



המרכז היהודי ד'פורסט הילס

Message

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

March-April 2026 / Adar-Nisan-Iyar 5786/ Vol. LXXXI No. 4

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER

JOURNAL DINNER DANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 | 4:00 PM

Gary Kerzner
FHJC PRESIDENT - 2023-2026

HONORING

Mount Sinai Health System

COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREE

REPRESENTED BY FHJC MEMBERS:

RABBI JASON KIRSCHNER • BRAD KORN

MICHAEL SILVERSTEIN, MD

STEPHEN TEITELBAUM, MD



**FHJC
PURIM
CARNIVAL
2026**

COME IN COSTUME Sunday, March 1, 2026
11:30 - 2:00 PM | FHJC

\$10 Per Child (13 and under)
includes Inflatables, Crafts,
& 10 Tickets for Games

Inflatable Carnival Preschool Center
Inflatable Olympic Obstacle Course
Professional Face Painting by People Paint
Games - Crafts - Prizes!
Hot Dogs, Drinks, & Popcorn available for purchase

Forest Hills Jewish Center
106-06 Queens Blvd
Forest Hills, NY 11375
www.FHJC.org | 718.263.7000

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
THE
FOREST HILLS
JEWISH CENTER
ANNOUNCES A
**PURIM
MEGILLAH
READING!**

Monday, March 2nd

Children's Program - 5:00pm - 6:00pm ages 3-7 • Accompanied by an Adult

Mincha / Maariv - 5:30pm

**MEGILLAH READING
at 6:00pm!**

Come One, Come All for a
Festive Evening of Merriment!

106-06 Queens Blvd, Forest Hills.
Questions? Contact (718) 263-7000 x203



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Daniel Graber

Dear friends,

I often say that keeping halakhah, Jewish law, makes us better people and, in turn, helps make the world a better place. Jewish law does not only regulate ritual; it shapes habits. It trains instincts. It pushes us toward responsibility, dignity, and generosity. Judaism is not only about what we believe, it is about how we behave.

When we think about holidays, we usually think first about their rituals. Purim brings the Megillah, mishloach manot, and a festive meal. Pesach brings cleaning, matzah, maror, and the carefully structured seder. The laws are detailed and the rituals are rich. They create sacred time and shared memory. They bind us to one another and to our past. And embedded within the laws of the holidays, they require us to give.

On Purim, matanot la'evyonim, monetary gifts to those in need, is not a secondary custom. It is one of the core mitzvot of the day. The holiday obligates us to ensure that people who are struggling can experience the joy of the holiday with dignity. Maimonides even writes that it is better to increase gifts to the poor than to expand one's own feast, because true joy is found in gladdening the hearts of those who are downtrodden. Before we fully enter our own joy, we are commanded to widen it to include all.

Pesach carries the same instinct. Long before the first cup of wine is poured, Jewish communities traditionally organize Ma'ot Chittim, funds to ensure that those in need can prepare for the holiday. These are often given to the rabbi at or before the time of selling

hametz. Before we recline as free people, we make sure others can do the same. And the seder itself begins with the invitation: "Let all who are hungry come and eat."

We often translate tzedakah as "charity," but the word comes from tzedek, justice. Charity can feel optional, something we do when moved by emotion. Tzedakah is a structured obligation. It assumes that there will always be people carrying burdens we do not see, and it builds responsibility into the calendar whether or not we feel inspired in the moment.

This is what I mean when I say halakhah makes us better. It does not wait for generosity to arise spontaneously. It disciplines us into it. On Purim, giving precedes the feast. On Pesach, communal provision precedes the seder. Jewish celebration and Jewish freedom are not private accomplishments; they are communal realities.

I look forward to celebrating these holidays with you, in the joy of Purim, in the freedom of Pesach, and in the mutual responsibility that gives meaning to both.

Bivracha - with blessings,

Rabbi Daniel Graber

FHJC Yom Hashoah Commemoration



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

Monday, April 13 | 7:30 PM

The Message USPS 340-300 Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248. 718-263-7000.
Website: <http://www.fhjc.org>. Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Published bi-monthly September-June. Subscription: \$25 per year (included in membership dues.) Periodicals postage paid at the Post Office in Flushing, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248. Editorial Board: Karen L. Stein (Editor), Daniel Graber (Rabbi), Randall Levin (Hazzan), Gerald Skolnik (Rabbi Emeritus), Donna Bartolomeo (Executive Director), Lynn Fisher (Director, Early Childhood Education), Silvia Kogan (Religious School Director), Laurie Worthman (Office Manager). Officers: Gary Kerzner (President), Debra Bochner (Vice President), Mitchell Frank (Vice President), Zach Wichter (Vice President), Howard Pollack (Vice President), Preston Forman (Treasurer), Suzanne Vick (Secretary). Arms: Sisterhood: Laurie Lax (Presiding Officer), Men's Club, Peter Taub, Presiding Officer). Opinions expressed in The Message are the authors' and do not necessarily represent those of the Forest Hills Jewish Center, its officers and Board, or the Editorial Board.



NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

Hazzan Randall Levin

At the conclusion of the reading of Megillat Esther on Purim evening, the piyyut (poem) Shoshanat Ya'akov is traditionally recited or sung. Many of the melodies written for this hymn are upbeat and celebratory, in keeping with the sometimes frivolous nature of Purim observance. The text is one that celebrates the salvation of the Jews of Persia and praises Mordechai and Esther. However the text also takes a slightly darker tone in cursing Haman and Zeresh. The reading of these verses to bless and to curse is actually considered a requirement throughout the rabbinic sources.

This more serious aspect of Purim is reflected elsewhere in our tradition. Beyond the specific account of salvation that appears in Esther, Purim represents the celebration of the divine presence even when God is hidden, and an awareness of God's presence that is thought to be eternal amongst the Jewish people. The rabbinic understanding of a perpetual remembrance comes directly from the text of the Megillah (Esther 9:28), and informs the Rabbinic teaching that in the messianic era, while most holidays will be rendered null, the theme of recognizing God's guiding providence within hidden, natural, and historical events will continue. Unlike other holidays, which commemorate more overt miracles (like the Exodus/Passover), Purim represents finding God's hand in, or behind, natural events, which will be the defining spiritual state of the future.

One question that naturally arises from these commentaries is exactly how will we continue to celebrate Purim in the messianic era? Will we, for instance, continue to read from the Megillah? The answer, according to our sages, is yes! The Jerusalem Talmud suggests that in the messianic era, all Books of the Prophets and Writings will lose their primary "worth" or status, except for the Book of Esther, which will remain as binding as the Five Books of Moses. (It is this understanding of Megillat Esther that underlies our tradition to teach post-b'nei mitzvah youths, now "adults", to read from the "other" scroll, besides the Torah, from which it is impermissible for a minor to read). Lastly, will we still pray in the messianic era? Our tradition teaches that in the future, all forms of prayer (petitions for needs) will cease, except for those of gratitude (representing the Korban Todah, or Thanksgiving Offering). So, yes, a boisterous rendering of Shoshanat Ya'akov will surely persist throughout the generations!

Chag Purim Sameach!

Hazzan Randall Levin



PARSHAT HASHAVUAH

STUDY THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION WITH RABBI GRABER

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

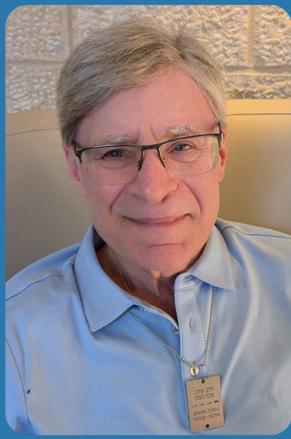


Tuesday, March 3, 2026

MORNING MEGILLAH & PURIM SEUDAH 6:30 AM

Morning Minyan and Megillah followed by Bagel Breakfast Seudah with RSVP





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gary Kerzner

It's Always Warm and Welcoming At FHJC

When the temperature hovers around 20 degrees or lower, the skies are leaden and the ground is covered with snow and ice, it's just natural to huddle under the blankets, waiting for spring to come out from hiding. Leaving a warm bed and getting dressed can get harder with each passing winter's day. Perhaps that's why it was so impressive to see over 150 people gather in shul Saturday morning, January 24th, to celebrate New Member Shabbat, and again Saturday morning, January 31st, to celebrate Sisterhood Shabbat. Our maintenance crew started clearing snow from the sidewalks and entrance hours before any of us got to shul. Our superintendent arrived at 4:00 am to inspect the boilers and begin heating the Sanctuary, which can take hours to get comfortably warm. Security guards were on duty, checking the building and surroundings way before the first congregants entered. And while it's possible that the opportunity to socialize with friends and family at the delicious kiddush after services motivated a few members to show up, I like to think that more than anything else, it's the warm and welcoming atmosphere of FHJC that brings us out on the coldest of days.

The warmth and welcoming feeling will continue throughout the remaining weeks of winter as we approach Purim and prepare to celebrate the holiday with an exuberant reading of the Megillah, a festive carnival and sh'lach manot packages sent to family and friends. Shortly afterwards, at our Journal Dinner Dance, which is beyond doubt the social event of the season, we'll enjoy a cocktail hour with sushi and carving stations, a fabulous dinner, live music and joyful dancing in our beautiful ballroom. Then, as we bid farewell to winter, Passover arrives, enabling us to greet spring in the most meaningful way possible.

At all times and in all seasons, FHJC is here for you, with a warm, welcoming spirit that lets you know you're an important and valued member of the community.

