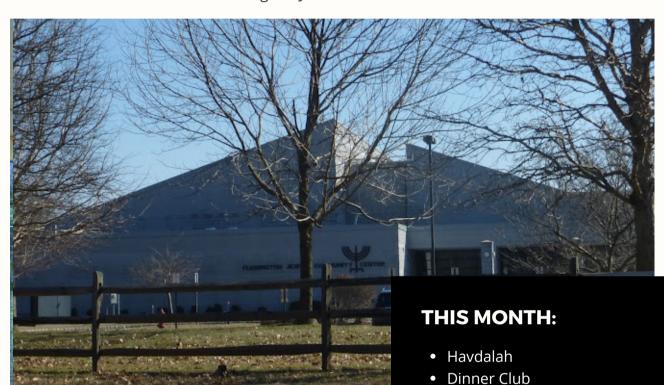
## FLEMINGTON FORWARD

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

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#### **RABBI'S REFLECTIONS**

On the Shabbat before Purim, we read the Torah portion reminding us of the commandment to erase the name of Amalek. Tradition teaches that Haman was a descendant of this people who attacked the Israelites as they left Egypt. They attacked the rear of the marching column, their victims were the tired, the old, the young, those who could not keep up.



The Story of Purim is the ultimate fulfillment of this Mitzvah. Haman is ultimately killed, and the

Jews are rescued. The rescue happens through the intervention of Queen Esther, who had, by chance, recently become Queen. The story of Purim is full of coincidences. However, nothing would have helped had Esther NOT taken advantage of the lucky position in which she found herself.

Other disastrous threats are not so easily averted. History, certainly Jewish history, is full of situations in which the Haman of the day was NOT defeated. Each threat is different, each situation is unique, but in order to overcome adversity, we've had to find a strategy that could keep us going for just one more day.

We've all been following the news from Ukraine. Though thousands of miles away, most of us understand the broad consequences of

understand the broad consequences of that war.



The war in the former Yugoslavia was a shocking reminder of how tribalism can raise its ugly head, even in so-called advanced countries. But that was an internal conflict, a civil war. The invasion of Ukraine is even more upsetting. We managed all during the cold war not to get into a direct armed conflict with Russia. And now... it's just a shot away.

#### RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

We do not have a Queen Esther upon whom to rely in this situation. We don't have Mordechai. Many of the decisions that will shape the course of this conflict are way above our pay grade, so to speak. Nevertheless, we are forbidden to despair. We've got to look at the things we can do to help. Ukrainian refugees are pouring into some of the poorest countries in Europe. Organizations like the HIAS are on the ground providing shelter, clothing and food.

You and I may not be able to stop Haman. BUT, we can give a whole lot of people something to be grateful for, something to make them smile, on this coming Purim. We cannot drive Putin out of the Ukraine, the way Esther got rid of Haman. But, we can send mishloach manot, gifts, and matanot le'evyonim, charity so that their lot is more bearable. This Purim, at the Megillah reading, we will collect donations for HIAS and Leket, the first an American-based aid organization, and the second, Israel based.

Never think that the one thing you can do to help... is too small. The one thing you can do is... the one thing you can do. It will encourage a refugee somewhere to bear their lot with a little more strength. If we can't get rid of Haman, we can at least take care of his victims.

Purim Sameach!

Rabbi Eric S. Cohen, PhD





# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

This month, my message is simple: enjoy life by engaging with others. Or, as quoted by the Dalai Lama:

"We humans are social beings. We come into the world as the result of others' actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives when we do not benefit from others' activities. For this reason it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationships with others."

I'm excited! To me, the month of March is a time to move forward from the cold, dark days of winter and transition to the coming

springtime. I welcome the reminder to renew my commitment to my goals, get outside and meet the neighbors for an enjoyable walk, reconnect with friends I haven't spoken to in a while, and contribute to the community. These are lessons I gleaned from the celebration of Purim.

