

FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



THIS MONTH:

- Chanukah
- Sisterhood Chinese Dinner

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Newsletter - נודריגו

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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

On January 28, we will celebrate a Tu B'Shvat Seder. Not one, but four times over the course of the year we are called upon to mark a new year, a rosh hashanah. Of these four new years in the Mishnah (Rosh Hashanah 1:1), it is taught that the 15th of Shvat (Tu B'Shvat) is the new year for the trees. Only one rosh hashanah became popularized as the Rosh Hashanah, when we reflect on our actions, pray for the wellness of the year, and perform teshuva. When the Temple service in Jerusalem ceased, the other three new years effectively went dormant for about 1500 years. Then, the kabbalists under the leadership of Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-1572) created a new Tu B'Shvat tradition with the multi-sensory seder we'll try to experience this month.



In the Torah, we are reminded that it is forbidden to cut down a tree during times of war (Deut. 20:19). The Rabbis explain it is because trees sustain us, offering their fruits and their oxygen. Not only should we not destroy trees, but because they can't protect themselves (from humans) we have a moral and religious responsibility not to harm them.

The Talmud takes note of humanity's distinct relationship to trees, both for our own sake, such when we say the blessings before eating fruit (Talmud Bavli, Brachot 35a) and for generations to come. Knowing that trees have the ability to give and sustain life, the rabbis see Torah through the metaphor of "the Tree of Life."

Honi the Circlemaker says, in a story in the Talmud: "When I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my ancestors. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren" (Talmud Bavli, Ta'anit 23a). From the start of Jewish history, trees and humans have been custodians to one another. What happens when that relationship falters?

Science tells us that one of the great ways to mitigate and even help reverse climate change is reforestation. As we begin this decade and consider what the '20s will look like for humanity, we are met with unprecedented challenges. Despite this, we have never been better positioned for success, gifted with resources and opportunities that would have been considered miracles just one hundred years ago.

May Tu B'Shvat ignite within us a humbling excitement about the majesty of the natural world, and humanity's eternal responsibility to steward it.

Rabbi Eric S. Cohen, PhD

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

We have turned the calendar to 2023. Happy secular New Year! Did you promise yourself to eat healthy, exercise more, lose a few pounds – the most common resolutions? Keep it going ... one day at a time. Let me give my suggestions of items to add to your list: be kind to one another, connect with friends, spend more time with family and join in the fun at the FJCC!

Throughout the month of January and February, we have a terrific line-up of new, fun, interesting activities for everyone to enjoy! Here is a quick (or not so quick) rundown – mark your calendars

- Tuesday, January 3, 10, 17 – Learn to Leyn with Cantor Flo is back by popular demand.
- Saturday, January 7 - Chip Mergott will play at our Acoustic Café.
- Sunday, January 8 – There is a program for the Youth Group entitled Hagalil Convention 101.
- Monday, January 9, 16, 23, 30 - Anne Pettit, Scholar in Residence, will lead a four-week series entitled “Intro to Talmud” and it will be on Zoom.
- Thursday, January 12 - Dinner is Served will be at Curry Zone.
- Friday, January 13 - Storytelling Shabbat is back. Come up with a 3 minute story to tell the congregation at Friday evening services.
- Sunday, January 15/16 – The Youth Group Shul-In
- Tuesday, January 17 – Movie Club
- Saturday, January 21 - Havdalah with a presentation of Klezmer music by Tsu Fil Duvids
- Sunday, January 22 - Sisterhood On the Range
- Friday, January 27 – We will enjoy a Chinese New Year Shabbat dinner, followed by services led by the Hay and Vav classes.
- Sunday, January 29 – The youth in grades 1-6 will be preparing food in celebration of Tu B’Shevat.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

- Friday, February 3 – If you missed Emma Rehfeld the last time she was here, you are in luck because she will be back to celebrate Ruach (spirited) Shabbat
- Sunday, February 5 – Zoom Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Monday, February 6 – The two authors of The Thread Collectors will join in the book discussion.
- Saturday, February 12 – We will gather for a social evening at the long awaited and always fun Progressive Dinner, organized by the Sisterhood.
- Monday, February 13 – The Movie Club will discuss Little White Lie.
- Sunday, February 26 – Sisterhood will be preparing for Purim with hamentashen baking and Mishloach Manot bag stuffing.

Phew! That is quite a line up! Not all the programs will appeal to everyone. Come out to enjoy whatever interests you or simply to support the volunteers who work so hard to organize these events. My hats off to all of you – the wonderful members of our wonderful community.

Sharon Rednor



HEBREW SCHOOL

The first half of the Hebrew School year is behind us. We had our “tried and true” programs, including two class services and the Chanukah dinner. We were invited back to Independence Manor, for the first time since COVID, to share Chanukah songs and the Menorah lighting. There was a Hebrew School twist for Beyachad this year. The students prepared a Torah skit to share with the congregation during services. The students collected Tzedakah from September through December to purchase new coats for children in Hunterdon County.

So, what is in store for the coming months? The children will again do a Torah skit for Beyachad on February 25th. The Purim Megillah Reading is on Monday, March 6th, followed by the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 12th. There will be a Hebrew School Family Model Seder on Zoom at the end of March. The Gimel and Dalet class will lead services on Friday, May 12th. Gimel students and all new students in Dalet, Hay, and Vav will receive their own Sim Shalom Siddur. We hope to see you at our Winter-Spring programs.

