. Reach out to me at [Debbiebochner@gmail.com](mailto:Debbiebochner@gmail.com); I am happy to talk to you!

Debbie Bochner, Vice President of Education



## Scholastic Book Fair

### FHJC BOOK FAIR

Sunday, December 7  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Monday, December 8  
(Early Childhood Program Only)  
9:00 AM - Noon

FHJC Heller Ballroom







# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

## Silvia Kogan

As the air gets cooler and the leaves start to change color, we find ourselves in a time of transition. After weeks filled with reflection, celebration, and connection, it's time to ease back into our routines. In Jewish life, this change is more than just a shift in seasons; it illustrates the balance between sacred time and everyday life. The holidays offered us moments to pause, reflect, and reconnect as a community. Now, we're ready to carry that inspiration into our daily lives, into our learning, our homes, and our classrooms.

Students are diving back into their studies, strengthening friendships, and deepening their understanding of Jewish values and traditions. Together, we're building a community where learning and celebration go hand in hand, not just during the holidays, but throughout the entire year.

We've lined up a year full of activities for our learners and their families: Friday nights Family Shabbat, Kehilat Yeladim – a Shabbat morning learning space – swim nights, Youth Group for all ages including a refreshed USY program, Israel advocacy, museum visits, holiday celebrations, Family Learning opportunities, and so much more! Last but not least, our newly spirited Parent Association has been busy organizing a variety of exciting events for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to keep an eye on our calendar throughout the year and join us!

As we move ahead, may the lessons and spirit of this season continue to inspire us: to approach learning with curiosity, to treat each other with kindness, and to cherish the small moments of connection that make our community so vibrant.

Wishing you a season filled with renewal, growth, and shared joy.

Silvia Kogan  
Religious School Director

## USY Returns to FHJC

Avi Monaco, FHJC USY, Remarks from Rosh Hashona, Day 1

"I found a fruitful world, because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for others." This quote from the Talmud is one of my favorites. It talks about how the things that came before us are able to shape us as people. It also talks about building a legacy, one that will live on even after I'm finished.

I am Avi Monaco. I'm a senior at Academy of American Studies and I have been a part of FHJC for my entire life. As part of the Jewish legacy I am hoping to build, I am founding a chapter of USY here at Forest Hills Jewish Center. For those who don't know, USY is the Conservative Movement's teen youth group, where Jewish teens come together for fun, leadership, and community.

Last year, I was Vice President of Communications at Midway Jewish Center USY. This chapter was already thriving, so it gave me the chance to build off of that and learn from people who were more experienced. I also went to the Spring USY convention, and it was amazing. All of these Jewish teens coming together to celebrate felt magical. This was what made me fall in love with USY, the feeling of all these teens bonding and having fun.

I'm a senior, which means that this is my last year of USY. I am restarting this chapter not just for me, but for all the Jewish teens that come after me. This is my legacy that I'm bringing to FHJC, where I can hopefully make a difference in many teens' lives. Rosh Hashanah is a time for new beginnings, and I'm excited to start off the new year strong.



The first event for the FHJC USY Chapter was the Kickoff Barbeque. 25 teens attended. We got to know each other through some ice breakers and games, and had a great time. Thank you to Keith Chernin, Jason Dunkel, Stephen Markowitz, and Carl Schrag for preparing the BBQ. We are so happy to have a new USY advisor, Rachel Rose, who is helping to make sure our program is a success.



## NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

**Lynn Fisher**

### Finding Gratitude in Every Season

As 2025 winds down and we move through the months of November and December, our Early Childhood Program is filled with a sense of gratitude. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time – full of anticipation, wonder, and growth – and now, a few months in, we can see how our children and classrooms have begun to blossom.

The transition into school life can be a big step for young children, but our littlest learners have embraced it beautifully. New routines have become familiar rhythms; new friends have become playmates. Each classroom has developed its own unique community – a place where children feel safe, valued, and known. Watching these connections take root reminds us of the joy in building relationships.

Our toddlers, and 3s and 4s Judaic Wrap Around classes have brought the chagim to life in meaningful, hands-on ways. Together, we listened to the shofar, shook the lulav and etrog, decorated our sukkah, marched with the Torah and sang proudly to welcome each holiday. Through these celebrations, the children not only learned about our Jewish traditions but also about the beauty of belonging—to their class, to our FHJC community, and to something greater than themselves.