At the FJCC, the beginning of March is all about Purim. The holiday preparations start with a hamantashen baking (and tasting)



party and a Sisterhood gift bag stuffing party on February 26th. We will celebrate with "merrymaking" as we welcome kids in costume at the Purim Dinner and Family Megillah reading, followed by a hamantashen dessert party. The fun continues on March 12th at the youth-led Purim Carnival and Cafe. We will participate in the mitzvah of giving gifts of food to friends and family (Mishloach Manot) by delivering yummy goodie bags to our congregants. Please answer the door when the FJCC member comes visiting. And, we will participate in the mitzvah of giving gifts to the poor (Matanot La'evyonim) through the Hebrew School canned food drive and the collection for Leket Israel (Israeli food pantry).

Take this opportunity to volunteer while having fun and making new connections with FJCC members.

#### **HEBREW SCHOOL**

Our Hebrew School Director and congregant, Karen Walsh, is facing challenging health issues and can use our support. Karen is asking for meals to be brought to her house. Follow the link below for more information, and to see how you can help Karen and her family. Please follow the link below to see how you can help.

https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/650

Sometimes we need a boost or support from our community. Lotsa Helping Hands allows jour FJCC family to do that in a coordinated and organized manner.



## 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

## **HAVDALAH**







## **DINNER CLUB**



#### **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**



Thank you so much to Pam Nemeth and Barbara Clarin for chairing this event. It is a TON of work, but they nailed it! Not only did they plan and coordinate everything, but they opened up their beautiful homes to all of us. Thank you to all of our dinner hosts and everyone who helped with appetizers and desserts. Thank you, thank you!!

## **PROGRESSIVE DINNER**









## **SISTERHOOD**















Thank you to the blow families and individuals who sponsored
Mishloach Manot this year.

FJCC Sisterhood

Jerry & Robin Alexander Nadine Milecofsky
Phyllis Bookspan Diane & Joseph Maller

Marsha & Zel Gerstein Harry & Laurie Rapkin

Bruce & Joseph Goldman The Prodriguez Family

Nathan & Patricia Lefkow Kenneth Skowronek

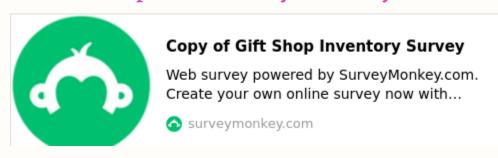
Kimi, Barry & Kylei Mitt

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped stuff and deliver Mishloach Manot!

#### **SISTERHOOD**



Are we missing an item or category you'd like to see? If so, please be sure to tell us by taking the survey below! (Click on the link "Copy of Gift Shop Inventory Survey)



## SPOTLICHT ON THE GIFT OF LIFE

This Dvar Torah is dedicated to the memory of Sarah Bat Avraham and Lauren Block, the donating kind. In January we read parsha Va'eirah, which relates Moshe and Aaron's lineage in some detail. In doing so Hashem is underlining their importance to us and to G-d.

When one counts or names something you are assigning to each thing counted or named a unique identity. In a census you are assigning a unique identity to each individual. Similarly, the book of Bamidbar, which in English we refer to as the book of Numbers. The name comes from the book's obsession with them. There are several censuses, casualty counts, and a detailed accounting of the gifts of the various tribes at the dedication of the Mishkan (tabernacle).

In the censuses in Bamidbar, the word "shmo" is constantly used in referring to the persons counted. Translated, shmo is "his name". Hashem wants us to know that he is looking at individuals. He wants to create a deep personal bond with each of us. It reflects his deep love and caring for us. Both the parsha and the book also show that if anyone is missing, the nation and Hashem's own glory is diminished.

Besides our own set of interests and goals, we are unique down to the very genetic code that is the foundation of our existence. This uniqueness is important on several levels. One important thing is that it allows our bodies to recognize foreign proteins and eliminate them.

While we are unique, we are not self-sufficient. Rashi's commentary on Parsha Vayechi quotes Midrash Tamchuma. The Midrash



discusses that various tribes have different, complementary missions. To make Israel work, it takes all the tribes.

It makes me think about a Miranda Lambert lyric. In her song, All Kinds of Kinds, the chorus is "Ever since the beginning to keep the world spinning, it takes all kinds of kinds." Let's take a look at a specific application.

