# FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



Rabbi – Eric Cohen President – Sharon Rednor Newsletter - רודריגז

> <u>1st Vice President</u> Jonathan Nemeth

<u>2nd Vice President</u> Rachel Rodriguez

3rd Vice President Kim Muller

<u>Treasurer</u> Jonathan Weitz

<u>Secretary</u> Nadine Milecofsky

Immediate Past President Bruce Moskovitz

#### <u>Trustees</u>

Marsha Goldstein Marvin Jacobson Bruce Kamich Cara London Nathan Lefkow Alan Radzin Dale Sperling Adam Wolf Jeffrey Doshna \* Jack Forman \* Jim Fox \* Zel Gerstein \* Dan Gross \* Alan Hylton \* Howard Nifoussi \* Ed Mehrlust \* Phil Stern \*

Mehrlust \* hil Stern \*

\* Life Trustees

Michael Wolf \*

#### This Months Contributors:

Rabbi Cohen Sharon Rednor Deborah Kesselhaut Karen Walsh Rachel Rodriguez Kim Muller Melissa Kleiman

# RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

Chanukkah is upon us, and it could not have come sooner, or at a more opportune time. Chanukkah is all about lighting candles in the darkness, and there is so much darkness in the world right now. I am inspired by Chanukkah. It is the holiday when we are called upon to show hope in the face of despair.

One little light, kindled by an individual, can indeed make a difference when we all join together. This is so beautifully illustrated at our Chanukkah gatherings. We gather in Schul, turn out all the lights, and everyone lights a Menorah. The action of one is magnified by the action of many. And we need as much light as we can make.

We do see glimmers of hope – hostages are being released. But, things in the Middle East change quickly, and I am not certain what the state of affairs will be when this essay reaches you. Will we be on the path to a sustainable peace, or at least, to a sustainable cease-fire? As I write these sentences, I pray that this will be the case.

A story from the Talmud (the Tractate Avodah Zarah):

"Our Rabbis taught: When primitive Adam saw the day getting gradually shorter [in the month of Kislev], he said, 'Woe is me, perhaps because I have sinned (having eaten from the Tree of Knowledge), the world around me is being darkened, and returning to its state of chaos and confusion...!'



# **RABBI'S REFLECTIONS**

So he began keeping an eight days' fast. But, as he observed the winter equinox, and noted the day getting increasingly longer, he said, 'This is just the way the world is', and he set forth to keep an eight days' festivity..."

"This is just the way the world is." The world throws darkness at us, and it's our job to light it up, as best as we can. This is very hard to do in the face of heinous, murderous acts. And, this idea of battling darkness with light, might seem, perhaps, counter-intuitive: the way to fight darkness is not with more darkness, it is with light.

Fighting the forces of darkness with more darkness, may be a temporary strategy, but it is not an answer. This does not mean we do not defend ourselves; it means that defending ourselves, fighting back, is not the goal, it is a means. As we send material and moral support to those on the front lines of defending the Holy Land, let us remember that this is a means to an end. A very important means! But not the final objective. The end goal is a just and lasting resolution to a conflict that has been escalating over generations. May this Chanukkah inspire us to light a path forward, into a better future, and may we start taking the necessary steps to achieve it, soon, and in our time.

Happy Chanukkah to one and all!





# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT



#### Dear Members:

Over the past few months, I gathered with a dozen Israeli friends and witnessed the horror of October 7th. I listened to hours of news about the crisis in Israel and Gaza, I attended the rally in Washington in support of Israel, and I commiserated with visiting Israelis who worry for their relatives. The most important thing I learned – we need to educate ourselves about Israeli history and all facets of this war and constantly pass on accurate information to family, friends, Jews, non-Jews, the public, etc.

After over 40 days of the Israel-Hamas war, the Jewish community in the United States and Israel is confronted with many needs for your ongoing help. Among them:

- Keep our community members safe from harm,
- · Care for our own and our children's emotional well-being,
- Educate ourselves and our neighbors on the history of the State of Israel and the conflict,
- Contact our Senators/Representatives daily to thank them for their support,
- Contribute to Israeli causes of your choice,
- Stand up and support Israel.

To this end, the FJCC is 1) coordinating with our Security Committee, security advisors and the local police, 2) initiating small group sessions, led by Rabbi Cohen, to connect with each other, 3) creating educational opportunities and passing along educational videos, 4) asking each of our members to regularly contact your elected officials and 5) providing options for your contributions.

# FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

For some information about the Israel-Hamas war, see: Step Up For Israel (<a href="mailto:stepupforisrael.com">stepupforisrael.com</a>), the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (<a href="mailto:https://www.jta.org/category/israel">https://www.jta.org/category/israel</a>), the Jerusalem Post newspaper in English (<a href="https://www.jpost.com/">https://www.jpost.com/</a>), David Makovsky's podcast (<a href="https://www.davidmakovsky.com/podcast">https://www.davidmakovsky.com/podcast</a>).

Below is the contact information for our elected officials. Please telephone them (calls are preferred over emails) to thank them for their ongoing support of Israel, call for the rescue of the hostages, and remind them of the need for assistance for the defense of the State of Israel.

- Sen. Cory Booker <u>202-935-6825</u>
- Sen. Robert Menendez 202-938-0245
- Rep. Thomas Kean 202-639-5184

Here are a few of the many organizations funneling aid to Israel. Please consider donating to: Magen David Adom (<a href="https://www.mdais.org/">https://www.mdais.org/</a>), Jewish Federation (<a href="https://www.israaid.org/about/">https://www.israaid.org/about/</a>), Jewish Agency for Israel (<a href="https://www.israaid.org/crisis-in-israel/">https://www.israaid.org/about/</a>), Jewish Agency for Israel (<a href="https://www.israaid.org/crisis-in-israel/">https://www.israaid.org/crisis-in-israel/</a>) or American Jewish Committee (<a href="https://www.ajc.org/">https://www.ajc.org/</a>)

Each day, take five minutes to do one thing for your brothers and sisters in Israel. Please and thank you!

Finally, I leave you with a quote: "If I were to remain silent, I'd be guilty of complicity." — Albert Einstein

B'Shalom Sharon Rednor



# **MONTHLY CALENDAR**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
No School - Thanksgiving	10:30am - Bridge 7pm - Movie Club		4:30pm - Hebrew School	11am - Adult Ed	Musical Shabbat	
9am - Sunday Morning	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah		4:45pm - 7th Grade	1pm - Mah Jongg	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	Eisinger Kiddush
6pm - Dinner is Served				7:30pm - Bridge		9:15am - Shabbat service
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sisterhood Make and	LT Meeting	7:30pm - Genealogy	4:30pm - Hebrew School	11am - Adult Ed	Goldstein Oneg	Goldstein Kiddush
9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew	10:30am - Bridge		4:45pm - 7th Grade	1pm - Mah Jongg	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	Hold for Evening event
9am - Sunday Morning	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah			6pm - HH		9:15am - Shabbat service
	7pm - Book Club			7:30pm - Bridge		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew	10:30am - Bridge	CS Meeting	Chanukah Dinner	Mah Jongg Luncheon	6pm - Zoom Shabbat	9:15am - Shabbat service
9am - Sunday Morning	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah		Independence Manor	11am - Adult Ed	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	11:15am - Meditation
10:30am - EB Meeting			4:30pm - Hebrew School	1pm - Mah Jongg		
11:30am - Kitchen Needs			4:45pm - 7th Grade	6pm - HH		
			4:50pm - Independence	7:30pm - Bridge		
			5:45pm - Chanukah			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew	10:30am - Bridge	Nursery set up Social Hall	Nursery School in Social	Nursery School in Social	Walsh in Honor of Abby	9:15am - Shabbat service
9am - Sunday Morning	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah		4:30pm - Hebrew School	11am - Adult Ed	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	
1:30pm - Fiddler on the			4:45pm - 7th Grade	1pm - Mah Jongg		
			7:30pm - BoT Meeting	6pm - HH		
				7:30pm - Bridge		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No School - Winter Break						
No School Winter Break						
9am - Sunday Morning	OFFICE CLOSED	)		11am - Adult Ed	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	9:15am - Shabbat service
	Sisterhood Dinner	)		1pm - Mah Jongg		
	10:30am - Bridge			7:30pm - Bridge		
	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
No School - Winter Break			4:30pm - Hebrew School	11am - Adult Ed	7:30pm - Storytelling	Saturday Musical Event
No School Winter Break			4:45pm - 7th Grade	1pm - Mah Jongg	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	9:15am - Shabbat service
9am - Sunday Morning	OFFICE CLOSED	6pm - LT Meeting		6pm - HH		
	10:30am - Bridge	7:30pm - Genealogy		7:30pm - Bridge		

# **MST GATHERING**

On Thursday, November 9, John Fellin, Bruce Moskovitz, and Sharon Rednor represented the Flemington Jewish Community Center at the Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST) Gathering at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia. We brought our Holocaust Torah to be displayed along with approximately 50 other Holocaust Torahs during a program in remembrance of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. Mr. Jeffrey Ohrenstein, the MST Trustee and Chairman, gave a very moving talk on "The Power of the Czech Torah Scrolls in Jewish Life."



