

Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

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Rabbi's Reflections

"If, as one people with one language for all, this is how they have begun to act, then nothing that they may propose to do will be out of their reach."

This was God's reaction to the building of the Tower of Babel. That great project of Noah's descendants to remain together in one space, with one language and as one culture. Did God really feel threatened? What was so bad about refusing to spread over the earth?

In the context of ancient Near Eastern literature, gods are suspicious of humanity. Humanity is the only thing that can challenge the gods, and the gods are wary of human accomplishments. This is a classic theme in the literature of the day, and the Torah knows this well.

But, the Torah is not about human-like gods, or their jealousies, or their suspicions, or their whims. What should we make of this story?

This story comes at the very beginning of the Jewish bible. An explanation, if you will, of why there are different languages in our world. In the beginning there was one language, and God... was not happy with that. All the way toward the END of the Torah, among its latest texts, we have Isaiah chapter 56:

For thus said God:

"As for the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths,

Who have chosen what I desire

And hold fast to My covenant—

I will give them, in My House

And within My walls,

A monument and a name

Better than sons or daughters.

I will give them an everlasting name

Which shall not perish.

As for the foreigners

Who attach themselves to God,

To minister to God,

And to love the name God,

To be God's servants-

All who keep the sabbath and do not profane it,

And who hold fast to My covenant—

I will bring them to My sacred mount

And let them rejoice in My house of prayer...

For My House shall be called

A house of prayer for all peoples."

Rabbi's Reflections

Both the story of the Tower of Babel and the prophecy of Isaiah deal with assembling people from all areas for a single purpose. Isaiah's monument and name, the idea that all people will recognize God, and come to worship God in Jerusalem, that monument and name is part of the Divine plan; the monument and name sought by the builders of the Tower of Babel..., not what God has in mind.

What's the difference between these two monuments, between these two ways of making a name for ourselves, of gathering people together?

Hillel Zeitlin, one of the founders of the neo-Hassidic movement, writes: "The sin of the... Tower of Babel... is this...: (the) Tower builders sinned around what is most high and exalted, "Let us build a tower whose top will reach heaven; ...let us make for ourselves a name. This sin - indeed, all sin - comes from... an exaggerated sense of self, the desire to spread oneself forth."

The sense of self, of ego, is indeed central to existence, but, Zeitlin argues, only as the manifestation of the Divine Creative Force within all that exists. Denying this Force, and using our selfhood, our ego, only as a form of our individual self-assertion: this the root of all evil.

Isaiah's Temple, rebuilt in Messianic times, or perhaps in Second Temple times depending on our interpretation, was not such an idol. It was not sacred in and of itself. It was a place for ingathering of all peoples. It connected to the very route of what it means to be human, to be God-fearing.

What are the idols in our lives? Is there anything that we value so much that we elevate it above all else? What among our possessions or activities do we fail to recognize as part of the great cosmic web that connects us all? Let's remember that our projects must do for the world around us, not just for ourselves.

From The Desk of Our President

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The High Holidays were joyous and it was wonderful gathering in person again. Until this year, I had a poor sense of how many volunteer hours and how much preparation goes into the holidays. I want to thank all those that put in so much work organizing the many details for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. To all the members of our community, I appreciate your participation and donations. As we move on, I will gently remind you to please submit your Yizkor pledge cards, if you haven't done so already. Our congregation, upkeep of our building, staffing and our full calendar of exciting programming depends on your generosity.

The FJCC calendar of activities is in full swing. There is a long list of happenings in November – something for everyone!

- I hope you had a fun night of cards and gaming at Casino Night on November 12th. Even if you don't know how to play or don't love gambling – hopefully you had a good time seeing your friends, meeting new people, tasting the hors d'oeuvres, and sampling our signature mixed drinks. Oh, and don't forget, the long list of exciting prizes to be won!
- **Dinner is Served**, our new social club, gathered for a prix fixe dinner at Marinelli's Barn on Sunday November 13th. This was such a beautiful setting for this event.
- Later that week we will had Musical Shabbat with the Strauss/Warschauer Duo leading Friday evening services on November 18th.

From The Desk of Our President



- Sunday November 20th was another meeting of the preschool group **Gan Goes to Hebrew School**. We are always welcoming new members, just contact Karen Walsh. It is heartwarming seeing our youngest members (and their parents) making friends at the FJCC.
- Every year, we participate in the Hunterdon County Interfaith
 Thanksgiving Service. This year, the gathering on November 20th will
 be blessed by a musical performance featuring congregants from the
 many synagogues, churches and mosques. Anyone wishing to
 participate, please call the office for more information.
- After delighting in your Thanksgiving dinner, join us to welcome our college students (and other out-of-town guests) at our special Visiting Collegian Shabbat on November 25th.
- This month, the **Movie Club** will gather on Zoom to discuss "Liberty Heights" on November 29th.
- And, we can't forget the multitude of ongoing classes Learn to Leyn, Adult Education with Rabbi Cohen, Parsha HaShavuah, Yoga, Bridge, Mah Jongg. Newcomers are always welcome at these events too! Join us!

