



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

# Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

January-February 2026 / Tevet - Shevat - Adar 5786 / Vol. LXXXI No. 3

## Coffee House

presented by FHJC Men's Club

**SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24, 2026 | 7:30 PM**

Click here to RSVP  
and for payment info!

For information contact

Stephen Markowitz

StephenMarkowitz15@gmail.com

or 954-558-2400

Join us at our annual evening of fun as FHJC members perform just for you!

**Admission includes coffee and tea, soft drinks, snacks, and sweets. And it's BYOB!**

**Advance paid reservations**

(by Monday, Jan. 19)

**\$20 Adult [13+]**

**\$10 Child**

**Family Maximum: \$50**

**(Parents & Their Children)**

**Tickets at the door**

**\$25 Adult [13+]**

**\$10 Child**

**Family Maximum: \$65**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

## PURIM CARNIVAL

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**11:30 - 2:00 PM | FHJC**

**Bounce & Play**

**Inflatable Obstacle Course**

**Professional Facepainting by PeoplePaint**

**Games - Crafts - Prizes!**

**Hot Dogs, Drinks, & Popcorn!**

**Watch for More Info & Pre-Sale Tickets**

**TOGETHER  
WE CAN!**

**FOREST HILLS INTERFAITH  
COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE**

*Join congregants from across Forest Hills as we work together to serve those less fortunate.*

**The Forest Hills Jewish Center**

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills**

**The Church in the Gardens**

**The Reform Temple of Forest Hills**

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**Monday, January 19 | 10 a.m. to Noon**

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills  
70-35 112th Street**



# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

## Rabbi Daniel Graber

### What Nourishes Us

Trees grow because they receive what they need: soil, water, sunlight, and time. Our lives also have needs in order to grow Jewishly. As individuals, we are sustained by steady sources of nourishment: learning that shapes us, prayer that reaches out, relationships that connect us, and acts of kindness that give our values daily expression.

As a community, we are nourished in similar ways. Through shared practice, mutual responsibility, and the trust that builds when people return to one another over time. A synagogue becomes a place of growth not through any single moment, but through the accumulation of presence, care, and commitment that allows individuals to feel supported and connected to something larger than themselves.

Tu BiShvat also reminds us that much of what nourishes a community happens quietly. The most essential work often takes place beneath the surface. People who show up consistently. Volunteers who prepare, organize, and support. Teachers, leaders, and staff who make it possible for others to arrive and simply be present. Like roots, their work is not always visible, but it is what allows everything else to flourish.

At Forest Hills Jewish Center, we are sustained by this kind of nourishment every day. The warmth and stability of our community are not accidental; they are the result of care, commitment, and shared responsibility over time. Tu BiShvat is a fitting moment to express gratitude for those efforts, and to recognize how deeply they matter.

The holiday also invites each of us to make a gentle choice. Not a sweeping resolution, but a small, intentional step: returning to a practice that feeds you, showing up more regularly, or offering your presence and skills in a way that strengthens the whole.

Trees teach us that growth follows nourishment. When we tend to what sustains us, and appreciate those who help provide it, we can continue to grow with strength, patience, and purpose.

Bivricha – with blessings,

Rabbi Daniel Graber



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## 2026 World Wide Wrap Sunday, February 8, 2026

8:30AM to help wrap / 9:00AM Shacharit

Join us for a discussion on tefillin with  
Rabbi Graber & Hazzan Levin.

Bagels, lox, and coffee will be served.

Questions, contact Dan Korb at  
[danielkorb15@gmail.com](mailto:danielkorb15@gmail.com)

There is no charge for this event.