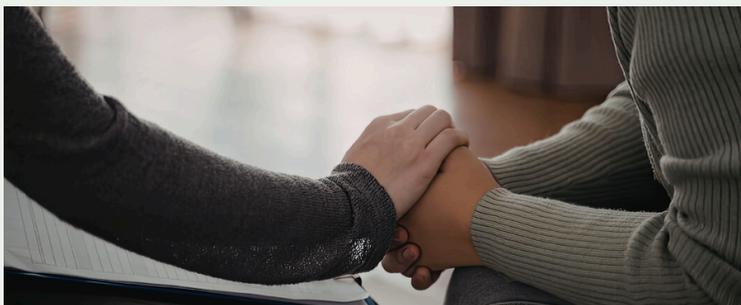
FHJC

BIKUR CHOLIM

Over this last month we have had several members have a death in their family. I know many people have made shiva calls, contributed to shiva meals, and made donations to a charity in their memory. It's truly a mitzvah to those who are grieving.

There are many things you can do to help a member experiencing sorrow. Check your emails and know what's going on with our members.

Debbie Bochner
Chairperson Bikur Cholim



WATCH FOR DETAILS

FOREST HILLS JEWISH CENTER SECOND PASSOVER SEDER

Sunday, April 2, 2026

Join your fellow Center members for a warm, family-friendly
Second Passover Seder led by Rabbi Graber



Traditional seder menu, elegantly
catered and served by IZ Events.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

Silvia Kogan

One of the things I love about living in the Northeast is the change of seasons. No matter how hard the winter was, there is always hope for springtime! The upcoming holiday of Pesach arrives at just the right time, reminding us that even after the harshest of the winters, renewal and freedom are possible.

Pesach is one of the most treasured Jewish holidays, the richest and the sweetest, celebrated among all branches of Judaism, offering a powerful opportunity to explore themes of freedom, tradition, family and connecting ancient history to our own lives and values.

The aim of this holiday is not to just obey a rigid set of rules. The goal is to talk, think, eat and even argue our way back in time and bring the Exodus of Egypt experience into our daily lives, to savor the freedom we enjoy. Pesach is full of rituals that can be easily adapted to your own celebration. One of the most meaningful is spending time together as a family gathering around the table to tell the story of Yeitziat Mitzrayim: We were slaves in Egypt and God took us out with an outstretched arm. By saying just this simple sentence, you are fulfilling one of the main mitzvot of Pesach, the telling the story of the Yeitziat Mitzrayim.

In most cases, a simple ritual can become the glue that holds a family together. Many of you would remember the Sedarim you attended as a child and now as an adult hope to pass along the same memories and the same sense of warmth and energy to your own children.

At home, the rituals also involve setting the table with the best dishes, inviting guests, turning the house upside down to clean it, and cooking special traditional recipes. The Seder itself is at the heart of the experience and as a ritual it's full of teachable moments and the creation of joyful Jewish memories. My suggestion? Take the time to plan it thoroughly. How long can your kids sit at the table? What kind of Seder will keep them engaged? Who can I invite to enrich and share the experience?

Remember that the purpose of the Seder is to pass the story onto the next generation, transmit the desire to continue with this wonderful tradition. Children learn that Judaism is not only taught in books but lived through action. Washing hands, dipping vegetables, breaking matzah, and retelling the story of Yetziat Mitzrayim all help transform history into something personal and meaningful. Every ritual, no matter how small, reinforces the message that freedom, gratitude, and faith are central to who we are. These moments remind our children that Jewish life happens not only in school or synagogue, but at home, through everyday choices and traditions.

As we celebrate Pesach, we strengthen the bonds between past, present, and future and become partners in the education of your children.

Chag Pesach Sameach!
Silvia Kogan
Religious School Director

PASSOVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT FHJC

Sunday, March 22 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Passover food distribution will take place at FHJC on Sunday, March 22. Volunteers are needed to prepare packages of kosher food to distribute to over 1,000 QJCC clients in need. This is a great project for the whole family!



REUSABLE SHOPPING BAG COLLECTION

Bring your sturdy ShopRite, Fresh Direct, IKEA, or other large reusable plastic shopping bags to the white bin near the security office.





NEWS FROM NURSERY SCHOOL

Lynn Fisher

As we approach Purim, we tell a story that feels both historic and timely. The Megillah reminds us that the Jewish people have faced uncertainty, fear, and instability before. And yet, through courage, community, and faith, we survive.

Purim is often associated with costumes, laughter, and celebration – but at its heart, it is a story of resilience. Esther did not begin as a hero. She was hesitant and unsure. She needed encouragement. It was only when Mordechai reminded her that she found the courage within herself to act.

This is resilience. Resilience is not the absence of fear. It is the ability to move forward despite it. In today's world, as we face growing division, uncertainty, and moments that can feel unsettling for adults and children alike, we are reminded how essential it is to nurture resilience in our littlest learners. In our Early Childhood classrooms, resilience is built daily in small ways:

- When a child separates from a parent and learns they can manage big feelings.
- When a tower falls and they try to build it again.
- When they navigate a conflict and find new words.
- When they discover that even after disappointment, joy returns.

