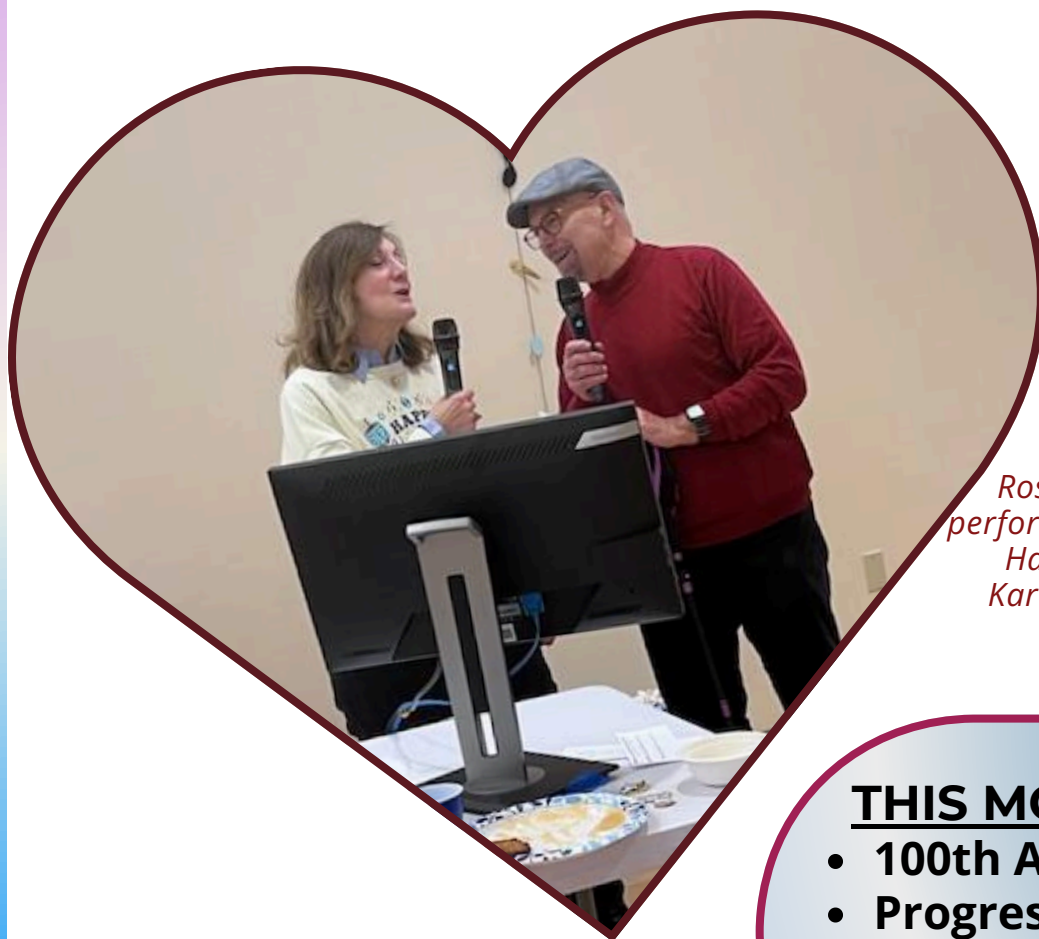


FJCC FLASH

Newsletter of the Flemington Jewish Community Center

JANUARY 2025
TEVET/SH'VAT 5785



Rose Mehrlust and John Fellin perform together at the Sisterhood's Hanukkah, Chinese Dinner & Karaoke event on January 25th

THIS MONTH:

