

FJCC NEWSLETTER

RABBI - ERIC COHEN
PRESIDENT - SHARON REDNOR
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - E. M. SPINOWITZ

MARCH 2022 | 28 ADAR I - 28 ADAR II 5782



PUURIM

Rabbi's Column: An Increase in Joy (Yes, please!)

What's the Good News?

President's Letter: Thank You for Volunteering

Hebrew School : Purim is here!

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An Increase in Joy

My colleague, Rabbi Yosef Berman, reminds me that there is a texture and rhythm to Jewish time. There is the mundane of the week, and the kedushah, the sanctity of Shabbat. There is Pesach with the focus on liberation, and the Days of Awe with a focus on teshuva (return/repentance/transformation).

This month, we begin the month of Adar 2. In the texture of Jewish time, Adar is the month of joy. It says in the Talmud that Adar is a time of happiness - simcha - and that when you enter into Adar, you increase in joy. It is also a leap year, so we get, not one, but TWO Adars. Rabbi Berman asks (rhetorically): anyone need an extra shot of joy?

We also have a precept in Judaism that we should serve all the time with joy: ivdu et HaShem be-simchah, bo le-fanav be-renanah, "Serve Adonai with happiness; come

into God's presence with shouts of joy." Some of us might be able to just flip a switch and become happier, more full of joy, but this is often easier said than done. Many, perhaps most of us, struggle with our mental health, with depression and anxiety, not to mention seasonal affective disorder this time of year alongside a heavy dose of pandemic, or just fatigue and despair. We might get to Adar, and not feel so joyous. So, Rabbi Berman asks, what do we do with that?

He quotes a teaching from Rabbi Kalonymos Kalmish Shapira. This great sage of the 20th century was murdered in the Warsaw Ghetto. He lived under circumstances so horrible, so unfathomably full of misery. And yet, he offered this teaching in the depths of 1940:

The Joy of Purim is not dependent on whether or not a person feels happy in herself or whether she is in a situation

that facilitates happiness. Even if they are at the lowest level of broken-heartedness and their whole mind and spirit are ground down, it is nevertheless a statute that on Purim they must bring into their heart at least some spark of joy.

I cannot imagine how Rabbi Shapira managed to experience joy in his situation. But... how about us? This month, Adar 2 arrives, a second chance to increase in joy. In the midst of a pandemic, of an Omicron surge, of an unstable political situation both here and abroad, can we find that little spark, and work to cultivate joy? Remember: it is a mitzvah! Adar 2 gives us an extra little spark to work with. And, if there is an extra little spark, what can we do to nurture it, fan it, help make it grow? May we all take our individual sparks and use them to bring more light into the world.

RABBI



50 Good News Stories From Around the World That Will Brighten Your Day, Readers Digest, 21 Dec. 2021, <https://www.readersdigest.ca/culture/good-news-stories-world/>. Accessed 27 Feb. 2022.

What's the good news?

IN OUR WORLD

Read about canine lifeguards in Italy...wait, what? ([See image, left, from ReadersDigest.ca](#))

IN OUR STATE

[Coronavirus cases are at a seven month low!](#)

IN OUR SYNAGOGUE

Mazel Tov to Monica Gort-Jakubowski on the engagement of Ariel to Scott Olivieri

President's Letter

Wow! Since taking office, I have been heartened by how many members at the FJCC are volunteering. Some of the individuals help with a variety of projects for the shul. Lots of the volunteers are those that contribute by leading just one particular venture that they are passionate about. We can't provide robust programming and meaningful services without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Whatever your interest, there is a way for you to get involved at the FJCC. I know it might be hard to step forward, so I've embarked on a campaign of contacting people and asking for your assistance. Please help me to help you become a more fully engaged member of our community. Here is a smattering (and by no means an exhaustive list) of what gets done by volunteers:

- Arranging Torah readers
- Leading services
- Putting together a program
- Organizing oneg and kiddush
- Making snacks for the youth group
- Serving as a door greeter
- Publishing the monthly newsletter
- Managing the garden donations to the Food Pantry
- Problem solving our AV, phone and internet systems
- Donating to offset the cost of a special project or speaker

Recently, I was reminded about the "Power of One." It takes one person to make a difference. It takes one act of kindness to impact the life of another. Like the Ripple Effect where a stone thrown into the water makes one ripple, then another and another – so too your one small act compounds to have an impact on many others. It all starts with a small action, like serving as a door greeter on one Shabbat at the FJCC. As a greeter, your kind words to each and every person you meet in turn have an impact on their family, their colleagues, and the person behind them in line at the grocery store. It is fun to imagine how your one contribution can be impactful to our community, our neighbors, and the world.