Like Esther, children learn that they have inner strength – and that they are never alone. Purim teaches us that good things happen when people step up and support one another. At FHJC ECP, we see this every day. Children thrive when they feel safe, when they feel heard, and when they know the adults in their lives believe in their ability to grow. As a community, we model calm in uncertain times. We show our children that even when the world feels loud or confusing, there is goodness, kindness, and purpose.

This Purim, as we celebrate with joy and laughter, may we also reflect on the deeper message of the holiday: that courage can be cultivated, that resilience can be taught, and that even our littlest learners can make a powerful difference.

Chag Purim Sameach –

May we continue to raise children who are confident, compassionate, and strong

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
March 7, 21, April 18, 25

FHJC 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



ADULT EDUCATION

Judy Gostl

Azi Graeber

David Snyder

We had two wonderful movie nights this winter, made available for free from Good Docs. We are actively looking for additional sources of appropriate free movies that would serve as starting points for discussions impinging on Jewish values.

We had two Shabbaton presentations scheduled for March, but illness and calendar conflicts knocked both off the schedule. The **Hebrew Literature** group will be meeting next on **Thursday, March 5 at 5:00PM** on the Zoom link that is provided in the flier.

April is very difficult due to Pesach, Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzma'ut but our **History Readers Book Club** will be discussing *Shylock's Venice: The Remarkable History of Venice's Jews and the Ghetto* on **April 23 at 8:00PM** on the shul Zoom. If you have any interest in visiting Venice or if you have been there in the past, please join in.

In May, we have one definite Shabbaton at Shul and one possible at home topic. On **Shabbat, May 9**, Diana Walcott, Debra Weil, and Mindy Weinblatt will discuss their experiences last year when they spent Tikkun Leil Shavuot at the Kotel. They came back from Israel last June so enthusiastic about their experience that I know you will want to hear them discuss it in person on that Shabbat!

The other topic in May will be when someone, whom we all saw grow up in our congregation, discusses her research in graduate school. I know that this is vague, but you will be pleasantly surprised when the flier for this program is posted.

If you would like to teach in the future and have an idea that you would like to share, please contact us to discuss it.



Debra Bochner, VP Education

As you read, this article, our schools are thriving with much excitement. Our wrap students and Toddlers have been engaged in Tu' B'Shevat, Purim, and Pesach.

I enjoy hearing all the little ones singing. The threes and fours are busy with their units and just finished a fabulous unit on WHEELS.

Our religious school students are engaged in Minyan and Havdalah and learning how to read Hebrew and study the Parshat of the week.

Our Madrachim have been very helpful in all our classes.

All our staff in both schools are working so hard with all our students. Lynn and Silvia and their staff have done amazing jobs with the students this year in planning curriculum and all the wonderful activities. In both schools, children are learning, creating, exploring together and being curious with lots of questions.

May we soon feel the spring weather and the flowers popping up.

Debbie Bochner
Vice President of Education

SISTERHOOD

Laurie Lax, Presiding Officer, March-April 2026



Well, we are hopefully heading into warmer weather soon. This has been a tough winter with snow and freezing cold. Our shul keeps on ticking and we had a very nice turnout on Sisterhood Shabbat, Shabbat Beshalach, despite single-digit temperatures early on Shabbat morning. We had many women taking on all parts of the service and involved in pre-Shabbat preparations. We had Sisterhood members and non-members participating and doing an amazing job. We also had generous donors who supported the wonderful kiddush, allowing us to make it more special.

Our FHJC Annual Torah Fund Brunch on April 19 will honor **Judy Gostl** this year, a most deserving recipient. Please come to celebrate Judy for her many years of involvement in Sisterhood in so many leadership capacities and come to support Torah Fund!



Sisterhood has many events coming up, including **"Game Night"** on **March 10**. This has become a regular event, where participants play Mahjongg, card games, and board games. We also have **Daytime Readers** on **April 23**, reading *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood. We have regular exercise classes, with Yoga on Wednesday evenings with Lorain, and Pilates on Friday morning with Dana.

Upcoming special events include: **"Growing up Jewish in the former USSR: A Cultural and Gastronomic Tour"** with **Olga Sakhno**, on **May 12**, and a program on **Jewish gangsters** on **June 16**.

There are Brooklyn Queens Long Island region programs coming up: **The Helen Cytrn Study Day** on **March 11**, a tour of **JTS** on **March 16**, and our region **Women of Achievement Gala** on **June 11**. We have two honorees this year: **Laurie Lax** for Woman of Achievement, and **Madison Pollack** as our "L'Dor v Dor" teen honoree. We will also have three members of the FHJC Sisterhood board installed in the incoming BQLI Region Board, most notably, **Debra Weil** will be installed as the region's President, which is incredibly exciting. **Laurie Lax** will be Health Education Chair for the region, and **Shirley Rossman Zucker** will be Sisterhood Support Director.