Now that the holidays have passed, our focus has turned to the wonders of fall. The children are noticing how our trees are changing – leaves turning colors, falling to the ground, and covering our playground. In many ways, these changes mirror the children's own growth. Just as the trees are letting go of what was, our littlest learners are gaining new skills, building confidence, and discovering the wonder of curiosity and exploration.

Throughout our days, we make space for conversations about gratitude – what it means, what it feels like, and how we show it. We give thanks for our families, our friends, our teachers, and our community. We express gratitude for the small moments: a laugh, a helping hand, a sunny day on the playground.

In this season of reflection and thanksgiving, we are reminded that gratitude is more than a feeling – it's a practice. And in our classrooms, it is a practice we nurture daily, while together we grow in kindness, belonging, and appreciation for the world around us.



## PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

**Elizabeth Caudle & Minna Rivera**

The PA has been very busy this Fall. We started by hosting our first monthly meeting September 14. We had a good turn-out of parents on Sunday morning during religious school. Our second monthly meeting was October 22 on Zoom. Both meetings were productive with lots of great ideas for upcoming events and fundraisers.

We started the New Year by sending honey grams to all Early Childhood and Religious School teachers to thank them for their dedication.

We also launched our bi-annual challah sale for the Early Childhood Program, Religious School and Congregation which was very successful. If you missed out, orders will open up again in February.

Finally, we hosted Pizza in the Hut for Sukkot. The event sold out and we hosted 80 students and families from the Early Childhood Program and the Religious School. We had great parent engagement to help the event run smoothly.

Coming up, we are planning for a Family Photo Fundraiser in November and Swim Night, Book Fair and Chanukkah event in December. We look forward to seeing you there!





## ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl

Azi Graeber

David Snyder

The Yom Tovim are over and we now have many Adult Education sessions planned. Actually there are seven programs in a 2.5 month period.

First up was Azi Graeber continuing his discussion of **Major Rabbinic Disputes in European Jewish History** that he started last year. His wonderful presentation was at the end of October.

Josh Lowy prefers to teach on Shabbat after kiddush. On **November 1**, he will discuss **Major Biblical Figures: Reverence and Dysfunction**. He will look at the reasons for reverence and dysfunction with an analysis of biblical personalities.

The next **History Readers Book Group** will be on **November 6** on Zoom after minyan. Note that this is a changed date. They are reading *Jewish Agricultural Colonies in NJ 1882 - 1920* by Ellen Eisenberg.

The **Hebrew Literature Group** will meet on **Thursday, November 20** at 5:00 PM on Zoom. Watch for the flier to see the topic.

Jay Luger is going to teach on **Shabbat November 22** after kiddush. His topic is **Let's Talk Turkey!** What do Leviticus 11,



Deuteronomy 14 and the Rabbis (from ancient to modern) have to say about the menu for Thanksgiving dinner?

Then on **January 3, 2026**, we will show the movie, **The Long Flight Home**, about end-of-life issues. This will also be followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Graeber. This movie has been provided to us by Good Docs and funded by Jewish Story Partners.

And the last of the seven programs will be David Snyder teaching on **Shabbat, January 10**. He is going to look at Moses' initial confrontation with Pharaoh.

There is more planned for the rest of the year! Please join us for some or all of these events. You won't be sorry!



Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time to assist QJCC with their High Holiday food distribution chesed project at FHJC. Everyone's participation in this important mitzvah is greatly appreciated by the organizations involved and especially by the recipients.



## SISTERHOOD

### Rae Theise Kerzner, Presiding Officer November-December

Sisterhood has had a very active fall line-up of programs. Our opening event was the Ice Cream Social on September 15 in which members enjoyed ice cream and toppings and shared family mementos and heirlooms. Game Night on October 22 was a fun-filled evening with board games, card games, Mah Jongg and snacks. Chana the Challah Girl led our always popular, multi-generational challah baking program on October 26. Daytime Readers read *The Lion Women of Teheran*, and Pilates and Yoga classes continued.

We are looking forward to the following programs in November and December. On November 5, Gail Port will lead the Book Review discussion of *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro, a saga of family, identity and biology. On December 4, we will have our second field trip to the Jewish Museum with a guided tour of their expanded collection. The Daytime Readers program continues on December 18 with *The Sisters of Fortune* by Esther Chehbar. The popular Pilates classes led by Dana Trakhtenberg and Yoga led by Lorain Wankoff continue throughout the fall and winter.