Karen Walsh
Hebrew School Director
Phone: 908-782-6410 ext. 13
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kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org

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

JANUARY 2023 | 8 TEVET - 8 SHEVAT 5783

CHANUKAH



JANUARY 2023 | 8 TEVET - 8 SHEVAT 5783

CHANUKAH



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

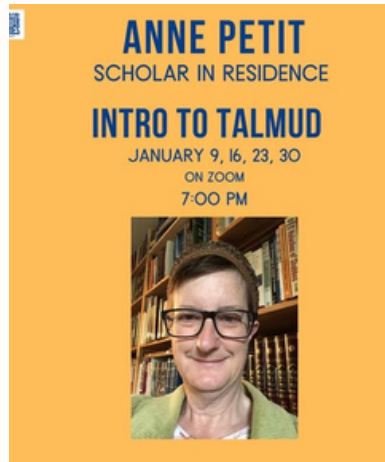
Adult Education Classes with Rabbi Cohen



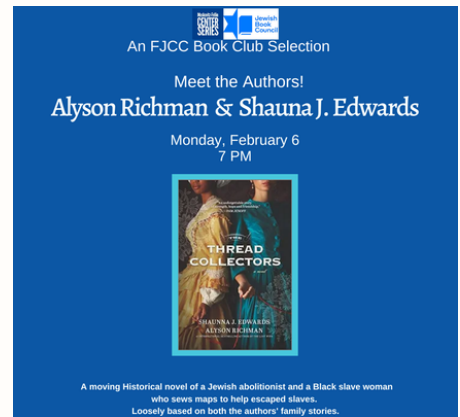
Thursdays
11:00
Begins Sept. 15
All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sisterhood Shabbat
Saturday, March 25th at 9:15am
Sign up to lead a prayer or 2!

Calling Torah leyners!
If you can chant from the Torah,
please sign up!

Register by email below, or come to a meeting!
Sisterhood@flemingtonjcc.org



FJCC MOVIE CLUB

Watch the film at home—then let's discuss!
Available on Amazon Prime

Little White Lie

Film Discussion:
Monday, February 13
7PM ~ on Zoom

Facilitated by Rabbi Cohen



Shabbat B'Yachad

Saturday
Nov 5 & Feb 25
9:15 - 12:00

Design your Shabbat

Yoga
Meditation
Parsha Discussion

☆

Hebrew School on Shabbat

Learn Prayers
Sing Songs
Tell Stories

Kiddush Lunch



GUN SAFETY
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26
12:00

The event is free but registration is recommended

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Friday, March 3
Dinner will be served, 6PM

Register by 2/22



Sisterhood Woman of the year

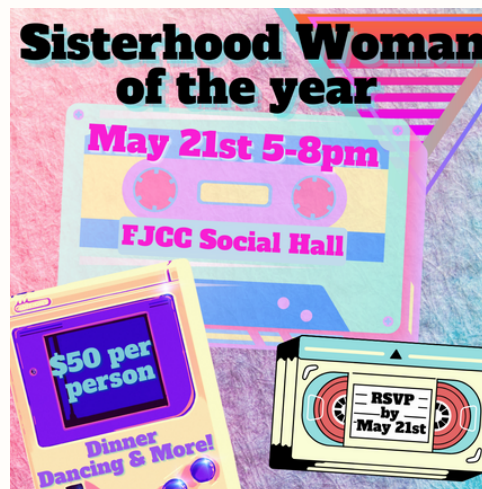
May 21st 5-8pm

FJCC Social Hall

\$50 per person

Dinner Dancing & More!

RSVP by May 21st



BIRTHDAYS

January 2
Jeffrey Gold

January 3
Ariel Hylton

January 4
Kenneth Stern

January 5
Elle Martoccia

January 8
Nathaniel Silberman

January 9
Melonie Ezra

January 10
Stacey Gould

January 11
Ronald Ort
Victoria Wolf

January 12
Barbara Batt
Dena Scibilia
Scott Byne

January 14
Tina Martoccia

January 16
Jason Holley
Jack Daniels

January 17
Katelynn Jampel

January 18
Laurie Rapkin

January 19
Julianne Gallina

January 20
Ada Gursky

January 21
Suzanne Rothstein
Kenneth Brooks

January 22
Bradley Daneshrad
Zelic Gerstein

January 24
Abbey Mondshein
Loren Hurwitz

January 28
Deborah Ort
Maria Shepard
Nathan Treinish

January 31
Daniel Wasserman
Rita Lefkow
Salena Kern

JANUARY 2023 | 8 TEVET - 8 SHEVAT 5783

ANNIVERSARIES

January 18
Tina and Scott Martoccia

YAHREZEITS

January 1
Susan Mehrlust

January 5
William Thomas

January 7
Arthur Rogow

January 8
Alma Thomas

January 13
Claire Kurtz Stein

January 16
Milton Friedman

January 17
Morris Wolf

January 18
Michael Arcus

January 20
Louis Naar
Charles Cohen

January 22
Max Wortman

January 23
Michael Berk
Hyman David Friedman

January 25
Ruth Lee Wolfson

January 27
Joseph Stern

January 28
David Lipsitz

January 29
Samuel Borman
Marvin Nemeth
Naida Wetstein
Flo Lehrer

January 31
Ruth Lofchitz

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