# FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

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# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

Just after observing Tisha B'Av, the saddest day on the Jewish calendar, we celebrate Tu B'Av (Hebrew: ט"ו באב, lit. 'fifteenth of Av'). Today, in modern-day Israel, it is celebrated as a holiday of love, similar to Valentine's Day. Traditionally, it's an auspicious day for weddings.

Tu stands for tet-vav, the letters whose numerical value is fifteen. The fifteenth of the month corresponds to the full moon, which is probably why



many of our holidays begin on the 15th of the Hebrew month.

According to the <u>Mishna</u>, Tu B'Av was a joyous holiday in the days of the <u>Temple in Jerusalem</u>, marking the beginning of the grape harvest. (<u>Yom Kippur</u> marked the end of the grape harvest.)

On both dates, the single women of Jerusalem, rich and poor, without exception, dressed in white, and went out to dance in the vineyards, in view of the single men. This was their chance to find a husband! Women who thought of themselves as beauties would sing: "Young men, turn your eyes to beauty..." The daughters of prominent families would sing: "Young men, turn your eyes to noble parentage..." Those possessing neither beauty nor noble birth sang: "Grace is beautiful and beauty is vain; but a woman that fears God, she shall be praised."

This holiday comes soon after Tisha B'Av. Perhaps it is to teach us an important lesson. The Jewish people have known many calamities and destructions. Our strength lies in our ability to rebound, and find love in the midst of a broken world. These days are hot and long. Tempers can run short. Now's the time to treat your partner, significant-other or spouse to a treat. As we begin the journey of reflection through High Holidays, let's start with repairing whatever may be amiss in our closest relationships.

# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

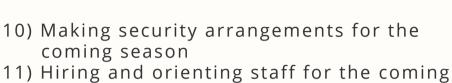
We are entering the lazy, hazy days of August ... but not at the FJCC! There are so many volunteers who continue to provide their assistance with the multitude of tasks at the shul. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their dedication to the FJCC!

#### In August, we are:

- Leading regular services, visiting the sick, making check-in phone calls to congregants, tutoring Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, producing this monthly newsletter, etc.
- 2) Reviewing the pledges and payments to make sure everyone who is a member-in-goodstanding gets a seat and an aliyah at the holidays
- 3) Developing the schedule of services and assigning aliyot for the High Holidays
- 4) Tutoring Torah readers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- 5) Writing speeches
- 6) Managing the many phases of the the High Holiday mailing learning how to send the material electronically, keeping track of responses and payments, preparing the list of names in the Yom Kippur Yizkor books, ordering a lulav and etrog for anyone who placed an order, etc.
- 7) Cleaning, painting, repairing, waxing in the building so it is organized and clean for the coming year
- 8) Installing a new bathroom for the Nursery school students
- 9) Polishing the silver on the Torahs before the High Holidays



# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT



year

12) Conducting a donation campaign for the Ukranian family coming to Flemington and another campaign to assist with Family Promise housing needs

13) Planning an engaging list of activities for the Sisterhood, Center Series and Youth Group, including the upcoming BBQ in late

August

14) Designing event marketing in print and online in ShulCloud and social media

15) Writing curricula for the Hebrew School students

16) Preparing delicious meals for after services on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

17) Picking bushels of vegetables to be delivered to the grateful recipients at the Flemington Food Pantry

Whew! That's a long list. Certainly, there are things that I left off and I apologize for any oversight.

There are so many ways for each and every member to get involved! We welcome your participation with the FJCC. Choose a way to participate that interests you. Contact Deborah in the office, Rabbi Cohen or me and we will gladly find a way for you to give, learn, grow, and contribute to our community.

Sharon Rednor



# **HEBREW SCHOOL**

2023-2024

# **GAN GOES TO HEBREW SCHOOL**

### AT THE FLEMINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



This program is for families who have Pre-K and Kindergarten aged children. Gan goes to Hebrew School will meet several times during the school year. Mrs. Clarin will be teaching again this year. Contact Karen Walsh for questions and to reserve your spot at <a href="mailto:kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org">kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org</a>.