The MST was created to care for the damaged and deteriorating Torah scrolls that were initially housed in the Jewish Museum of Prague after the Nazis invaded Bohemia and Prague and subsequently transferred to an abandoned and ruined temple outside Prague when the Communists took over the country's government in 1948.

These Torah scrolls, dating from 1200 up to World War II, were brought to London and donated to the Westminster Synagogue in 1964. The MST cared for these Torahs and made them available on



loan to congregations, schools, and organizations worldwide.

The Flemington Jewish Community Center was honored to receive one of these Torahs on April 28, 1989. We have housed this Torah in our ark along with all our other Torahs since that time. And, although the Torah is posul (not kosher; invalid for official purposes), we lovingly continue to use this Torah for Simchat Torah celebrations and Yom Kippur when all our sifrei Torah are removed from the ark.

#### **HEBREW SCHOOL**

Shabbat is a reoccurring theme in all our Hebrew School Classes. The Gimel - Vav students are busy learning prayers for Shabbat Services. The Gimel through Hebrew High Students have led Friday Night Services; and the Gimel through Vav students will lead two more services in the coming months. The Alef-Bet students are making their own Shabbat Boxes that include Shabbat candle holders and candles, Kiddush cup, and Challah Cover and Tzedakah box. The Gan students learned about Shabbat with Mrs. Clarin and assistant Rose Weitz last month. We are learning about Chanukah, the stories, the traditions, the brachot and songs.



#### 240 Menorahs for Chanukah Dinner

On October 7th 240 hostages were taken by Hamas. from southern Israel. Let's show our support and our hopes for their physical and metal recovery by lighting 240 Menorahs. Bring as many menorahs as you have to the Chanukah dinner. On December 13. We will light them together with prayers for peace and the safe return home of all the hostages.



# AT HOME IN HUNTERDON

Our Ukrainian family arrived on 11/16/23 as expected. We gave them a tour of Flemington and a small welcome party at the home of Melissa Kleiman. Shortly after their arrival they visited with friends in Jersey City and came to the realization that they would be more comfortable living in a city type setting instead of out in the country. This family has since made arrangements to live in Jersey City and is no longer in need of our support. With this turn of events, our Welcome Circle has made a decision to move forward with sponsoring another family waiting in a refugee camp for the opportunity to reside in the US. We feel success in having gotten a family out of war-torn Ukraine into safety in the United States and look forward to the opportunity to help out a second family with the donations that have been collected.

Our mission is to provide a home and safety for those suffering in their own countries and looking to settle in the U.S. At this time, it has not been determined from which country we will be matched with a family, but we are prepared to support all cultures from around the world. In addition to the funds we have raised, we have also collected furniture and other household items which will be stored until a new family has been scheduled to arrive in the US and a new apartment has been rented. Your understanding and support of this sensitive situation is very much appreciated. At this time of Thanksgiving, we are incredibly thankful for all of you and to be part of such a giving and supportive community. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Melissa Kleiman and the At Home in Hunterdon Welcome Circle





# **DINNER CLUB**



















## THIS AND THAT

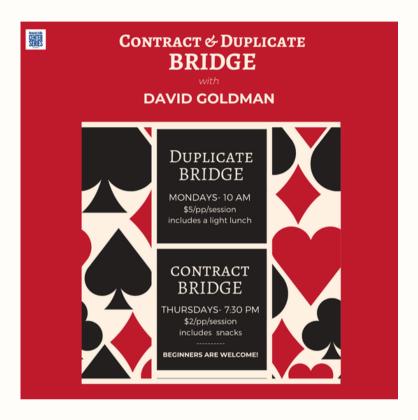


Please join the FJCC in sending a warm welcome to our newest congregants: Sharon and Ben Gavzy and their young sons Daniel and Owen.