Our Sisterhood is a member of the BQLI (Brooklyn Queens Long Island) Region of Women's League, and participates in Regional Events. On Sunday, October 19, BQLI's sister congregation in Jerusalem, Ma'ayanot, joined us on Zoom and we heard an inspiring talk about Shutaf, a year-round program offering social programs and a summer day camp for children and young adults with disabilities.

On November 10, the Torah Fund Kickoff will celebrate 100 years of Jewish Book Month with kosher Chinese food at Jericho Jewish Center and on November 19<sup>th</sup>, BQLI will celebrate the Sigd Holiday at Merrick Jewish Center. Some of us also look forward to participating in the International Women's League Convention this coming July in Alexandria, Virginia.

Finally, we are proud to announce that Minna Rivera will be our liaison with the Parents Association. We look forward to many more exciting collaborations with the PA.

### IN MEMORIAM - MIRIAM CHAIT

Our long-time beloved Sisterhood member Miriam Chait passed away after Simchat Torah. Miriam worked tirelessly for Torah Fund, and served as the Torah Fund Chair. Her efforts were noted on the regional level as well. For many years, Miriam had a special role on Sisterhood Shabbat, reading the prayer for Sisterhood Shabbat written by Rabbi Skolnik. Miriam was a skilled crocheter and enjoyed teaching others on the Yarn Crew. She also was a dedicated bookkeeper for Zeitlin Optical. She left no survivors, her husband Morris and daughter Leslie having predeceased her, but her family from FHJC continues to remember her. May her memory be a blessing.



**Kehilat Yeladim**  
2025-2026

A Shabbat program for children Bet to Var  
(2nd grade through 6th)

Parents and students learning together  
Led by Morah Marcy Mirkin

Saturdays - 11 am to 12 pm

- October 11 & 25
- November 1, 15, & 22
- December 6 & 13
- January 10 & 24
- February 7 & 28
- March 7 & 21
- April 18
- May 2 & 16

Save the dates!



For more information contact  
rsoffice@fhjc.org



## FHJC BIKUR CHOLIM

If you haven't seen a member or a friend from FHJC, please let Rabbi Graber, Hazzan Levin, or myself know about it or call and reach out yourself. Right now we have homebound members, several recovering from surgery and other illnesses. We have several members currently in the hospital and we are reaching out to them. We have a small committee of regulars who make a lot of phone calls. Thank you to all of you.  
Debbie Bochner, Chairperson Bikur Cholim



## HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

### Mitchell Frank

This year, the theme of the Hebrew Literature Group is hope in Jewish history, as represented in the concept of a Messiah or Messianic era, in which Israel will be restored to its land and humankind will exist in an Eden-like state of peace.

In our first meeting of the 5786 year we looked at precursors of the concept in the Five Books of Moses. We found these in the story of the exile from Eden in Genesis, the account of the redemption from Egyptian bondage, the idea of "the end of days" which appears in a couple of contexts, and in the very term, Messiah, whose root word refers to the anointing oil and the anointed objects and officials for whom it was used.

In our second meeting, which will take place on November 20, we will look at the fully explicit arrival of the concept of a Messiah in the book of Isaiah. We will examine several texts, some well-known, and view them in context of their time and in the way they have come to be understood.

In the Hebrew Literature Group texts are read in Hebrew with English translation, and discussion is in English. Please see upcoming announcements on the listserv for the Zoom link (or contact Mitchell Frank). Join us!

Mitchell Frank

# OHR-LI JUDAICA



EVERYTHING IS  
**50% OFF**

Beautiful  
Hanukkah &  
Shabbat Gifts!

To purchase, or for any questions,  
contact: Debbie Bochner: [debbiebochner@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebochner@gmail.com)

Once you receive this Message, you will see the gift shop is now featuring Hanukkah and Shabbat. We have a great assortment of candlesticks, kiddush cups, challah covers, challah, knives, washing cups, mezuzahs and so much more. We have wonderful engagement, wedding and holiday gifts. The gift shop will also have a table at the book fair - December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, everything is 50% off. Please come shopping.  
Debbie Bochner Super saleswoman.

