# FLEMINGTON FORWARD

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

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This Months Contributors:
Rabbi Cohen
Sharon Rednor
Deborah Kesselhaut

Karen Walsh Rachel Rodriguez Kim Friedman Muller

## RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

While the Passover Seder marks the beginning of our journey as a free people, it is the holiday of Shavuot that marks our acceptance of this status. On Shavuot, we commemorate the occasion on which we assumed responsibility for the freedom we've been given. This is the moment when we accepted the Torah.

At Mount Sinai we received our mission statement. It was not enough just to escape Pharaoh, and then flee into the wild. Freedom is not about "everything goes," but about responsibilities; it is about entering into covenants, and forming responsible relationships.



"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

On the second Seder night, we begin a sacred counting, of Sefirat HaOmer. We begin to count the 50 days that lead from freedom at the shore of the Sea of Reeds to the moment we received the Torah at Mount Sinai. Traditionally, each day we say a blessing and count one more day. This practice offers us time to reflect on what it means to be free.

When Shavuot arrives, we are asked to recommit ourselves to the covenant we have with Torah, with each other, with the larger communities of which we are part, with the Jewish people as a whole, with the human race, and with the natural world in which we live, and which needs our efforts to safe-guard it. Acceptance of the Torah involves all these relationships. As we count the Omer to Shavuot, let us consider: how will we live up to our responsibilities as free people?

# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

Yay for May! Flowers are blooming, students are graduating and moms are getting some well-deserved appreciation. What a fabulous month! In addition, May is Jewish American Heritage Month and so, the month is full of celebrations among Jews and non-Jews in the United States.

May is Pretty, May is Mild by Annette Wynne May is pretty, May is mild, Dances like a happy child; Sing out, robin; spring out, flowers; April went with all her showers, And the world is green again; Come out, children, to the glen, To the meadows, to the wood, For the earth is clean and good, And the sky is clear and blue, And bright May is calling you! May is pretty, May is mkle, Dances like a happy child, On a blessed holiday, Come out, children, join the play!

Here are a bunch of reasons to throw a party and get out to join the fun:

## Lag B'Omer on May 9

What is Lag B' Omer? Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of counting the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. "Lag" in Hebrew is the number 33. The Omer is a time of semi-mourning when weddings and other celebrations are forbidden, and as a sign of grief, observant Jews do not cut their hair. We learn in the Talmud that during this season, a plague killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students because they did not treat each other respectfully. The mourning behavior is presumably in memory of those students and their punishment. According to a medieval tradition, the plague ceased on Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer. As a result, Lag B'Omer became a happy day, interrupting the sadness of the Omer period for 24 hours. We listen to music and enjoy the season by celebrating outdoors.

Members of the FJCC will gather for a celebratory dinner and musical concert with the band Coo Coo Cachoo on May 8th at 6:30. Please register on Shulcloud: https://flemingtonjcc.shulcloud.com/event/Lag-BOmer-Picnic=2023



# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

If those were not enough, here are a few additional reasons to celebrate in May: Teacher Appreciation Day on May 9
Mother's Day on May 14
National Chocolate Chip Day on May 15
and

Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) on May 19

Yom Yerushalayim commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City after the six-day war against the Jordanian forces in 1967. The day is marked with different events such as recitations of the Hallel prayer in Synagogues, lectures on the history of Jerusalem, street parades, parties, state ceremonies, and memorial services for those that died in the six-day war.

At the FJCC, on May 18 th we will celebrate with a virtual tour of the city of Jerusalem by Israeli tour guide, Joel Haber, a New Jersey native. He will talk about the history of the city, entice us with the tastes and smells of the bustling marketplace, and highlight some of the important tourist sites. Look on ShulCloud for more specific information and to register for this engaging event: <a href="https://flemingtonicc.shulcloud.com/event/Yom-Yerushelayim-2023">https://flemingtonicc.shulcloud.com/event/Yom-Yerushelayim-2023</a>

To round out the later part of the month, more celebrations are called for on: Armed Forces Day on May 20 Shavuot starts evening of May 25 Memorial Day on May 29

Whatever the reason or the day, to all the adults, adults who are children-at-heart, and to all the children -- come out and join the play!

- Sharon Rednor



## **B'NAI MITZVAH SPOTLIGHT**



Mazel Tov to Rose Cameron Weitz on her May 6th, 2023 Bat Mitzvah. Rose is a 7th grader at JP Case Middle School. She loves baking, singing, playing piano and clarinet, needlepointing, and art. For Rose's Bat Mitzvah project, she has been baking cupcakes in exchange for donations made to Family Promise of Hunterdon County. To date, Rose has raised approximately \$850. She plans to continue this project after her Bat Mitzvah. Stay tuned for future baking dates. Rose is very excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends.

## **HEBREW SCHOOL**

Hebrew School has been busy with the holidays. There was a large crowd at the Purim dinner and Megillah Reading. As soon as Purim ended, the student began their Passover studies to be wellprepared for their family Passover Seders. The Rabbi led a Model Seder on Zoom for Gan - seventh grade. Only a few weeks of Hebrew School are left, and the students will be wrapping up their studies.

