

FJCC FLASH

Official Newsletter of the Flemington JCC



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Newsletter - נודריגו

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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

Happy secular new year! This month, we begin the Book of Exodus, which tells the story of the enslavement in, and eventual exodus from, the land of Egypt. The great commentator on the Torah, Sforno, writes: "Our ancient sages teach that the children of Israel living in Egypt... did not change their names, language or manner of dress. This was a sign that they kept the traditions passed onto them by Jacob."

An interesting idea: identity through names, dress and language.



It's worth noting that Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name: Tzofnat Pane'ach. While Joseph continued to be called Joseph by his family, I wonder whether Egyptians only knew him by his Egyptian name? And, although Joseph spoke the language of his ancestors, he clearly spoke Egyptian as well. As far as dress is concerned, Joseph certainly dressed in Egyptian fashion; this was probably one reason his brothers did not recognize him. So, if the Israelites, in general, may have kept their traditional, names, language and dress, it would seem Joseph did not.

How do we maintain our identity as Jews while living among non-Jews? Are our names, language or dress different from those of our non-Jewish neighbors? Well..., we DO take Hebrew names, but like Joseph we also have names that we are known by in the secular world. How do we dress? Well, we wear head coverings and Tallises in the synagogue, but how many of us where these outside Schul? Our language... well..., we used to speak Yiddish one or two generations ago... but how many of us still do? And of those of us who can speak Yiddish, how many carry on such conversations on a regular basis? We do study Hebrew, but... how regularly do we use Hebrew to communicate?

When it comes to names, language, and dress, we operate a lot like Joseph. One of the great challenges facing Jews in North America is one of identity: how do we stay faithful to the traditions and wisdom lore that have helped us stay alive these passed 2000+ years? Our ancestors kept their names, dress and language... What do we keep? Especially at a time when many of us feel less safe than we used to, What is it we do to maintain our identity as Jews?

As we begin 2024, what can we commit to do that will maintain our sense of being Jewish? I invite all of us to think on this.

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

As I look back on the year to date and my second year as President, I am incredibly grateful for all the support from you – the FJCC members. I am thankful for:

- our members who have been exceedingly generous in making donations,
- the many individuals who volunteered to organize our programs and community service projects
- those who assisted me in leading this congregation

During the year, I frequently asked for your donations and you answered my call. I am pleased to report that we met our goal for Yizkor donations and are using those dollars for a variety of programs, including subsidizing dinners. Then, I introduced you to the Welcome Circle who organized to bring a Ukrainian family to the Flemington area. You were very, very generous – thank you. Recently, my posts have centered on encouraging donations for Israeli organizations serving those in need during the Hamas-Israel war. The FJCC members really stepped up and gave generously to these worthy causes. I am so proud to be part of this community.

Who organizes the Giving Garden – volunteers. Who helps to lead services each Shabbat – volunteers. Who finds speakers for our Lunch and Learn lectures – volunteers. Who puts together the Mishloah Manot packages given out at Purim – Sisterhood volunteers. And, who keeps up-to-date on security guidance so that we can keep you safe – volunteers. My sincerest thank you to the many individuals who arrange services, research, shop, make phone calls, file, deliver packages to those in need, harvest, organize, decorate, and on and on. Whatever your talents and whatever your schedule – there is an opportunity for you to contribute at the FJCC!



FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT

During the last year, the FJCC Board of Trustees, the Committees and the Committee members worked diligently to continuously improve the FJCC. Here are just a few of the behind-the-scenes tasks managed by the many committees:

- the Ritual Committee introduced a new Cantor,
- the Center Series and Sisterhood organized a terrific calendar of social and educational opportunities,
- Membership created a variety of ways to engage our newer members,
- Security received funding to hire officers,
- Bylaws updated our guiding documents,
- Building and Grounds continues to research roof leaks,
- Youth just formed to encourage development of more opportunities for our youngest members, and
- the 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee is poised to unveil some of their fabulous plans.

Thank you for all you do for the FJCC! Let's toast to all these accomplishments!

Sharon Rednor



HEBREW SCHOOL



Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come light the menorah... December was busy with Chanukah preparations. The students learned about the holidays and did crafts with the teachers. They practiced the blessings and the learned holiday songs during Rabbi Time.

The third through seventh graders went to Independence Manor for a Chanukah visit and then joined the congregation for outdoor Menorah light, family lighting and dinner.

Right now, everyone is enjoying the winter break. We will start the year off with a family dance party, a DJ and desserts.

