

FJCC FLASH

Newsletter of the Flemington Jewish Community Center

DECEMBER 2024
CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5785



Dinner Club at Capuano's on November 1th

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THIS MONTH:

- **Planting, Crafting and Eating**
- **Dinner Club**
- **Steven Katz-Only a FEW tickets left!!**

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

Chanukah is the holiday of lights, though it comes at the darkest season of the year. It is also a remembrance of an historic struggle. Perhaps, the timing and history of this holiday is meant to call us to action: if we want light in this world, WE must light it. And, this year of all years, we need to do all we can to bring in more light.

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, the first woman to be ordained a Conservative rabbi, warns that the norms of decency, core principles of Jewish ethics and truth itself are all under attack in today's America. Chanukah, she suggests, was meant for times such as these. We were taught in Hebrew school that Chanukah was about Judah the Maccabee defeating the Syrian-Greeks. True! But, our tradition offers a parallel narrative:

"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...!' 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..." (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate, Avodah Zarah).

This year, it feels right to focus on this aspect of Chanukah. One that connects us to the rest of humanity (so many of the nations who are Adam's and Eve's descendants have holidays at this time), but one that also supports the Jewish community in particular.

As we look forward to Chanukah, we cannot avoid feeling the pain of our times. Rabbi Eilberg encourages us: when the world around us grows dark, we are tasked with lighting it up to soothe and lift our spirits, and to connect ourselves with the Divine around and within us. She offers the sight of the Chanukkiah as precisely the source of inspiration we need in these times. An eight-candle version of the Menorah, it moves from faint light to a blaze of eight (really, nine with the shamash) beautiful candles. May this light nourish us. May it empower us to renew our commitment to work for justice here, in Israel, and wherever we are tasked with shining light in the darkness. A joyous Chanukah to one and all!

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

A Season of Celebration and Community - Exciting Thanksgiving and Chanukah Programs at the FJCC

Our Thanksgiving celebrations offered a wonderful opportunity to connect, give thanks, and share joyously with family, friends, and fellow congregants. We hope your Thanksgiving was memorable and meaningful.

Thanksgiving Day Interfaith Service - Again this year, we partnered with local faith communities for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Together those at the event reflected on the themes of gratitude, unity, and community, offering prayers and songs of thanks for the blessings in our lives. We were thrilled to host this special gathering, which provides a meaningful way to come together with neighbors and strengthen our relationships with other faith traditions.

Visiting Collegian Shabbat – Whether you celebrated together at home or at the post-Thanksgiving Friday evening Shabbat, hopefully you enjoyed a weekend of gratitude with family and friends.

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is a time to celebrate the miracles of Jewish history, the warmth of family traditions, and the light that we can bring to the world. The holidays are about more than just celebration—they are an opportunity to come together as a community, support one another, and share the blessings we have. We are excited to offer a lineup of programs and events that will bring our community together for Chanukah. There's a wide variety of activities for members of all ages to enjoy throughout this festive season. We hope you will join us in making this season one of joy, gratitude, and light.

· **Municipal Holiday Lights Celebration** on Sunday December 1st at 5 pm – Raritan Township and Mayor Scott Sipos will sponsor a community celebration featuring the lighting of the Xmas tree, menorah and Dawali lights. Attendees are invited to bring canned goods to support the Flemington Area Food Pantry. There will be pizza, hot chocolate and cookies to add a sweet touch to the evening.

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



- **Chanukah Storytelling with Latkes and Donuts** on Friday December 6th at 7:30 pm - This year, we're excited to offer a special Chanukah program designed for families with young children. Join us for an interactive storytime with the ever-engaging Rebecca Kelly! Everyone will also have the opportunity to play with dreidels and enjoy some tasty holiday treats. This is the perfect way to prepare for the wonders of Chanukah.
- **Youth Group Chanukah Cooking Event and Visit to Care Center** on December 15th and 19th
- **Sisterhood Menorah Lighting, Chinese and Karaoke** on Wednesday December 25th at 5:30 pm - Celebrate the joy of Chanukah with a special four-part evening gathering. Don't forget to bring your Chanukah menorah so we can light up the social hall with the glow of the Chanukah candles. Then, we will move to the lawn to light the outdoor Chanukiah and sing some traditional songs. We will move back to the warm indoors for Chinese food (register on ShulCloud) and more singing. Join us for a festive party with candle-lighting, singing, yummy food and fun for all ages.
- **Nightly Menorah Lighting** on December 25 thru January 1 at 6 pm (except Shabbat) - Join us for our nightly outdoor menorah lighting, where we will come together to light the menorah, sing traditional songs, and celebrate the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. Since the lighting will be early Friday afternoon, enjoy delicious sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and connect with fellow members at services and the Oneg. For anyone that wants to order kosher Krispy Kreme, send an email to me at president@flemingtonjcc.org.

