

# FLEMINGTON FORWARD

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



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Newsletter - דוד ריגו

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## This Months Contributors:

Rabbi Cohen  
Sharon Rednor  
Deborah Kesselhaut  
Karen Walsh  
Rachel Rodriguez  
Pam Nemeth  
Kim Friedman Muller

# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

In Parshat Re'eh, in the Book of Deuteronomy we read: "See, today I set before you a blessing and a curse..."

Our sages teach that, at least in one way, humans are superior to angels. And, that is, in their freedom of choice. Unlike angels, who bask constantly in the glow of the Almighty, we can choose how to act in the world. Of course we pay a price for that. In our world, as opposed to the angelic one, lots of people make bad choices, lots of the time. The existence of evil, in Jewish thought, is not ascribed to a being with horns, hooved feet and a pitchfork. Evil in our world is directly related... to our ability to choose. "See, today I set before you a blessing and a curse..." It's your choice, God says.



Now, it's not entirely our fault that evil exists. We are not angelic beings. We do not spend our lives in direct contact with God's glory. Humans make mistakes.



Why did God make us this way? Why not live with God's presence clearly visible and directly accessible? Well..., this is the \$60,000 question - back in the day when \$60,000 was really worth \$60,000. [Pause] I have no great answer for this. The best I can figure, God wanted us to be human, with all our flaws. Adam and Eve were the humans who came closest to direct experience of God in the Garden of Eden. But, let's face it, even they did not last very long.

Whatever answer we try to give to this age-old question, we must accept, I think, that this is how God wanted humanity to be. God wants a relationship, it would seem, with an imperfect creature, bound by space and time and physical needs, in ways which God is not. Why? Who knows the mind of God? Perhaps what God seeks is just that...relationship. God wants something / someone else to relate to. Angels, which are little more than extensions of God, just won't do.

So, where does that leave us? "See, today I set before you a blessing and a curse..." We are left with the choice. In each and every day, we make choices. Each choice we make brings us closer to, or farther from, the human we should be. Hopefully, we will not make the

# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

choices which Nazis make, or murderers make. Hopefully, in our lifetimes, we will not choose to commit heinous acts. And yet, we make mistakes, and, as the poet tells us... to err is human.



How do we recover? How do we crawl out from under our sins that pile over us. One way is to recognize that we're all in the same boat. We all make mistakes. Yes, to err is human, but... you all know what comes next... to forgive is divine. I think forgiveness is divine... because... it can be really, really hard. I know I find it hard. Most of us are very attached to our self, to this notion that we are independent, autonomous beings who need protection, who do not want to be hurt.

We are not wrong in this, but... this is only small part of who we are. We are also part of a web of interconnected relationships that has its roots in the God from which we all emerge. If we think of human beings that way, then forgiving the person who hurt us is like... well... our tongue forgiving our tooth for biting it. Of course, it's not that easy or simple. This is just my... poor attempt at navigating humanity.



We are approaching Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The time of year we take account of who we have been, and... who we could be. Can I make better choices in the new year? One thing I can do is look for better ways to deal with my anger or resentment. If you have suggestions, please, feel free to share.

Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Eric S. Cohen, PhD



# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

In many circles, August is a slow time of year ... but not at the FJCC.

This past month has been incredibly busy and eventful! Throughout July and into August, the Executive Board (**Jonathan Nemeth, Kim Muller, Rachel Rodriguez, Nadine Milecofsky, Jonathan Weitz and Bruce Moskovitz**) and the Board of Trustees drafted, revised and eventually came to an agreement with **Rabbi Cohen** on a new employment contract. So, I am happy to report that **Rabbi Cohen** will be leading us at the FJCC for another four years.

Volunteers and staff spent much of August cleaning and organizing, and it feels great!