Sisterhood Daytime Readers

Thursday, April 23 | 1:00 PM (Zoom)

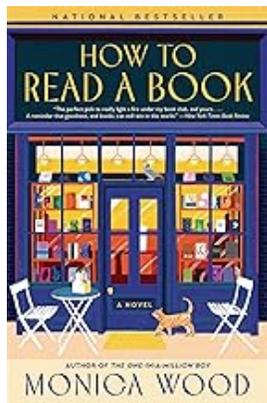
How to Read a Book
by Monica Woods

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

Upcoming Books:

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi - June 18

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessler - August 20



Save The Date

Tuesday, May 12 | 8:00 PM

Growing up Jewish in the former USSR:
A Cultural and Gastronomic Tour

With Olga Sakhno

Co-owner of Keuka Cafe, a wine bar here in
Forest Hills



SISTERHOOD GAME NIGHT

TUESDAY, MARCH 10
STARTING AT 6:30 PM

CARD GAMES
MAH JONGG
BOARD GAMES
SNACKS

FEEL FREE TO JOIN ALONE OR BRING YOUR FRIENDS
\$5 PER PERSON
RSVP BY MARCH 9



MEN'S CLUB

Peter Taub, Presiding Officer, January-February

Some upcoming Men's Club events are :
Men's Club Shabbat will be on **March 7th**.

Passover Food Distribution with Queens Jewish Community Council will be on **March 22nd**

Past Events

On **Saturday, January 24th** at 7:30PM Men's Club presented **Coffee House**, our annual evening of amazing performances by your Family and Friends. **Sunday February 1st** - Men's Club Breakfast & Speaker presented "**How to Talk to Your Pharmacist**" by **Dr. Judy Beizer**

World Wide Wrap was unfortunately cancelled due to weather, and we're getting ready for the Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle distribution.

Ongoing Men's Club-sponsored programs are **Hebrew conversation** and **Hebrew reading Groups** - Here's your chance to get started or improve your skills. Click [here](#) to schedule your session. (Email stephenmarkowitz15@gmail.com if you have questions about either program.)

Peter

SAVE THE DATE:
McGalil Prom
WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

VIVA LAS VEGAS
MARCH 21ST, 2026
9:00 - 11:30 PM
QUEENS, NEW YORK
OPEN TO 9TH - 12TH GRADERS
HOSTED BY FHJC USY

FHJC USY

THIS EVENT IS SUBSIDIZED THANKS TO A USY GRANT.

Join teens from across NY & NJ for a fun night at FHJC
Cost: \$10 for FHJC Teens
Generously subsidized by Rabbi Graber & FHJC
<https://tinyurl.com/USY-Vegas2026>

Men's Club Shabbat March 7, 2026

Join us for
Shabbat Ki Tiso/Parshas Parah, as
Men's Club will lead services.

A sponsored kiddush will follow
where all are invited.



OPEN GYM SHABBAT AFTERNOONS FUN IN THE FHJC GYM

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.



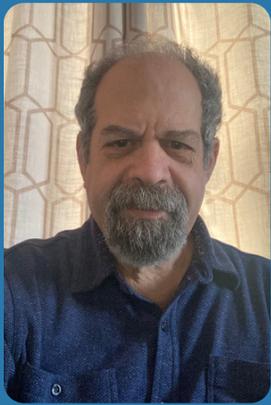
HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP

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 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 last chapters of Isaiah. These prophecies, which begin with the phrase, "comfort thee my people," are addressed to the Judean people after the Babylonian exile. In our next meeting, on March 5th, we will turn to a different kind of messianic message, apocalyptic prophecies that presage an end of days when divine justice is meted out in ultimate response to oppression.

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!



HEBREW LITERATURE GROUP THURSDAY, MARCH 5 | 5:00PM

THE MESSIANIC IDEA IN HEBREW WRITINGS:

From the Bible to Kabbalah

Texts are read in Hebrew with English translations, and our discussions are in English.

Click [here](#) to join the discussion.

Questions? Email [Mitchell Frank](#).



OHR-LI JUDAICA

**Come see us at
the Purim
Carnival!!**

EVERYTHING IS

50% OFF

To purchase, or for any questions,
contact: Debbie Bochner: debbiebochner@gmail.com



PASSOVER CANDY SALE FUNDRAISER

Miss
Chocolate
New York's finest fundraiser
since 1968



All proceeds to benefit our Early Childhood Program and Religious School!



Place your order now!
Please click [here](#) and select
"Kosher for Passover" to
place your order.



Sale Ends: March 8th

Questions? Contact Richard Chase richchase@aol.com or pa@fhjc.org



PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Caudle & Minna Rivera

This month the Parent's Association hosted a very successful swim night, hosting 24 2nd-7th graders for a fun night in the pool with pizza. Thank you to the Haas family for sponsoring the pizza for the event!

