FJCCFLASH Newsletter of the Flemington Jewish Community Center

Decorating the Sukkah

NOVEMBER 2024 TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5785

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THIS MONTH:

- Sukkot!
- 100th Anniversary
- Steven Katz-You should go!

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RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

Rosh Hashanah generally occurs during, what I consider, the most beautiful time of year. We observe Rosh Hashanah in a season when nature is beginning to shut down, to go on hiatus. It's an interesting time to contemplate new beginnings.

In ancient times, the festival of Sukkot, was a major harvest holiday, so being judged at the new year, before the harvest was in, before we knew how much we would have to eat, felt quite powerful.

Nowadays, when we are not so tied to the agricultural cycle, fall can have other associations. We gather together as a community, after a summer of vacations, trips, and barbecues. For us, especially in America, Rosh Hashanah coincides with the beginning of school, with getting back to work, with re-engaging with old routines. We ask ourselves: how different will things be this year? There is a certain amount of trepidation.

I imagine many of us are not sad to see 5784 go away. The events of October 7th, and their aftermath, weigh on us. Soon, we will be going to the polls for the most consequential, and fraught, election in our times, perhaps in American history. This Rosh Hashanah, I am not just grieving 5784, I am dreading 5785. Behind us death and destruction; before us fear and uncertainty. We have not felt this lost in a long time.

Rabbi Elimelech of Lizhensk, a great Hasidic master, teaches that it is at the moment of our deepest exile that we have the greatest potential to draw nearer to God - greater even than our ancestors had when the Temple stood in Jerusalem. To draw near to God, we must create spaces into which we invite God. So, for us to find the comfort, the strength, the inspiration to move forward out of sorrow into uncertainty, we need to come together in sacred community.

We humans are inherently social creatures. We need community. For our mental, physical and spiritual health, we need our joy celebrated and our grief acknowledged... in community. Indeed, we sometimes need to acknowledge both, simultaneously.

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

This year we have had our share of simchas, bnei mitzvah, weddings, babynamings. Fear and uncertainty are real, but they do not happen in complete isolation, and both, for our emotional health, require community. Rosh Hashanah is both a day of joy – Happy New Year! – and a time of trepidation, the Day of Judgment. Our tradition asks us to hold both, knowing this is not easy. but teaching that it is necessary.

A story, this one from the Mishnah (Middot 2: 2), shared by Rabbi Sharon Brous, in her book The Amen Effect:

Jews who made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem on joyous holidays would enter the Temple Mount on the right side of the Southern Gates, and circle the Temple complex counter-clockwise. However, people who are suffering from a loss or trauma, such as a mourner, circles in the opposite direction, counter-clockwise. This identified them as someone to whom something unfortunate had happened, and allowed the others, circling in the opposite direction, to see them and offer comfort: [The mourner was asked]: "Why do you go round to the left?" "Because," they answered, I am a mourner." [They respond to him], "May the Eternal who dwells in this house comfort you."

What an amazing ritual, what an important teaching. Imagine: I'm on a holiday pilgrimage, a happy occasion. I am doing my Torah duty, but I am devastated by loss. Rather than sit home alone, I am supposed to go on my pilgrimage, despite my mourning, and share my grief. As I am walking my circuit around the Temple, I am asked: "What happened to you?" I answer: "I lost someone." Or maybe: "I am suffering with a sickness." And those who walk by me answer: "May God comfort you." "I am so sorry for your loss." "May your community embrace you." And, in the huge throngs gathered in Jerusalem for the holiday, I hear these messages of comfort again, and again, and again.

To cope with the tragedy of this past year, to meet the challenge of this new year, we come together in community. May God grant that this year offers more joy than last, for us, for Israel, for all people, and for all living things. May we all be written in the Book of Life. Shanah Tovah!

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Shanah Tovah! I have conflicting emotions this holiday season. As the President of this congregation, I am thrilled that the FJCC will soon be celebrating our 100th anniversary. As the parent of a college student, I am proud of those on campuses who courageously stand up to anti-Semitism. On the other hand, as I hear daily about incidents of hate from around the country and abroad, I am in pain, but I gain comfort being together with you as we chant the moving Yom Kippur liturgy. Clearly, I would have preferred that my remarks to you be only upbeat and celebratory, but I just couldn't find a way to do it this year.