On a basic level, since we are all unique and our bodies look for and eliminate alien proteins, it makes organ and tissue donation difficult. Transplanted organs and tissues are alien proteins. While there are drugs that suppress this activity you still need histologically similar donors. Drugs can only do so much. Given that fact, and the circumstances that are required to have viable organs to donate, one needs a large pool of donors.

Ramban in his commentary on the many censuses in the book states several reasons for the constant counting. The first reason he cites is to show the miraculous growth of the Jewish people in Egypt and that he loved them very much. He also needed to show that each person is important to G-d and that the nation was not complete without each person.

It always bears remembering that 50,000 people die in the US each year waiting for an organ. When someone dies, they are removed from this world. His or her friends, family and this world are diminished. The glory of Hashem is diminished.

This diminishment is exaggerated when the death is premature and preventable. We are diminished and incomplete as a nation. We are shown his love when we are able to prevent premature death. In 2020 (the last year I was able to find statistics for) the Sharing Network obtained 572 organs were transplanted thanks to 222 donors in New Jersey, including 339 kidneys, 124 livers, 50 hearts, 45 lungs and 14 pancreases. And there were 46,462 tissue and eye donations. Tissue donations include corneas, heart valves, skin grafts, and bone grafts, ligament and tendons for people in its region. Another number that will make The Count happy.

It also takes money. Organ donors and their families are not charged with the costs of donation. These families need support. They have just lost a loved one suddenly and tragically. Counseling is required to help them deal with that loss. There are costs to locate and transport organs and tissue, to determine who is compatible with a given organ, and other important services. Financial support is needed. It takes volunteers to raise funds, support people and spread the word. Volunteers are irreplaceable. The fact that I am here and healthy and able to speak with you, is proof of the efficacy and need to support donation.

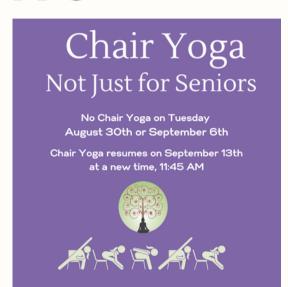
Ms. Lambert hit it on the head. It takes all kinds of kinds. Support organ donation. Be the Organ donor kind. Be the financial kind. Be the support volunteer kind. Be whatever kind you want. Just be kind.

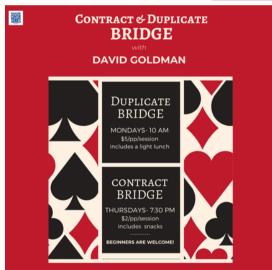


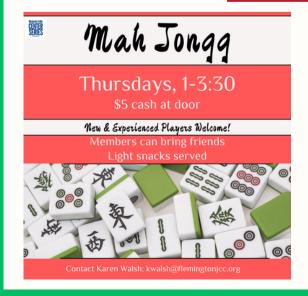
#### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

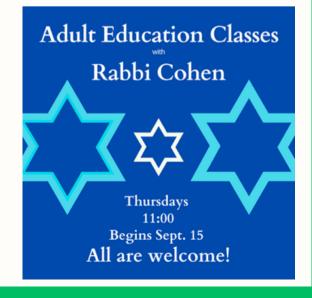
# Parashat HaShavuah Rabbi Cohen Mondays, 1:00 Beginning Sep 12

All are welcome!









#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted in News and Notes







#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted in News and Notes







Everything you wanted to know about Passover

222

March 26

on Zoom
Time TBD

Ask the Rabbi

But were AFRAD TO ASK







#### **BIRTHDAYS**

<u>February 2</u> Adam Wolf

<u>February 3</u> Anthony Ricciardi

February 7
David Short
Kenneth Skowronek

February 10 Harry Zackowitz

February 13 Jonathan Fox Paul Hubert

<u>February 15</u> Jennifer Goldstein Benjamin Doshna

<u>February 18</u> Heather Brooks Dorit Radzin

<u>February 19</u> Jeanne Berk Michael Liebowitz

February 20 Seymour Mondshein

February 21
Danny Shor

February 22
Brayden Jampel
Dorian Batt
Jaime Cohen

February 24 Marilyn Dvoor Michael Wolf <u>February 25</u> Philip Reid-Green Ian Rodriguez