Many of the closets in the building got an overhaul. Thank you to **Rabbi Cohen** who led the charge with the genizah burial of old texts. **Karen Walsh, Kimi Mittler** and **Kylei Mittler** put the Hebrew School classrooms in order. **Josy Kestenbaum** and **Nathan Lefkow** led us in clearing and reorganizing several areas throughout the building. And **Jeff and Amy Marshall** worked long hours to sort and donate Family Promise items from the book room. I am grateful to each and every one of them!

In mid-August, the FJCC members had the pleasure of meeting our new High Holiday Cantor, **Akiva Nelson**. He led services for a weekend and taught the congregation some new tunes. Those who attended services were quite pleased with his melodious voice, his energy and his easy-going personality. Plan on attending services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to once again hear and talk with **Cantor Nelson**!

The Center Series and Sisterhood worked tirelessly over the past few months to organize a terrific lineup of events for the coming year. During August, final touches were put on program plans and then the graphics were printed. Take a look at all the beautiful posters on the wall in the lobby.

*Often, in my column, I reference a good book I am reading. This month is no exception. At the top of the list is "The Postcard" and you will hear more about it during my Yom Kippur address to the congregation. So far this August, I read The Mountains Sing, Netanyahus and Katika. All worthwhile novels. In the coming week, I hope to tackle the following seven books: Horse, West with Giraffes, Hello Beautiful, We are Not Like Them, Between the Mountain and the Sky, Summer Sisters, My Dear Hamilton, and maybe Merle's Door: Lessons from a Freethinking Dog*





# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

A huge thank you to **Nadine Milecofsky, Karen Walsh, Cara London, and Rachel Rodriguez** for leading this effort. The members of the Sisterhood and Center Series Committee responded to feedback and we hope you are pleased with the upcoming offerings. If you want to get involved in the programming, they welcome additional volunteers!

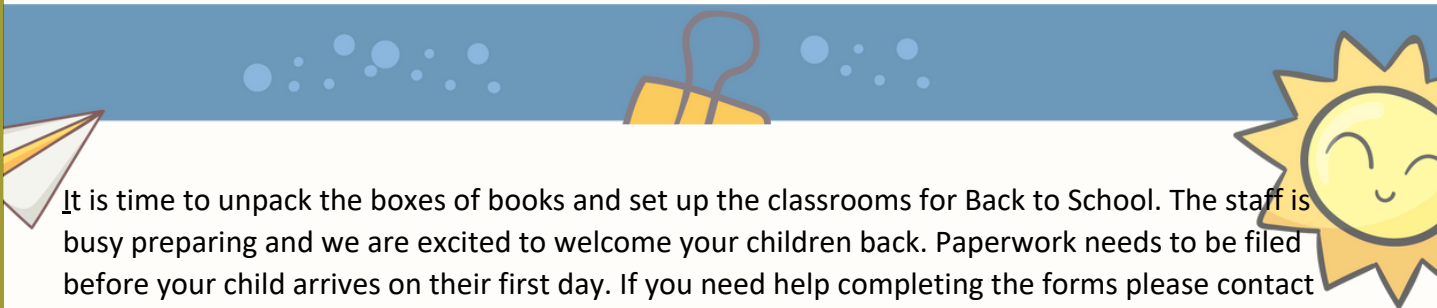
Be assured that the Security Committee takes their charge quite seriously. I am grateful for their work in developing a holistic approach to keeping our staff and members safe from harm. Thank you **John Fellin, Zel Gerstein, Nathan Lefkow, Bruce Moskowitz, Marvin Jacobson and Nadine Milecofsky**. Many of the enhancements are not so obvious and will not be discussed publicly. Other items are quite apparent. For example, you will notice that we engaged security personnel to assist the greeters during services and other times throughout the year. These enhancements do not take the place of having each of us take a measure of responsibility and if you "See Something, Say Something."

Lastly, many hours of work went into preparing the many details for the High Holy Days. The members of the Ritual Committee: **Anneliese Nifoussi, Shellie Jacobson, Scott Gursky, Bruce Moskowitz, Rabbi Cohen** as well as **Jonathan Weitz, Richard Goldstein, Lina Avellone, Sisterhood and Deborah Kesselhaut** – you all have my gratitude for a job well done.