Things you need to know:

- 1. This is not a drop off program. Parents and younger siblings will meet in the social hall 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.Classes run from 10:00 am 11:00 am on the following Sundays:
  - a. September 10 Rosh HaShanah
  - b. October 8 Details to Follow
  - c. November 5 All about Shabbat
  - d. December 3 Chanukah Time
  - e. January 21 The Birthday of the Trees
  - f. February 4 Havdalah
  - g. March 24- Details to Follow
  - h. April 14 Passover
  - i. May 19 -- Shabbat Time



Back to School Forms are due August 14th. Send the completed forms to Kimi Mittler, kmittler@flemingtonjcc.org.



Bnai Mitzvah forms for all 6th and 7th grade students are to be returned by September 1. Send the forms to Kimi Mittler, kmittler@flemingtonjcc.org

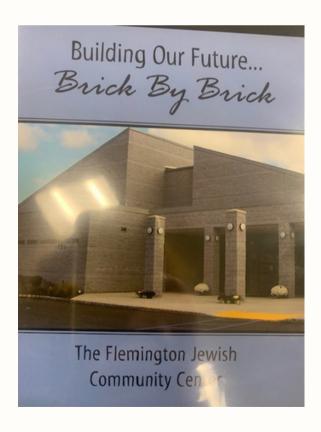
- 4. Classes include a story, a craft and Jewish play time.
- 5. The children will be dismissed to their parents at 11:00 am. Families are invited to join the big kids for Rabbi time in the sanctuary to learn songs and prayers at 11:00 am
- 6. The cost of the program is \$50 for the year.

### THIS AND THAT



We are looking for a volunteer to scan and organize photos collected for the FJCC 100th celebration and to digitize paper photos found in the building. If interested, please contact Sharon Rednor at therednors@gmail.com.

Additionally, the FJCC had a DVD made about the 2006 move into our current building. We have multiple copies that are available for free. Anyone interested in a copy should call Deborah in the office at 908-782-6410.



### **INTRODUCING....**



The **Rutbeck-Goldman** family joins the FICC two years after relocating from Schenectady, New York, to their current "work in progress" farmhouse in Lambertville. Before living in Schenectady, Ariela and Harris spent a short period of time in Hoboken and the better part of the 2010's in southern California. Harris is a physicist at Stanford Research International (SRI), based in Princeton, and Ariela is an attorney with Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, based in Somerville. Their daughter Lev is four-years-old but going on 24, and their son Noam is ten-months-old, currently mastering the art of getting himself into all sorts of trouble. Our family enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities, especially hiking, camping, and swimming. We are excited to be a part of the welcoming FJCC community!



Additionally, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

#### Terri and Bernie Zucker

We look forward to getting to know you. Welcome to the FJCC Community!

### **GIVING GARDEN**









### **FOOD PANTRY**



June 22, 2023

Thorks somuch! Flemington Jewish Community Center

Sharon Rednor

5 Seargentsville Road Flemington, NJ 08822

Dear Sharon.

On behalf of the Flemington Area Food Pantry's 420 volunteers and over 5,000 clients. we would like to take a moment to thank you and Flemington Jewish Community Center for your donation of 254 pounds of groceries on 05/24/2023. If you are looking to value your donation, we use the Feeding America estimate that the average wholesale value of a pound of groceries is worth \$1.74.

The past three years have been filled with challenge after challenge, but we have been able to meet the ever-expanding needs of our client families thanks to the support of donors like you. We continue to experience record high numbers of visits while struggling to maintain our inventory due to rising prices and supply chain issues. In spite of these challenges, we have been able to provide our client families with not only pantry staples, but with fresh eggs, yogurt, meat, and cheese; none of which would be possible without your generosity.

Again, we thank you sincerely and express great gratitude for your donation to our organization. We look forward to your continued support. Take care and be well.