Sharon Rednor

100th Anniversary

The Flemington Jewish Community Center's 100-year anniversary celebration ends with a gala in December 2026. Congregants are invited to submit a "tagline" to be used in publicity material. The tagline should be concise and reflect our illustrious past and vision for the future. One idea (just to get you thinking) is "Shaping the Future by Remembering the Past."

SUBMIT THE WINNING TAGLINE TO WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE 100-YEAR GALA!

Contest rules:

1. You must be a member (or immediate family of a member) to participate; one entry per member
2. Fill out the form below with your name, contact information, and tagline
3. Email your form to 100thcatchphrase@flemingtonjcc.org by 1/1/25
4. The 100th Anniversary Committee will select the top **5** entrees (*blinded to the submitter*) and select the best idea.

THE WINNER WILL
BE REVEALED AT
THE PROGRESSIVE
DINNER ON
JANUARY 25, 2025!



The FJCC Sisterhood cordially invites YOU to join us for a special event!!

Progressive Dinner, Saturday, January 25th at 6:30pm!



This event has THREE destinations, all within a short drive of one another. Easy as **A, B, C...!**

A: Appetizers at the Nemeth's, where you'll learn the identity of your entree host.

B: Entree Hosts!

C: Desserts at the Clarin's.

This event is the kickoff of the FJCC's "100 Weeks To Our 100th Year" celebration.

And supporting Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year is easy as **1, 2, 3...!**

1: Sign up online and encourage fellow congregants to attend.

2: Choose from Vegetarian, Kosher or Kosher-Style upon registration.

3: Volunteer to help or host for the next Progressive Dinner!

Please, RSVP by January 17th. (Addresses, directions and event timeline upon registration.)

Babysitting is available through the FJCC Youth Group!

HEBREW SCHOOL

Now that the Tishrei holidays are behind us, we turn our attention to leading Friday night services. The seventh through twelfth grade set the tone on November 15 when they led services flawlessly. Meanwhile, the fourth through sixth grade is hard at work preparing to lead services this coming January.

This month we will focus on Chanukah, learning the story and traditions, brachot and songs. Join us on Friday, December 6th for Chanukah stories from the bima, donuts and latkes.



GET READY FOR CHANUKAH!

Storytelling Latkes, & Donuts

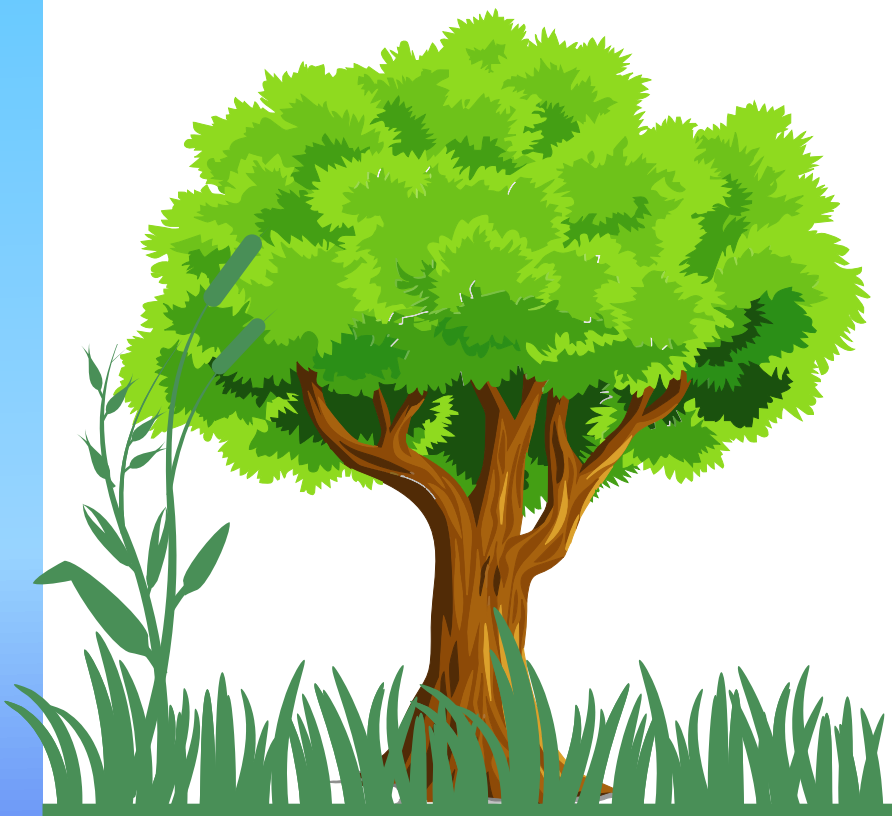
WITH REBECCA KELLY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:30