Shana Tova from me and my entire family!



# HEBREW SCHOOL

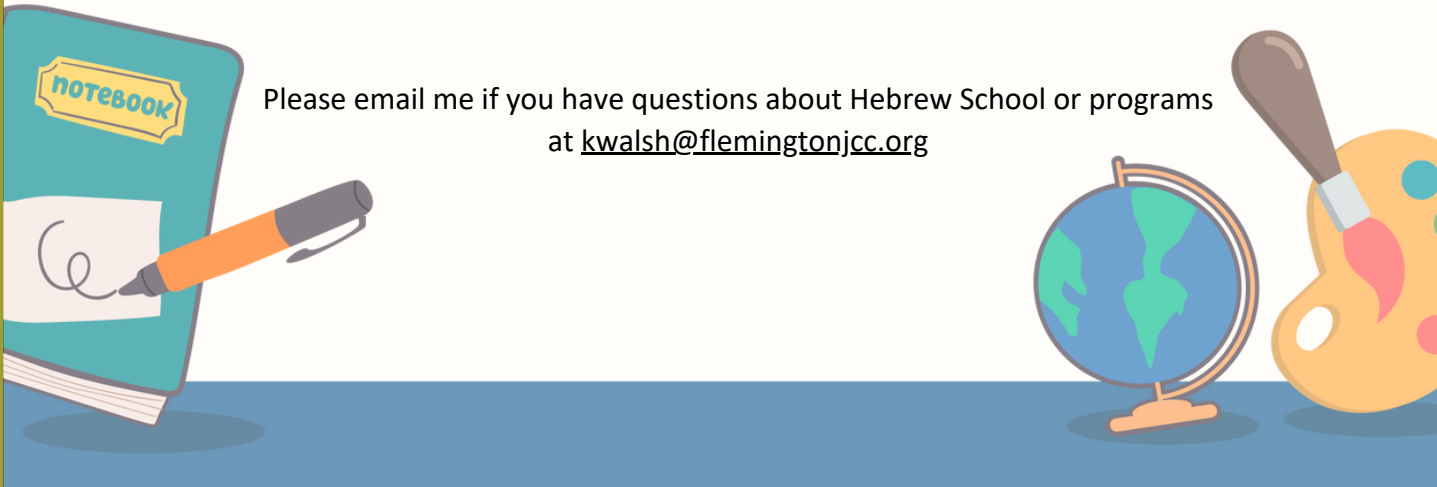


It is time to unpack the boxes of books and set up the classrooms for Back to School. The staff is busy preparing and we are excited to welcome your children back. Paperwork needs to be filed before your child arrives on their first day. If you need help completing the forms please contact Kimi Mittler, [kmittler@flemingtonjcc.org](mailto:kmittler@flemingtonjcc.org)

September and October are busy with the Tishrei Holidays, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. There is no school on several Sundays. School closures will be included in the Hebrew School Weekly Announcement.

- September 10th – First Sunday Session (Alef-Vav 9:00-11:30)
- September 10th – Gan Goes to Hebrew School (10:00-11:00)
- September 14th – First Wednesday Session (Gimel-7th Grade)
- September 16th – High Holiday Jr. Congregation (10:30-12:00)
- September 17th – High Holiday Jr. Congregation (10:30-11:30)
- September 25th – High Holiday Jr. Congregation (11:00-12:30)
- October 4th – Pizza in The Hut, Kids eat Free (6:00)
- October 8th – Simchat Torah Family Program during Hebrew School (9:30-11:30)
- October 12th – First Hebrew High (6:00-7:00)

The FJCC Security Committee has secured a security grant which allowed us to upgrade building security and hire a trained onsite security person while the upgrades are in progress. The security person will be present during some activities, religious services, classroom instruction, and social events. This is not in response to any threats or concerns, but one part of our ongoing efforts to improve safety for our congregation. We ask you to assist the effort by participating in "See Something, Say Something."