Kind Regards,

Jeannine Gørman Executive Director Office Manager

Your donation may be tax-deductible and no goods or services were provided in return for the donation. For your records, our tax ID is 22-3061060.

### WELCOME CIRCLE

Melissa Kleiman and Leslie Reid-Green are FJCC's representatives of the At Home in Hunterdon Welcome Circle. Welcome Circles are a program of the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) whereby groups can sponsor refugees for resettlement in the US. Our Welcome Circle has been matched with a family from Ukraine-a couple and their 7-year-old son. They are still in Ukraine and their neighbor's house has been bombed so the war has become very real to this family. Our core group, including representatives from 3 Hunterdon County churches and the FJCC are coordinating this move which will happen in late summer or early fall.

As sponsors, At Home in Hunterdon has committed to supporting this Ukrainian family for 6 months. We are raising money for this purpose from the Hunterdon County congregations. If you would like to donate to support this effort, you can do so by any of the following:

- Donating through your Shul Cloud account and select "Ukrainian Refugee Fund"
- Sending a check to the FJCC office. Check should be made out to the FJCC indicating in notes section that it is for Ukrainian family
- Call Deb at the FJCC office and make a donation by credit card.

We are looking for a 2-bedroom apartment in Flemington and we'll be recruiting volunteers to help with many aspects of resettling the family. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact:

Melissa Kleiman at mkleiman35@gmail.com or phone at (908)507-2647; or

Leslie Reid-Green at <a href="mailto:lreidgreen@comcast.net">lreidgreen@comcast.net</a>



# SISTERHOOD'S MICHELLE COHN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER!

"I am a Jew because...." Essay

Samantha Muller

I am a Jew because of my family. Not only because of the matrilineal descent of Judaism but because of the vibrant traditions passed down to me. From the warm glow of Hanukkah candles to the sumptuous smell of my mother's Passover brisket, my year is made whole by centuries-old traditions that my family has adopted to become our own. Most notably, we fill our Passover table with neighbors and friends, many of whom are not Jewish. This simple act of inclusion represents to me the greater purpose of Judaism and its relevance in modern-time, to support and learn from one another. I am not a Jew to alienate myself from those of other faiths but rather to explore the religion which ties me to my ancestors, and to share in my traditions and those of others with an open mind. I view Judaism as a means of connecting with others rather than creating barriers, a way to connect with past, present, and future generations.

Through working with the first and second-grade class in Hebrew School, I have been granted the opportunity to aid the education of the next generation at the FJCC. Their growth throughout the year amazes me, and I am incredibly proud that I have been able to help them along the way. Regardless of how my week outside of the classroom had been, I was immediately rewarded through my time with them. Though their immense aptitude for the Hebrew language was often hidden behind a stubborn veil of "I would rather color", I witnessed a growing sense of self-confidence within each of them. Witnessing this growth has awarded me a greater appreciation for the numerous learning opportunities which Judaism provides.

Though the study of Hebrew is possibly the most obvious education provided by Judaism, I believe that being a Jew includes so much more. Through discussions of Torah stories and the welcoming community that has been fostered here at the FJCC, I have seen the moral framework that Judaism provides. From welcoming new members, to fundraising and volunteering together, our synagogue embodies what it means to serve one's community while helping one another become the best version of themself. Judaism does not instill in one the fear of eternal damnation or the promise of a blissful afterlife as encouragement for one to be a good person, rather, Judaism expects that individuals will be responsible and kind members of their communities simply because it is the right thing to do.

Though the phrase "right thing to do" is highly subjective, Jews are granted the ability to decide for themselves how Judaism fits into their lives. Each sect of Judaism encourages a varied sense of conservativeness, and modern-day Jews are increasingly creating a unique definition of Judaism for themselves. For some, this may be living a strictly ultra-orthodox life. For others, this may be attending only high holiday services, or none at all, and holding in their heart the importance of respect and volunteerism. Though we are all vastly different, our shared identity as Jews ties us to one another and grants us the ability to appreciate the beautiful diversity of our world.