## FHJC BIKUR CHOLIM

This time of year, when the weather is cold, we have many elderly members who are homebound. They are still part of our community. There are several of our members who are recovering from surgeries, receiving treatments for illnesses and recovering from a death in the family. Please reach out. Email, make a phone call if you haven't seen someone. Drop off a box of cookies or a small plant. Try to make someone smile who really needs your help. Those of us who are well are truly blessed. Happy and healthy 2026 and a healthy winter.  
Debbie Bochner, Chairperson Bikur Cholim







# NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

## Hazzan Randall Levin

The passing through the shortest days of the winter solstice aligns with a not-so-subtle shift in our liturgical calendar, as we become further and further removed from the High Holidays. The Chassidic tradition of celebrating the eighth night of Hanukkah as “Zos Chanukah,” marking the connection between Hanukkah and Sukkot, provides a final opportunity to be forgiven for our sins (a process that began during the summer month of Elul!). Our tradition has seemingly birthed one long season of spiritual redemption encompassing almost exactly a full third of the calendar year. This partition of our calendar helps us to endure the slow lengthening of days, as we anticipate the upcoming joy of Shevat, Adar and Nissan. Ismar Schorsch notes that “the Jewish calendar embodies the theology of Judaism. We live our lives at the nexus of two coordinates, our need to belong and our need to transcend.”

This is mirrored in our weekly Torah reading, as we transition from the primordial and Patriarchal origins of Genesis into the major corpus of Torah involving Moses and the deliverance narrative of Exodus. Amongst the most notable textual developments in Torah is seen within the disparate accounts of prayer. The first explicit mention of prayer comes near the end of parashat Bereshit when, after Enosh is born, the Torah adds a seeming non-sequitor, “*az huchal likro b’shem Adonai*,” simply translated as “at that time they first called out the name of Adonai.” A common understanding of this text is that this generation, now fully removed from the comfort of Eden, is the first to have the need for prayer. Later mentions of prayer in Genesis are mostly personal

prayers of petition, but we begin to see hints of communal prayer as well, with both Abraham and Noach praying to God on behalf of others, a pattern that continues and expands in Exodus, with Moses emerging as a primary intercessor and pleading with God on behalf of the Jewish people. The Song of the Sea, though described as spontaneous prayer, marks a further shift toward communal prayer and formal worship as the Israelites begin to emerge from a clan-based society into a unified nation. Though Shirat Hayam begins as a celebration of a specific event, the text expands into a broader theological declaration of God’s sovereignty, and faithfulness in a way that was not apparent, or even possible, during the Genesis narrative.

Our prayers continue to evolve and oscillate from personal petitions to more multidimensional conversations with the divine in which we acknowledge our triumphs and address our shortcomings, and also envision ourselves as being part of something greater than ourselves. In an increasingly complicated world, our need for both individual contemplation and collective prayer is greater than ever. In the words of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, “Life makes warriors of us all. To emerge the victors... we must arm ourselves with the most potent of weapons. That weapon is prayer.”

Hazzan Randall Levin

**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



Ido Reichman-Eisikovits, a senior executive at Green Horizons and a major in the IDF Reserves, along with representatives of JNF-USA, joined us to give us an update on FHJC's Green Horizons project.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Gary Kerzner**

### This Joint is Jumpin'

No, I'm not talking about the 1992 jazz hit by Fats Waller - though it created a lot of excitement and became a classic. It's a good description of all that's been happening at FHJC as we transition from fall to winter and beyond. Did you get up and dance to some of the best tunes of the 60's at Vinyl Cut's Rock 'n Roll Night? Did you listen breathlessly to the true-life story of Itay Sagy, an IDF soldier who spoke at Daven 'N Dine? Were you enlightened by Adult Ed talks from Josh Lowy, Jay Luger and others? Were you inspired by Scholar-In-Residence Dr. Alex J. Sinclair? Did you buy Hanukkah gifts at the Book Fair and bask in the glow of the Hanukkah menorah at our Lights & Latkes celebration?

Coming up soon will be our famous Coffee House where, if you're not looking for your own five

minutes of fame, you'll enjoy watching and hearing others take their turn in the spotlight. You can look forward to the Dinner Dance, which has got to be the social event of the season! Send Mishloach Manot to family and friends for Purim and find a costume to dress up for the holiday, it's tons of fun and carries over to the fabulous Purim carnival. There'll be more fascinating programs from our Israel Committee, performances from Nagilah, another Daven 'N Dine, the Yom HaAtzmaut/Israel Independence Day celebration and much, much more, PLUS a lovely Kiddush every Shabbat morning following services.

