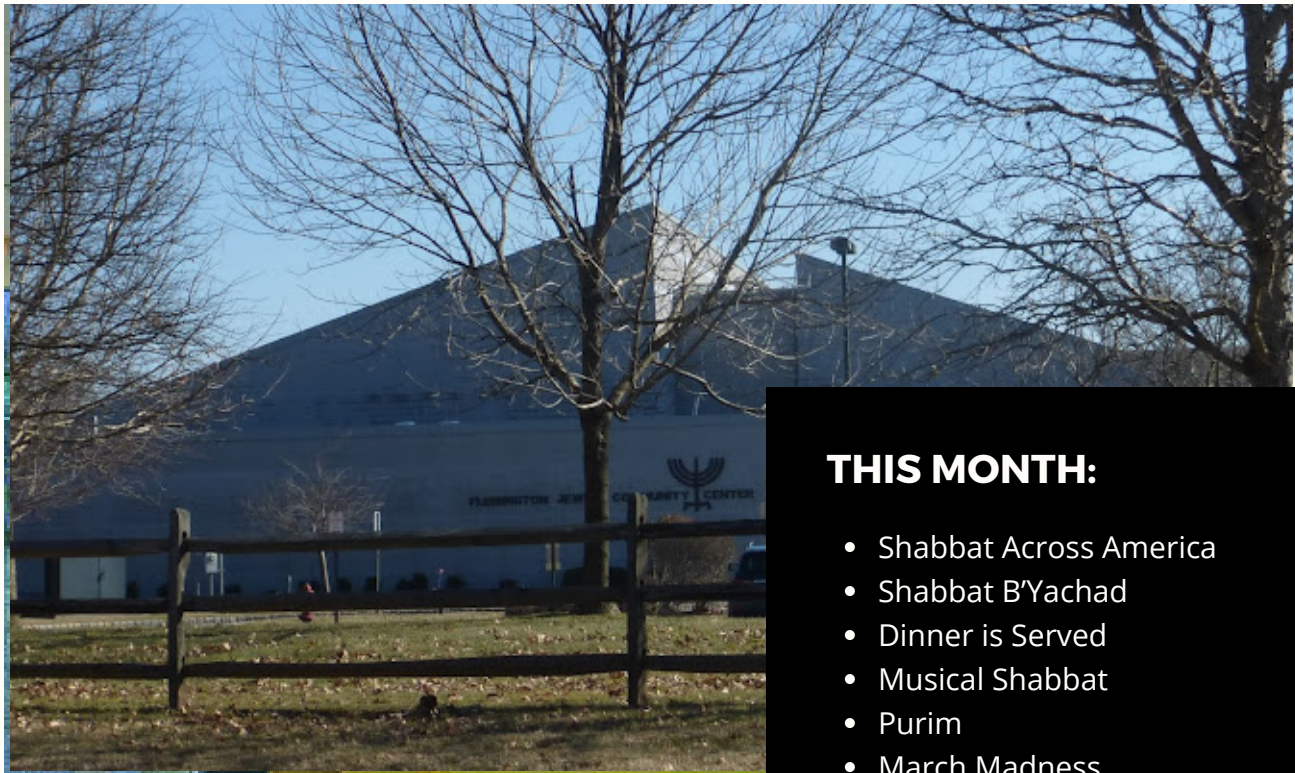

MARCH 2024 | 21 ADAR-1 TO 21 ADAR-2 5784

FJCC FLASH

Newsletter of the Flemington Jewish Community Center



THIS MONTH:

- Shabbat Across America
- Shabbat B'Yachad
- Dinner is Served
- Musical Shabbat
- Purim
- March Madness

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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

My colleague, Rabbi Joseph 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 & specialness, of Shabbat. There is Pesach with the focus on liberation, and the Days of Awe with a focus on teshuva (return/repentance/transformation).

We are now in the month of Adar. In the texture of Jewish time, Adar is the month of joy. The Talmud teaches: when you enter into Adar, you increase in joy. Ke-she-nichnas Adar, marbim be-Simchah. This year is a leap year, so we get, not one, but TWO Adars. Anyone need an extra shot of joy?