# **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**

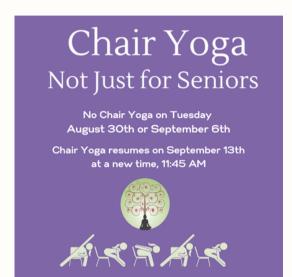
# Parashat HaShavuah

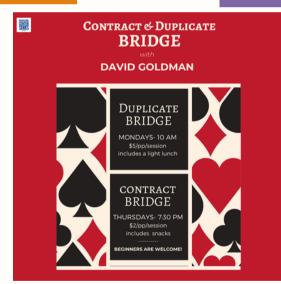
#### Rabbi Cohen

Mondays, 1:00 Beginning Sep 12

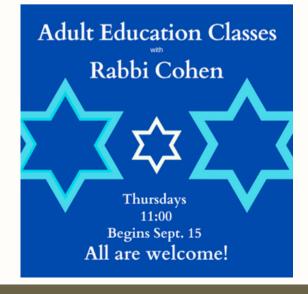


All are welcome!









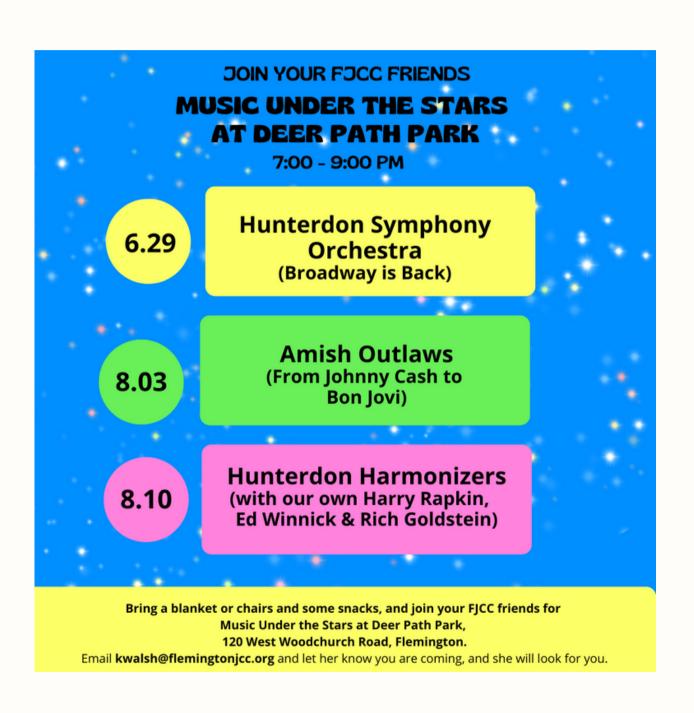
# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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