So, what are you waiting for? Fuggedabout the weather! Dress warmly and make your way to shul for our uplifting services, fabulous social events and warm camaraderie with your FHJC family. This joint is jumpin'!!!!



### Debra Bochner, VP Education

There are so many events going on in both the schools at FHJC. There are Sunday family learnings by class in the religious school. I recently spoke at the Bet, family learning morning and I stressed to the parents, it's not just about sending your child to religious school. We are a partnership of a school, teachers, parents and your child. The family learning events have been very well attended. Our staff in both schools are energetic and exciting and very knowledgeable and eager to teach all our children. Thank you to all our teachers and directors.

There have been school Hanukkah celebrations throughout the holiday weeks. Rabbi's teen table is a huge success with the teens learning and having dinner with Rabbi Graber.

We have had Friday night family Shabbatots which are also very well attended.

Our early childhood program is thriving and next year's toddler program is already filling up. The wrap and toddler children were busy learning all about Hanukkah and the threes and fours are working on different units that they are learning about now.

Happy and healthy 2026 and may everybody have a healthy winter

Debbie Bochner, Vice President of Education



### SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE! ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Application Deadline:  
January 31, 2026

If your child is planning to attend Camp Ramah, USY camp, or another Conservative movement summer camp, click below to see if you're eligible.

The January 31 application deadline is FIRM!  
Don't wait until the last minute!







# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

## Silvia Kogan

A Happy and Healthy New Year! How fortunate we are to be able to share this blessing twice each year! While the Jewish calendar offers its own sacred rhythm, the start of the calendar year at school invites us to notice how far our students have come and where their learning will take them next.

In our classrooms, learning continues to unfold in joyful and thoughtful ways. Students are deepening their relationships with Jewish stories, rituals, and values through hands-on experiences, song, discussion, special programs and play. Whether exploring Torah through Torah Godly Play, interacting with Eden Ezra, our Shlichah and Ben Golan, our Shinshin, practicing prayer with curiosity and intention with clergy and teachers, Israeli dancing with Dancing Danny, sharing Shabbat dinners with peers, or connecting Jewish values to care for the world around us, our learners are building both knowledge and meaning.

In the coming weeks we will read in the Torah the opening stories of Sefer Shemot. In there our students will encounter narratives of beginnings, courage, and growing responsibility. We will meet individuals who discover their voices, learn to stand up for others, and begin to understand their role in a larger community.

These values help guide our teaching and encourage children to see themselves as active participants in Jewish life.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share a season full of community and celebration:

### Upcoming learning milestones,

- Siddur ceremony for Kita Gimel (3) on February 28
- Holocaust survivor program for Kita Zayin (7) through 3GNY
- Tallit & Tefillin workshops for Kita Vav(6)- B'nai Mitzvah program
- Kids Kongregation & Kehilat Yeladim
- Museum visits for Kita Hay (5), Vav (6) Zayin (7) and Chet (8)
- ...and more to come!

As we move forward into this secular year together, we do so with hope, curiosity, and gratitude for our students, our families, and the shared journey of learning we are on.

May this year be one of growth, connection, and meaningful moments for our entire community.

Silvia Kogan  
Religious School Director

## FHJC USY Events & Upcoming Activities



Cake Boss!



Ice Skating!



FHJC teens gathered to celebrate at the USY Hanukkah Party.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**February 1:** USY Event at FHJC, 6-7:30 PM

**February 28:** PURIM Carnival Set-Up

**March 1:** PURIM Carnival

**March 21:** REGIONAL USY Prom - A Night in Vegas - Hosted by FHJC





## NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

### Lynn Fisher

One of the greatest gifts we can offer our littlest learners is a sense of belonging—not only within their classroom, but within a story that stretches beyond it. In early childhood, children are just beginning to understand who they are, where they come from, and how they fit into a larger community. When we intentionally create opportunities for them to connect with older generations, that understanding deepens in meaningful and lasting ways.

