

FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



THIS MONTH:

- Havdalah
- Dinner Club
- Progressive Dinner

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Newsletter - נודריגו

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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 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/650317/>

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



Lotsa Helping Hands
create community

CLASS SERVICES, DINNERS, & HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

OCT
28

WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

- Chicken Shabbat Dinner
- Fourth & Fifth Graders Lead Services
- Storyteller Rebecca Kelly

DEC
9

DELI DELIGHT

- Deli Sandwiches Shabbat Dinner
- 7th - 12th Graders Lead Services

DEC
21

CHANUKAH DINNER

- Outdoor Menorah Lighting
- Family Menorah Lighting
- Chanukah Dinner

JAN
27

CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER

- Chinese Food Shabbat Dinner
- Fifth & Sixth Graders Lead Services

MAR
6

PURIM DINNER

- Family Megillah Reading
- Purim Dinner
- Traditional Megillah Reading

MAY
12

IT'S A WRAP

- Dairy Wraps & Pizza Bagels Shabbat Dinner
- Third & Fourth Grade Class Service
- Third Graders Receive 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!!

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2023 | 10 SHEVAT - 9 NISAN 5783

PROGRESSIVE DINNER



SISTERHOOD



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

FJCC Sisterhood

Jeffrey & Robin Alexander Nadine Milecfsky
Jerry & Linda Atlas Kim & Joseph Muller
Phyllis Bookspan Diane & Stuart Naar
Marsha & Zel Gorstein Harry & Laurie Rapkin
David & Carolyn Goldman The Rodriguez Family
Bruce & Jory Kestenbaum Cheryl & Matt Schatz
Nathan & Patricia Lefkow Kenneth Skowronek
Kimi, Barry & Kylei Mittler

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")

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SPOTLIGHT 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 support kind. Be the volunteer kind. Be whatever kind you want. Just be kind.



Matt Schutz

WEEKLY EVENTS

Parashat HaShavuah

with

Rabbi Cohen

Mondays, 1:00
Beginning Sep 12



All are welcome!

Chair Yoga Not Just for Seniors

No Chair Yoga on Tuesday
August 30th or September 6th

Chair Yoga resumes on September 13th
at a new time, 11:45 AM



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!	

Mah Jongg

Thursdays, 1-3:30
\$5 cash at door

New & Experienced Players Welcome!
Members can bring friends
Light snacks served



Contact Karen Walsh: kwalsh@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

Virtual Passover Cooking Class with Paula Shoyer

Join us as we welcome Paula Shoyer, the Kosher Baker, on Zoom for a virtual Passover cooking class on March 19, 2023, at 4 PM



Purchase a spot for friends and family and meet together on Zoom. **\$36 per household/device**. If you are purchasing this for 3 friends from three different households, you will need to purchase three \$36 offers. You will receive the zoom link, recipe and prep list several days before the class. Payment is required upon registration



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**Friday, March 3
Dinner will be served, 6PM**

Register by 2/22



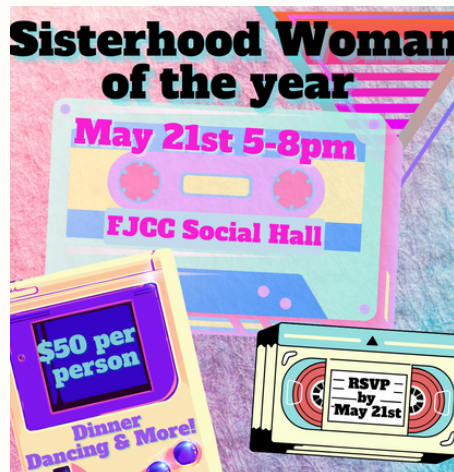
Megillah Reading & Purim Dinner
MONDAY, MARCH 6TH



Family Megillah Reading 6:00 PM	Hoagies Corned Beef Turkey Grilled Vegetable Salads
Purim Meal 6:45	
RSVP Before February 26th \$ 12.00 / adult \$4.00 / children	Traditional Megillah Reading 7:45 PM
After February 26th \$ 16.00 / adult \$12.00 / children	

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



BIRTHDAYS

February 2

Adam Wolf

February 3

Anthony Ricciardi

February 7

David Short
Kenneth Skowronek

February 10

Harry Zackowitz

February 13

Jonathan Fox
Paul Hubert

February 15

Jennifer Goldstein
Benjamin Doshna

February 18

Heather Brooks
Dorit Radzin

February 19

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

February 25

Philip Reid-Green
Ian Rodriguez

February 26

Eric Wasserman

February 27

Catherine O'Shea

February 28

Brian Sperling
Jonathan Stirberg

March 1

Jason Gertzman
Ryan Goldschmitt

March 3

Martin Mcinerney

March 5

Frederick Rothstein
Arielle Rumore

March 7

Liz Slavin

March 8

Katelynn Jampel
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
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

March 31

Jenna Shankoff
Dana Cohen
Bradley Glacken

ANNIVERSARIES

February 1

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

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

February 2

Juan Jose de Soto
Max Lerner
Bernard Volowitz

February 3

Frank Kelly
Florence Kagan

February 4

Betty Hurwitz

February 5

Meyer Rosenberg

February 6

Norma Benimoff

February 8

Sye Weinstein
Janice Luelling

February 10

Sidney Elstein

February 11

Ida Linsenbaum
Mary Large
Bernice Simmons

February 13

Beverly Kogan

February 14

Martin Pavelich
Alan Blankstein
Murray Benimoff

February 15

Sanford Friedman
George Jacobson

February 16

Fannie Hayfer

February 17

Sally Einsinger Stein

February 20

Rosalin Zackowitz

February 21

Dr Irena Balis Sandler
Judith Pavelich

February 22

Murray Grill
Yetta Atlas

February 23

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

March 8

Hildegard Likusi
Lillian Belger

March 9

Joseph S. Fox

March 10

Kitty Zuchovicki
Betty H. Mehrlust

March 11

Katherine Formica
Sara Reta Schutz

March 12

Melvin Kestenbaum

March 13

Lorraine Klein

March 15

Seymour Gitlin
Rose Marshall

March 16

Etta Moskovitz

March 17

Stacey Zisook Robinson
Evelyn Simon

March 18

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

March 25

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 Jill 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 Freyduan 'Fred' Daneshrad, beloved father of Ray Daneshrad

Mazel Tov to Anneliese and Howard Nifoussi on the birth of their
granddaughter Ruby Florence Niffoussi

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 Yahrzeit of my father, Louis Naar
To the good health and speedy recovery of Jerry Atlas

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