## FHJC USY

# CAKE BOSS

A CAKE  
DECORATING  
COMPETITION



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025**

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

@ FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER  
**OPEN TO 8-12 GRADE NO COST!!!**  
**ALL WELCOME - PIZZA & SNACKS**



**SCAN TO RSVP**



FHJC YOUTH@GMAIL.COM  
@FHJC\_USY

# Blood Drive



Forest Hills Jewish Center  
Sunday, November 30  
Crystal Room  
Click [here](#) to sign up.





## MEN'S CLUB

### Mark Weinblatt

### Men's Club Presiding Officer, September-October

Men's Club had a very successful annual BBQ, despite the rain. We were able to cook in the sukkah and eat in the atrium, and everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the camaraderie.

The Rosh Hashanah food distribution project was also a success. And we had good attendance for a very interesting talk last month from Rabbi Jason Kirschner about his work as a hospital chaplain.

We also held our annual batting cage and mini golf outing. We had beautiful weather, and we all enjoyed ourselves.

Upcoming events include Hebrew conversation groups with the Shlichah in November, a Hebrew reading group that's just getting started, and the New York Islanders' Jewish Heritage Night on December 11. After that is the Coffee House in January, the Worldwide Wrap in February, and of course the annual Yom Hashoah candle project, which usually kicks off around Purim time, with Yom Hashoah falling a few days after the end of Pesach.

Hope everyone is having a good new year and we'll see you soon.

Mark

**FHJC**  
Adult Education & Men's Club Present:

## HEBREW CONVERSATION GROUP

Led by our Shlichah, Eden Ezra

Brush up on your Hebrew conversation skills.

Talk in Hebrew with a native speaker.

Some knowledge of spoken Hebrew is required.

Questions and RSVP  
stephenmarkowitz15@gmail.com

Wednesday,  
November 12<sup>th</sup>  
+ Tuesday,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 PM



**For Adult  
beginners and  
those needing a  
refresher**

## READ HEBREW WITH MENS CLUB

The Men's Club is organizing a lay-led Hebrew reading program for absolute beginners having no prior experience with Hebrew, those needing a Hebrew reading refresher, and everyone in between. The program is open to all congregants and will offer small group and individual lessons based on your skills, availability, and preference. Our goal is to give you the skills needed to read Hebrew with confidence and learn prayers.

If you are interested, please register here or below to begin your journey. We will contact you shortly after receiving your information to discuss the program and your specific goals.

If you have questions, please contact either  
Stephen Markowitz [StephenMarkowitz15@gmail.com](mailto:StephenMarkowitz15@gmail.com) or  
Ben Leeman [BLEeman@me.com](mailto:BLEeman@me.com)

Thank you for your interest.  
Stephen & Ben, Co-chairs



# Acknowledgements

## PULPIT FUND

**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in honor of the marriage of **Daniel Zipkowitz and Rachel Kroll**  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of the wedding celebration of **Sammy & Emma Levine**  
**Susan & Alan Kirschner** – in gratitude to **Rae Kerzner** for honors received  
**Miriam Weintraub** – in honor of **Diana Walcott** being honored as Kallat Bereshit  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Diana Walcott** being honored as Kallat Bereshit  
**Judy & David Zipkowitz** – in honor of **Keith Chernin** being honored as Chatten Torah  
**Susan & Phil Ben-Zvi** – in honor of **Keith Chernin** being honored as Chatten Torah  
**Felicia Leeman** – in gratitude to **Gail Port** for her kindness  
**Robin Eichen** – in memory of her sister, **Valerie Eichen** (yahrzeit)  
**Eva Weiss, Daniel & Adam Weiss** – in memory of **Alex & Ilona Kelen**  
**Dorothy, Hanna, Tikva & Zahava Mahlab** – in loving memory of their parents, **Dr. Edward & Suzette Mahlab z'l**  
**Dorothy Mahlab** – in memory of **Miriam Chait**

## RITA BERGER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Berger and Friedenberg Family** – in memory of **Miriam Chait**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Tikva Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Zahava Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Hanna Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Dorothy Mahlab** – in gratitude for the love and support of her sisters  
**Silvia Kogan** – in memory of her mother **Fanny Surazski z'l** and in gratitude to **FHJC** for their support during this challenging time

## HAZZAN'S MUSIC FUND

**Fran & Zev Spiro** – in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **Rebekah & Norman Fassler**  
**Eva Subotnik** – in gratitude to **Hazzan Levin** for preparing **Eva** for a Torah portion  
**Eric Kober & Laurie Lax** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received