Email your article, idea or pictures to Garry at Rodriguez060803@gmail.com

## **WEEKLY EVENTS**





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

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



#### FICC BOOK CLUB

Ester and Ruzya by Masha Gessen December 4th 7:00

The extraordinary family memoir. Masha Gessen, a gifted Russian-American journalist, narrates the intertwined lives of her two Soviet Jewish grandmothers, best friends for over 50 years, as they confront some of the 20th century's worst ordeals.







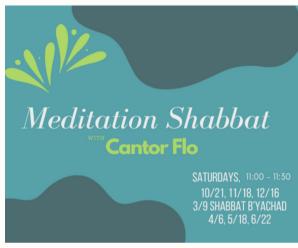




As of

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







# **HANUKKAH COOK OFF**

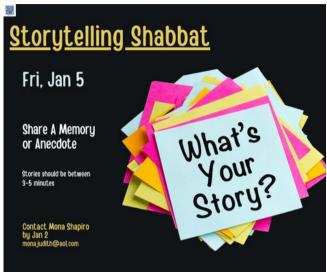


Join FYG for our Hanukkah Cook-Off event, where the spirit of the Festival of Lights comes alive through the magic of cooking and culinary artistry!

RSVP BY 12/8 TO YOUTHGROUP@FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG

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











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





# **BIRTHDAYS** •

<u>December 3</u>
Alexandra Kesselhaut
Hannah Weinstock-Gallagher

<u>December 5</u> Monica Gort-Jakubowski

> <u>December 8</u> Mark Gertzman

December 10 Scott Gursky

<u>December 11</u> Valerie Goldman Benjamin Jampel

<u>December 12</u> Ariel Weintraub

December 13

Jacqueline Sornstein

Allen Kern

<u>December 14</u> Malka Goodman

<u>December 15</u> Alexander Soto

December 16
Seth Cohen
Brynn Jampel

<u>December 18</u> Kim Muller

<u>December 20</u> Eric Rogow Robin Alexander Jason Quinn

<u>December 21</u> Arthur Wetstein

December 27
Alan Radzin

<u>December 28</u> Bruce Kestenbaum

# **YAHRZEITS**

December 1
Rubin Simon
Ann Simon

<u>December 2</u> Charles Slavin Rose Doshna

<u>December 3</u> Phyllis Waldman

<u>December 4</u> Gustav Einsinger

<u>December 6</u> Karen Hubert

December 7
Edith Grill

December 11
Linda Goldstein

<u>December 12</u> Joseph Nifoussi <u>December 15</u> Mildred Rothstein Cohen

> <u>December 17</u> Lillian Volowitz Sam Feldman

December 18
Morris Triber
Ethel Stevens

December 19 Ruth Sudzin

December 20 Susan Mehrlust

December 24
William Thomas

December 26 Arthur Rogow

December 27
Alma Thomas

# CONTRIBUTIONS Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Fred Eisinger

2/3 Kiddush for yahrzeit of mother Sally Eisinger Stein 12/2 Kiddush for yahrzeit of his beloved father Gustav

Richard Goldstein

11/3 Oneg for yahrzeit of his mother Annie

12/8 Oneg for yahrzeit of his father Abraham

12/9 Kiddush for yahrzeit of his beloved wife Linda

Amy Cook and Scott Hornick

10/7 Kiddush for yahrzeit of Amy's grandmother Ethel Kissin

Antje Doyle

10/21 Kiddush for yahrzeit of her beloved husband William

Edward and Sharon Winnick

For the yahrzeit of Benjamin Neustadt, father of Sharon

Ray and Liz Slavin

12/1 Oneg for yahrzeits of Charles Slavin, father of Ray; and Anne and Herman Simon, mother and father of Liz

Harry and Laurie Rapkin

11/18 Kiddush for y<mark>a</mark>hrzeit of Marion Rapkin, mother of Harry Rapkin; and Rosalind Plantikow, mother of Laurie Rapkin

Richard Goldman and Stacey Gould

11/17 Oneg for ya<mark>hr</mark>zeits of Jerome Goodm<mark>a</mark>n, father of Richard; and Bernard Gould, father of Stacey

# Rabbi Discretionary

Jerrold and Linda Atlas

In memory of Barb Clarin's sister Carolyn Watts For the yahrzeit of Samuel Atlas, father of Jerry For the yahrzeit of Calvin Kanter, brother of Linda

Julius Kawarsky and Alexander Soto

For the yahrzeit of Eloise Kawarsky, beloved mother of Jay Kawarsky

Mark and Nancy Nelson

Eric Cohen

# CONTRIBUTIONS

#### **General Donations**

Cheryl and Matthew Schutz
In memory of Carolyn Watts, beloved sister of Barbara Clarin

# Ukranian Refugee Fund

Marvin and Shellie Jacobson

Thank you to all those who have donated in support of our efforts to bring a Ukrainian family to Hunterdon County.