We are taking orders for our annual Miss Chocolate Passover Candy fundraiser. Orders close 3/8. This year all orders will be shipped directly to your home.

We were also thrilled to provide a \$1000 grant to support the upcoming Purim Carnival on 3/1 and are voting to approve additional \$1000 grants for the Early Childhood Program and Religious School at our next meeting 2/25.

Warmly,
Minna and Elizabeth



Thank You

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

Thank you to the following individuals for sponsoring a congregational Shabbat Kiddush in January & February

January 3

Kiddush sponsored by the Wirshba Family

January 17- Simha Kiddush

Kiddush sponsored by: Dorrie and Hal Berkowitz, Debra Karsif-Baer and Myron Baer, Pamela Haas, Rae and Gary Kerzner, Laurie Lax and Eric Kober, Emily and Hazzan Randall Levin, Susan Moskowitz and Alan Kirschner, Gail S. Port, Leah Silberman, Juliet Vogel

Jan 24- New Member Kiddush

Kiddush sponsored by: FHJC Board

January 31: Sisterhood Shabbat

Kiddush sponsored by: Sisterhood

February 28: Siddur Celebration

Kiddush sponsored by:

The Abeles Family, The Adler Family, The Brainin - Kuzina Family, The Iskowitz Family, The Koblenz Family, The Lowe Family, The Mavlyanov Family, The Rivera Family, The Samson Family, The Santamaria-Zakry Family

Tuesday, April 21 | 6:00 PM

"From Memory to Hope"

A Community Transition Ceremony,
From Yom HaZikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Forest Hills Jewish Center

Presented by Eden Ezra, Community Shlichah

Together with the Reform Temple of FH and Commonpoint



Wednesday, April 22

FHJC Annual Zimriyah

7:30 PM - Ma'ariv

8:00 PM - Celebrate with song in the

Heller Family Ballroom.

Refreshments will be served.

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



To help sponsor the kiddush click below.

[Donate Now](#)

Acknowledgements

PULPIT FUND

Norman Guttman - in gratitude for honors received
Trudy Emanuel - in gratitude for honors received in memory of her father, **Louis Emanuel** (yahrzeit)
Regina Geber - in memory of **Steve Goffner's** father, **Norman Goffner**
Fran & Zev Spiro - in memory of **Ellen Elowitz**
Fran & Zev Spiro - in memory of **Daniel Weiss**
Fran & Zev Spiro - in memory of **David Zipkowitz's** father, **Harold Zipkowitz**
Fran & Zev Spiro - in memory of **Steve Goffner's** father, **Norman Goffner**
Sarah & Stephen Markowitz - in memory of **David Zipkowitz's** father, **Harold Zipkowitz**
Susie Spodek & Michael Turner - in memory of **Harold Zipkowitz**
Susie Spodek & Michael Turner - in memory of **Roy Worthman**
Fran & Zev Spiro - in memory of **Steven Goffner's** father, **Norman Goffner**

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Monica Lagnado - in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Pauline & Mark Raphael - in memory of **Steven Goffner's** father, **Norman**
Pauline & Mark Raphael - in memory of **David Zipkowitz's** father, **Harold Zipkowitz**
Michele & Doug Weiner - in memory of **David Zipkowitz's** father, **Harold Zipkowitz**
Sharon Matzner & Philip Braginsky - in memory of **Laurie Worthman's** husband, **Roy Worthman**
Men's Club - in honor of **Judy Beizer**

KIDDUSH FUND

Fran & Zev Spiro - in honor of **Rena Wirshba's** birthday
Monica Lagnado - in gratitude to **Mitchell Frank** for honors received
Ezra Lagnado - in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Monica Lagnado - in gratitude to **Judy Beizer** for honors received
Esther Feldman - in memory of **Steve Goffner's** father, **Norman Goffner**
Esther Feldman - in memory of **Laurie Worthman's** husband, **Roy Worthman**
Monica, Ezra, Caroline & Evelyn Lagnado - in memory of **Aron Friedlich** (26th yahrzeit)
Mollie Mandel, Joshua Lowy & Galor - in memory of **David Zipkowitz's** father, **Harold Zipkowitz**
Mollie Mandel, Joshua Lowy & Galor - in memory of **Steve Goffner's** father, **Norman Goffner**
Mollie Mandel, Joshua Lowy & Galor - in memory of **Joan Eshkenazi**

Life Cycles

Mazal Tov מזל טוב

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

to Michelle and Ron Amram on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alexa

Hamakom Y'nahem המקום ינחם

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

Laurie Worthman on the loss her husband, Roy Worthman
Steven Goffner on the loss of his father, Norman Goffner
David Zipkowitz on the loss of his father, Harold Zipkowitz
Dan Korb on the loss of his brother, Kenneth Korb

We mourn the loss of our dear Center members:

Joan Eshkenazi
Roz Okun

May their memories be for a blessing.