Adar 2 is when we celebrate Purim, the reason for joy this month... or both months. The Purim story is about a world turned upside down: a Jewish orphan becomes a Persian queen, and a high-ranking official who plans to kill the Jews dies at their hands. Nothing seems what it is, and it is not surprising, therefore, that this holiday is celebrated by wearing costumes, allowing us to become someone else for a day.

But, there is a dark side to the Purim story: the end, where there is a massacre of the enemies of the Jews. As Rabbi Jill Jacobs points out: "The ending of the Purim story can certainly be read as a legitimate battle of self-defense... This understanding eases concerns about the nature of the violence, but does not fully respond either to the bloodiness of the battle or to the textual ambiguity about the identity of the victims... The sheer number of deaths is shocking...; simple self-defense would not require the killing of such large numbers of people. Second, there is little suggestion elsewhere in the Megillah that Haman's feelings toward the Jews reflect the popular attitude. ...If other citizens of Shushan plan to participate in the slaying of the Jews, they will presumably do so out of obedience for the king... and not...as a result of their own independent hatred of this people."

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

This concern also nagged at some classical rabbinic commentators. The Malbim, for instance, wrote: "Of course, the Jews were not given permission to kill anyone they wished... They only killed their enemies whose animosity... was public, and who threatened... them, but not their haters... The difference between an "enemy" and a "hater" is that an enemy's hatred is evident, whereas a hater's hatred is hidden... They only did to their haters "as they wished," that is, they were able to rob them and to degrade them."

The Malbim understands the great scope of the slaughter described at the end of the Book of Esther, and wishes to reduce it to those who actively sought to kill the Jews, excluding those who simply hated them passively. For Rabbi Jacobs, such attempts to lessen or to justify the deaths of more than 75,000 people do not fully respond to the question, well-known to us also from human history, of how an oppressed people can go on to oppress another people.

The ethical challenge of the Purim story becomes even more serious when we read it conjunction with the Torah portion for the Shabbat before, which includes the command to wipe out Amalek in every generation. As Rabbi Jacobs points out: "The juxtaposition of the reading of Parshat Zakhor with the reading of the Megillah transforms the Purim story from a one-time event to a paradigm for using violence to respond to any opponent."

Perhaps, we may be relieved to learn that most of our Halakhic decisors will not allow us to walk down this path. They rule that this Mitzvah with regard to Amalek only applies in the times of the Messiah, because any remaining Amalekites have dispersed and assimilated into other nations. It is impossible to fulfill this mitzvah until the Messiah comes, and clarifies the issue for us. And, according to Maimonides, even if we could identify some Amalekites, we are required to offer them peace before attacking them. Indeed, if they agree to follow the Noachide laws (basic standards of civilized behavior), or even convert to Judaism, Maimonides teaches, they should be accepted.

Unfortunately, too many contemporary Jews have walked down the path of becoming like their oppressors, and identify Amalek in their contemporary foes. Let us reject this approach, and live up to the tradition our rabbis have taught. Perhaps, being relieved of a commandment to shed blood is the best reason for joy in the month(s) of Adar.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

Purim, Purim, Purim ... Purim preparations are prominent on our plates.

To start off the month of March, we will be packing goodie bags, Mishloach Manot, to be delivered to our members. This mitzvah emanates from the Book of Esther, which we read on Purim:

"Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions to one another."

This year, the Sisterhood has arranged to accompany delivery of Mishloach Manot with "singing telegrams." You can send a musical message to local congregants by signing up on ShulCloud.

The following week, on Sunday, March 17th, the sweet essence of hamentashen will emanate from the kitchen as we bake yummy treats for all to enjoy. This is an opportunity for all -- experienced bakers and newbies -- to join the baking party.

Then, on Saturday, March 24th, there will be Seudah Shelisheet at 7:00 followed by Ma'ariv, Havdalah and the Traditional Megillah Reading. Of course, there will be hamentashen for dessert afterwards.