## KIDDUSH FUND

**Pauline & Mark Raphael** – in honor of their aunt, **Rhoda Housel's** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
**Fran & Zen Spiro** – in honor of the marriage of **Ariella Liebman & Yakov Stone**  
**Ezra Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received

## Life Cycles

### Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Alyssa & Howard Pollack and Madison on the B'not Mitzvah of their twin daughters and sister, Melissa & Hailey

to Barbara Bernstein on the B'not Mitzvah of her granddaughters, Melissa & Hailey Pollack

to Allison Bernstein on the B'not Mitzvah of her nieces, Melissa & Hailey Pollack

to Sophie Oberfield, big brother Reuben, and Naomi Danis on the birth of their daughter, sister, and granddaughter, Bea Oberfield.

### Hamakom Y'naheem המקום ינחם

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

to Lisa Lazerson on the loss of her mother, Tillie Lazerson

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:  
Milton Esterow, Albert Nadler, and Miriam Chait  
May their memory be for a blessing.

## KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush in September & October

**September 13** – Sisterhood and Gary Kerzner

**October 7** – Mahlab Family – Dorothy, Hanna, Tikva, Zahava

**October 15** – Bonnie & Keith Chernin and Diana Walcott & David Snyder

### Join us for the Fall Simcha Kiddush Celebrating September, October & November Milestones

Shabbat, November 8 | Heller Ballroom

If you're celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or recognizing another important occasion, help us to help you mark it!

Complete this [FORM](#) to let us know what occasion you are recognizing.

To help sponsor the kiddush click below.

[Donate Now](#)



## Hailey Pollack Bat Mitzvah November 15, 2025



Hailey Meadow Pollack is the fifth generation of her family to worship at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. She has literally grown up at FHJC having attended class here since she was two years old. Hailey is an 8th Grade Honors Student at Halsey Middle School in Rego Park. She loves to prepare meals for her family and has an absolute love for all things Pluto. Hailey is passionate about dancing, which she has studied since she was two years old. She is currently a member of the Competition Dance Team at All Star Dance Studios in Forest Hills, and has competed at Nationals numerous times. Hailey is also the Captain of the exclusive Halsey Dance Elite Team. Hailey adores sailing and has her Red Cross sailing certification. In school she loves to study science and math. Hailey would like to thank everyone for joining her on her very special day.



## Melissa Pollack Bat Mitzvah November 15, 2025



Melissa Britney Pollack is the fifth generation of her family to worship at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. She has literally grown up at FHJC having attended class here since she was two years old. Melissa is an 8th Grade Honors Student at Halsey Middle School in Rego Park. She loves to read and watch comedies on Netflix. Melissa is passionate about dancing, which she has studied since she was two years old. She also adores surfing and loves to shred the waves. Melissa is currently a member of the Competition Dance Team at All Star Dance Studios in Forest Hills, and has competed at Nationals numerous times. She is also a part of the exclusive Halsey Elite Dance Team. In school she takes great pride in her grades and is passionate about history and math. Melissa would like to thank everyone for joining her on her special day.

## FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHTS

All families are invited.

Each month highlights Religious School student participation.

NOV 7

5:30 PM

**Kitot Zayin (7) & Chet (8)**

DEC 5

5:30 PM

**Kitot Hay (5) and Vau (6)**

JAN 9

5:30 PM

**Hebrew High**

FEB 6

5:30 PM

**Kitot Gimel (3) & Dalet (4)**

MAR 6

5:30 PM

**Kitot Gan (K), Aleph (1), & Bet (2)**

MAY 8

6:00 PM

**All Classes**



## WEEKLY PARSHA CLASS

**WITH RABBI DANIEL GRABER**

Exploring the Torah Portion Together

Join each week as we dive into the weekly parsha through classical commentaries, modern insights, and lively discussion. No prior experience needed – all are welcome!