This January, I am so excited to celebrate our Second Annual GrandFriends Shabbat, a special morning that brings together our littlest learners and the people who came before them. Our children will welcome a beloved grandparent, great-aunt, uncle, or “GrandFriend” to join them for Shabbat. Together, we will gather in the sanctuary with the Rabbi and Hazzan to sing Shabbat songs, and then return to the classrooms to celebrate with blessings, candle lighting, challah, and grape juice. Our rooms will be filled with stories, laughter, and so much joy—a perfect reflection of who we are as a community – honoring our tradition and building our future.

Intergenerational experiences like this beautifully reflect the Jewish value of L’dor V’dor—from generation to generation. Torah teaches us that our responsibility is not only to pass down rituals, but to pass down meaning. For young children, sharing Shabbat with an older loved one strengthens their sense of heritage and continuity. They see that Jewish traditions are not just something they learn at school, but something lived, cherished, and carried across a lifetime. These moments also nurture

empathy, patience, and respect as children learn to connect with people of different ages and life experiences.

For our GrandFriends, these gatherings offer something equally powerful: connection, purpose, and the unique joy that comes from being part of a vibrant, growing community. The curiosity and wonder of young children have a way of reminding us all why these traditions matter and why community is something we continue to nurture at every stage of life.

This intergenerational spirit lives not only in our programs, but in our Early Childhood staff as well. We are blessed with teachers who are just beginning their careers, educators who have been guiding children here for more than twenty years, and even teachers who once attended our program themselves. We have a lead teacher whose daughter followed in her footsteps and is now teaching here—and my own son, who grew up in our Early Childhood Program, has returned to work at FHJC. Our staff is a living example of how this community truly spans generations.

In our Early Childhood Program, we believe that community is built when generations learn from one another. Our intergenerational programming is more than a celebration—it is a reminder that our children are part of something larger, rooted in love, memory, and shared ritual. I am so grateful to be part of a community that so beautifully embodies what it means to honor our tradition and build our future, together.



## PARENT’S ASSOCIATION

### Elizabeth Caudle & Minna Rivera

This past month has been bustling with activity! We are thrilled to share that our Book Fair was a tremendous success! A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated. During the fair, we also sponsored a lively T’kiya Music Chanukkah Program, bringing together over 20 children (Toddlers through 1st grade) for a spirited musical celebration. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen maintenance issues with the pool, we had to cancel the scheduled Swim Night for our 3rd-8th graders but we are actively working to reschedule this event for January—stay tuned for a new date!

We are thrilled at the warm reception to our sufguniyot sale and are looking forward to delivering delicious sufguniyot on Wednesday, December 17th. Additionally, we assembled and distributed Chanukkah gift bags for all Toddler, Wrap and Religious School students and teachers.

Looking ahead, we are already preparing for more fun in the new year, including a Family Havdalah Movie Night and Spring Challah orders. More details to follow!

Warmly,  
Minna and Elizabeth





## ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl

Azi Graeber

David Snyder

Adult Education is continuing its very active schedule through March. We hope to have a surprise for the spring when someone who grew up in this congregation comes back to teach from her graduate school program. But that is for spring. Here are all the upcoming Adult Education events that are definite:

**Hebrew Literature** met on **January 15**.

**David Snyder** taught on **Shabbat, January 10**. He looked at Moses' initial confrontation with Pharaoh. When he asked to go to the dessert to worship rather than asking for freedom, was it a Strategic Ask or a Bad Faith Negotiation?

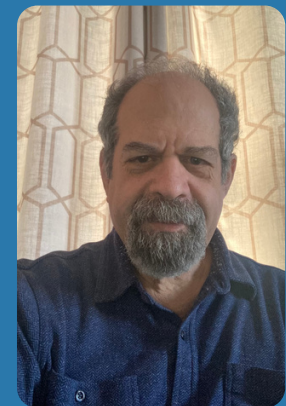
**Jonathan Kastin** will be teaching on Tuesday night, **January 20** after Limud. His topic is: "The Consequences of Artificial Intelligence for Judaism." With AI all over the news, this should be very interesting



**David Zipkowitz** will teach on **Shabbat, March 7**, and explore the concept of Tikkun Olam. We hear this term all the time, but what is it really about?