On Sunday, March 25th, we will celebrate with "merrymaking" as we welcome kids and adults in costume at the Family Megillah Reading, followed by the youth-led Purim Carnival and Cafe. After Purim, we will participate in the mitzvah of giving gifts to the poor (Matanot La'evyonim), so bring a can of food to donate to the Hebrew School Food Drive.

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

Sharon Rednor, FJCC President

HEBREW SCHOOL

Mazel Tov to our Hebrew School Director and congregant, Karen Walsh, who recently became a grandmother.



March is full of hustle and bustle. I want to point out all the kids friendly events coming up this month.

B'Yachad is on March 9th @ 9:15 -12:00. Adults can “design” their own Shabbat, choosing from traditional services, parsha talks, and meditation. Students will have a specially designed program for students in 2nd – 7th grade. The students will join the congregation for the Torah service and accompany adults to the bima for aliyot. This is a great opportunity to get up close to the Torah.

Games after B'Yachad is also on March 9th. Kids can get together for card games, and board games. You can find out more about the “can do and can’t do” on Shabbat games in the weekly news and notes.

Family Megillah Reading is on Sunday March 24th during Hebrew School. There will not be classroom instruction from 9:00 – 10:00 so spend the extra time at home getting into your Purim costume. The Family Megillah Reading is at 10:00, with music and the High School Purim players. There will be a special treat for all students who wear costumes to the Megillah Reading.

The Purim Carnival and Café will be serving the usual fare during the carnival. Stop by for lunch and some hamantaschen.

The staff is beginning to prepare for next year. Please note the schedule change for 7th and 8th graders. Next year the 7th and 8th graders will have class on Wednesday from 4:30 – 6:15, while the 9th – 12th graders will continue to meet on Thursdays from 6:00-7:15. Additional details about the 2024-2025 school year will be available in early June.

YOUTH GROUP

Our FJCC Youth Group (FYG) had a whole month of coziness and friendship.

The younger members were able to enjoy a Late-Night while the grown ups were at the Progressive Dinner.

Our teens had their annual Shul-In a few weeks later where they had a great night watching movies, snacking, and playing different board games.

Our next project is preparing for the Purim Carnival!



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HAVDALAH

Havdalah
&
Klezmer

Saturday
February 24
7:30 PM



FJCC CARES

The FJCC Weekly Mitzvah Project!

Shabbat Bag prepared & delivered to FJCC members in need, including soup, challah & a cookie.

If you know of someone who needs a Shabbat Bag, please reach out to Rabbi Cohen by Wednesday each week.

The FJCC Cares delivery list has been growing, and we need volunteer drivers to distribute our Shabbat Bags. Let the office know if you would like to help.



*Thank
You*

to

Terri and Bernie Zucker, Anneliese Nifoussi and
Carolyn Goldman
for their leadership and dedication

MARCH CALENDAR

Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar, Jewish Holidays

Mar 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 5pm - Israel Discussion	26 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	27	28 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	29 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	1 Shabbat Across America 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	2 9:15am - Shabbat service
3 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 11:30am - Maybe YG	4 LT Meeting 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	5 7:30pm - Genealogy	6 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	7 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	8 Stolpen Oneg 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	9 Beyachad - Game after Beyachad - Game after Lefkowitz auf ruf 9:15am - Shabbat service
10 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10:30am - Mishloach 6pm - DIS	11 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	12 CS Meeting 5:45pm - Security 5:45pm - Security	13 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	14 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	15 Musical Shabbat 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	16 9:15am - Shabbat service
17 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10:30am - EB Meeting	18 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	19	20 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	21 Fast of Esther Federation Thing 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	22 atlas oneg 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	23 Purim Dinner and Purim Dinner and Purim Eve 9:15am - Shabbat service
24 Purim (Tel Aviv) 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 11am - Purim Carnival 11am - Purim Carnival	25 Shushan Purim 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	26	27 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	28 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	29 6pm - Zoom Shabbat 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	30 London-Sirota Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service
31 No School Spring BREAK	1 March Madness - Time 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 5pm - Israel Discussion	2 LT Meeting 7pm - CS Meeting 7:30pm - Genealogy	3	4 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	5 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	6 9:15am - Shabbat service 11:15am - Meditation

WEEKLY EVENTS

Parashat HaShavuah with Rabbi Cohen

Mondays, 1:00
Beginning Sep 12



All are welcome!