<u>February 26</u> Eric Wasserman

February 27 Catherine O'Shea

February 28 Brian Sperling Jonathan Stirberg

<u>March 1</u> Jason Gertzman Ryan Goldschmitt

March 3
Martin Mcinerney

March 5 Frederick Rothstein Arielle Rumore

> March 7 Liz Slavin

<u>March 8</u> Katelynn Jampel Andrew Ollwerther

> March 9 Bradley Mason

> > March 12 Judy Gold

<u>March 13</u> Jordan Franklin

March 14
Shane Gerstein
Sharon Brooks

March 15
Daniel Weinstock

<u>March 17</u> Patricia <u>L</u>efkow

<u>March 19</u> Andrea Goldstein-Byne

> March 20 Mary Ellen Ort Jerrold Atlas

> > March 22 Philip Stern

<u>March 23</u> Sharon Zimmerman

<u>March 24</u> Scott Hornick Alison Ricciardi

March 25
Jacob Weinstock-Gallagher
Joel Goldstein

March 27
Caroline Farber
Fred Eisinger
Fredrick Kleiman

March 28
Stephanie Goldman

March 30 Eric Sirota

<u>March 31</u> Jenna Shankoff Dana Cohen Bradley Glacken

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

<u>February 1</u>
Daniel Weinstock & Eilene Gallagher

February 7
A. & Gail Bragin

February 15
Martin & Deb Mcinerney

February 22
Elizabeth & Howard Spinowitz

March 2
Bruce and Susan Kamich

<u>March 6</u> Jerrold & Linda Atlas

March 10
Dena & Greg Scibilia

March 20
Ronald & Mary Ellen Ort
Bruce Moskovitz & John Fellin

March 31 Seth & Dana Cohen

#### **YAHRZEITS**

<u>February 2</u> Juan Jose de Soto Max Lerner Bernard Volowitz

February 3 Frank Kelly Florence Kagan

February 4
Betty Hurwitz

<u>February 5</u> Meyer Rosenberg

<u>February 6</u> Norma Benimoff

<u>February 8</u>
Sye Weinstein
Janice Luelling

<u>February 10</u> Sidney Elstein

February 11
Ida Linsenbaum
Mary Large
Bernice Simmons

<u>February 13</u> Beverly Kogan

February 14 Martin Pavelich Alan Blankstein Murray Benimoff

<u>February 15</u> Sanford Friedman George Jacobson

> <u>February 16</u> Fannie Hayfer

<u>February 17</u> Sally Einsinger Stein

<u>February 20</u> Rosalin Zackowitz

<u>February 21</u> Dr Irena Balis Sandler Judith Pavelich

> <u>February 22</u> Murray Grill Yetta Atlas

<u>February 23</u> Herbert Milecofsky

February 25
Celia Lerner
John Watson
Louis Friedman
Hilda Daniels

February 26 Norma Charen Dr. Milton Sirota

February 27
Terry Mondshein

March 1
Harvey Jay Spinowitz
Melvin Dvoor

March 2 Leo Sacks

March 3
Donna Anne Watts Young

March 4
David Weiner

March 5 Charles Schutz

March 6
Frances Krampel
Jeanne Hoberman Arcus
Ely Stempler

March 7
Irene Abramson
Morris Neibart
Edythe Stern

<u>March 8</u> Hildegard Likusi Lillian Belger

March 9 Joseph S. Fox

<u>March 10</u> Kitty Zuchovicki Betty H. Mehrlust

<u>March 11</u> Katherine Formica Sara Reta Schutz <u>March 12</u> Melvin Kestenbaum

> <u>March 13</u> Lorraine Klein

March 15 Seymour Gitlin Rose Marshall

March 16 Etta Moskovitz

March 17
Stacey Zisook Robinson
Evelyn Simon

<u>March 18</u> Marvin Zimmerman

March 20 Corinne Nifoussi

March 21
Edwin Large
David Greenberg

March 22 Anna Goldstein Rose Slavin Janet Engle

March 23
Alan Stolpen
Denis Edward Ort
Thomas Sudin
Minnie Arowitz
Bessie Hurwitz