One person can also make a profound difference on a global scale. In the book "Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By" by Georgette Bennett, she describes how her outrage at the unspeakable gang rapes and other atrocities in Syria led her to facilitate partnerships between Israelis and Syrians, Jews and Muslims to tackle the humanitarian crisis. It describes the power of one person to act and address a pressing need in the face of international indifference.

Lest you think that you can't make an impact like Georgette Bennett or that all the volunteers at the FJCC have the tasks handled, let me add – we need you! Let's discuss a meaningful way for you to engage at the shul. Please visit me during my once-a-month "Conversations with the President" that I will be holding after services on the first Sunday of the month. Coffee and snack will be graciously provided by (who else?) one of our volunteers!

Sharon Rednor
FJCC President

HEBREW SCHOOL

We are getting ready for Purim. The Megillah Reading is on Wednesday, March 16th. There is no Hebrew School that day, so do your homework early and come in costume to celebrate Purim. The Family Megillah Reading is at 6:00 PM. There is a Festive Purim Meal at 6:45. Please register before March 7th. The Traditional Megillah Reading will begin at 7:45.

There will be early dismissal from Hebrew School at 11:00 on Sunday, March 20th. You can escort your children to the Purim Carnival and Café.

Happy Purim!



**Family Megillah
Reading
6:00 PM**

No Hebrew School
We hope to see at the
Megillah Reading and
For Dinner

**Hoagies
Corned Beef
Turkey
Grilled Vegetable
Salads**

**Megillah Reading
& Purim Dinner**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH

**Purim Meal
6:45**



**RSVP Before
March 7th
\$ 12.00 / adult
\$8.00 / children**

**Traditional
Megillah
Reading
7:45 PM**

Contributions

Building Fund

Marsha & Zelic Gerstein

- Mazel tov to Sharon & Edward Winnick on the engagement of their daughter Sydney to Daniel
- Mazel tov to Alissa & James Fox on the birth of their grandson, Jake Asher
- Mazel tov to Dr. & Mrs. Ken Blankstein on the birth of his twin grand-daughters, Wren and Lena
- A speedy and complete recovery to Sharon Brooks
- In memory of Calvin Kanter, beloved brother of Linda Atlas

Rick Borrow - in memory of David Jacobson

Family Promise

Alexa Parliyan - The Or Chadash Reform Congregation would like to support the FJCC during their hosting week of Family Promise, Dec 19-26

Cathie & Arthur Wetstein

- In honor of Dr. Bruce Moskovitz - Thanks for your hard work for the shul
- For the yahrzeit Harriet and Marvin Nemeth

Leslie Reid-Green - in memory of Bella Solomon

General Donations

Alvin Fagan - in honor of the FJCC from Archie

Marsha & Zelic Gerstein

- In memory of David Jacobson
- Wishing Matt Schutz a speedy recovery

Yvonne Magala - in honor of the FJCC

Amy & Stan Baratz - Dear Robin, Our most sincere condolences on the passing of your Dad

Barbara & Mitch Clarin - in memory of Harry Krampel

Jeffrey Cooper - in memory of David Jacobson

Beth Hinnen - in memory of David Jacobson

Suzanne & Frederick Rothstein - in memory of: Sue's mother, Lillian Volowitz, Rick's mother, Mildred Rothstein Cohen and Sue's grandfather, Morris Triber

Nancy Shatkin - in honor of Laurence Shatkin. Greatly loved and missed by Nancy, Lydia, Jaidev and Rahm

Stefania Sirota - in honor of David Jacobson. Dear Brad, Chava, Sasha, and Ava, our thoughts and prayers are with you in this moment of loss and sorrow. Stefania and Chris



This Month in Jewish History - House Resolution 951

In March 2008, the 110th Congress of the United States introduced House Resolution 951, condemning the rocket attacks on civilian communities in Israel being launched from Gaza. Among the many reasons cited for passing the resolution were violations of human rights laws that forbid the targeting of civilians, the roles of Iran and Syria in providing support for the parties responsible, and the use of Palestinian civilians as human shields to avoid retaliation from Israel, in addition to [many, many others](#). How did Congress arrive at this resolution?