Please email me if you have questions about Hebrew School or programs at [kwash@flemingtonjcc.org](mailto:kwash@flemingtonjcc.org)

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AUGUST 2023 | 14 AV - 14 ELUL 5783

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# HEBREW SCHOOL

## High Holiday Jr. Congregation

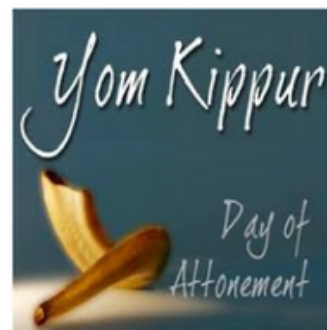
First through Seventh Grade



Saturday, September 16th  
10:30 - 12:00



\*\*Sunday, September 17th  
10:30 - 11:30



Monday, September 25  
11:00 - 12:30

\*\* Traditionally, there is no Jr. Congregation on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. The first day of Rosh Hashanah is on a Saturday. We do not blow the shofar on Shabbat. In order for the children to fulfil the mitzvah of hearing the shofar there will be a short Jr. Congregation on the second day this year.



Sunday, October 8th 9:30 - 11:30

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*Simchat Torah  
Family Service*

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Sing, Dance, Snack  
Participate in a Family Aliyah



# MONTHLY CALENDAR



Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar, Holidays in United States, Jewish Holidays

Sep 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Sunday Morning 3pm - BBQ with DJ	28 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 5:30pm - Center Series	29	30 11am - Rabbi	31 9am - Nursery in Social 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	1 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	2 9:15am - Shabbat service
3 9am - Sunday Morning	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 7pm - Center Series 7:30pm - Genealogy	6 11am - Rabbi	7 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	8 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	9 9:15am - Shabbat service
10 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Sisterhood 10:30am - Build Sukkah 10:30am - EB Meeting	11 10:30am - Bridge	12 6pm - Dinner is Served	13 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	14 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	15 First Day of Hispanic Rosh Hashana Eve 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	16 Rosh Hashana 9:15am - Shabbat service 10:30am - HH JR CONG
17 Rosh Hashana (Day 2) 10:30am - HH JR CONG	18 Gedaliah Fast 10:30am - Bridge	19 7pm - Movie Club	20 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	21 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	22 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	23 9:15am - Shabbat service
24 Yom Kippur Eve 9am - Sunday Morning	25 Office Closed Yom Kippur 11am - HH JR CONG	26	27 4:30pm - Hebrew School 4:45pm - 7th Grade	28 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	29 Sukkot Eve 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	30 Sukkot (Day 1) 9:15am - Shabbat service

## SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES 2023-5784

### Selichot Saturday, September 9th

Study Session..... 7:00 PM

Services ..... 8:00 PM

### Build our Sukkah

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> day of Hebrew School)