Having just passed the one-year anniversary of the murders and abductions by Hamas, I am anxious for the families of all those impacted by this war. I grieve for those killed in the attack on October 7th, the soldiers killed fighting Hamas and the civilians killed in Gaza. I mourn with their families. I pray for the hostages still being held in Gaza. Let's bring them home alive! Unfortunately, we also lost a number of members of our congregational family over the past year.

Now, let me move on to something a bit more positive. I want to talk to you about connectedness and connections – from Doordash, Facebook and the internet to social interactions and celebrations. We live in an electronic age, a connected world. We get information instantly with a few clicks. I can order dinner delivery quickly online and during the Covid lockdown I could connect with my relatives via Zoom without risking our health. Our connected world made that possible. However, as we enter 5785, I would rather have personal connections. I want to chat with you while on an outing. I want to hear about your vacation and view your photographs while you explain why you loved your trip. I want to gather to discuss the difficult issues facing the Jews in the US and abroad. I want to support you by attending services on the anniversary of the death of a loved one. I want you to recommend a great book and sit with me to talk about it. I want to gather together at Kiddush to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of your child. I want to hug a friend after they completed a harrowing medical treatment. I want you to bring your grandchildren to the FJCC so I can see the pride on your face as you introduce them, and I want to eat a Shabbat meal with you while we share our hopes for the coming year. In short, I want the future to be about behaviors that build health, nurture the spirit, warm our hearts and actions that foster relationships with friends, family, and community.

Now, I ask you -- what form of enhanced connection will you create in the coming year? I have a suggestion ... Let's continue the work of those who established the

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

FJCC in 1926 by praying together, learning together, doing community service together. As the FJCC embarks on a remarkable milestone, our 100th anniversary, I look forward to heartily celebrating with you, the families and children who will lead us into the future.

I am asking **you** to be a partner in our community, to contribute to the upcoming gatherings at the FJCC in general, and specifically for the 100th anniversary of our congregation. It is only through your volunteer efforts and your financial contributions that the FJCC will flourish for another 100 years. This introspective time of year is a perfect time to reflect on what this community does, all this community is and what you can give to the FJCC. As you may have seen, the donation cards have a brief wish list, including:

1) funding for security after our grant runs out in February,

2) a request to fund special maintenance projects in this 20-year-old facility so that we can continue to serve our community,

3) seed money for a marketing/publicity consultant to help us engage our Hebrew School students who are now "kid-ults," to reconnect with lapsed members and to reach out to new members,

4) a call for you to join the small group of very dedicated volunteers,

5) and finally, as you have heard, we have a 100th anniversary approaching, an excellent reason to throw a big party! Please contribute financially and by volunteering to make this anniversary truly spectacular.

I want to publicly thank the Board and the volunteers for your involvement and dedication. Thank you to those who coordinated the High Holiday logistics, which appear seamless but is really a BIG job. I also want to thank my husband, Austin and my family for their support. It is my privilege and honor to give this, my third and I expect my last High Holiday speech to you. Of course, my wish for all is to have a sweet, happy, and healthy 5785. Gmar chatimah tovah!



100th Anniversary

98 years ago, Jewish immigrants, primarily from eastern Europe and Russia, and their families, founded the Flemington Jewish Community Center. They'd come to Hunterdon County to escaped poverty, danger and widespread state sponsored persecution.

It was important for these families to create a Jewish community here. Initially, services were conducted in member's homes. However, they wanted more. They wanted a building of their own. So, they worked hard and saved and eventually opened the first Flemington Jewish Community Center building in which to conduct services. But their intention was not for this building to just be a place of prayer, but also a home for culture and community.

This beautiful building we are in now is the evolution of our founding mothers' and fathers' dreams. To honor their memory and the memories of all the men and women who have given so much so we have what we have today, a series of events are being planned to take place over the next 100 weeks leading up to a 100-year anniversary gala in December, 2026.