PAST EVENTS



Pam Nemeth received 40 flowering plants from the Cross Country Nurseries in Stockton. With only a few days notice, Glen Gold added them to the garden bed off the social hall. Thanks to all involved.



SISTERHOOD



The ladies of Sisterhood worked extra hard to make some new centerpieces for Bow Tie Shabbat!

Come see them in person at each Bow Tie Shabbat, the first Shabbat of every month!



DINNER IS SERVED



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING


Theme: Together We...
2024 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Outline:
Hosted by FAFLA at the Flemington Jewish Community Center
24 November 2024 at 6:00 pm

Together we...

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Flemington Area Faith Leaders Association

November 24, 2024



THANKFUL



December

Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar Dec 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Sunday Morning	2 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 6:30pm - CS LT Meeting	3 11am - Yoga In the Social 7pm - Movie Club 7:30pm - Genealogy	4 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 7pm - 100th Anniversary	5 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - Dinner is Served 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	6 Golstein Oneg 7:30pm - Chanukah 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	7 9:15am - Shabbat service
8 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10:30am - EB Meeting 10:30am - Sisterhood	9 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Book Club	10 11am - Yoga In the Social 5:45pm - Security 7pm - Center Series	11 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 5pm - Sisterhood Pop Up	12 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	13 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	14 9:15am - Shabbat service 7pm - Steve Katz
15 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Gan Goes to 10:30am - EB Meeting 11:30am - YOUTH	16 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	17 11am - Yoga In the Social	18 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	19 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	20 Walsh Oneg 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	21 Weinstock/Eisinger 9:15am - Shabbat service
22 9am - Sunday Morning	23 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm - Chinese Food	26	27 Goldstein Oneg 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	28 Nifoussi Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service
29 9am - Sunday Morning	30 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	31	1 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	2 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	3 7:30pm - Storytelling 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	4 9:15am - Shabbat service



Get tickets for this final concert [HERE !!](#)

An Evening of Story & Song

STEVE KATZ

Founding Member

Blood Sweat & Tears
The Blues Project
American Flyer &
The Even Dozen Jug Band

December 14th
7 PM



*"One of the few rock memoirs worth reading from beginning to end."
—Publishers Weekly*

a memoir

BLOOD, SWEAT,
and MY ROCK
'N' ROLL YEARS:
Is Steve Katz a Rock Star?
STEVE KATZ
FOUNDING MEMBER OF BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS

Join us for a special evening with Steve Katz, a founding member of Blood, Sweat & Tears, at the FJCC on December 14 at 7 PM! This is your chance to see him one last time before he retires!

Steve has traveled the country, captivating audiences with stories and songs from his incredible musical journey. He will take you back to the unforgettable music we all know and love. Don't miss this memorable night with Steve Katz – it's sure to be an experience you'll cherish forever!

As a talented guitarist, singer, songwriter, and storyteller, Steve has made his mark across many genres, from folk and jazz to rock and blues. He has played at legendary venues like Fillmore East and was part of iconic festivals like Woodstock. His band won three Grammys, including Album of the Year, and his influence helped create several chart-topping hits. After leaving BS&T, Steve dove into record production, working on Lou Reed's famous album, *Rock'nRoll Animal*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Raritan Township,
You're invited to the first lighting of our NEW Holiday Tree and Menorah!