Services ..... 9:00 AM

Breakfast ..... 9:45 AM

Sukkah Building ..... 10:30 AM

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 15

Services ..... 6:30 PM

Candle-lighting..... 6:50 PM

### Rosh Hashanah - Day 1

Saturday, September 16th

Services ..... 8:30 AM

Junior Congregation ..... 10:30 AM

Evening Service..... 7:30 PM

Babysitting..... 11:00 AM

Candle-lighting fr/existing flame .... 7:48 PM

### Rosh Hashanah - Day 2

Sunday, September 17th

Services ..... 8:30 AM

Babysitting ..... 11:00 AM

Havdalah ..... 7:46 PM

Tashlich ..... 6:45 PM

### Fast of Gedaliah

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

### Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 22nd

Services ..... 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 23rd

Services ..... 9:15 AM

### Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Services ..... 6:15 PM

Candle-lighting..... 6:35 PM

### Yom Kippur Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

Services ..... 8:15 AM

Junior Congregation and Yizkor..... 11:00 AM

Baby-sitting ..... 11:00 AM

Minchah ..... 4:45 PM

Neilah..... 6:00 PM

**Fast Ends..... 7:32 PM**

### Sukkot 1 and 2

Friday, September 29th

Services ..... 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 30th

Services ..... 9:15 AM & 7:30 PM

Sunday, October 1st

Services ..... 9:15 AM

### Hoshanah Rabbah

Friday, October 6th

Services ..... 9:15 AM

### Shemini Atzeret

Friday, October 6th

Services ..... 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 7th

Services ..... 9:15 AM

Yizkor ..... 10:30 AM

### Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Services..... 7:15 PM

Sunday, October 8th

Services\* ..... 9:15 AM

\*Simchat Torah celebration, family services

# THIS AND THAT

**Thank You**

**Amy Cook  
for Presenting**



**Composting 101**



**Check out the  
redesigned Sisterhood  
Gift Shop!**

Email  
[Sisterhood@FlemingtonJCC.org](mailto:Sisterhood@FlemingtonJCC.org) or  
text Cheryl at (908) 391-9069 to  
schedule an appointment.



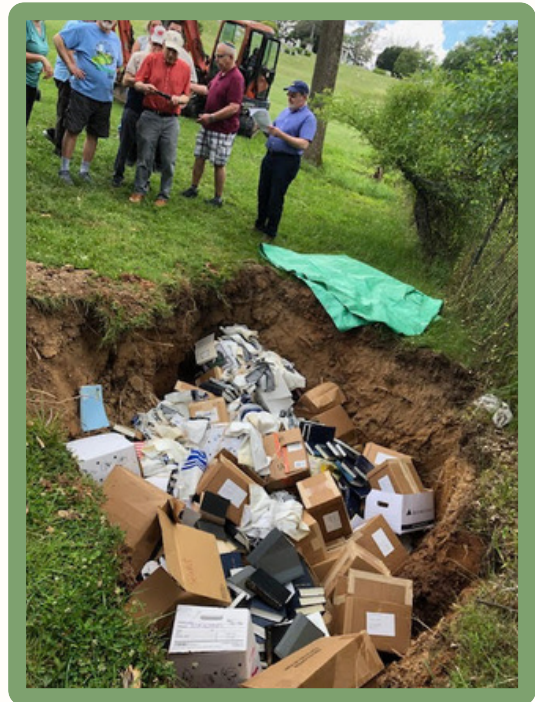
**Local Merchants!**





# GENIZAH

A genizah (גניזה) is a storage area in a Jewish synagogue or cemetery designated for the temporary storage of worn-out Hebrew-language books and papers on religious topics prior to proper cemetery burial. Our congregants participated in the burial of several texts as part of our organizational efforts throughout the building.



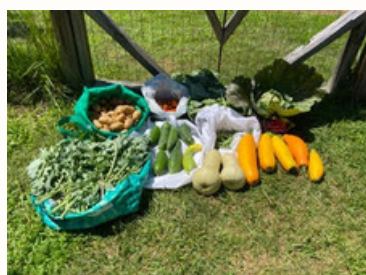
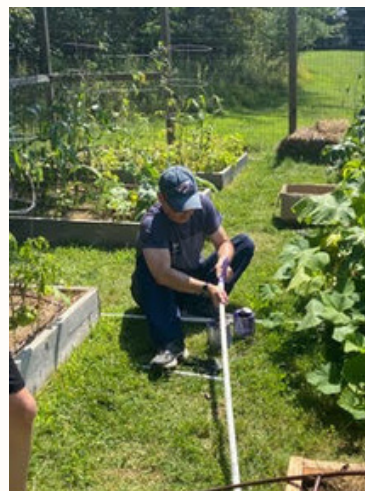


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# GIVING GARDEN





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# END OF SUMMER BBQ



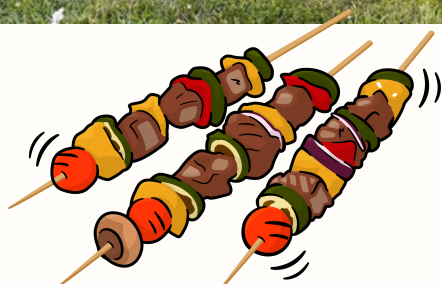


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# END OF SUMMER BBQ





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# DINNER CLUB



# SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is gearing up for an exciting year of programming! We kicked the new year off by getting ready for the High Holidays with our annual polishing party. Next we'll have a general meeting and discuss some of the exciting events planned for this year. We're bringing back some popular favorites and tweaking some newer programming. We can't wait to see you at our events and of course at services!