Mazal Tov

Alexa Amram
Bat Mitzvah
March 21, 2026

Alexa Mollie Amram attends The Churchill School in Manhattan as a seventh grader. She is also a proud member of the Zayin class at the Forest Hills Jewish Center's Hebrew School. Alexa loves to dance, listen to music with friends and play with her dog, Boomer.

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	Pauline Fox	Anna Heller	Samuel Lapin	Stephen Reich
Yakov Hassid Abraham	Randy Fox	Arthur Heller	Elayne Leef	Feiga Remetier
David Abrahams	Sam Fox	Jesse Heller	Larry Leef	Frank E. Riesenfeld
Madeline Abrahams	Stella Frank	Morris Heller	Mark Leef	Sylvia Rolnick
Barney W. Adler	Cynthia Friedenberg	Albert Hirsch	Rabbi Albert Leeman	William Rolnick
Henrietta K. Adler	Peter Friedenberg	Herta Hirsch	Lillian Gutman Leeman	Carla Rosenblum Bromberg
Esther Anapolsky	John Steven Fuchs	Sybil Hyman	Edward Lehem	Carolyn Rosenblum Lubin
Samuel Anapolsky	Josef Samuel Fuchs	Nathan Hyman	Fortuna Lehem	Howard Rosenblum
Arthur Ball	Rosalie Fuchsberg	Eva Lea Jaari	Marco Lehem	Jonathan Rosenblum
Leona Ball	Meyer Fuchsberg	Lochem Avichai Jaari	Palomba Lehem	Dr. Louis Rosenblum
Otto Josef Baruch	Dr. J. Savin Garber	Julius D. Kahn	Sol Lehem	Lillian Rosenthal
Berthold Bear	Syd Garber	Kate Kahn	Charles Leibler	Seymour Rosenthal
Lisa Bear	Faith Garfield	Frances Kalikow	Frieda Leibler	Sidney Roth
Martin Bear	Philip Garfield	Morris Kalikow	Abraham Lerner	George Rozsa
Toni Bear	Benedicto Geber	Nathaniel Saul Kane	Clara Lerner	Toni Pernitz Ruda
Victoria Benghiat	Marta Geber	Benjamin B. Katz	Maurice Lerner	Sabina Safier
Ida Benghiat	Feiga Rosa Ginsburg	Haskel Katz	Joseph Lestz	Simon A. Safier
Edwin Berger	Albert Glazer	Helen F. Katz	Leon Levin	Gladys Salup
Julie Berger	Cecelia Glazer	Miriam Katz	Charles Levy	Abraham Salzmann
Rita Berger	Clara Glazer	Morris M. Katz	Pearl Levy	Elizabeth Samuel
Sol Berley	David Glazer	Fred E. Katzner	Ludwig Loewenstein	Siegfried Samuel
Sydell Berley	Gussie Glazer	Gladys Kenner	Margaret Loewenstein	Irving Savitz
Jean Roberta Biegelson	Arnold Glick	Max Kenner	Dr. Jack London	Ruth Savitz
Sidney Biegelson	Fannie Glick	Al Kingsley	Dr. Edward Mahlab	Jack Schaeffer
Doris Birnbaum	Irving Glick	E. Temma Kingsley	Suzette Mahlab	Lillian Schaeffer
Edward Birnbaum	Max Glick	Herman Kingsley	Lionel Malamed	Leo Schain
Evelyn Blum	Ruth Rhoda Glick	Marion Kingsley	David Maryasin	Martha Schain
Robert Blum	Arlene Glotzer	Henry Kletter	Leopold Lipot Mayer	Harold Schantz
Abe Blumstein	Helen Goldenberg	Sophie Kohn	Rose Guttman Mayer	Elias Segal
Rabbi Baruch Micah Bokser	Sherry Sue Goldenberg	Louis Kohn	Theodore Mayer	Mildred Segal
Kallia Bokser	Martin Goldman	Aaron Korn	Michael Mayorowitz	Irwin Seitenbach
Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser	Lola Joy Goldman	Lillian Korn	Gertrude Mayorowitz Lukacs	Malvin Sevin
Aaron Broder	Celia Goldman	Fortuna Kovalsky	Harry Mesard	Albert Shaw
Jennie Broder	Norman Peter Goldman	Max Kovolick	Lily R. Mesard	Ruth Shulim
Sylvia Broder	Abraham Goldsmith	Leo Kra	Rabbi Amos W. Miller	Annette Silberman
Milton Bruck	Harold Goldsmith	Adolph G. Kraus	Hannah B. Miller	Ruby Silberman
Ruth Bruck	Mary Goldsmith	Samuel Kravitz	Chaskel Morgenstern	David Skolnik
Henry Burger	Benjamin Goldstein	Melanie Krieger	Irene Morgenstern	Lillian Skolnik
Dora Butnick	Carl Goldstein	Abraham Krumbein	Carl J. Moskowitz	Edward Skornicki
Milton Butnick	Dave Goldstein	Sarah Krumbein	Charlotte Moskowitz	Natalie Skornicki
Irving Cahn	Herb Goldstein	Benjamin Krumholz	George Moss	Mildred F. Smith
Hugo N. Cahnman	Nettie Goldstein	Henry Krumholz	Irving Moss	Agnes Sobel
Elaine Charap	Rita Goldstein	Jack Krumholz	Jack Nelson	Irene Sobel
Hyman Sid Citron	Cantor Isaac Gorsky	Mera Krumholz	Ruth Nelson	Ivan Sobel
George DePinna	Sylvia Gould	Rose Krumholz	Abraham Okun	William Sobel
Marcia DePinna	Ann Grossman	David Kule	Celia Okun	Deena Soloway
Abram Dykerman	Cantor Erno Grosz	Eugene Kule	Theodore Okun	Joseph Stark
Alfred Dykerman	Gertrude B. Gruenberg	Geraldine Kule	Harvey L. Perlstein	Katalin Stark
Erna Dykerman	Jascha Gurewitz	Philip Kule	Jeanne S. Perlstein	Pearl Strauss
Herman Dykerman	Bella Hahn	Isidore Kulichfsky	Isidore Platkin	Amy Lisa Sturm
Ester Dylewski	Fred Hahn	Jennie Kulichfsky	Shep Porter	Judith Susan Sturm
Lola Eckstein	Celia Haims	Barbara Kupferberg	Tauba Potik	Ida Sumerfeld
Helene Falik	George Haims	Herbert Kupferberg	Yefim Potik	Meyer Sumerfeld
Estelle Feiner	Joseph Haupt	Cantor David Kusevitsky	Perla Raphael	Sally Tenenbaum
Sonia Gurewitz Fink	Celia F. Heiferman	Elaine Kusevitsky	Raphael Raphael	
Abraham Obiedzinski Fink	Cookie Heiferman	Patricia Lily Kusevitsky	Irwin Reich	
Philip Fogelman	(Esther Rose Signet)	Harry B. Lader		
Rose Fogelman	Solomon G. Heiferman	Helen J. Lader		
	Jean Claude Heilberg	Murray Landau		
	Ray F. Heitner	Dorothy Lapin		
	Solomon Heitner			