Speaking of wrapping things up, join us for a Shabbat dinner on May 12th, serving wraps and mac and cheese. The Gimel and Dalet students will lead services, and the Gimel students will receive a Siddur.

Karen Walsh Hebrew School Director Flemington Jewish Community Center Phone: 908-782-6410 ext. 13

908-806-7736 Fax:

kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org





## 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

Save the Dates

## **HEBREW SCHOOL**



Dear FJCC Family and Friends,

I am humbled by the outpouring of support over these past few months. Your kindness and generosity have been overwhelming. I have enjoyed the text messages, phone calls, get-well cards, gifts, meals, and gift certificates for meals.

I am looking forward to returning to the building in the coming weeks and thanking you all in person.

With gratitude, Karen

# **DINNER CLUB**















# SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD

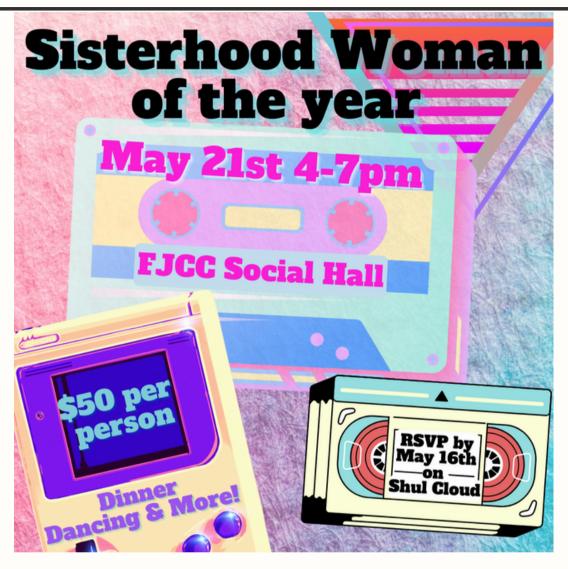
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Kitchen Shower! We were able to supply the kitchen with a lot of much needed items. Please check out the gift registry below if you would like to contribute. You can also make a donation via check to FJCC Sisterhood. Be sure to put "Kitchen" in the memo!



## **SPOTLIGHT ON SISTERHOOD**



Use the camera feature on your phone to scan the QR code which takes you to the registry!



Come dressed in your favorite 80s outfit and be ready to P-A-R-T-Y! For just \$50, you'll get a fully catered meal, karaoke, dancing, giveaways, and most importantly... memories to last a lifetime!

Questions or want to sponsor the event?

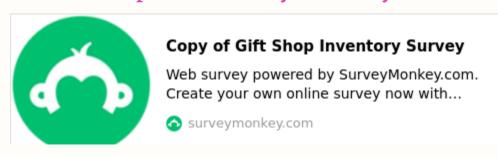
Email us at

Sisterhood@flemingtonjcc.org

## **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)

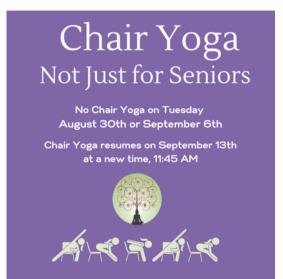


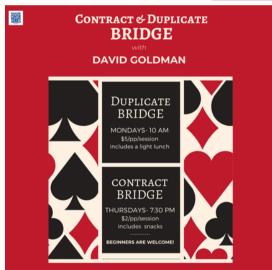
## **WEEKLY EVENTS**

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



All are welcome!









## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted where applicable.

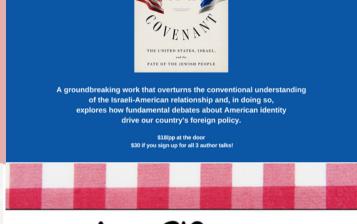
## DINNER IS SERVED

FJCC DINNER CLUB\*



Sunday, May 7th
v-spot food - new hope 6:30 PM
byob
rsvp required by may 4th

TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
KIMFMULLER@YAHOO.COM
\*ADULTS ONLY



Walter Russell Mead

Sunday, May 7 12 Noon



A Day of Community and Community Service May 7th 12:30 - 3:15 PM

Lunch at The Flemington Presbyterian Church at 12:30 Followed by Volunteer Opportunities in the Community. Details and Sign Up Link Coming Soon

Flemington Baptist, Flemington Jewish Community Center, Flemington Presbyterian Church, Flemington United Methodist, and Grace United Church of Christ



MUSICAL GUEST

## Coo Coo Cachoo

Monday, May 8 6:30





## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted where applicable.

MAY 12TH 6:00 PM

Register By May 2nd \$25/ Family \$15/Single Dairy & Vegetable Wraps Pizza Bagels & Mac n' Cheese

IT'S A WRAP
SHABBAT
DINNER

Gimel and Dalet Classes

Lead Services at 7:30 PM



Gimel Students Receive their Siddurim Register After May 2nd \$36/ Family

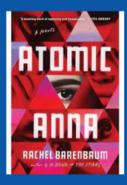


An FJCC Book Club Selection

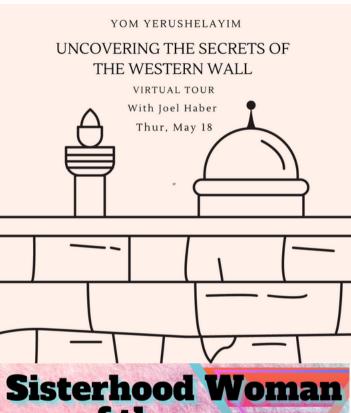
MEET THE AUTHOR

## Rachel Barenbaum

Monday, June 5 7 PM



A time travel novel about attempts to undo the Chernobyl disaster.





# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted where applicable



June 11th JOIN THE FARMLAND RIDE -

#### RELAX AND RIDE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Come join us on the Farmland Ride - where you can relax and ride in the countryside of Hunterdon County. Beautiful low-traffic country back roads are the heart of this ride, along with some challenging hills.

4 great routes to choose from: - 15, 30, the new 45! and 62 (metric century) miles.

Lunch is included and provided by Blue Fish Grill. Enjoy fully stocked rest areas and receive a free event t-shirt by signing up before May 15th. Tech support is provided by Sourland Cycles.

You won't want to miss out on this ride - Hurry and sign up before April 30th for the lowest registration fee.

DON'T WAIT - SIGN UP TODAY
CLICK ON THE GRAPHIC ABOVE TO REGISTER

# **BIRTHDAYS** •

May 1
Stephen Rogow

<u>May 2</u> Helen Pollack Connie Mitchko

<u>May 3</u> Stephanie Scibilia Yael Ezra

> May 4 Cydney Cohn

May 5
Marian Daniels
Calvin Scibilia
Jordana Jaffe

<u>May 6</u> Mitchel Ezra

May 9
Jane Wasserman
Reba Holley
Jenna Nifoussi
Nomi Forman
Rachelle Butt

<u>May 10</u> Deborah Farber Jessica Corchin

May 11
Sharon Winnick
Michael Weinstein

<u>May 12</u> Larissa Wolf

<u>May 15</u> Carolyn Goldman

> <u>May 19</u> Leah Kleiman

<u>May 20</u> Pamela Nemeth Jonathan Weitz

<u>May 22</u> Liam Byne Mona Shapiro <u>May 23</u> Matthew Neibart

May 24
Barbara Clarin
Mindy Engle-Friedman

May 25 Martin Wolfson Ben Kestenbaum Jessica Neibart

May 26 Sharon Landstrom Jenny Nahama

> May 28 Robert Rapkin

<u>May 29</u> Marsha Goldstein

> May 30 Eric Cohen

May 31
Karen Walsh
Seth Rubin

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

May 3 Jeffrey and Amy Marshall

May 5
Robin and Bradley Mason

May 11
Seymour Mondshein and Lisa Martin

May 13
Brian and Dale Sperling

May 26
Alan and Deborah Hylton
Harry and Laurie Rapkin

May 29
James and Alyssa Fox
Stephen and Joan Rogow

May 30
Loren and Florence Friedman Hurwitz
Ryan and Heather Goldschmitt

# **YAHRZEITS**

May 2 Chaim Leaf

May 3
Marcellus Blount
Jo Ellen Leavitt

May 4
Arlene Stern
Samuel Linsenbaum

May 6 Lori Ollwerther Bernard Weiss

> May 9 Lillian Rapp

<u>May 10</u> Jacob Moskowitz

May 11
Estelle Kern
Emil Neibart

May 13
Guy Landstrom
Sylvia Goodman
Sylvia Weiner

<u>May 15</u> Anne Lubowsky Sylvia Stolpen

May 17 Walter Likusk

May 18
Shelley Lynn Goldstein
Ruth Radzin
David Alan Daniels
Victory Lonsk

May 19 Goldie Goldstein Leonard Hurwitz

> May 20 Emma Leaf

May 22 Morton Engle

May 23 Sheldon H. Lipsitz

> May 24 Nancy Taub

<u>May 25</u> Mamie Kaminowitz

May 26 Charles Levinston Abram Kaplan Harry Arcus

May 27 Natale Formica

> <u>May 28</u> Jack Kogan

May 30

Jennie Silver Goldstein
Millie Orlin

<u>May 31</u> Barbara Ackerman

# CONTRIBUTIONS

# Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Fred Eisinger
For the Yahrzeit of beloved mother Sally Eisinger Stein

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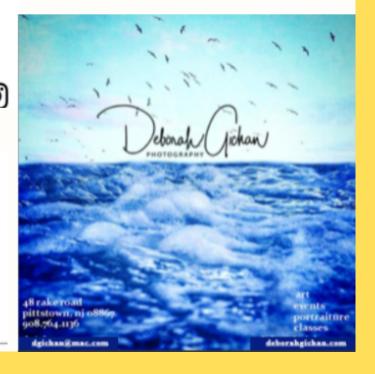
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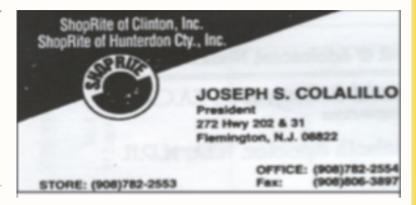
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