Thank you to Andrea Golstein-Byne, Pam Nemeth, Rachel Rodriguez, Sharon Rednor and Laurie Rapkin for donating your time to polish!



# Sisterhood

Schedule at a glance

**2023**

**Sunday, Aug. 20th:**  
**Silver Polishing 10am**

**Sunday, Sept. 10th:**  
**Gen. Meeting 10:00am**

**Friday, Oct. 13th:**  
**Sisterhood Shabbat**

**Sunday, Dec. 3rd:**  
**Make & Take Latkes,**  
**11am**

**Monday, Dec. 25th:**  
**Chinese Dinner & Karaoke**  
**5:30pm**

**2024**

**Sunday, Jan. 28th:**  
**Gen. Meeting 10:00am**

**Saturday, Feb. 3rd:**  
**Progressive Dinner**

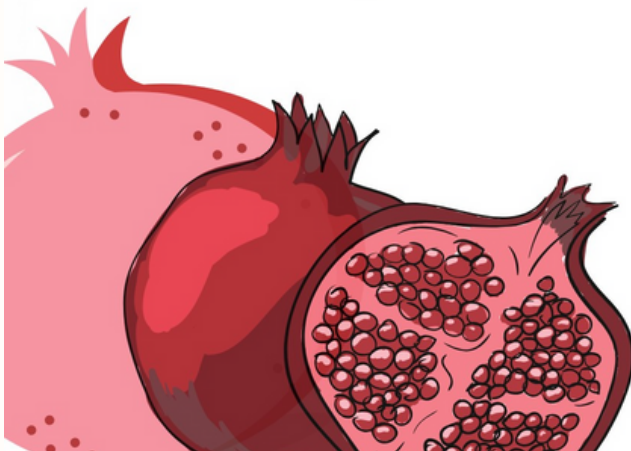
**Sunday, Feb. 11th:**  
**Gen. Meeting 10:00am**

**Sunday, March 10th:**  
**Stuffing Mishloach**  
**Manot Bags**

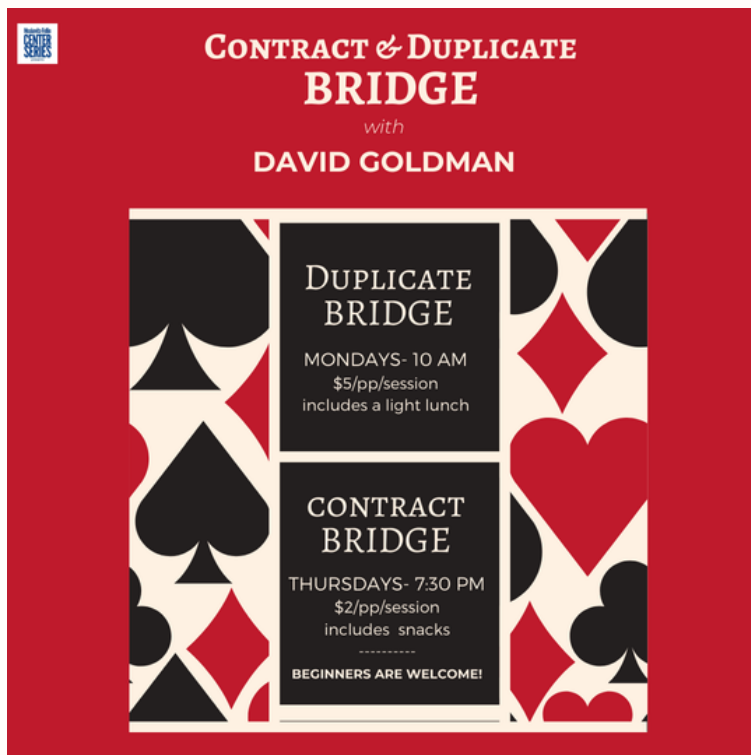
**Sunday, March 24th:**  
**Purim Carnival 11:00am**