Our first activity is a "100 weeks to the 100th anniversary progressive dinner this coming January. Additional activities we have planned include planting 100 daffodils during the 2025 sukkot, burying a time capsule that will be dug up by future generations and selling and installing commemorative bricks. You will also have an opportunity to participate in a mitzvah challenge and perhaps earn prizes.

We hope that you will take part in this celebration. The 100th anniversary celebration is a community wide event, so please involve your families, former members and anyone else that has been involved with the FJCC over the years. In addition, if you have any ideas to make this milestone more celebratory or want to get more involved in the preparation, please reach out to Jonathan Nemeth.



SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood had an awesome time making crafts to decorate our Sukkah! Here are some highlights from this event! Join us for our next crafting event on 11/17 when we make centerpieces for the social hall!



HEBREW SCHOOL

The students were busy learning about the Tishrei Holidays in the classroom and with Rabbi Cohen. They learned the symbols, brachot and traditions for each holiday, and Rabbi taught them to blow shofar. High Holiday Jr. Congregations were well attended.

We hope to see you at Shabbat Beyachad during Sukkot. Stop by the Sukkah and see the decorations the students made out of recycled cds. There was a special learn about Simchat Torah program with make your own edible Torahs, a snack that continues to be a success.

The month ended with and Ghost stories with Rebecca Kelly.

The 7th – 12th graders will lead services on Nov 15. We hope you can join us. Chanukah is late this year, it runs concurrent with Winter Break. I can't imagine a Hebrew School year without some kind of Chanukah. Join us on Friday, December 6th for Chanukah stories from the bima, donuts and latkes.







It is with immense joy and pride that we invite the congregation to join us as **Zachary** and **Joshua Sperling** become B'nai Mitzvah on November 2, 2024. The boys have demonstrated incredible dedication, balancing their studies with a full slate of activities, including competitive soccer and basketball, excelling academically, and playing clarinet and saxophone in the school band.

Their journey to this significant milestone has been marked by determination and commitment, as they've embraced the many things they love while preparing for this important moment in their Jewish lives. For their Bar Mitzvah project, Zachary and Joshua have chosen to honor those who protect the freedoms we cherish by collecting and shipping over 250 pounds of snacks, toiletries, and other essentials to deployed troops. This month, they will be leading another collection drive with their soccer team and continue supporting Operation Jersey



Cares, meeting the evolving needs of our servicemen and women.

We are incredibly proud of the young men they are becoming, and we welcome everyone to celebrate this special occasion with us on November 2, followed by a Kiddush luncheon.





With immense pride and joy, we invite you to join us as our beloved son, **Brendon Daneshrad** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on November 9th. This milestone represents his hard work, growth, and deepening connection to his faith and community.

Brendon has been preparing diligently for this day, and we are excited to celebrate not only his achievements but also the spiritual journey that brings him closer to Jewish tradition and responsibility. As many of you know, he is passionate about sports and is driven by the spirit of teamwork and accomplishment—values that reflect his

determination both on and off the field.

We would be honored by your presence to share in this special moment with us and our family. A celebratory kiddush will follow the service, and we look forward to continuing the festivities together.

Please join us in making this day even more meaningful with your support and blessings."







What is it like to make a produce delivery to the Flemington Food Pantry? Quite frankly – it's a wonderful five minutes.

A typical delivery involves driving past the long line of cars and people out front waiting to pick up their food and then parking at the delivery entrance. Depending on the hour, we are greeted by one or several smiling volunteers. **Ray Slavin** and **Bruce Newrock** are frequently at the delivery area and it's aways wonderful to see them there.

First thing's first – weigh the vegetables on the large scale. Logging in the weight of our delivery on a wall-mounted ipad is next. We are careful to select "Giving Garden" from the two FJCC accounts - 1. Giving Garden/Sharon Rednor and 2. Hebrew School/Rabbi Cohen. If we hadn't sorted the vegetables prior to arriving, we next grab small boxes neatly stored on shelves for us and sort on a long table at the far right of the delivery area. When the delivery area is too crowded, we get creative, sometimes sorting in the volunteer bagging area or on a picnic table out back. This is nice because it gives us a chance to see other aspects of the Food Pantry's operations and maybe spot some FJCCers sorting cans in the aisles. Peek-a-boo **Harry Rapkin** and **Liz Slavin**. We've seen you!! My personal favorite is when we're asked to add our vegetables directly to the bins outside in the customer pickup line from which people are choosing their produce. It's just an extra layer of satisfaction - seeing our vegetables in their last moments before being taken home by someone to enjoy.