Thanks again for all your financial support. It's very much appreciated!!

### **ADVERTS**



#### HOWARD A. HERMAN, D.M.D.

120 Main Street Flemington, NJ 08822 908-782-1717

37-39 Belvidere Avenue Washington, NJ 07882 908-689-4440

Office Hours By Appointment NJ Specialty Permit # 2937 TO ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN, CONTACT DEBORAH IN THE OFFICE AT (908) 782-6410



www.cocoalogwco.co

Cocca Loew Co. Crusty Good Cookies are freshly baked at the FJCC. - Delectable, delicious and Eosber, Cookie Bosses or Platters are available for

> Oneg and Edduch Trays Bar/Bat Mitevalsa Religious School Events Rolidays and Gibs Lana! Delivery and Shipping

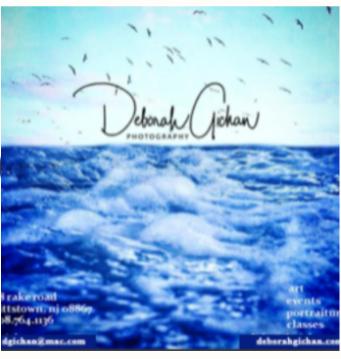
Sample Pricing: Trays available for \$18/\$36/\$54/\$72 Gift Box of 18 Cookies for \$18

Orders and Questions Visit www.cocoaloewco.com on linif cocoaloewco.com 908-328-5258

### **FAMILY FUN!**







# **ADVERTS**



DEBBIE GRILL-MCINERNEY, SRES, CNE.

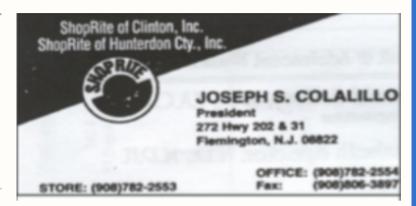
D16 N2 REALTORS\* Circle of Excellence Sales Award\* Silver

(908) 625-5690 CELL 908) 782-6850 OFFICE (862) 345-2276 EFAX ebbie.GrillMcinerney@cbi





www.DebbieGrillMcinerney.cbintouch.com



#### Fox Skin & Allergy Associates

Alissa B. Fox, M.D.-Dermatology Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology James A. Fox, M.D.-Allergy-Immunolgoy Fellow, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

3461 Highway 22 @ County Line Rd., Branchburg, NJ Phone (908) 725-4777

1100 Wescott Dr., Suite 303, Flemington, NJ (Allergy-Immunology only) Phone (908) 788-6479



**Richard Sumliner Math Tutor** 

**Specialties:** SAT/PSAT/ACT NJ Certified **Grades 7-12** Over 30 Years Experience!

(908) 725-5363



JUDITH "JUDY" M. GOLD, SRES

International Diamond Society RELO Certified Specialist

C: 908-303-2100 O: 908-782-6850 F: 862-345-1361 soldbygold54@gmail.com





RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

100 Reaville Ave, Suite 100 Flemington, NJ 08822



Darren E. Loew, D.D.S.

Board Certified Orthodortis 4 Walter E. Foran Blvd., Suite #205 Flemington, NJ 08822

(908) 782-7626 fax (908) 450-1122

Niyati Patel-Parelds, D.M.D. M.D.S.

Board Certified Orthodortist 1465 State Hwy. 31

Clinton, NJ 08801 (908) 735-7620

Tve Got Friends in Loew Braces"

www.loeworthodontics.com

TELEPHONE 908-788-5317

JACK S. FORMAN, D.P.M.

PODIATRIC MEDICINE AND FOOT SURGERY

OFFICE Hours BY APPOINTMENT **HUNTERDON PROFESSIONAL BUILDING** ROUTE 31, P.O. BOX 2207 FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY 08822

#### CENTRAL LÍQUORS

8 Reaville Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822

Fax (908) 782-6751

Phone (908) 782-2518