**Saturday, April 13th:**  
**Sisterhood Shabbat**

**Sunday, May 19th:**  
**Woman of the Year**  
**12-2pm**  
**Social Hall**



# WEEKLY EVENTS

A red rectangular poster for bridge events. At the top left is a small logo for the "Midstate Valley CENTER SERIES". The main title "CONTRACT & DUPLICATE BRIDGE" is in white serif font, followed by "with DAVID GOLDMAN" in a smaller white serif font. Below this is a central graphic with a black background and white text, framed by a border of large, stylized playing card symbols (spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs). The graphic is divided into two sections: the top section for "DUPLICATE BRIDGE" and the bottom section for "CONTRACT BRIDGE".

**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!

A poster for Mah Jongg. It has a white header with a logo for the "Midstate Valley CENTER SERIES" on the left and the title "Mah Jongg" in a large, black, cursive font. Below the header is a red band with the text "Thursdays, 1-3:30" and "\$5 cash at door" in white. Underneath is a white band with the text "New & Experienced Players Welcome!" in black. Below that is another red band with the text "Members can bring friends" and "Light snacks served" in white. At the bottom is a photograph of various Mah Jongg tiles, including white tiles with black and red markings and green tiles. A red footer band at the very bottom contains the contact information in white.

**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](mailto:kwash@flemingtonjcc.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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



**DINNER IS SERVED**  
TAVOLA RUSTICA, LAMBERTVILLE  
Tuesday, September 12th 6:00 PM



RSVP IS REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 7  
TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS,  
CONTACT: KIMFMULLER@YAHOO.COM  
\*ADULTS ONLY



**Grow-A-Row Dates**

Our members "stick together" as we take one side of a row of vegetables, pick, chat, and feel good, knowing these vegetables go to people in need. Sign-up links will be posted prior to each date.

Please join the FJCC Grow-A-Row volunteers from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. You don't have to stay for the entire time.

- Tuesday, Sept. 19
- Monday, October 2
- Wednesday, Oct 11



Contact Monajudith@aol.com  
if you are considering volunteering

## Pizza in the HUT!



OCT 4  
6 PM

Early Bird Price: \$15 pp  
After 9/27: \$18 pp  
Kids eat free!