No matter where we sort the vegetables or whom we hand them to, volunteer show us their appreciation. Maybe by just a smile. Or maybe by jumpstarting my car batter after it died in their parking lot. Frequently Kristin Stockwell, the Community Garden Manager, gives helpful advice. And sometimes the Executive Director, Jeannine Gorman, comes out to see what we're bringing in.

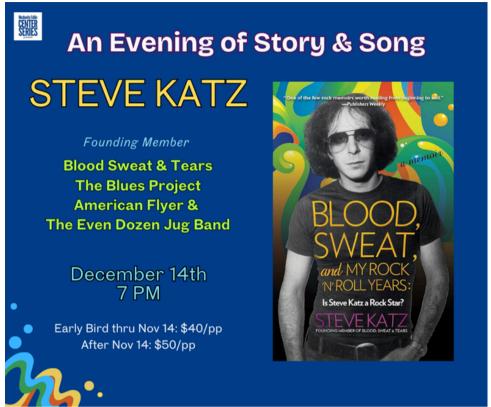
Us FJCC volunteers are at the Food Pantry only five minutes or less. But as we drive away it is with the feel-good knowledge that we've made a difference in the week of several families.And then we head to Shop Rite to buy food for our own families.





Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun
	1	31	30	29	28	27
	Bar Mitzvah - Sperling	1pm - Mah Jongg	4:30pm - HS Girnel - Vav	11am - Yoga In the Social	10:30am - Bridge	Deb Vacay
9:15am - Shabbat servic	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	7:30pm - Bridge	4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8	12pm - Senior Dance	12pm - Senior Dance	9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew
			4:45pm - Rebecca Kelly		1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	9am - Sunday Morning
			7:30pm - BoT Meeting		7pm - Book Club	
	_ 8	7	6	5	4	3
	Bar Mitzvah - Daneshard	11am - Adult Ed		11am - Yoga in the Social	10:30am - Bridge	Super Sunday Federation
9:15am - Shabbat servio	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - Dinner is Served 7:30pm - Bridge		7:30pm - Genealogy	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 11:30am - Youth Group
	15	14	13	12	11	10
Jacobson Kiddush	6pm - SHABBAT DINNER	11am - Adult Ed	4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav	11am - Yoga in the Social	10:30am - Bridge	9am - Sunday Morning
9:15am - Shabbat servic	7:30pm - Class Service 7:30pm - New Member 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 6:30pm - CS LT Meeting -	5:45pm - Security 7pm - Center Serles	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	10:30am - EB Meeting
	22	21	20	19	18	17
9:15am - Shabbat servic 12:15pm - Maybe Lunch	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	11am - Adult Ed	4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav	11am - Yoga in the Social	10:30am - Bridge	9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew
		1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	7pm - CS Meeting	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Gan Goes to 10:30am - Sisterhood
	29	28	27	26	25	24
9:15am - Shabbat servic		OFFICE CLOSED		11am - Yoga in the Social	10:30am - Bridge	9am - Alef - Vay Hebrew
	7:30pm - Visiting 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat				1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	9am - Sunday Morning 2pm - Interfaith

Get early bird tickets for this final concert <u>HERE</u> by November 14!!



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.