We will have 2 movie nights this winter. On **Saturday night, January 3**, we viewed "The Long Flight Home" about end-of-life issues. The discussion afterwards was led by Rabbi Graeber and Rabbi Jason Kirschner. Then, on **Saturday night, February 7**, we will show "Under God," a movie about the Jewish approach to abortion. There will be a discussion led by Rabbi Graeber and others. The movies have been provided to us by Good Docs and funded by Jewish Story Partners.

We look forward to seeing you at our programs!



## HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

**Mitchell Frank**

The theme of the Hebrew Literature Group for the year 5786 is The Messianic Idea in Hebrew Writings. We turn to this theme following two years of reading modern Hebrew poems that gave voice to our emotions after the atrocities of October 7, 2023 and the war that followed. This year we turn to the idea that has kept Jews hopeful throughout the many generations - that on some distant day, "the end of days," swords will be beaten into ploughshares and Judea will dwell in its land as of yore. It is an idea that has evolved through two millennia and influences Jewish mysticism to this day.

In our most recent meeting we read selections from the first twelve chapters of Isaiah. These prophecies, spoken and redacted in the political context of its day, include some of the most widely known messianic messages. While directed to the Judean king at the time, the prophecies include ideals so universal and timeless that they became understood by Christianity as predicting the coming of its messiah. In the coming meeting, on January 15, 2026, we return to the Book of Isaiah, but to later chapters that address events some two hundred years later (which is the basis for the hypothesis that there were two or possibly three different "Isaiahs"). These prophecies of consolation became the basis for Hebrew poetry, longing, and prayer throughout the generations.

The Hebrew Literature Group meets by Zoom about once every other month. Texts are read in Hebrew with English translation and discussion is in English. The Zoom link is included in listserv flyers preceding the event. Join us!



## SISTERHOOD

### Debra Weil, Presiding Officer, January-February

Happy 2026! We at FHJC Sisterhood hope that you are enjoying our monthly newsletter, *The Blast*, and are reading it to learn about all the exciting programs that Sisterhood sponsors at FHJC. The FHJC Sisterhood is part of the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island (BQLI) Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism and many of our members serve on the Region Board. BQLI has many interesting programs that are open to all members of our Sisterhood and the entire FHJC Family.

Sisterhood will be having our Annual Sisterhood Shabbat coming up on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Each year Sisterhood members invite all the women at FHJC to participate as we lead the Shabbat Morning Service from Mah Tov through Adon Olam. This year, as in a number of past years, we chose the Shabbat of Beshalach for our special Shabbat. Shabbat Beshalach is also referred to as Shabbat Shirah in honor of the Song at the Sea (Shirat Hayam) in the Torah Reading and the Song of Deborah the Judge (Shirat Devorah) in the Haftorah. One might think that this is a personal favorite of mine because my name is Devorah (which is true!) but I especially love this Torah Reading and Haftorah because of the prominent role that the Women of Israel take in both stories.

After the Israelites cross through the Red Sea the Torah recounts that Moses sings together with B'nai Yisroel the famous Shirat Hayam – so famous and special that we read it as part of P'sukai Dezimrah every morning! But Shirat Hayam doesn't stop there; immediately following Moses's song the Torah

relates that Miriam the Prophetess picked up her timbrel (tambourine) and led the women of Yisroel in song and dance, starting with the same words that her brother, Moses, had sung. The women sang and danced and had the foresight to bring instruments knowing that there would be something amazing to sing and dance about! Miriam is also credited with a well that traveled through the wilderness with the Israelites, making sure they did not go thirsty (this is the origin of the custom of the Miriam's Cup on the Seder Table, filled with water).

Not to be left behind, our Haftorah tells the story of 2 courageous women: Deborah the Judge and Leader in War as well as Yael, the wife of Heber who helps them win the war by killing the General Sisera. Both Deborah and Yael are role models of strong biblical women who were movers and shakers in their world and worked to keep their families and people safe from danger. They didn't wait for others; they saw the need and did what needed to be done. We see their legacy in the strong women of FHJC Sisterhood who formed the Sisterhood even before the establishment of FHJC, who raised money for the stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary, and are always there to support the Forest Hills Jewish Center family and community.

We look forward to seeing you on Shabbat January 31, 2026, and celebrating Sisterhood together with our entire FHJC Family.