# BIRTHDAYS

## September 1

Ray Slavin  
Arielle Mizrahi  
Bruce Davidson

## September 2

Amira Kleiman  
Stephanie McInerney

## September 4

Matthew Rednor

## September 5

Aaron Sperling

## September 6

Liam Franklin  
Lilah Mason

## September 7

Jeffrey Doshna  
Zachary Nemeth  
Hoyt Holley

## September 9

Emily Quinn

## September 11

Zev Forman

## September 12

Jamie Alexander  
Abby Walsh  
Jake Nifoussi

## September 15

Lucy Lipson  
Jordan Alexander

## September 16

Frank Rumore

## September 17

William Fernekes  
Deborah Kesselhaut  
Howard Nifoussi

## September 18

Edward Winnick

## September 20

Alissa Fox

## September 21

Linda Atlas

## September 24

Sam Kohn

## September 26

David Goldman

## September 27

Joshua Sperling  
Zachary Sperling

## September 30

Rosemary Mehrlust



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# ANNIVERSARIES

September 2  
Salena and Allen Kern

September 6  
Julius Kawarsky and Alexander Soto

September 9  
Bruce and Josy Kestenbaum

September 14  
Deborah and Drew Farber

September 21  
Joel and Sharon Goldstein

September 24  
Edward and Sharon Winnick

# YAHREZEITS

September 2  
Lillian Gerstein

September 3  
Jack Franklin  
Kurt Hylton

September 4  
Abraham Greenberg

September 6  
Norman Thomas

September 7  
Bruce Nifoussi

September 9  
Henrietta Farber

September 11  
David Bruce Wasserman

September 12  
Jerry Cohen  
Julius Kaminowitz

September 14  
Sarah Neibart

September 15  
Ruth Elstein

September 17  
Barbara Berg  
Samuel Stein  
Arnold Stein

September 19  
Daniel Alexander

September 22  
Abraham Goldstein  
Henry Schindler  
Sarah Wetstein

September 23  
Leona Braff  
Sandra Beluch

September 25  
Richard Kaplan

September 26  
Thomas Doshna

September 27  
Marion Brooks  
Celia Rosenberg

September 28  
Joseph Ritwe

September 30  
Helene Hubert

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# CONTRIBUTIONS

## Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Scott Schindler

For the Yahrzeit of Joyce Schindler and Florance Noshay

Nathan Treinish

For the Yahrzeit of H. Ronald Treinish

Bruce and Susan Kamich

In Honor of Hailey Wang Goldman, grandddaughter of Carolyn and David Goldman

Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin

In Memory of Mildred Forman, mother of Jack and mother-in-law of Nomi Forman

Edward and Sharon Winnick

Harry and Laurie Rapkin

For the Kiddush Fund

Austin and Sharon Rednor

For the Oneg and Kiddush of Akiva Nelson

## Family Promise

Gerald Grossman and Connie Mitchko

In Memory of Lester and Anna Grossman

Harry and Laurie Rapkin

Frederick and Suzanne Rothstein

## Center Series

Cara London and Eric Sirota

For the Yahrzeit of Theodore London



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# CONTRIBUTIONS

## Building Fund

Marlene Dvoor  
For the Yahrzeit of her father Herbert Dvoor

Zelic and Marsha Gerstein  
In Memory of Mildred Forman, mother of Jack Forman  
Mazel Tov to Melissa and Fred Kleiman on the engagement of their daughter Leah  
Mazel Tov to Carol and David Goldman on the birth of their granddaughter Hailey Wang Goldman  
Mazel Tov to Pam and Jonathan Nemeth on the engagement of their son Zachary  
Mazel Tov to Robin and Jeff Alexander on the birth of their grandson Alexander Dylan Elliot

## General Donations

David Cohn

Elizabeth Lowe  
In Honor of Hailey Wang Goldman, granddaughter of Carolyn & David Goldman

Reba and Hoyt Holley  
In Honor of the Progressive Jews of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties

Edward and Rosemary Mehrlust  
Gratitude

Mitchell and Barbara Clarin  
In Memory of Mildred Forman, beloved mother of Jack Forman

Frederick and Suzanne Rothstein  
For the Yahrzeit of Abraham Rothstein, father of Rick Rothstein

Bruce and Susan Kamich  
In Memory of Mildred Forman, beloved mother of Jack Forman



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# CONTRIBUTIONS

## Ukrainian Refugee Fund

FJCC Sisterhood, Amy and Seth Rubenstein, Beverly Landstrom, Mitchell and Barbara Clarin, Gerald Grossman and Connie Mitchko, Howard and Anneliese Nifoussi, Bruce and Josy Kestenbaum, Amy Cook and Scott Hornick, Diane and Stuart Naar, Frederick and Suzanne Rothstein

## Rabbi Discretionary

Barry and Kimi Mittler  
Thankful for Good News

Nathan Treinish  
For the Yahrzeit of Rabbi Evan Jaffe

**Thank you to all those who have donated in support of our efforts to bring a Ukrainian family to Hunterdon County. We're expecting the family to arrive in November and are in continued need of funds to sustain this effort. Thanks again for all your financial support. It's very much appreciated!!**

**The Hunterdon County Welcome Circle - At Home in Hunterdon**

# ADVERTS

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