<u>March 25</u> Irwin Kawarsky Sidney Gold Regina Sperber Kitty Lefkow

March 26 Reubin Bragin

March 27 Harry Rubin

March 28 Harold Kern

March 31 Bea Friedman

## CONTRIBUTIONS

## **Building Fund**

Zel & Marsha Gerstein

For the Yahrzeit of Ruben Simon

In Memory of Myrna Wasserman, beloved mother of Eric Wasserman

In Memory of III Davidson, beloved sister of Lenore Levine

In Memory of Myron Kesselhaut, beloved father of Steve Kesselhaut

In Memory of Edwin Matzkin, beloved father of Patti Matzkin-Katz

In Memory of Adrian Mitler, beloved father of Barry Mitler

In Memory of Freydun 'Fred' Daneshrad, beloved father of Ray Daneshrad

Mazel Toy to Anneliese and Howard Nifoussi on the birth of their

granddaughter Ruby Florence Niffousi A speedy recovery to Mike Wolf

A speedy recovery to Stan Weinstein A speedy recovery to Karen Walsh

## Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Nadine Milecofsky For the Yahrzeit of Herbert Milecofsky

Zel & Marsha Gerstein In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Zel Gerstein

Dr. Austin & Sharon Rednor In Memory of Judith Pavelich, mother of Sharon Rednor In Memory of Martin Pavelich, beloved father of Sharon Rednor

Dr. Bruce Moskovitz & John Fellin In Memory of Adrian Mittler, father of Barry and Kimi Mittler In Memory of Myron Kesselhaut, beloved father of Steve Kesselhaut Refuah Shlema to Rachel Rodriguez

Dr. Mitchell & Barbara Clarin In Memory of Adrian Mittler In Memory of Myrna Wasserman In Memory of Myron Kesselhaut

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **General Donations**

Bruce & Flo Newrock
For the yahrzeit of Sylvia Newrock

Gary & Laurie Dier In Honor of Lois Gross. Happy 70th Birthday

Dr. Austin & Sharon Rednor
In Honor of my friend, Josy Kestenbaum

Zel & Marsha Gerstein
In Honor of Rose Weitz for support of her Bat Mitzvah project to help
Family Promise

Laurie & Harry Rapkin
In Memory of Bertha Kahansky, beloved mother of Cheryl Schutz

Richard Goldstein
In Memory of Linda Goldstein

Stuart & Diane Naar

Mazel Tov to Linda and Jerry Atlas on the birth of their

Great-granddaughter Maya!

#### Rabbi Discretionary

Bruce & Josy Kestenbaum

For the yahrzeit of Melvyn Kestenbaum, beloved father of Bruce

Kestenbaum

Paul Hubert
For the yahrzeit of Karen Hubert

Sharon & Richard Webb
In Honor of my brother Philip Stern and his Haftorah reading on March 4

Stuart & Diane Naar
To Honor the 40 th Anniversary Yarhzeit of my father, Louis Naar
To the good health and speedy recovery of Jerry Atlas

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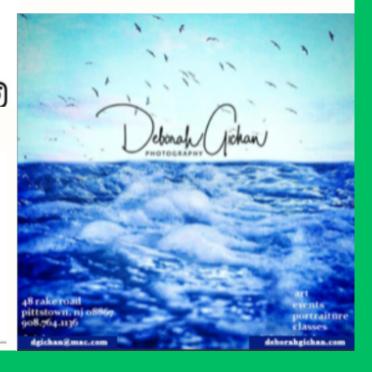
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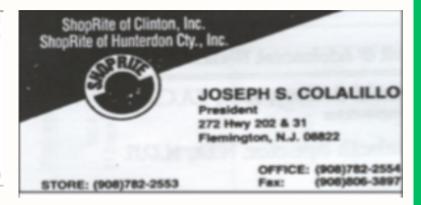
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