**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

## Sisterhood Book Discussion:

In The Family Way by Laney Katz Becker  
Thursday, February 5 | 1:00 PM (Zoom)

Click [Here](#) to register and join the discussion.

In 1965 America, where women lack basic rights over their bodies and finances, a weekly canasta game becomes a refuge for suburban housewives sharing secrets and survival strategies. When Lily Berg takes in a pregnant teen, intertwined lives, hidden truths, and impossible choices force these women to confront love, autonomy, and the limits placed on their dreams.







## MEN'S CLUB

### Peter Taub, Men's Club Presiding Officer

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Men's Club and guests attended the Jewish Heritage Night at the New York Islanders.

Some upcoming Men's Club events are :

On Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM Men's Club is pleased to present Coffee House, our annual evening of amazing performances by your Family and Friends. (Prepay [here](#) and Save \$5 by January 19<sup>th</sup>)

Sunday February 1st. Men's Club Breakfast & Speaker will present "How to Talk to Your Pharmacist" by Dr. Judy Beizer, a tenured professor at St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Clinical Pharmacist at the Stern Family Center for Rehabilitation. Cost: \$15/pp. Breakfast includes fruit, waffles, and other tasty items. Click [here](#) by January 27 to RSVP.

Sunday February 8th World Wide Wrap – Chaired by Dan Korb, join us as we participate in the annual program to perform the mitzvah of putting on tefillin. Whether you put tefillin on every day or have not yet engaged in this mitzvah, this event is fun and meaningful for all.

Ongoing Men's Club-sponsored programs are Hebrew conversation (January 13, 20 and 27, 6:30PM) & Hebrew reading Groups – Here's your chance to get started or improve your skills. Click [here](#) to schedule your session. (Email [stephenmarkowitz15@gmail.com](mailto:stephenmarkowitz15@gmail.com) if you have questions about either program.)

# Daven & Dine

Friday, February 27, 2026

5:00 PM - Snacks/Meet & Greet  
5:30 PM - DAVEN Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv  
6:30 PM - DINE in the ballroom  
(Bring your own Kosher wine!)

Special Chinese menu  
from  
**SOYSAUCE**  
GLATT KOSHER CHINESE TAKE OUT

(Yes, there will also be chicken nuggets!)

PLEASE NOTE: The facility is NOT nut free and this meal will contain food with sesame seeds.  
Gluten-free food will be available ONLY upon request.

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

Click [HERE](#) for reservations  
MUST be received by February 19



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

**Susan Moskowitz & Alan Kirschner** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Ellen Cahn** – in gratitude to **Jay Luger**  
**Esther Feldman** – in gratitude to **Jeff Bochner**, “big heart, his kindness, his consideration and his help”  
**Monica Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Gail Port** – in memory of **Eva Weiss’** son, **Daniel Weiss**

## KIDDUSH FUND

**Monica, Ezra, Caroline & Evelyn Lagnado** – in memory of **Jenny Friedlich**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Lillian & Bill Regen** – in honor of the B’not Mitzvah of **Melissa & Hailey Pollack**  
**Robyn Cimbol** – in honor of the **Bernstein & Pollack Families**  
**Monica Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received  
**Monica Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received on Rosh Hashanah  
**Monica Lagnado** – in gratitude to **Rae Kerzner** for honors received  
**Gail Port** – in memory of **Silvia Kogan’s** mother, **Fanny Koza Surazski**

# Thank You

## KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush in November & December

### November 8: Simcha Kiddush

Rabbi Graber, Emily & Randall Levin, Felicia & Ben Leeman, Pauline & Mark Raphael, Judy & Matt Beizer, Tami & Preston Forman, Nava Goldstein, Laurie Lax & Eric Kober, Maureen & Jason Dunkel, Dorrie & Hal Berkowitz, Soraya Baharestani & Family, Marcia Hittner, Hilda & Rick Chusid, Beverly Silver & Ilan David, Jill & Meir Toshav

**November 15:** Alyssa & Howard Pollack in honor of the B’not Mitzah of Melissa and Hailey

**November 29:** Emilia & Abigail Fox in honor of the baby naming of Meyer

**December 13:** Scholar-in-Residence– Sevin Family

**December 20:** The Chesnick Family in honor of the baby naming of Ellie and Maya



To help sponsor the kiddush click below.