Karen Walsh
Hebrew School Director
Phone: 908-782-6410 ext. 13
Fax: 908-806-7736
kwash@flemingtonjcc.org



HEBREW SCHOOL

OUR TZEDAKAH COUNTS

A few weeks ago, Rabbi Cohen asked the congregation to donate new towels for the clients of Safe in Hunterdon, our shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Often, when people flee domestic abuse situations, they leave with only the clothes on their backs. There is always a need for new towels.



Yasher Koach to the FJCC community for heeding the call! We donated over fifty new, plush bath towels over the past few weeks. A special shout-out to the Amgen Philadelphia District-- thank you team leader Patti Matzkin-Katz! -- for donating 18 ("Chai") of these.

WINTER WEAR FOR KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY



The Hebrew School students, Gan - Hebrew High, along with the Sunday minyan attendees, raised \$300.00, with which we purchased 8 new coats, 16 pairs of new gloves and 4 new hats for United Way.

In January, we will collect non-perishable food items to donate to the Flemington Food Pantry. You can leave your food items in the bin outside of Karen Walsh's office.



MONTHLY CALENDAR



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 31 No School - Winter Break 9am - Sunday Morning | 1 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah | 2 6pm - LT Meeting 7:30pm - Genealogy | 3 | 4 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge | 5 7:30pm - Storytelling 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat | 6 Saturday Musical Event 9:15am - Shabbat service |
| 7 9am - Sunday Morning 10:30am - EB Meeting | 8 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Talmud Ann Pettit | 9 CS Meeting | 10 | 11 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge | 12 Sarah Sorenstein Bat 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat | 13 Stirberg Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service |
| 14 Hold for DIS, maybe 9am - Sunday Morning | 15 Bat Mitzvah of Sarah OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Talmud Ann Pettit | 16 7pm - Movie Club | 17 7:30pm - BoT Meeting | 18 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge | 19 Bat Mitzvah for Samantha and Sarah Farber 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat | 20 9:15am - Shabbat service |
| 21 9am - Sunday Morning 11:30am - Maybe YG 12pm - Book Talk - Bill | 22 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Talmud Ann Pettit | 23 7pm - Farmland Ride | 24 | 25 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - Tu B'Shevat Seder 7:30pm - Bridge | 26 6pm - Chinese Food 7:30pm - Hay and Vav 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat | 27 9:15am - Shabbat service |
| 28 Sisterhood Meeting 10: 9am - Sunday Morning | 29 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Talmud Ann Pettit | 30 | 31 | 1 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge | 2 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat | 3 Eisinger Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service 6:30pm - Sisterhood |

JANUARY 2024 | 20 TEVET - 21 SHEVAT 5783

CHANUKAH



JANUARY 2024 | 20 TEVET - 21 SHEVAT 5783

SISTERHOOD KARAOKE

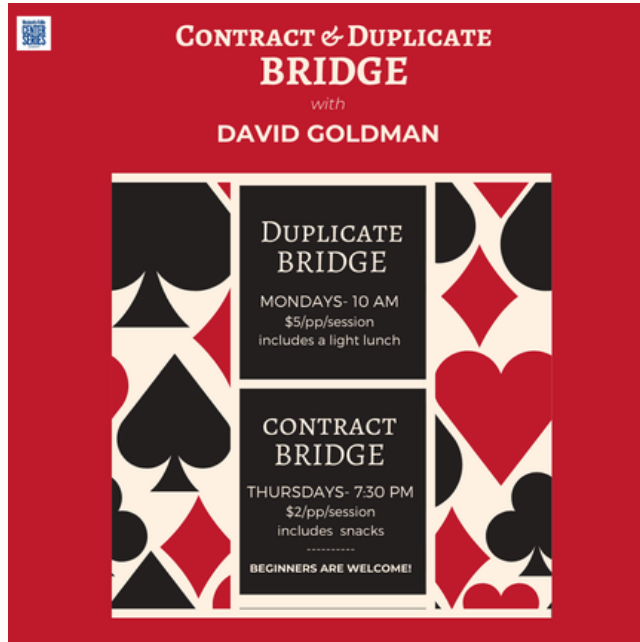


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SISTERHOOD KARAOKE



WEEKLY EVENTS



**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!

The poster features a red background with a pattern of black and white playing card suits (spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs) on the left and right sides. The text is centered in white and black boxes.