In 2005, Israel chose to pull out of Gaza and hand it over to Palestinian control. The decision was made for primarily two reasons, according to [reliefweb.int](#): First, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon finally acquiesced to the left wing of his party that had argued for years that the assets provided by Gaza were dwarfed by the security liability it presented. Second, Sharon believed it was an occupation and had to end, saying "This is a terrible thing for Israel, for the Palestinians, and for the Israeli economy." It took one month, fifty thousand troops and \$1.6 billion. Palestinians controlled all of Gaza, except for borders, airspace and territorial waters. Hours into the completion of the withdrawal, the destruction began. Palestinians desecrated and bulldozed synagogues in Gaza. By September 23rd, bombardments towards Israel had begun, and a Hamas truck bomb killed 19 and injured 85 others in the Jabaliya refugee camp. Continued rocket attacks waxed and waned until a ceasefire was declared in late 2007.

By March of 2008, the 110th congress, made up of a majority of Democrats in both houses, chose to condemn the Palestinian rocket attacks which had continued, violating the ceasefire. The bill was sponsored by New Jersey representative E. Scott Garrett and 178 cosponsors. It passed by a vote of 404 to 1, with 19 not voting, on the 5th of this month, exactly 14 years ago.

Where are we now?

According to the [Global Conflict Tracker](#), the status of the conflict in Israel is unchanging, with a 43% unemployment rate in Gaza. A recent two-state solution has been proposed as recently as last month, however, as with other proposals and third-party requests for peace, the situation is still fraught with anxious observation by world powers with interests in the region.

For a slideshow of the conflict in 5 images, please visit <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict> (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Israel's boundaries today



BBC

"Politics." *Politics Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com*, <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/politics>.

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"Israeli Disengagement from Gaza." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 31 Dec. 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_disengagement_from_Gaza.
al-Mughrabi, Nidal. "Hamas Armed Wing Breaks Truce." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 24 Apr. 2007, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinians-hamas/hamas-armed-wing-breaks-truce-idUSL2463054220070424>.

"US Plotted to Overthrow Hamas after Election Victory." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 4 Mar. 2008, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/04/usa.israelandthepalestinians>.

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"Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>.

YOUTH GROUP



Pardon me?

If you want to avoid this teen slang dictionary *flex* the next time you *rap* still gonna *throw shade* but know what *yeet* means!

being *basic*, check out so you and your *bae* can with your teen. They're at least it'll be *lit* (and you'll



 [Teen Slang Dictionary from Bark](#) 



Check out the Youth Group shenanigans from their recent shul-in, held last month. The kids watched a movie, enjoyed snacks and even tested their musical talents



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Ways to Help

1. Help assemble bags

2. Volunteer to deliver bags

3. Donate to the Sisterhood for the Purim bags

Email sisterhood@flemingtonjcc.org!

WHO'S THAT SISTER?

Our goal is to open the gift shops on Sundays -

[click here to help us!](#) 🛍️



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CHIP MERGOTT
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**SATURDAY
MARCH 5**

DESSERTS & BEVERAGES

7:30
\$10/pp; \$18/per family
Register by 2/28

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Shabbat B'Yachad

**Saturday
Mar 26
9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

Design your Shabbat

Yoga~ Karen Walsh
Meditation~ Cantor Flo Hurwitz
Parsha Discussion~ David Goldman



Hebrew School on Shabbat

Learn Prayers
Sing Songs
Tell Stories

Kiddush Lunch




FJCC MOVIE CLUB

Watch the film at home~ then let's discuss!