Sharon Rednor

Hebrew School

With the Tishrei holidays behind us we will shift our focus to Friday night Services. The Dalet and Hay students led services the last Shabbat in October. There are two special events this month. We start the month off with the Congregation-wide program Beyachad with activities for students and adults. In September the Strauss/Wasrchauer Duo led Musical Shabbat with familiar songs and new tune. They return on November 18 for the second part of Musical Shabbat. We hope you will join us for Beyachad and Musical Shabbat this coming month.

Important November Dates

- November 5 Beyachad
- November 18 Musical Shabbat

Please email me if you have questions about Hebrew School and programs kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & SAVE THE DATE

September 16th

Musical Shabbat Part 1

Kabbalat Shabbat from Around the World. A two-part Global Shabbat Experience in our Sanctuary with the Strauss/Warschauer Duo. Students will participate with their handmade instruments.

October 14th

Miss

40

Don't Want

Just

Shabbat Programs

Ruach Shabbat Plus

New Member Oneg, Ice Cream Social in the Sukkah with song leader Emma Rehfeld. Get your ruach on! **Rusch** - spirit

October 28th

Dalet Hay Class Service

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner followed by Dalet and Hay students leading services. Rebecca Kelly will entertain us with her magical story-telling.

November 5th

Beyachad with Story-teller

A congregation-wide Shabbat experience. Hebrew School students will participate in the Torah Service and present a Torah Skit that they prepared with Rebecca Kelly during Hebrew School.

November 18th

Musical Shabbat Part 2

The Strauss/Warschauer Duo return for part two of the Kabbalat Shabbat Global experience.

CLASS SERVICES, DINNERS, & HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

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



DELI DELIGHT

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



CHANUKAH DINNER

- Outdoor Menorah Lighting
- · Family Menorah Lighting
- Chanukah Dinner



CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

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



PURIM DINNER

- · Family Megillah Reading
- Purim Dinner
- Traditional Megillah Reading



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

FI FMINGTON FORWARD

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 kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org for questions and to reserve your spot.

B'Nai Mitzvah Spotlight

We are honored and proud to introduce Gabrielle Sabrina Spinowitz as a bat mitzvah!

"Gabby," as she prefers to be called, is an eighth grader at Alice B. Landrum, Middle School in Ponte Vedra, Florida. She is currently taking two high school courses as an eighth grader, including Honors Algebra. She is also an avid sports and fitness enthusiast. After school every day, she walks next door to the YMCA and lifts weights, or plays basketball with her classmates. She looks forward to trying out for volleyball at the Y, and basketball, tennis and track during their upcoming seasons at school.

Gabby has been grappling since she was five years old. She began with judo, achieving yellow/orange belt, before switching to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu at age 8. She has continued BJJ since then and is currently a solid gray belt at Gracie Barra in Jacksonville.



In her spare time, Gabby dabbles in piano and is learning how to play the ukulele and guitar. One of her favorite pastimes is attending the high school football games on Friday nights (where her brother attends school), and she adores snuggling with her dog, Tahoe. Gabrielle's love of dogs and animals in general, is so much that, for her bat mitzvah project, Gabrielle will be working with a local, North Florida charity called K9s for Warriors. They match veterans suffering from PTSD with rescue dogs, then evaluate, foster, support and train, both the veteran and their matched companion.

Gabby has one brother, Benjamin Adrian (15), and is lucky to have extended family in her new North Florida home, as well as a network of amazing friends and family in New Jersey. Mazel tov, Peanut!

The Spinowitz Family

Sisterhood Stories

Did you hear? Sisterhood is BACK!
The only thing missing from our events, is YOU!





Etrogcello with a few laughs at a Sisterhood meeting? YES PLEASE! Thank you Carol Wolf for sharing!

Sisterhood Stories

We had such a marvelous time leading Friday night services! Make sure you sign up to lead Services on Saturday, March 5th!



Thank you Carolyn Goldman for shopping for us!

We gave the Giving Garden a shed!





Special thanks to Rich Goldstein, Glenn Gold, Garry and Ian Rodriguez for putting it together!

Dinner Club - Aikou and Viva Mexico













Dinner Club - Blue Fish and Marinelli's











MARINELLI'S

One of these seats could be yours at our next event...

