

# FLEMINGTON FORWARD

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



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Newsletter - **רודריג**

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# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

**Happy Chanukah! It is a fact that Chanukah is not mentioned in the Torah at all. Indeed, it is a holiday created by the Jewish people.**

**My teacher, Rabbi Natan Margolit, suggests that, in the Jewish calendar, the dark part of the year, the winter, is the time when our human initiative takes center stage. The darkness symbolizes God's hiddenness. The spring and summer are for biblical holidays such as Passover, Shavuot and Succot, which all appear in the Torah, and are connected to explicit actions of God. But Hanukkah, and Purim also, are human created holidays. The darkness and hiddenness of God doesn't mean we're lost. Darkness and hiddenness, Rabbi Margolit teaches, actually give humans the opportunity to come into our own.**

**In the "Al HaNissim" blessing, which is said on Chanukah, we recount the way that God saved the Jews by helping them win the war against the Greeks. There was no splitting of the Red Sea. The fighting was done by the Maccabees themselves. The miracle was in their courage and determination against all odds to defeat the much more powerful Greek army. The conclusion of the Al HaNisim blessing describes how the rebels lit the candles in the holy Temple. However, it doesn't mention any miracle associated with the candles. Instead, it concludes simply: "And they established these eight days of Chanukah in order to give thanks and praise to Your great name."**

**Rabbi Margolit suggests that Chanukkah is a holiday that helps us celebrate the emergence of our human capacity to grow beyond the biblical paradigm: we didn't wait for a prophet to tell us what to do, or for an explicit miracle to bowl us over with awe. The creators of this holiday saw that something miraculous had happened, maybe in themselves, and they knew that they needed to acknowledge it, and give thanks. Rabbi Margolit reminds us that it's a good lesson for us as well, as we ourselves search for light in the darkness, and inspiration in that which is hidden.**

**Chanukah Same'ach!**

**Rabbi Eric S. Cohen, PhD**

# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

Thank you for your membership and engagement with the FJCC. It is wonderful to once again connect with those who matter to us in so many ways – family, existing friends and friends we just recently met.

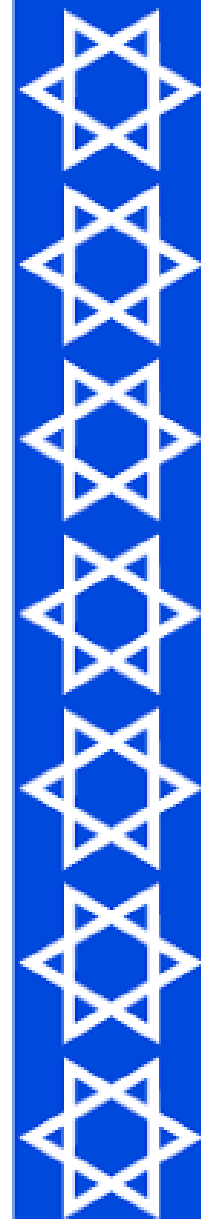
The start to our programming year has been spectacular! After the High Holidays, we welcomed our new members at a special Shabbat service, we heard Herbie Cohen regale us with stories of family and high level negotiations, and we gathered for a fun evening of gaming and prizes at our Casino Night. That's just a small sampling of our Fall fun together. We look forward to a group of dinner gatherings, Hanukkah candle lighting and the ever-popular Progressive Dinner in the months ahead. Please join us — you are the core of our community!

Providing fabulous opportunities to gather together is a very important part of what we do at the FJCC. You can ensure the continuation of future programs by making a year-end donation to the FJCC or paying your previous pledges. Your generosity supports all the FJCC operations including Torah repairs, creative educational programs, entertaining musical events, (unfortunately) necessary security, an ever-expanding list of youth activities, social action, etc.

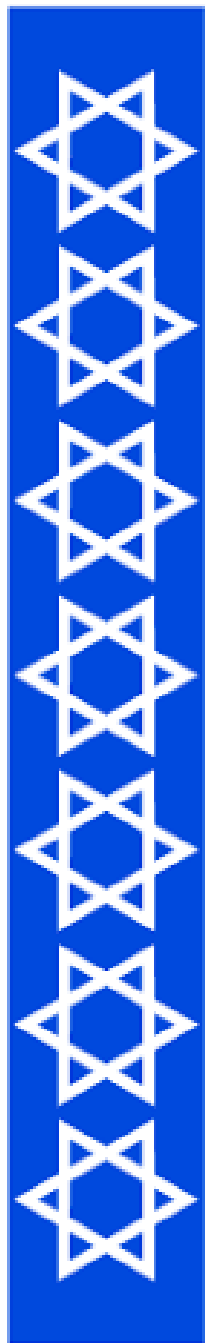
Donate today at [Flemingtonjcc.shulcloud.com/donate](https://Flemingtonjcc.shulcloud.com/donate) and make a difference!