**MONDAYS, 7:50–8:50 PM  
(AFTER EVENING MINYAN)**

**IN PERSON AT THE  
FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER**



**ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**





# Coffeehouse

**January 24, 2026**

**Watch for Details**

## Sisterhood Book Discussion:

Inheritance, by Dani Shapiro

Wednesday, November 5 | 8:00 PM (In Person)

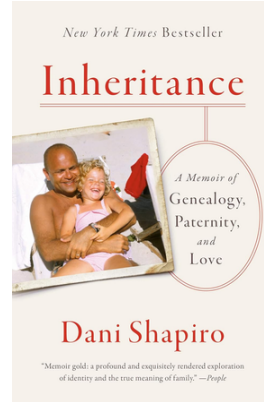
Gail Port, facilitator

Join us in the Crystal Room for a discussion of this fascinating memoir about events precipitated by a genealogy test.

Free event for members  
\$5 for guests

This is an in-person event only

To register to attend this event click [HERE](#)



“NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the acclaimed author of *Signal Fires* and host of the hit podcast *Family Secrets*: a memoir about the staggering family secret uncovered by a genealogy test, an exploration of the urgent ethical questions surrounding fertility treatments and DNA testing, and a profound inquiry of paternity, identity, and love.” —Amazon

“Memoir gold: a profound and exquisitely rendered exploration of identity and the true meaning of family.” —People



# KIDS KONGREGATION

**For tots - seven year-olds and families.**

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

**Shabbat treats and grape juice for all!**  
**11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Nov 1, 15, 22; December 6, 13; Jan 10, 24**  
**Feb 7, 28; March 7, 21; April 18, 25; May 2, 16**



# OPEN GYM

**SHABBAT AFTERNOONS FUN IN THE FHJC GYM STARTING NOVEMBER 8TH**

**TODDLERS TO 5TH GRADE 1:00-4:00 PM**    **6TH GRADE AND UP 4:00-6:00 PM**

Please note that this is not a drop off event. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver at all times.



## Forest Hills Jewish Center

106-06 Queens Boulevard  
Forest Hills, NY 11375

**NOVEMBER 8th, 2025 • 8 PM**

Bee Gees  
Lovin Spoonful  
Monkees  
Beatles  
Eagles  
Three Dog Night  
Alan Parsons  
Turtles  
Grass Roots  
Every Brothers  
Elton John  
Neil Young  
Dave Clark Five  
Creedence  
ELO  
Simon & Garfunkel

If “Daydream Believer” is a song you remember, then we’ve got a great night for you! VINYL CUT presents songs of the 60’s and 70’s from the groups that you don’t hear at other venues.

Pre-registration/payment required  
Tickets are \$18/adult, \$10/child under 17  
\$20 Cash Only at the door  
Doors open at 7:45PM  
Pre-registration deadline is October 31  
**BYOB**  
Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/RockNRoll-Night-11-8-25>



















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 Forest Hills Jewish Center  
 Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser Square  
 106-06 Queens Boulevard  
 Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248  
 Return Service Requested

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|  |   |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <br>Sahar Baruch<br>24<br>Taken from Be'er       | <br>Itay Chen<br>18<br>Taken from Nahal-Oz         | <br>Amiram Cooper<br>85<br>Taken from Nir-Oz         | <br>Menny Godard<br>73<br>Taken from Be'er | <br>Hadar Goldin<br>23<br>Taken from South<br>Gaza | <br>Ran Gvili<br>24<br>Taken from Alumim        |
| <br>Acof Karami<br>40                            | <br>Joshua Lofa Mollé<br>21<br>Taken from Nahal-Oz | <br>Omer Neutra<br>21<br>Taken from Gaza<br>Envelope | <br>Orer Or<br>48<br>Taken from Be'er      | <br>Oz Daniel<br>38<br>Taken from Kisufim          | <br>Lior Rodaef<br>61<br>Taken from Nir-Yitzhak |
| <br>Sudhishak Rethalak<br>43<br>Taken from Be'er | <b>BRING THEM BACK</b>  |   |   |   |  |

## ONGOING EVENTS

**YOGA WITH LORAIN** on Zoom — Mondays @ 6:25PM. Email Lorain for information.

**RABBI GRABER'S WEEKLY PARSHA CLASS** — Mondays @ 7:50PM, following minyan. In person and on Zoom.

**WEEKLY WATCH PARTY** We will resume the Party by watching Only Murders in the Building, Season 5. Join us!

**PILATES** — Fridays @ 9:30AM and 10:40AM. Click here to register

See the FHJC Calendar for links to these events.

## Kim F. Trigoboff

Attorney at Law

Wills | Guardianships | Estate Planning  
 Medicaid, Special Needs and Disability Planning  
 Probate and Estate Administration

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