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

The poster features a white background with a red border. The title 'Mah Jongg' is in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the days and times are in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The price is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The text 'New & Experienced Players Welcome!' is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The text 'Members can bring friends' and 'Light snacks served' are in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The bottom of the poster features a photograph of Mah Jongg tiles and a red banner with contact information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DINNER IS SERVED
SAVORY THAI
Sunday, January 14
6:00 PM



RSVP IS REQUIRED BY JANUARY 9
TO RSVP OR FOR QUESTIONS,
CONTACT [KIM MEMBERSHIP@FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG](mailto:kim.membership@flemingtonjcc.org)
*ADULTS ONLY



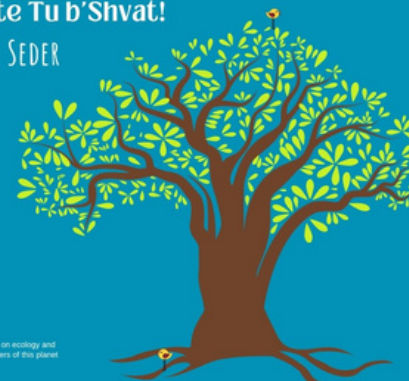
Movie Club

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|
| Wednesday | January 24 | 7:00 PM |
|-----------|------------|---------|

Operation Finale

Celebrate Tu b'Shvat!
TU B'SHVAT SEDER

Thursday
Jan 25
6 PM



Tu B'Shvat asks us to focus on ecology and our responsibility as caretakers of this planet

JANUARY 26
6:00 PM



CHINESE NEW YEAR SHABBAT

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Early Bird Before January 18 | As of January 18 |
| \$18.00 Adult Kids are Free | \$25.00 Adult Kids are Free |

Chinese Style Shabbat Dinner

Contact Karen for Vegan Options
BY JAN. 18th

Dalet, Hay & Vav Classes will Lead Services at 7:30 PM

Flemington Youth Group Ice Skating
Grades 7-12
January 21, 2024
Time: TBD
Flemington Ice Arena



RSVP BY 1/14
TOYOUTHGROUP@FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG

\$20

Sisterhood General Meeting Schedule:



- Sunday, Sept. 10th. 10:00am
- Sunday, Jan. 28th. 10:00am
- Sunday, Feb. 11th. 10:00am


UPCOMING EVENTS

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FJCC Sisterhood

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR



February 3rd
6:30 PM

KOSHER AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS UPON REQUEST
SINGLES AND COUPLES WELCOME!
REGISTER BY JANUARY 26TH

FYG PRESENTS
PJ PARTY & MOVIE NIGHT



WHILE THE GROWN UPS ARE OUT, CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-6 ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR PJ AND MOVIE NIGHT!

COME IN YOUR COMFY CLOTHING AND ENJOY A FUN NIGHT OF HANGING WITH FRIENDS, FUN SNACKS, AND A GREAT MOVIE!

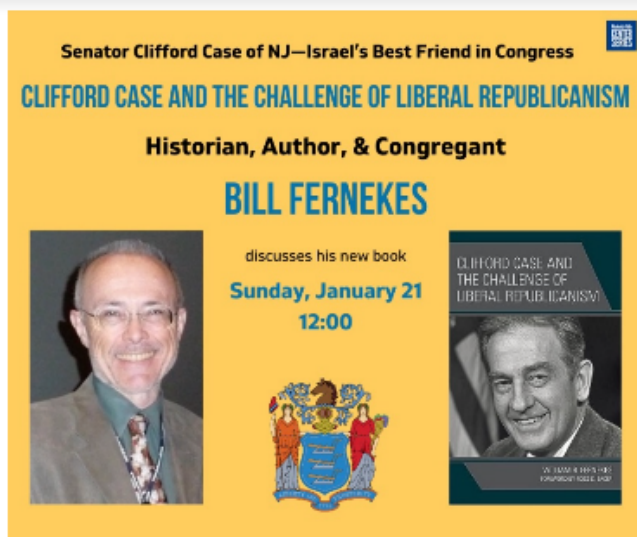
FEBRUARY 3TH - TIME: TBD

\$10 **ADMIT ONE** \$10

RSVP TO JORDAN GELBER @
YOUTHGROUP@FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Clifford Case and the Challenge of Liberal Republicanism

Author Presentation on January 21st
12:00 PM

Dr. William R. Fernekes (B.A., MA, Ed.D., Rutgers University) is pleased to announce the publication of the first comprehensive biography of the former U.S. Senator from NJ Clifford P. Case.