Here are a few ways to consider giving:

- Make a pledge to the Yizkor campaign or pay your existing pledge.
- Purchase ShopRite scrip cards through the office and buy your groceries as usual using the scrip gift card.
- When you shop online, first connect to Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) and they will donate a percentage of your order to the FJCC.



# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

- 
- Use a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) in your giving strategy. If you must take a RMD from your retirement account, it becomes part of your taxable income. However, you can give all or part of your RMD to charity and thus lower your taxable income.
  - Consider making a contribution to our Life and Legacy Fund. In essence, this is a promise to include the FJCC in any distribution from your estate at some point many, many years from now. By participating in the Life and Legacy program, you will support our community for generations to come.
  - Transfer appreciated stock directly from your brokerage account to ours. Any capital gains on the stock will be realized by the FJCC. Since the FJCC is a tax-exempt institution, no tax liability falls to you or to the FJCC from that gain.
  - Double your impact through a corporate matching gift. Many companies match employee's gifts to charity. Please check with your employer about initiating a match.
  - Donate to our oneg/kiddush fund, the Rabbi's discretionary fund, or other funds through your ShulCloud portal. If you need a ShulCloud login, contact Deborah Kesselhaut.
  - Give your time and expertise by organizing an event, participating on a committee, or joining the Board of Trustees. Volunteers are the backbone of our congregation. We need your energy and ideas!

For more information about any of these giving opportunities, please contact me or Deborah in the office. We would be happy to assist you in assisting the FJCC.

Again, thank you for being a part of the FJCC! Happiness is gathering with friends and family. May your Chanukah be bright and joyous!

- Sharon Rednor



# HEBREW SCHOOL



This year we are introducing a new program for families who have Pre-K and Kindergarten aged children. Gan goes to Hebrew School will meet several times during the school year on Sundays from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. We are delighted to have Mrs. Clarin back on staff to lead this program.

Things you need to know:

1. This is not a drop off program. Parents and younger siblings will meet in the Bridal Suite and have an opportunity for coffee and nosh while Pre-K and Kindergarten aged children are in the program.
2. This program is designed so both children and parents can socialize, get to know one another, create meaningful friendships, and be introduced to Hebrew School.
3. The class will run from 10:00 am – 11:00 am on the following Sundays:
  - a. October 9th – All about Sukkot
  - b. November 6th – All about Shabbat
  - c. December 5th – Chanukah Time
  - d. January 8th – Shabbat Stories
  - e. January 29th – The Birthday of the Trees
  - f. March 5th – The Whole Megillah, Let's Learn about Purim
  - g. March 19th – Let my People Go, A Passover Story
  - h. May 7th -- Shabbat Time
4. Classes include a story, a craft and Jewish play time.
5. The children will be dismissed to their parents at 11:00 am. Families are invited to join the big kids for Rabbi time in the sanctuary to learn songs and prayers at 11:00 am
6. The cost of the program is \$50 for the 8 sessions.
7. Contact Karen Walsh [kwash@flemingtonjcc.org](mailto:kwash@flemingtonjcc.org) for questions and to reserve your spot.

## CLASS SERVICES, DINNERS, & HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

OCT  
28

### WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

- Chicken Shabbat Dinner
- Fourth & Fifth Graders Lead Services
- Storyteller Rebecca Kelly

DEC  
9

### DELI DELIGHT

- Deli Sandwiches Shabbat Dinner
- 7th - 12th Graders Lead Services

DEC  
21

### CHANUKAH DINNER

- Outdoor Menorah Lighting
- Family Menorah Lighting
- Chanukah Dinner

JAN  
27

### CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

- Chinese Food Shabbat Dinner
- Fifth & Sixth Graders Lead Services

MAR  
6

### PURIM DINNER

- Family Megillah Reading
- Purim Dinner
- Traditional Megillah Reading

MAY  
12

### IT'S A WRAP

- Dairy Wraps & Pizza Bagels Shabbat Dinner
- Third & Fourth Grade Class Service
- Third Graders Recieve their Shabbat Prayer Book