We are always looking for volunteers to help distribute posters and to assist before and after the event. To volunteer contact Nadine at <u>auntdeeny@gmail.com</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



WEEKLY EVENTS

CONTRACT & DUPLICATE Parashat HaShavuah BRIDGE DAVID GOLDMAN Rabbi Cohen Mondays, 1:00 DUPLICATE **Beginning Sep 12** BRIDGE MONDAYS- 10 AM \$5/pp/session includes a light lunch CONTRACT BRIDGE THURSDAYS- 7:30 PM \$2/pp/session includes snacks All are welcome! NERS ARE WELCON Not Just for Seniors Chair Yoga Tuesdays @11:15 Starting 9.3 At the FJCC Suggested Donation \$5 Registration in Advance is Required www.beherenowyoga108.com Mah Jongg Adult Education Classes Rabbi Cohen Thursdays, 1-3:30 \$5 cash at door

S5 cash at door Mew & Experienced Players Welcome! Members can bring friends Light snacks served Contract Force Welch burgerbergere are

SUR

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

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



<u>November 1</u>

Rosemary Mehrlust

November 2 Sharon Winnick Judy Gold

<u>November 4</u>

Deborah Farber Heather Goldschmitt Eilene Gallagher

> **November 5** Pamela Nemeth Barbara Clarin

November 7 Robin Alexander November 8 Sharon Brooks Jane Wasserman

November 9 Kari Gursky Robin Mason

November 12 Rachel Rodriguez

November 17 Cara London

November 19 SharonGavzy

November 20 Joan Rogow November 21 Dana Cohen

November 23 Deborah Farber

November 25 Cheryl Schutz

<u>November 26</u> Monica Gort-Jakubowski

> November 27 Karen Walsh

> November 28 Dale Sperling Sophie Shor



<u>November 8th</u> Nathan & Patricia Lefkow

<u>November 10th</u> Jeffrey & Robin Alexander <u>November 14th</u> Fredrick & Melissa Kleiman

<u>November 21st</u> Howard & Anneliese Nifoussi

<u>November 24th</u> Karen & Michael Shankoff

YAHRZEITS

November 1, 2024 Gershon Dvoor

November 3, 2024 Janet Sugar

<u>November 4, 2024</u> Eloise (Polly) Kawarsky Frank Rapp Ina Lee Young Thelma Kaplan Stanley Lefkow

> November 8, 2024 Lawrence O. Gross

November 9, 2024 Juliette Wolf William Doyle Samuel Atlas

November 10, 2024 Ann Borman Gerald Kahansky Bernard Gould

November 11, 2024 Bernard S. Grossman

November 12, 2024 Samuel Lonsk

November 15, 2024 Lillian Friedman November 16, 2024 Benjamin Neustadt Freda Fox

November 19, 2024 Marion Rapkin

November 20, 2024 Fred Klinger

November 22, 2024 Hannah Cohn

November 23, 2024 Robert Treinish

November 25, 2024 David Sandler Milton Richman

November 26, 2024 Irving Radzin Sidney Lifchitz

November 27, 2024 Solomon Sperber

November 28, 2024 Lorraine Sirota

November 30, 2024 Sidney Klein Irving Braff

Contributions

<u>Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh</u>

Fred Eisinger

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Gustav Eisinger and of my beloved mother, Sally Eisinger Stein

Shellie Jacobson

In memory of Marvin's annual Levi Aliyah

Seth and Dana Cohen

For the yahrzeit of Jerry Cohen

<u>Family Promise</u>

Mitch and Barbara Clarin

In memory of Barbara's sister, Carolyn Watts

<u>Rabbi Discretionary</u>

Jerry and Linda Atlas Refuah Shlemah to Matt Schutz For the yahrzeit

Scibilia For the yahrzeit of Dena's parents, Henrietta and Alvin Farber

General Donations

Antje Doyle

Henry and Sherry Stein In memory of Bernard Stein

Deena Gruskin

Mitch and Barbara Clarin In memory of Isadore Katz

Richard Goldstein

In memory of my beloved mother, Annie, and of my beloved wife, Linda Goldstein and my father Abraham Goldstein

Stephen and Joan Rogow

In celebration of Delilah's Bat Mitzvah

Sharon and Ken Brooks

For the yahrzeit of Ken's mother, Marion Brooks

FJCC Cares

Mitch and Barbara Clarin

Thank you for your kindness to FJCC Cares volunteers

Building Fund

Zel and Marsha Gerstein Refuah Shlemah to Jerry Atlas and to Matt Schutz

David Neibart

In loving memory of my parents and grandparents, Sarah Neibart, Morris Neibart, Emil Neibart, Sheila Neibart Solomon

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!