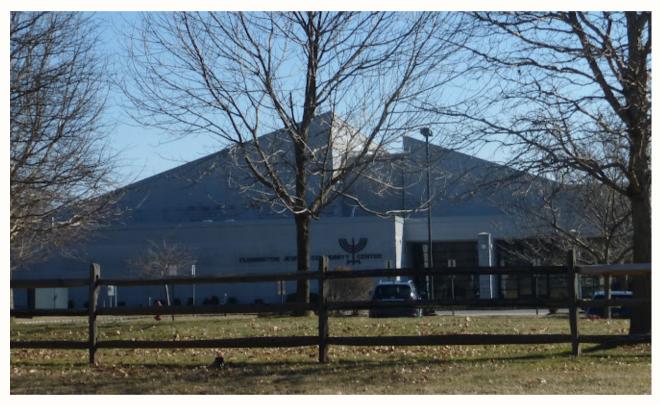
FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

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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, hoofed 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.

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 Kipppur 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

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

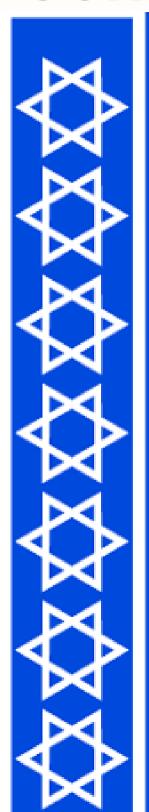
Many of the closets in the building got an overhaul. Thank you to Rabbi Cohen who led the charge with the genizah burial of old texts. Karen Walsh, Kimi Mittler and Kylei Mittler put the Hebrew School classrooms in order. Josy Kestenbaum and Nathan Lefkow led us in clearing and reorganizing several areas 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.



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 Moskovitz, 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 Moskovitz, 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!



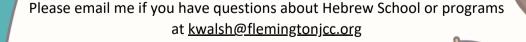
HEBREW SCHOOL

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

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."



HEBREW SCHOOL

High Holiday Jr. Congregation

First through Seventh Grade







**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

Simchat Torah Family Service

Sing, Dance, Snack Participate in a Family Aliyah

MONTHLY CALENDAR



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

SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES 2023-5784

Selichot Saturday, September 9th

Build our Sukkah

Sunday, September 10th (1st day of Hebrew School)

Services	9:00 AM
Breakfast 9:45	5 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 fl	lame 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 18th

Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 22nd		
Services	7:30	PM
Saturday, September 23rd		
Services	9.15	Δħ

Yom Kippur Eve - Kol Nidre

 Sunday, September 24th

 Services
 6:15 PM

 Candle-lighting
 6:35 PM

Yom Kippur Monday, September 25th

Services	8:15 AM
Junior Congregation and Yizk	or 11:00AM
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 7:3	30 PM
Saturday, September 30th	
	7 00 DV
Services9:15 AM & 7	/:30 PM
Sunday, October 1st	
Services9:	15 AM
Services minimum //.	LOTHIN

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 7th	
Services	7:15 PM
Sunday, October 8th	
Services*	9:15 AM
*Simchat Torah celebratio	 family services

THIS AND THAT





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.











GIVING GARDEN



















END OF SUMMER BBQ

























END OF SUMMER BBQ















SEPTEMBER 2023 | 15 ELUL 5783 - 15 TISHREI 5784

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!



Schedule at a glance

2023

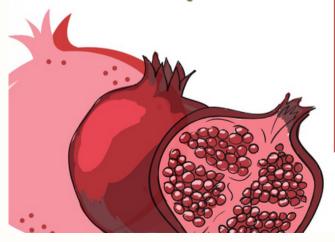
<u>Sunday, Aug. 20th:</u> Silver Polishing 10am

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

<u>Friday, Oct. 13th:</u> 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

<u>Saturday, Feb. 3rd:</u> Progressive Dinner

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

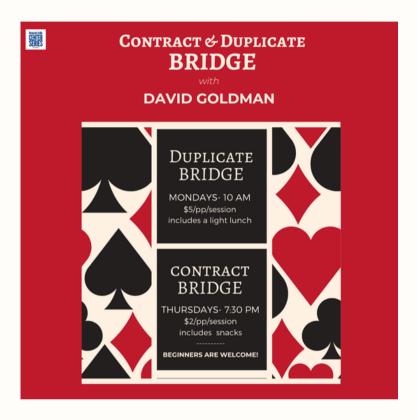
Sunday, March 10th: Stuffing Mishloach Manot Bags

<u>Sunday, March 24th:</u> Purim Carnival 11:00am

Saturday, April 13th: Sisterhood Shabbat

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

WEEKLY EVENTS





Mah Jongg

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

New & Experienced Players Welcome!

Members can bring friends Light snacks served

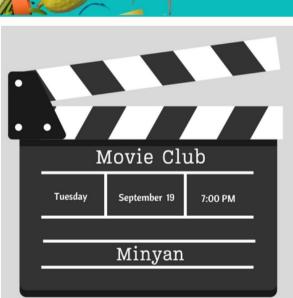


Contact Karen Walsh: kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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









Pizza in the MUT!



BIRTHDAYS

September 1
Ray Slavin
Arielle Mizrahi
Bruce Davidson

September 2
Amira Kleiman
Stephanie McInerney

<u>September 4</u> Matthew Rednor

September 5
Aaron Sperling

<u>September 6</u> Liam Franklin Lilah Mason

<u>September 7</u> Jeffrey Doshna Zachary Nemeth Hoyt Holley

> <u>September 9</u> Emily Quinn

September 11
Zev Forman

September 12
Jamie Alexander
Abby Walsh
Jake Nifoussi

<u>September 15</u> Lucy Lipson Jordan Alexander

> <u>September 16</u> Frank Rumore

September 17
William Fernekes
Deborah Kesselhaut
Howard Nifoussi

<u>September 18</u> Edward Winnick

September 20 Alissa Fox

September 21 Linda Atlas

September 24 Sam Kohn

September 26 David Goldman

September 27
Joshua Sperling
Zachary Sperling

<u>September 30</u> Rosemary Mehrlust

ANNIVERSARIES

<u>September 2</u> Salena and Allen Kern

<u>September 6</u>
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

YAHRZEITS

September 2 Lillian Gerstein

September 3
Jack Franklin
Kurt Hylton

September 4
Abraham Greenberg

September 6
Norman Thomas

September 7
Bruce Nifoussi

<u>September 9</u> 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

<u>September 30</u> Helene Hubert SEPTEMBER 2023 | 15 ELUL 5783 - 15 TISHREI 5784

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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

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

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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For the Yahrzeit of her father Herbert Dvoor

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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 <mark>Hailey Wang Goldman, granddaughter of Car</mark>olyn & 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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Ukranian 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

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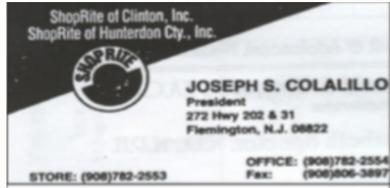
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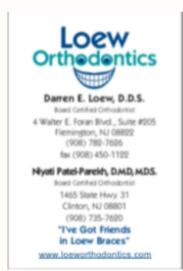
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