RSVP ASAP

So We Built A Sukkah







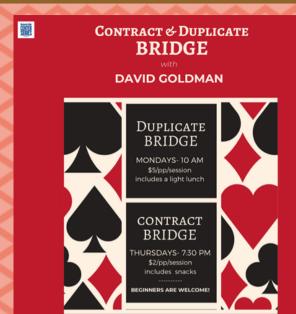






FLEMINGTON FORWARD

Weekly Events





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

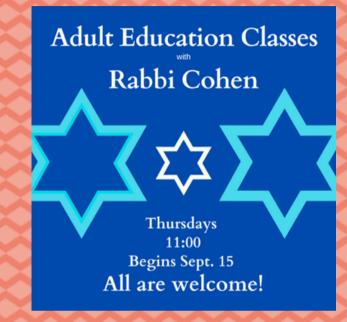
Chair Yoga Not Just for Seniors

No Chair Yoga on Tuesday

August 30th or September 6th

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





Parashat HaShavuah

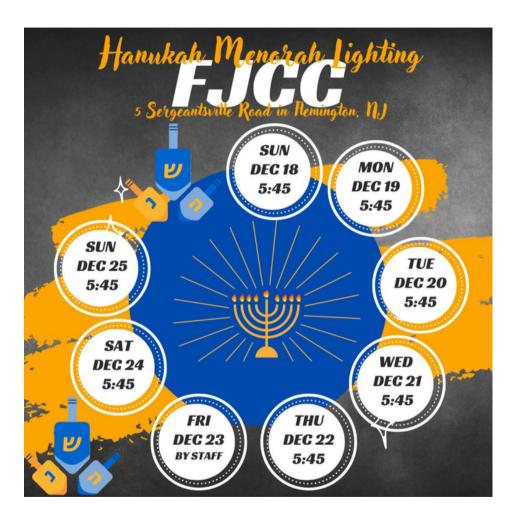
Rabbi Cohen

Mondays, 1:00 Beginning Sep 12

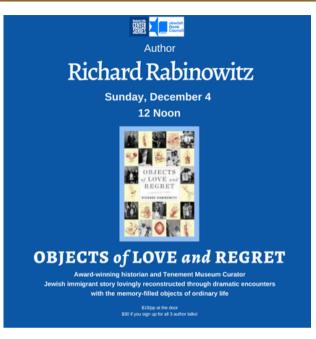


All are welcome!











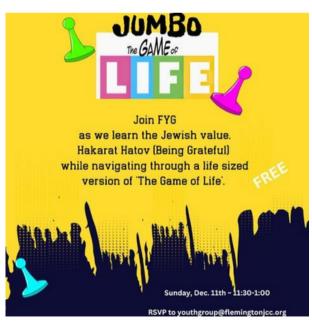
December 5, 7 PM In person, On Zoom by Request

One Hundred Saturdays
by Michael Frank













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/f orms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePFThE jUsrgGFIErrPO6HowWMZcfS QDWLfP9unZN8Cf3pbOg/vi ewform?usp=sf_link



Light the Outdoor Menorah at 5:45 PM Chicken, Brisket, and Latkes Vegetarian Option by Request

Chanukah Dinner
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST



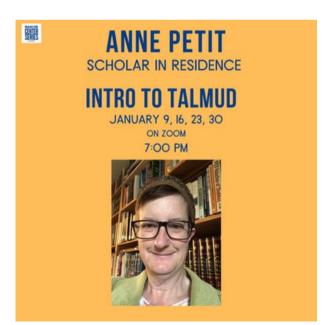
oh Chanukah, oh Chanukah, come light the menorah

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

After

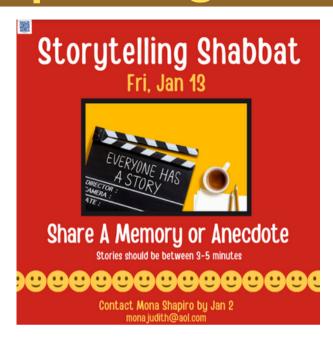
December 12th \$ 22.00 / adult \$14.00 / children Bring Your Menorah for Family Menorah Lighting





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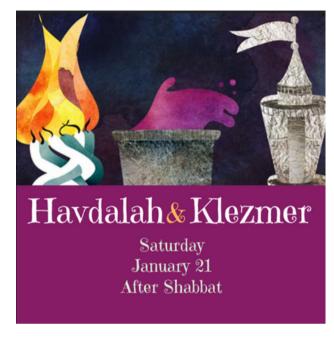
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Birthdays