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



# **BIRTHDAYS** •

August 3 Jessica Ort

August 6
Matthew Shankoff

August 7
Susan Kamich
Melissa Kleiman

August 10
Douglas Krampel

<u>August 11</u> Barbara Thomas

August 14
Stacey Wetstein
Beth Krampel

August 16
Richard Goldstein
Neil Pollack

August 17 Evan Lipson

<u>August 19</u> Erika Ollwerther

August 20
Deborah Hylton
Drew Farber

August 21
Anneliese Nifoussi
Jody Weitz

August 22 Zachary Kesselhaut

August 24
Landon Jampel

August 25
Chase Martoccia
Alissa McInerney
Sheila Fernekes

August 26 Samantha Muller

August 27
Garry Rodriguez
Justin Nahama
Jacqueline Kestenbaum

<u>August 28</u> Gerald Grossman

<u>August 29</u> Julius Kawarski

<u>August 30</u> Jeremy Silberman

August 31
Hunter St. Pierre
Mindy Ezra
Alissa Shankoff

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

August 5 Jonathan and Jodi Weitz

August 11
Michael and Carol Wolf

August 12
David and Carolyn Goldman

August 19
Mitchell and Barbara Clarin

August 23
Frederick and Suzanne Rothstein

August 30
Jonathan and Pamela Nemeth
Alan and Adah Radzin

# **YAHRZEITS**

August 1 Lillian Shapiro

<u>August 5</u> Sarah Rubin

August 6
Renee Gold
Maurice Suess

August 7
Benjamin Rubin
Abraham Rothstein
Benjamin Wetstein

August 8
Sophie Sunny Neustadt
Eva Cohen

August 12
Saul Golowner

August 13 Elizabeth Chaikin

August 14 Rabbi Evan Jaffe

August 16 Edward Charen August 17
Gerald Cohen
Ruth Wolf

August 18 Leonard Goldenberg

August 19
Joanna Goldman
Lilie Gerber
Rita Rednor
Leonard Kaminsky

August 21
Esther Bragin

August 22
Theodore London
Frieda Frant

August 24
Joseph Hayfer

August 26 William Suess

<u>August 29</u> Evelyn Treinish

August 31
Rose Billowitz

# CONTRIBUTIONS

# Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Nadine Milecofsky

Mazel Tov to David and Carolyn Goldman for the birth of their granddaughter Hailey Wang Goldman
In Honor of Akiya Nelson

Bruce and Susan Kamich
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Richard Goldstein
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Florence Friedman and Loren Hurwitz
In Honor of grandchild
In Honor of the Torah Cantillation class leading services

Phil and Evelyn Stern
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Ilene Beckerman
In Memory of Stanley Weinstein

Joe and Kim Muller
In Memory of Kim's mother, Barbara A. Friedman
In Honor of Samantha's graduation from High School
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin
Wishing a Refuah Shlema to Ed Mehrlust
In Honor of David and Carolyn Goldman on the birth of their
granddaughter Hailey Wang Goldman

Jonathan and Jody Weitz In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Garry and Rachel Rodriguez
In Honor of Akiva Nelson
In Honor of the Torah cantillation class leading services

# CONTRIBUTIONS

# Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Michael and Carol Wolf
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Harry and Laurie Rapkin
In Honor of the Torah cantillation class leading services

David and Carolyn Goldman

Jeffrey Doshna
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Bruce Davidson
In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Jonathan and Pam Nemeth In Honor of Akiva Nelson

Amy Cook and Scott Hornick
In Honor of the Torah cantillation class

Mark and Laurie Weinstein
For the Yarzeit of Judy Weinstein

# **Building Fund**

Zelic and Marsha Gerstein

In Memory of Stanley Weinstein, beloved husband of Ilene Beckerman

In Memory of Sara Kippelman, beloved wife of Stuart Kippelman

In Honor of Hannah Rosenberg's graduation from University of Pittsburgh and acceptance into the Weil Cornell PhD program for Pharmacology In Honor of Cantor Flo and the FJCC Torah Cantillation class for job well

done

In Honor of Nathan Treinish on the birth of his granddaughter In Honor of David and Carolyn Goldman on the birth of their granddaughter Hailey Wang Goldman

For a speedy recovery and complete recovery to Ed Mehrlust

# CONTRIBUTIONS

### **General Donations**

Charles and Stacey Wilk
For the Yahrzeit of Claire Wilk

Jerry and Linda Atlas

For the Yahrzeit of Samuel Atlas and Joseph Ritwe

Michael and Carol Wolf
In Honor of Cantor Akiva Nelson

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

# Rabbi Discretionary

Susan Branch
In Memory of her husband Ronald Branch

# **Ukranian Refugee Fund**

Austin and Sharon Rednor
In Honor of the Ukrainian Refugees coming to Flemington

FJCC Sisterhood
In Honor of the Ukrainian Refugees coming to Flemington

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# **ADVERTS**



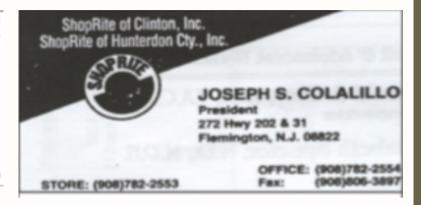
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