CONTRACT & DUPLICATE BRIDGE

with
DAVID GOLDMAN



Mah Jongg

Thursdays, 1-3:30

\$5 cash at door

New & Experienced Players Welcome!

Members can bring friends

Light snacks served



Contact Karen Walsh: kwash@flemingtonjcc.org

Adult Education Classes with Rabbi Cohen



Thursdays

11:00

Begins Sept. 15

All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Shabbat Across America
Friday, March 1
Dinner will be served
6:35 PM
\$5 pp/\$10 family
Register by 2/21

March 1st

JOIN US ON MARCH 1
AS WE WELCOME
MARK CHAZIN
TO SPEAK AT
FRIDAY NIGHT
SERVICES

Mark will be sharing some
of his experiences and
insights as a recent
participant on a 2007
Volunteer Israel Mission.



Shabbat B'Yachad

Saturday ~ March 9
9:15 - 12:00

Design Your Shabbat
Meditation ~ Parsha Discussion

Hebrew School on Shabbat
Learn Prayers
Sing Songs
Tell Stories

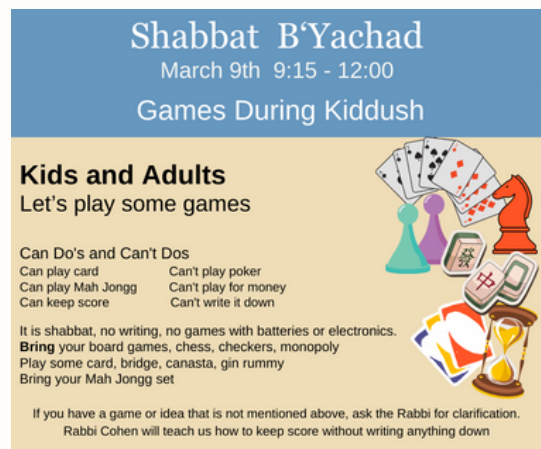
Kiddush Lunch & Board Games



DINNER IS SERVED
DOCKSIDE
Sunday, March 10
5:30 PM




RSVP IS REQUIRED BY MARCH 6
TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS,
CONTACT: KIMF.MULLER@YAHOO.COM
ADULTS ONLY



Shabbat B'Yachad
March 9th 9:15 - 12:00
Games During Kiddush

Kids and Adults
Let's play some games



Can Do's and Can't Dos
Can play card Can't play poker
Can play Mah Jongg Can't play for money
Can keep score Can't write it down

It is shabbat, no writing, no games with batteries or electronics.
Bring your board games, chess, checkers, monopoly
Play some card, bridge, canasta, gin rummy
Bring your Mah Jongg set

If you have a game or idea that is not mentioned above, ask the Rabbi for clarification.
Rabbi Cohen will teach us how to keep score without writing anything down



Musical Shabbat

AKIVA NELSON
OUR HIGH HOLIDAY CANTOR

RETURNS FOR
MUSICAL SHABBAT
MARCH 15 & 16



MARCH MADNESS

March 31st



March 31 - 4:00 PM at Buffalo Wild Wings in Flemington
Contact Jonathan Nemeth actuarydaddy@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS IN EARLY APRIL

FJCC BOOK CLUB

Homesick by Eshko Nevo

April 1st 7:00

This intimate story revolves around an Israeli couple. Through them, we meet their landlords, who live next door; a neighboring family whose older son was killed in Lebanon; and a Palestinian who is working on the renovation of a house down the street.