continued on next page.

Book of Remembrance Continued

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

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

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, February 24; March 10, 17. Chat it up with our Schlicha, Eden Ezra. Email [Stephen Markowitz](mailto:Stephen.Markowitz@fjhc.org) to find out about the next gab-fest!

LEARN TO READ HEBREW – Men's Club offers you a chance to get started or improve your skills. Click [here](#) to schedule your session.

WEEKLY WATCH PARTY – Wednesdays @ 8:00PM The Bear comes out of hibernation! Click [here](#) to join the party!

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

Passover Guides & Information

The holiday of Passover (Pesach) is a celebration!

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

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

In 2026/5786, the first night of Passover begins Wednesday evening, April 1st, and concludes (for those in the diaspora) on Thursday night, April 9th.

Read more about Passover, including

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

on Exploring Judaism's website [here](#):

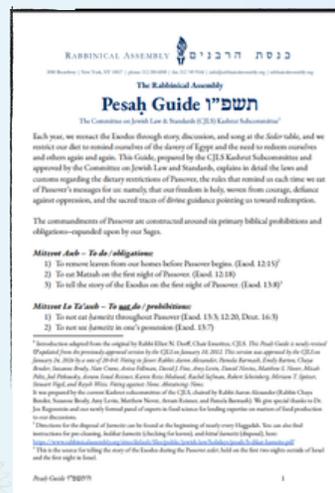
<https://www.exploringjudaism.org/holidays/passover/>

Hametz Sale

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



To authorize Rabbi Graber to sell your hametz on your behalf, please use this form, or visit the FHJC Office.
<https://tinyurl.com/Hametz-2026>



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



Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Forest Hills Jewish Center
Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser Square
106-06 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills, NY 11375-4248
Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE

Periodicals
postage paid
at the P.O. in
Flushing, NY



Kim F. Trigoboff

Attorney at Law

Wills | Guardianships | Estate Planning

Medicaid, Special Needs and Disability Planning

Probate and Estate Administration

1140 Sixth Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10036

Tel: (646) 308-1747
Fax: (646) 308-1240

kimtrigoboff.esq@gmail.com



Schwartz
Brothers-
Jefferson

Memorial Chapels



Committed to
חסד של אמת
Queens Boulevard at 76th Road
Forest Hills
(718) 263-7600

Martin D. Kasdan
Joel S. Kirschenbaum
Jennifer R. Martin

*Providing the Services of the Vaad
Harabonim of Queens Chevra Kaddisha*

This firm is owned by A Subsidiary of Service Corporation International
1909 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX 77019 • (713) 522-5141