Save the Dates

# SISTERHOOD STORIES

*Thank you Carolyn Goldman for assisting with all the food!*

GAME NIGHT





# SISTERHOOD STORIES





# CHANUKAH RECIPIES

## Crispy Chicken

### Schnitzel | 6 servings

Jamie Geller

*Chicken schnitzel is a year-round family favorite, and Hanukkah is the perfect excuse to fry up a batch. A touch of lemon zest is the secret ingredient here — it really amps up the flavor.*

#### Ingredients

- ▣ 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ▣ 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ▣ 2 cups breadcrumbs
- ▣ 3 eggs
- ▣ 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- ▣ 1 Tbsp lemon zest
- ▣ ½ cup sesame seeds
- ▣ kosher salt
- ▣ black pepper
- ▣ extra virgin olive oil, for frying

#### Directions

1. Blot chicken breasts with a paper towel to remove moisture. Place between two layers of plastic wrap and hit with a mallet until 1/8th inch thickness.
2. In a medium-size bowl, beat eggs and stir in Dijon mustard. In another, larger bowl, add lemon zest, sesame seeds, salt and pepper to breadcrumbs.
3. Coat chicken breasts with flour and shake off excess. Dunk in the egg mixture, shake off excess. Dip chicken into the breadcrumbs, making sure each piece is completely and evenly covered. Repeat with all pieces of chicken.
4. Heat oil in a sauté pan over medium-high heat. The oil should cover the chicken breasts about halfway. Fry chicken on both sides until golden. Place on paper towels to soak up the leftover oil. Serve with a lemon wedge.



# CHANUKAH RECIPIES



## Creamy Potato Latkes |

2 dozen

Cheryl Schildkraut

These potato latkes have a surprising texture thanks to key steps. First, instead of coarsely grating the potatoes, these are finely grated. The other crucial step is to fry in a lot of oil, a task reserved almost exclusively for Hanukkah. The result is a potato latke that is crisp on the outside, but particularly memorable for its creamy texture inside.

### Ingredients

▣ 3 lb russet potatoes

▣ 1 medium yellow onion

▣ 3 extra-large eggs

▣ ½ cup matzah meal

▣ 2 tsp kosher salt

▣ 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper


▣ vegetable oil, for frying

▣ apple sauce and sour cream, for serving (optional)


1. Peel and quarter potatoes and onion. Divide into three batches and place in a food processor fitted with a stainless steel mixing blade. Process each batch until there are no visible chunks and the mixture is smooth. Do not overprocess.
2. Drain mixture using a sieve placed over a large bowl. Press down gently to release liquid.
3. Pour drained potato mixture into a clean bowl. Add eggs, matzah meal, salt and pepper. Mix well.
4. Pour ½ inch vegetable oil into a 12- or 13-inch frying pan and heat on medium until the oil shimmers. Using a slotted spoon, carefully place mounds of potato mixture into the hot oil.
5. Fry until brown on one side, about 3-4 minutes, then turn over and fry the second side until brown and crisp.
6. Place the browned latke on a plate lined with paper towels to absorb the excess oil and repeat directions 7-9 until the mixture is all used. Serve with apple sauce and sour cream, if desired.



# WEEKLY EVENTS



**CONTRACT & DUPLICATE  
BRIDGE**  
*with*  
**DAVID GOLDMAN**



**DUPLICATE  
BRIDGE**  
MONDAYS- 10 AM  
\$5/pp/session  
includes a light lunch

**CONTRACT  
BRIDGE**  
THURSDAYS- 7:30 PM  
\$2/pp/session  
includes snacks  
\*\*\*\*\*  
BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME!