Sunday, December 1st @ 5pm
1 Municipal Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822

Festivities include:

- Take pictures with Santa Claus
- Satisfy your sweet tooth with FREE Hot Chocolate and Cookies
- Enjoy FREE food from Panatieri's food truck
- Create holiday cards for active military members serving overseas

Share the true spirit of the holidays with a donation to the Flemington Area Food Pantry!



Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

FJCC

5 Sergeantsville Road in Flemington, NJ



Day	Date	Time
WED	DEC 25	5:30
THU	DEC 26	6:00
FRI	DEC 27	BY STAFF
SAT	DEC 28	6:00
SUN	DEC 29	6:00
MON	DEC 30	6:00
TUE	DEC 31	6:00
WED	JAN 1	6:00

UPCOMING EVENTS

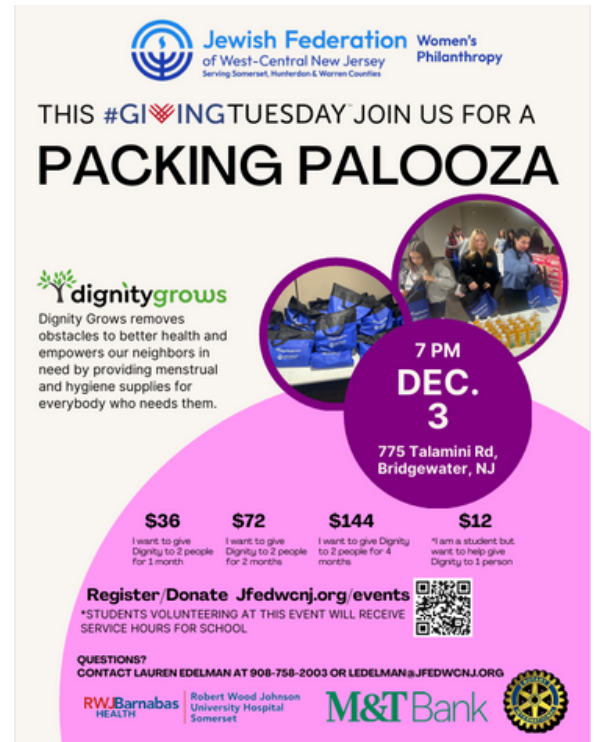
Register for events on Shulcloud. Links are posted in News and Notes.



MOVIE CLUB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
7:00 PM ON ZOOM

“WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS”?



Jewish Federation of West-Central New Jersey Women's Philanthropy
Serving Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties

THIS #GIVINGTUESDAY JOIN US FOR A PACKING PALOOZA

dignitygrows
Dignity Grows removes obstacles to better health and empowers our neighbors in need by providing menstrual and hygiene supplies for everybody who needs them.

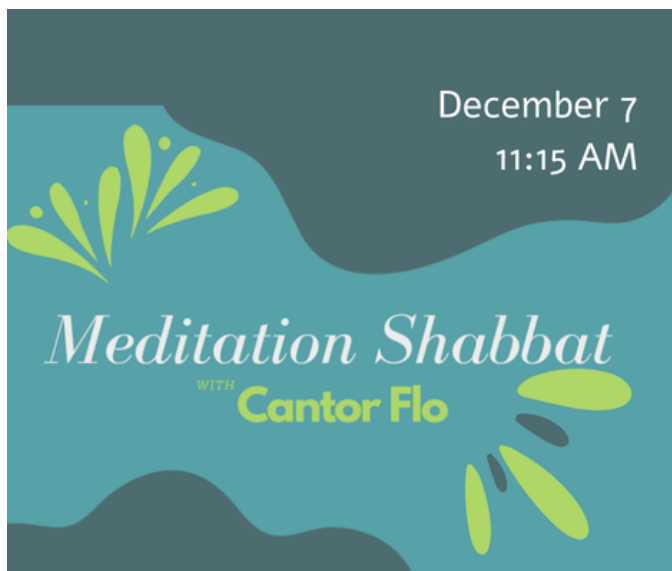
7 PM DEC. 3
775 Talamini Rd, Bridgewater, NJ