Hester Street

Film Discussion:
Tue, Mar 15 @ 7PM
On Zoom

Facilitated by
Leslie Cohen Lee



**Saturday, April 9
12:30**

Shabbat Lunch & Learn

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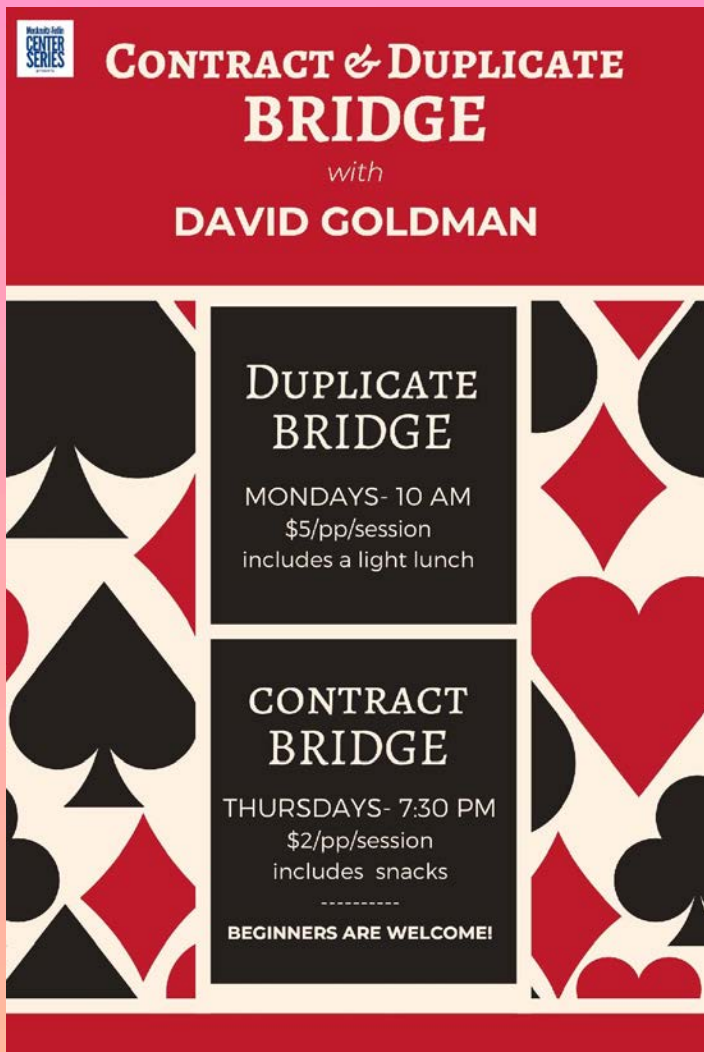
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& THE moon

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REBECCA KELLY

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Please be sure to check your email & the FJCC website for cancellations due to Covid or inclement weather.



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Susan Kamich: suecolts@gmail.com

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with **Rabbi Cohen**



Thursdays
11:00-12:30

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ryan Goldschmitt	14 Shane Gerstein	27 Fred Eisinger
3 Mr. Martin McInerney	15 Daniel Weinstock	Caroline Farber
4 Dr. Ricky Braff	16 Ms. Lisa Harper	Fredrick Kleiman
Daniel Rapkin	17 Mrs. Patricia Lefkow	28 Stephanie Goldman
Michael Rumore	19 Dr Andrea Goldstein-Byne	30 Dr. Eric Sirota
5 Mr. Frederick Rothstein	Mr. Neal Wolff	31 Dana Cohen
Arielle Rumore	20 Mr Jerrold Atlas	Bradley Glacken
7 Mrs. Liz Slavin	Mrs. Mary Ellen Ort	Jenna Shankoff
8 Mr. Steven Greenstein	21 Mrs. Marlene Wolff	
Andrew Ollwerther	22 Elaine Huber	
9 Mr. Bradley Mason	Dr. Philip Stern	
11 Kaitlin Greenstein	23 Ms. Sharon Zimmerman	
12 Ms Judy Gold	24 Scott Hornick	
Ms Beth Rosenberg	24 Mitchell Miller	
13 Jordan Franklin	25 Mr. Joel Goldstein	
14 Mrs. Sharon Brooks	Caroline Riche	
	Jacob Weinstock-Gallagher	

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2
Bruce & Susan Kamich
- 6
Linda & Jerrold Atlas
- 10
Dena & Gregory Scibilia
- 20
Bruce Moskovitz & John Fellin
- Mary & Ronald Ort
- 31
Dana & Seth Cohen

YAHREZITS

1 David Greenberg Stanley Leezenbaum	2 Herman Weinstein	16 Frances Krampel	23 Doris Hilzer
2 Janet Engle Anna Goldstein	3 Judith Pavelich Alan Stolpen Thomas Sudzin	19 Joseph S. Fox Laurence Shatkin	28 Marvin Zimmerman
Rose Slavin	7 David Platkin	21 Sara Reta Schutz	30 Burt Platkin
	8 Norma Charen		31 Edwin Large

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