Clifford Case and the Challenge of Liberal Republicanism tells how N.J. native and Rutgers University graduate Clifford P. Case became a leading figure in the post-

WW II Republican party, championing what he called "modern Republicanism." For 33 years in the U. S. Congress, 9 in the House and 24 in the Senate, Clifford Case was a powerful voice for civil and human rights, environmental protection, ethics in government, and a global role for the U.S. in combating the spread of communism and promoting democracy.

Case was determined to uphold honesty and integrity in government, introducing legislation on financial disclosure years before it was required by law, while pursuing an end to the Vietnam War when it became apparent U.S. policy was causing more harm than good. Case also was a forceful advocate for New Jersey, working closely with his senate colleague Harrison Williams and other members of the state's Congressional delegation to advance the state's interests in Washington. He was a dedicated human rights advocate and was one of Israel's most ardent defenders in Congress.

Case's most difficult political challenges came not from Democrats but from GOP conservatives both in New Jersey and nationally. With other liberal Republicans like Jacob Javits, Charles Mathias, and Edward Brooke, Case helped to pass landmark civil rights and social welfare legislation in the 1960s despite opposition from conservative Republicans and segregationist Democrats. This book details the liberals' legislative successes while explaining their failure to maintain influence in an increasingly conservative GOP by the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Dr. Bill Fenekes and his wife, Sheila, are longtime members of the FJCC. Bill led the development of the Holocaust education program at Hunterdon Central during his 36 years as an educator at the school.

Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event, but registration is recommended, [Clifford Case & the Challenge of Liberal Republicanism - Event - Flemington Jewish Community Center](#).

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 25
Evelyn Stern

January 28
Deborah Ort
Maria Shepard
Nathan Treinish

January 31
Daniel Wasserman
Rita Lefkow
Salena Kern

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ANNIVERSARIES

January 18
Tina and Scott Martoccia

YAHREZEITS

January 1
Claire Kurtz Stein

January 4
Milton Friedman

January 5
Morris Wolf

January 6
Michael Arcus

January 8
Louis Naar
Charles Cohen

January 10
Max Wortman

January 11
Hyman David Friedman
Michael Berk

January 13
Ruth Lee Wolfson

January 15
Joseph Stern

January 16
David Lipsitz

January 17
Samuel Borman
Naida Wetstein
Marvin Nemeth
Flo Lehrer

January 19
Ruth Lifchitz

January 21
Max Lerner
Bernard Volowitz
Juan Jose de Soto

January 22
Samuel Kelly
Florence Kagan

January 23
Betty Hurwitz

January 24
Meyer Rosenberg

January 25
Norma Benimoff

January 27
Janice Luelling
Seena Honeyman Cook
Sye Weinstein

January 29
Sidney Elstein

January 30
Bernice Simmons
Ida Linsenbaum
Mary Large

January 31
Anthony Albert Riccardi

JANUARY 2024 | 20 TEVET - 21 SHEVAT 5783

DONATIONS

Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Daniel Weinstock and Eilene Gallagher

Howard and Anneliese Nifoussi

For the Yahrzeit of Joseph Nifoussi, beloved father of Howard

Cheryl and Matthew Schutz

For the Birthday of Matt Schutz

Jonathan and Karen Stirberg

In celebration of Karen's new business, Riverside Wellness

Rabbi Discretionary

Barry and Kimi Mittler

For the Yahrzeit of my dad Adrian Mittler

Frank and Nancy Rumore

In memory of Charles Sobel

David Cohn

Errold 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

Hebrew School

Patricia and Nathan Lefkow

Gan Goes to Hebrew School

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DONATIONS

General Donations

Eric Sirota and Cara London
Donation to the Center Series

Mitchell and Barbara Clarin
In Honor of Carolyn and David Goldman for adopting Carolyn Watts' cats
Refuah schlemah to Rabbi, Karen and Deborah
Mazel Tov to the Rodriguez Family in honor of Lindsey's Bat Mitzvah
Refuah schlemah to Rose and Ed Mehrlust

Bruce Moskovitz and John Fellin
For the FJCC Legacy Czech Torah

Michael and Carol Wolf
Equipment/building donation

Family Promise

Joel and Sharon Goldstein
In Memory of Shelly Goldstein, sister of Joel Goldstein

Howard and Anneliese Nifoussi

Diane and Stuart Naar

Ukrainian Refugee Fund

Daniel Weinstock and Eilene Gallagher

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