**Mah Jongg**

Thursdays, 1-3:30  
\$5 cash at door

*New & Experienced Players Welcome!*  
Members can bring friends  
Light snacks served

Contact Karen Walsh: [kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org](mailto:kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org)

**Chair Yoga**  
**Not Just for Seniors**

No Chair Yoga on Tuesday  
August 30th or September 6th

Chair Yoga resumes on September 13th  
at a new time, 11:45 AM



**Adult Education Classes**  
*with*  
**Rabbi Cohen**



Thursdays  
11:00  
Begins Sept. 15  
**All are welcome!**

**Parashat HaShavuah**  
*with*  
**Rabbi Cohen**

Mondays, 1:00  
Beginning Sep 12



**All are welcome!**



# SPECIAL THANKS/UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thank you Shellie Jacobson for learning Torah repair!**

## Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

# FJCC

5 Sergeantsville Road in Flemington, NJ

A graphic for the Hanukkah Menorah Lighting event. It features a central menorah with eight lit candles. Surrounding the menorah are eight circular callouts, each containing the day of the week, the date, and the time. The callouts are arranged in a circle around the menorah. The background is a dark blue and orange pattern.

Day	Date	Time
SUN	DEC 18	5:45
MON	DEC 19	5:45
TUE	DEC 20	5:45
WED	DEC 21	5:45
THU	DEC 22	5:45
FRI	DEC 23	BY STAFF
SAT	DEC 24	5:45
SUN	DEC 25	5:45



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Chanukah Dinner**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Light the Outdoor Menorah at 5:45 PM

Chicken, Brisket, and Latkes  
Vegetarian Option by Request

oh Chanukah,  
oh Chanukah,  
come light the menorah

Register by December 12th  
\$ 18.00 / adult  
\$10.00 / children  
After December 12th  
\$ 22.00 / adult  
\$14.00 / children

Bring Your Menorah for Family Menorah Lighting



**Sisterhood Presents...**  
**A Very Jewish Christmas**  
**Chinese Dinner and Talent Show**

Sunday, December 25th 5:30pm

\$18 for Adults  
\$10 for kids

Calling all FJCC Talent!

Registration for the first annual Talent Show run by the FJCC Youth Group is now OPEN!

Register your act here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePFTThEjUsrgGFIErrPO6H0wWMZcfSQDWLFP9unZN8Cf3pbOg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePFTThEjUsrgGFIErrPO6H0wWMZcfSQDWLFP9unZN8Cf3pbOg/viewform?usp=sf_link)



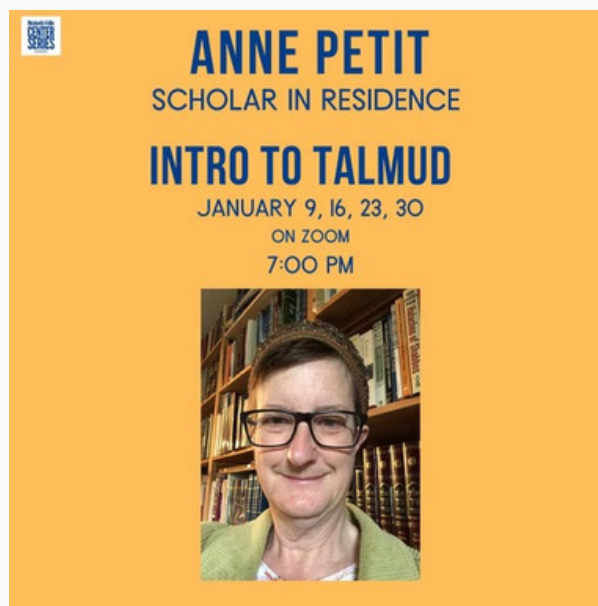
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**CHIP MERGOTT**  
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**SATURDAY JAN 7**  
DESSERTS & BEVERAGES, BEER & WINE!