THE WEST SIDE WOODWIND QUINTET

at the Flemington Jewish Community Center

SUN, APRIL 7 @ 2:00 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



EARLY BIRD: \$18/PP
AFTER MAR 31: \$25/PP

WWW.FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG



BIRTHDAYS

March 1

Jason Gertzman
Ryan Goldschmitt

March 3

Martin Mcinerney

March 4

Ricky Braff
Michael Rumore
Daniel Rapkin

March 5

Frederick Rothstein
Arielle Rumore

March 7

Liz Slavin

March 8

Katelynn Jampel
Lev Rutbeck-Goldman
Andrew Ollwerther

March 9

Bradley Mason

March 12

Judy Gold

March 13

Jordan Franklin

March 14

Shane Gerstein
Sharon Brooks

March 15

Daniel Weinstock

March 17

Patricia Lefkow

March 19

Andrea Goldstein-Byne

March 20

Mary Ellen Ort
Jerrold Atlas

March 22

Philip Stern

March 23

Sharon Zimmerman

March 24

Scott Hornick

March 25

Jacob Weinstock-Gallagher
Joel Goldstein

March 27

Caroline Farber
Fred Eisinger
Fredrick Kleiman

March 28

Stephanie Goldman

March 30

Eric Sirota

March 31

Jenna Shankoff
Dana Cohen
Bradley Glacken

ANNIVERSARIES

March 2

Bruce and Susan Kamich

March 6

Jerrold & Linda Atlas

March 10

Dena & Greg Scibilia

March 20

**Ronald & Mary Ellen Ort
Bruce Moskovitz & John Fellin**

March 31

Seth & Dana Cohen

YAHREZEITS

March 1

Martin Gilbert

March 2

Seymour Gitlin
Rose Marshall
Pablo Fraenkel

March 3

Sara Resnick
Abraham Pavlovsky
Sarah Pesachowitz
Etta Moskovitz
Irma Marcelle Sabin

March 4

Stacey Zisook Robinson
Raymond Cook
Evelyn Simon
Lois Wasoski

March 7

Corinne Nifoussi
Elizabeth Rosenberg
Dora Faro
Gish Small

March 8

David Greenberg
Stanley Leezenbaum

March 9

Anna Goldstein
Sarah Arden
Paul Herman
Isadore Roskoff
Rose Slavin
Janet Engle
Herman Weinstein

March 10

Ida Goldstein Costell
Alan Stolpen
Thomas Sudin
Harry Levine
Judith Pavelich

March 14

David Platkin

March 15

Norma Charen

March 16

Arthur P Klavans
Sam Klepner

March 18

Harvey Jay Spinowitz

March 22

Samuel Levine

March 23

Rochelle Komaiko
Frances Krampel
Marie Merskey

March 25

Louis Roth

March 26

Joseph S Fox
Laurence Shatkin

March 28

Sara Reta Schutz

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Nadine Milecofsky
For the Yahrzeit of Herbert Milecofsky

Eliot Friedman and Mindy Engle-Friedman
For the Yahrzeit of Helen and Milton Friedman, parents of Eliot

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

Mitchell & Barbara Clarin
For the Yahrzeit of Donna Young, Barbara's mother

Marce Zuchovicki

Allen and Salena Kern
In memory of their mothers, Lillian Erich Rapp and Estelle Kern

Phil and Evelyn Stern
For the yahrzeit of Edythe Stern, Phil's mother

Michael and Carol Wolf
In celebration of Adam's Bar Mitzvah anniversary

General Donations

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In honor of Fredrick Kleiman's volunteer hours
In honor of Asya Klats

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In honor of Eric Sirota's matching grant

CONTRIBUTIONS

Rabbi Discretionary

Terri Zucker

In honor of and thank you to Anneliese Nifoussi, for cooking for the mitzvah project, FJCC Cares

In honor of and thank you to Carolyn Goldman, for cooking for the mitzvah project, FJCC Cares

Jerry and Linda Atlas


In memory of Helen Kanter Fields, sister of Linda Atlas

For the yahrzeit of Yetta Atlas, mother of Jerry Atlas

Erica Mandell

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