\$36 I want to give Dignity to 2 people for 1 month	\$72 I want to give Dignity to 2 people for 2 months	\$144 I want to give Dignity to 2 people for 4 months	\$12 I am a student but want to help give Dignity to 1 person
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Register/Donate [jfedwcnj.org/events](https://www.jfedwcnj.org/events)
*STUDENTS VOLUNTEERING AT THIS EVENT WILL RECEIVE SERVICE HOURS FOR SCHOOL

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT LAUREN EDELMAN AT 908-758-2003 OR LEDELMAN@JFEDWCNJ.ORG

RW Barnabas HEALTH | **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset** | **M&T Bank**



December 7
11:15 AM

Meditation Shabbat
WITH **Cantor Flo**



LUNCH AND LEARN

Daily Life In Israel
December 7

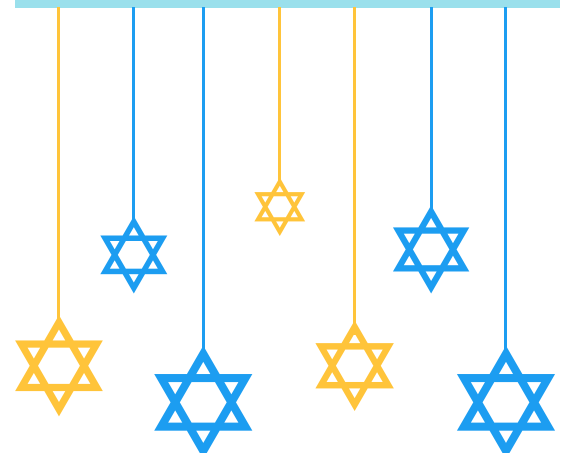
Our speaker is Alex Itzhak. She is the the SSBJCC shlichah, Israeli emissary. She will be talking about daily life in Israel since October 7th



DINNER IS SERVED
FJCC Dinner Club
Sunday December 8th , 6pm



Chimney Rock Inn - Flemington
Cash Bar
RSVP membership@flemingtonjcc.org by December 3
*adults only



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sisterhood Chanukah Gift Shop

December 8th & 11th

During Hebrew School!

Shop for Chanukah!

EJCC Book Club

December 9

People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present
by *Dara Horn*

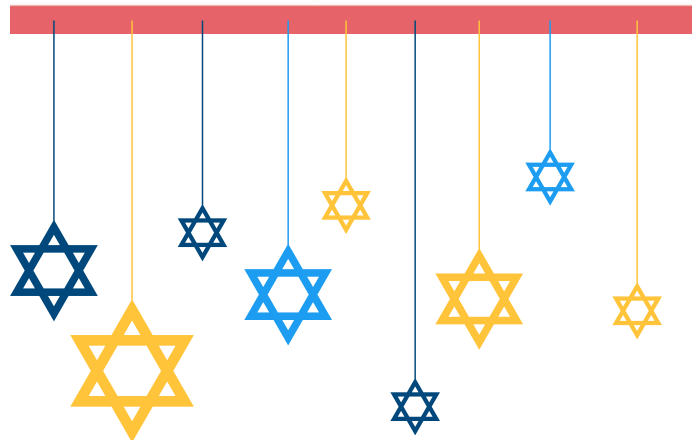


People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present, by Dara Horn. Often asked to write on subjects related to Jewish culture - and increasingly in response to a recent wave of deadly anti-Semitic attacks - Horn was troubled to realize what all of these assignments had in common: She was being asked to write about dead Jews, never about living ones.

HELP US PUT UP THE OUTDOOR MENORAH

Sunday, December 15, after morning minyan, 10:30.

Raindate: Sunday, December 22



HANUKKAH COOK OFF

SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH
11:30-1:00
\$10

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

Sisterhood Presents...
Chinese Dinner, Karaoke & Menorah Lighting!

December 25th 5:30pm

Register on ShulCloud by December 18th!

Adults \$25 Kids \$18


WEEKLY EVENTS

Parashat HaShavuah
with
Rabbi Cohen
Mondays, 1:00
Beginning Sep 12



All are welcome!

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!