**[Donate Now](#)**

## Life Cycles

### Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Rabbi Manes & Silvia Kogan on the wedding of their daughter Abby to Yoni Bierig  
to Ashleigh Barraca & Brad Hersch on the birth of their son

### Hamakom Y’nahem המקום ינחם

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

to Eva Weiss on the loss of her son, Daniel Weiss

We mourn the loss of our dear Center member:  
Ellen Elowitz

May their memory be for a blessing.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**YOGA WITH LORAIN** on Zoom – Wednesdays @ 6:15PM.  
Email [Lorain](#) for information.

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

**HEBREW CONVERSATION GROUP** – Tuesdays @ 6:30PM, January 13, 20, 27; February 3, 10, 24; March 10, 17. Chat it up with our Schlich, Eden Ezra. Email [Stephen Markowitz](#) to find out about the next gab-fest!

**LEARN TO READ HEBREW** – Here’s your chance to get started or improve your skills. Click [here](#) to schedule your session.

**WEEKLY WATCH PARTY** – Wednesdays @ 8:00PM One more episode of Only Murders in the Building. Don’t miss ‘em!  
Click [here](#) to join the party!

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

See the FHJC Calendar for links to these events.



# OHR-LI JUDAICA



EVERYTHING IS

**50% OFF**

Beautiful Gifts!

December 7th was our annual Scholastic book fair. Our gift shop had two tables filled with merchandise at the book fair. We sold many, many beautiful items. Thank you Rita and Michael Lieberman and Jeff Bochner who helped bring down the merchandise and help me set it all up. Thank you to Debra Weil and Laurie Lax who were great salespeople that day.

Please come shop, take a look. Email me if you would like me to meet you to shop and purchase something beautiful.

Remember, everything is 50% off. Please come shopping. Debbie Bochner, Super saleswoman. [debbiebochner@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebochner@gmail.com)

## MAZEL TOV

### New Babies at FHJC This Year

Mazel tov to the following FHJC Early Childhood Families welcoming a new baby in September-December 2025:

Stephanie Ortiz & Richard Caban  
Beth & Jase Bernhardt  
Sophie Oberfield  
Hannah & Evan Raskin  
Sara Hamadani & Joseph Zarrin  
Liya & Adam McNulty  
Jessica Lax-Fischer & William Fischer  
Sarah Pulkin & Andrew Livingston



## 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**

# Thank You

# תודה רבה

## 2025–5786 KOL NIDRE APPEAL TODAH RABAH LISTINGS

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE KOL NIDRE CAMPAIGN 5786

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed so generously to our 2025–5786 Kol Nidre Campaign. A number of donors have chosen to remain anonymous and we have done our best to respect those requests. If your name is not here and should be here, please let us know. We will correct any mistakes and publish a notice of correction in the next *Message*.

Even if your name is not here, it's not too late. We'll be happy to say *todah rabah*—thank you in the next *Message*. The responsibility of ensuring the viability of our shul for future generations now falls upon us. We hope that every member of our shul will join us in this important mission so we can reach our goal of 100% participation.

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

*Debra Bochner, Mitchell Frank, Howard Pollack, Zach Wichter, Preston Forman, and Suzanne Vick*

Michael & Linda Alberts  
Perry Almeleh & Benita Gayle-Almeleh  
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Dr. Edward Anselm  
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Robyn Cimbol  
Cindy Cohen  
Michael & Beth Ann Cohen  
Paul & Louise Derzansky Cohen  
Naomi Danis  
Anthony G. & Elizabeth Georgette Dankner  
Ms. Bonnie Dassa  
Carl & Elaine David