November 1

Ruth Ga<mark>lli</mark>na **Edward Mehrlust**

November 2

Arika Gold Sydney Winnick

November 4

Heather Goldshmitt Rebecca Farber Eleene Gallagher

November 5

Jenna Clarin Jonathan Nemeth

November 6

David Neibart

November 7

Casey Alexander Elizabeth Spinowitz November 8

Danielle Brooks Alexander Wasserman

November 9

Evan Gursky Jaxson Mason Marvin Jacobson

November 12

Rachel Rodriguez

November 17

Jami Miller Cara London

November 19

David Riche

November 20

Debbie Silverstein

November 21

Jason Cohen Gail Bragin Nancy Shatkin

November 23°

Samantha Farber Sarah Farber

November 24

Ben Blankstein

November 25

Matthew Schutz

November 26

Matthew Gallina Ariel Jakubowski

November 28

Dale Sperling Sophie Shor

November 30

Melissa Wissner-Fico

Anniversaries

November 1
Richard and Gil Rosen

November 8
Nathan and Patricia Lefkow

November 10
Jeffrey and Robin Alexander

November 14
Fredrick and Melissa Kleiman

November 21
Howard and Anneliese Nifoussi

November 19
Karen and Michael Shankoff

November 26
Douglas and Beth Krampel

Yahrzeits

November 1
Lawrence O. Gross

November 2
William Doyle
Juliette Wolf
Samuel Atlas

November 3
Ann Borman
Gerald Kahansky
Bernard Gould

November 5
Samuel Lonsk

November 9
Benjamin Neustadt
Freda Fox

November 12 Marion Rapkin November 13
Fred Klinger
George Pomerantz

November 15 Hannah Cohn

November 16
Robert Treinish

November 17
Shirley Kushnick

November 18
David Sandler

November 19
Irving Radzin
Sidney Lifchitz

November 20 Solomon Sperber November 21 Lorraine Sirota

November 23
Sidney Klein
Irving Braff

November 25
Calvin Katner
Joseph Forman
Ruth Clarin

November 28
Lillian Piltzer
Alejandro Goins de Soto
Sylvia Rogow
Harry Rosenberg

November 29
Charles William Bryant
Watson II
Rosalind Plantikow

Contributions

General Donations

<u>Frederick and Suzanne Rothstein</u>
In memory of Rick's mother, Mildred Rothstein
Cohen

In memory of Morris Triber, Sue's Grandfather

In memory of Lillian Triber Volowitz, Sue's Mother

Susan and Bruce Kamich

In memory of Robert Kaplan, beloved brother of Anneliese Nifoussi and brother-in-law of Howard Nifoussi

<u>Loren and Florence Hurwitz</u> In memory of Cheryl's mother

<u>Deborah and Steve Kesselhaut</u> Donation of Rosh Hashanah flowers

Anonymous

For the yahrzeit of Miriam Fink, blessed mother of Lois Gross and Louis Gross, beloved father of Dan Gross

<u>Eric Sirota and Cara London</u> Center Series

Kiddush/Oneg

Bruce Moskovitz and John Fellin
In memory of Richard Kaplan, beloved brother of Howard
and Anneliese Nifoussi

Bruce and Susan Kamich Sunday Minyan

Jonathan and Pamela Nemeth

Rabbi Discretionary

<u>Joel and Sharon Goldstein</u>
In memory of Edward Matzkin, father of Patti Matzkin
Katz

Howard and Anneliese Nifoussi Thank you

<u>Alexander Soto and Julius Kawarsky</u> In memory of Eloise "Polly" Kawarsky

Anonymous
Always a meaningful experience. Thank you.

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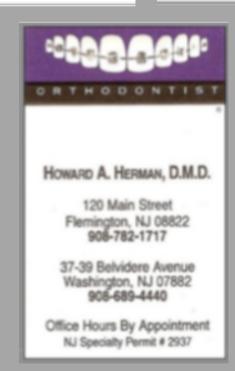
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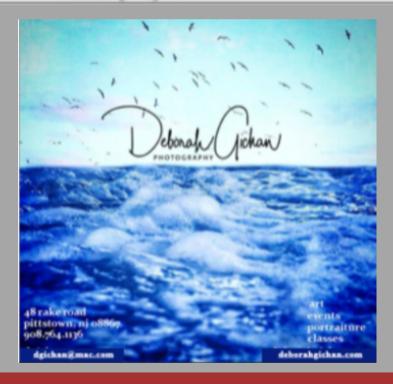
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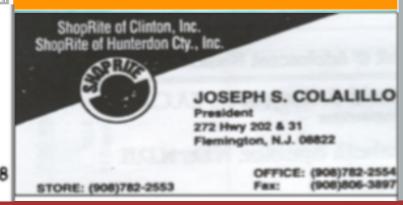
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