REMEMBER

**Not Just for Seniors
Chair Yoga**
Tuesdays @ 11:15 Starting 9.3
At the FJCC
Suggested Donation \$5
Registration in Advance is Required
www.beherenowoga108.com



**THINGS
TO DO**

Mah Jongg
Thursdays, 1-3:30
\$5 cash at door
New & Experienced Players Welcome!
Members can bring friends
Light snacks served



Contact Karen Walsh: kwash@flemingtonjcc.org

Adult Education Classes
with
Rabbi Cohen



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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

December 3

Hannah
Weinstock-Gallagher
Alexandra Kesselhaut

December 11

Valerie Goldman
Benjamin Jampel

December 18

Kim Muller

December 5

Monica Gort-Jakubowski

December 13

Jacqueline Sornstein
Allen Kern

December 20

Robin Alexander
Jason Quinn
Eric Rogow

December 14

Malka Goodman

December 21

Arthur Wetstein

December 8

Mark Gertzman

December 12

Alexander Soto

December 27

Alan Radzin

December 10

Scott Gursky

December 16

Seth Cohen
Brynn Jampel

December 28

Bruce Kestenbaum

HAPPY
Anniversary

December 24th

Bruce & Florence Newrock

YAHARZEITS

December 1, 2024

Annie Goldstein

December 2, 2024

Ruth Clarin

Calvin Kanter

December 5, 2024

Lillian Piltzer

Sylvia Rogow

Alejandro Goins de Soto

December 6, 2024

Rosalind Plantikow

Charles William Bryant Watson II

December 8, 2024

Alana Ceilia Cohen

December 9, 2024

Herman Simon

Donald Watts

December 10, 2024

Mae Suess

Myrna Wasserman

December 11, 2024

Brenda Williamson

December 13, 2024

Eugene Esterkin

Marvin Skowronek

December 14, 2024

Pearl Greenberg

December 15, 2024

Joseph Weinstock

December 19, 2024

Rubin Simon

Ann Simon

December 20, 2024

Freydun "Fred" Daneshrad

Rose Doshna

Charles Slavin

December 21, 2024

Phyllis Waldman

December 22, 2024

Gustav Eisinger

Adrian Mittler

December 24, 2024

Karen Hubert

December 25, 2024

Edith Grill

December 26, 2024

Abraham Goldstein

December 28, 2024

Sylvia Newrock

December 29, 2024

Linda Goldstein

December 30, 2024

Joseph Nifoussi

December 31, 2024

Myron Kesselhaut

Contributions

Building Fund

Zel and Marsha Gerstein

To Dan and Stephanie Kirschner on the birth of their son Noah.

Dale and Brian Sperling on the Bar Mitzvah of their sons Joshua and Zachary.

To Aniela and Ramin Daneshrad on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Brendan.

in honor of Sharon Rednor, for everything she does for our congregation!

Zel and Marsha Gerstein

For the yahrzeit of Rubin Simon, beloved father of Marsha Gerstein

Mazel Tov to Drs. Stephen and Joan Rogow on the Bat Mitzvah of their grand daughter, Delilah.

Stephen and Joan Rogow in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Delilah.

General Donations

Garry and Rachel Rodriguez

in memory of Rachel's mother, Brenda Williamson

Nadine Milecofsky

in honor of the birth of Carolyn and David Goldman's grandson, Noah Ellis Kirschner.

Arthur Grossman

for the yahrzeit of Lyla Grossman

Julius Kawarsky & Alexander Soto,

for the yahrzeit of Eloise Kawarsky

Antje Boyle

for the yahrzeit of Bill Doyle



Thank You



Contributions

Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Jim & Alissa Fox

for the yahrzeit of Freda Fox, Jim's mother, (oneg 11/15)

Sharon & Ed Winnick

for the yahrzeit of Benjamin Neustadt, Sharon's father, (oneg 11/15)

Stephen & Joan Rogow,

in honor of Carolyn & David Goldman (oneg 11/22)

Fred Eisinger

for the yahrzeit of Fred's beloved mother, Sally Eisinger Stein (kiddush 2/22/25)

For the yahrzeit of Fred's beloved father, Gustav Eisinger (kiddush 12/21/24)

Rabbi Discretionary

Hira Ishmael

in memory of Maya Sophia Tajudeen

FJCC Cares

Linda & Jerry Atlas

Thank you for your kindness to FJCC Cares volunteers



Advertise here!

**12 months of
advertising to
over 300 people!**

**\$175 business card
size**

\$275 ¼ page

\$550 ½ page

\$1000 full page

**Use your
business to
support your
community!**