Marvin & Evelyn Deluty  
Peter A. & Beth B. Dreyfuss  
Rhona Drossman  
Harris A. & Roberta Drusin  
Jason & Maureen Dunkel  
Robin Eichen  
Lee Elovitch  
Ellen Elowitz  
Leslie Farrar  
Esther Feldman  
Leonard M. & Diane Fogelman  
Preston & Tami Forman  
Joseph L. & Helaine Fox  
Sheldon & Susan Fox  
Mitchell & Lari Frank  
Gordon & Barbara Freed  
Steven & Teri Goffner  
Devorah Goldstein  
Paul Gordon  
Sara Judith Gostl  
Eric & Sara Greenberg  
Norman & Carol Guttman  
David & Ilana Haas  
Pamela Haas  
Howard J. & Carol Braham Hankin  
Ira Hauptman  
Koleman Strumpf & Deborah Healy  
Marcia Hittner  
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Jason Isenberg & Heather Cook  
Alan & Linda Kahn  
Doria Kalt  
Jonathan & Stephanie Kastin  
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Abraham Leinwand & Marta Ravin  
Fred & Susan Levine  
Eric & Mara Lowe  
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Ms. Hanna Mahlab  
Ms. Tikva Mahlab  
Ms. Zahava Mahlab  
Adam & Nicole Malitz  
Joshua Lowy & Mollie Mandel  
Michael Marks & Randi Zwick-Marks  
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Anita Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Miller  
Adam Monaco & Karen Stein  
Romi Narov  
Barbara Nevis  
Jared & Amy Newman  
Sophie Oberfield  
Eric Parness & Rachel Reiner  
Eric Pelz & Eva Subotnik  
Charlotte Picot  
Howard & Alyssa Pollack  
Gail Port



## Kol Nidre Continued

Mark & Pauline Raphael  
William & Lillian Regen  
Lisa Rich  
Jose & Minna Rivera  
Alanna Rosenblatt  
Jim Gluckson & Claire Rosenzweig  
Grace Rosen  
Robert Rosengarten & Azi Graeber  
Glenn & Robin Rothbort  
Robert Samuel & Risa Matzner  
Thomas & Eva Sarkany  
Carl Schrag & Beth Dinkin  
Jacob & Nitza Schraeter  
Elizabeth B. Schwartz  
Shoshanna Segal  
Michael E. Seiden  
Audrey Lou Sevin  
Natalie Shimshi  
James & Kuei Siegel  
Michael & Judi Silverstein  
Akiva Sklar & Zlata Golubitskaya  
Gerald & Robin Skolnik  
Mr. Benjamin Sloane  
Jacob & Yasmin Solomon  
Zev & Fran Spiro  
Michael Turner & Susannah Spodek  
Glenn & Dina Tanzer  
Stephen & Francie Teitelbaum  
Steven & Cheryl Topal

Mrs. Lisl Topper  
Meir & Jill Toshav  
Henry Vas Nunes  
Jonathan & Suzanne Vick  
David Vogel  
Juliet Vogel  
David Snyder & Diana Walcott  
Warren & Lorain Wankoff  
Arnold L. & Susan Weg  
Gary & Debra Weil  
Doug & Michele Weiner  
Mark & Mindy Weinblatt  
Miriam Weintraub  
Eva Weiss  
Michael & Joan Weston  
Jessica White  
Kevin & Judy Wichter  
Zachary Wichter  
Rena Wirshba  
Andrew & Deborah Witlin  
Mrs. Sandra Zalbe  
Matthew Ziegelbaum & Elizabeth Caudle  
David & Judy Zipkowitz  
David M. Zucker & Shirley Rossman-Zucker

# 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**

<b>TODDLERS TO 5TH GRADE</b>	<b>6TH GRADE AND UP</b>
<b>1:00-4:00 PM</b>	<b>4:00-6:00 PM</b>

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

### 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.

Early Childhood Registration is soon upon us for the 2026-2027 School Year

Watch for Summer Program 2026 Registration!

Please contact Lynn Fisher at  
(718) 263-7000 ext. 220 or [nursery@fhjc.org](mailto:nursery@fhjc.org)  
Catch the Early Bird Specials!  
[www.fhjc.org/early-childhood](http://www.fhjc.org/early-childhood)

**FREE** **3-K FOR ALL** **PRE-K FOR ALL**

DOE approved secular curricula. Optional morning Judaic enrichment classes.

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



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