7:00  
\$10/pp; \$18/family


AN EVENING OF CLASSIC TUNES & STORIES OF JEWISH SONGER-SONGWRITERS

**STRUMMIN' & HUMMIN'**



**ANNE PETIT**  
SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

**INTRO TO TALMUD**  
JANUARY 9, 16, 23, 30  
ON ZOOM  
7:00 PM

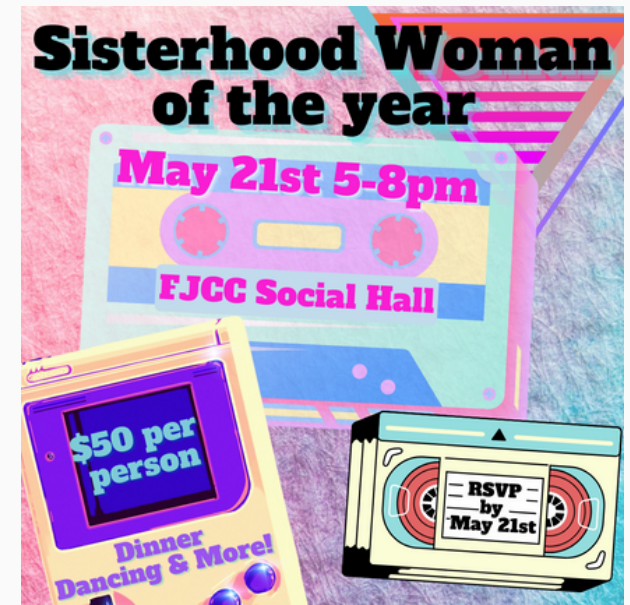
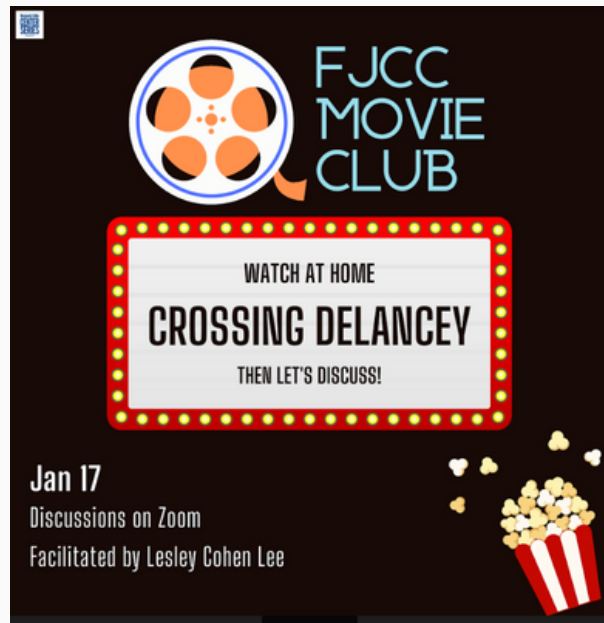


**Storytelling Shabbat**  
Fri, Jan 13

**Share A Memory or Anecdote**  
Stories should be between 3-5 minutes

Contact Mona Shapiro by Jan 2  
monajudith@aol.com

# UPCOMING EVENTS



# BIRTHDAYS

## December 3

Alexandra Kesselhaut  
Hannah Weinstock-Gallagher

## December 4

Leah Green

## December 5

Monica Gort-Jakubowski

## December 8

Mark Gertzman

## December 9

Leah Rudolph  
Zachary Rudolph

## December 10

Dylan Stein  
Scott Gursky

## December 11

Valerie Goldman  
Benjamin Jampel

## December 12

Ariel Weintraub

## December 13

Allen Kern  
Jacqueline Sornstein

## December 14

Malka Goodman

## December 15

Alexander Soto

## December 16

Brynn Jampel  
Seth Cohen

## December 18

Kim Muller

## December 20

Robin Alexander  
Stephen Riche  
Eric Rogow  
Jason Quinn

## December 21

Arthur Wetstein

## December 27

Alan Radzkin

## December 28

Bruce Kestenbaum



# ANNIVERSARIES

**December 20**  
**Evelyn and Glenn Gabai**

# YAHREZEITS

December 1

Alana Ceilia Cohen

December 2

Donald Watts  
Herman Simon

December 3

Mae Suess

December 5

Brenda Williamson

December 6

Alexander Taub  
Marvin Skrowonek

December 7

Pearl Greenberg

December 8

Joseph Weinstock

December 12

Rubin Simon  
Ann Simon

December 13

Charles Slavin  
Rose Doshna

December 14

Phyllis Waldman

December 15

Gustav Eisinger

December 17

Karen Hubert

December 18

Edith Grill

December 22

Linda Goldstein

December 23

Joseph Nifoussi

December 27

Mildred Rothstein

December 29

Lillian Volowitz  
Sam Feldman

December 30

Morris Triber  
Ethel Stevens

December 31

Ruth Sudzin



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## **General Donations**

**Dr. Mitchell and Mrs. Barbara Clarin**  
**In memory of Edward Matzkin**

## **Kiddush/Oneg**

**Dr. Mitchell and Mrs. Barbara Clarin**  
**For the Yahrzeit of Ruth Clarin and  
Donald Watts**



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