- **100th Anniversary Activities!**
- **Progressive Dinner-Don't MISS it!**

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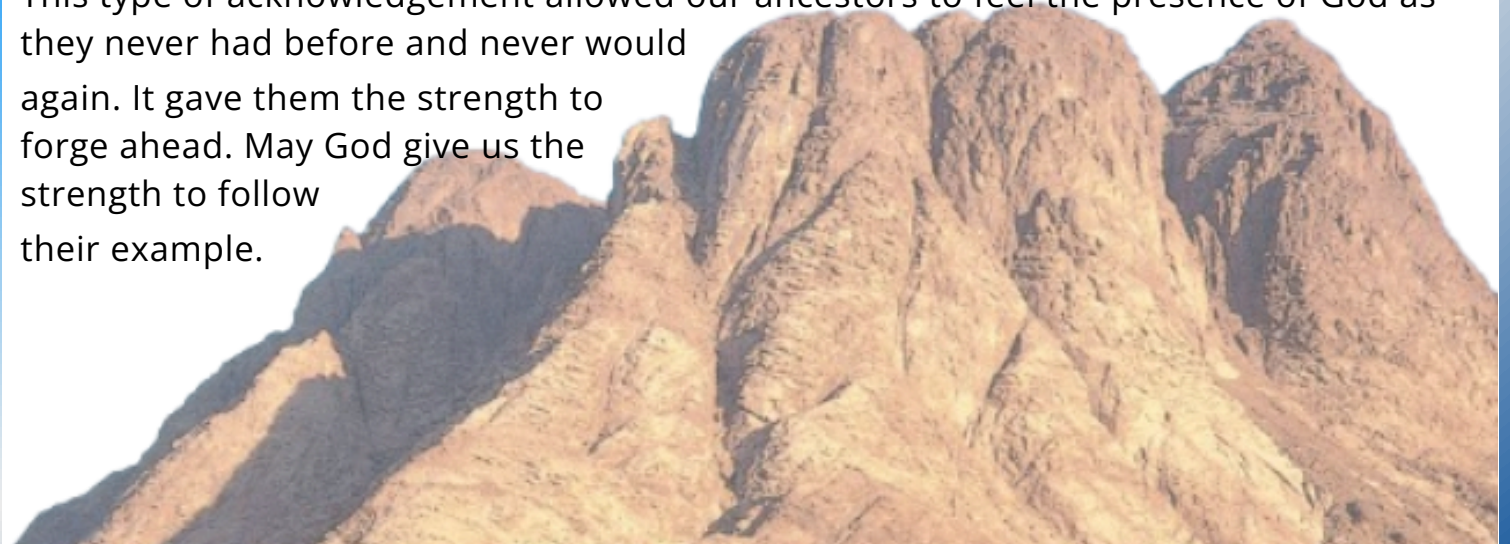
RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

The poet, Tyler Knott, writes: "Mountains know secrets we need to learn. That it might take time, it might be hard, but if you just hold on long enough, you will find the strength to rise up." In Judaism, we have two very important mountains who know secrets we need to learn. Both are symbolically crucial to the Jewish people. In his book, Sinai and Zion, Jon Levenson contrasts these.

Interestingly, Mount Sinai never receives the kind of building attention Mount Zion does. No one constructs a temple there. No permanent shrine or marker is erected on the very spot God gave the Torah to the Jewish people. Sinai does not even fall within the boundaries of land of Israel, even as these change over the millennia. As holy as Mount Zion is, as holy as the city of Jerusalem is, we've never forgotten Mount Sinai. The City of Jerusalem was, indeed, the ancient center of Judaism in which we expressed our devotion to God, but Sinai was the place that God appeared and showed Divine love for us.

Sinai, and the tradition of wandering, also provided our ancestors with an important model for how to be Jewish when the Temple no longer stood in Jerusalem. We could reach back into our past and find another model by which we could maintain our Jewishness. No glorious architecture, just a profound appreciation for God's presence wherever we were willing to let God in, even while dwelling in the most barren of places. This model of relating to God has been a source of comfort and inspiration for millennia.

Today, we are struggling to cope with the conflict and violence, both internal and external, that are engulfing Israel, with Mount Zion at its center. Let us take a little comfort in our ancient tradition of acknowledging God in any place that we may dwell. This type of acknowledgement allowed our ancestors to feel the presence of God as they never had before and never would again. It gave them the strength to forge ahead. May God give us the strength to follow their example.



THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Did you know ... the FJCC is about to celebrate its 100th Anniversary? We are so excited to start the "100 Weeks to 100 Years" centennial activities! Stay tuned to hear more about the various events leading up to our grand gala in January 2026.

Enter the Tagline Contest – We want your input in naming the FJCC anniversary celebration. There is still time to submit your creative idea for a slogan or tagline! Email your idea to: 100thcatchphrase@flemingtonjcc.org.

Sisterhood Progressive Dinner – On January 25th, we officially kickoff the FJCC's 100th Anniversary festivities with always-fun, always-delicious, always-entertaining Progressive Dinner.

Join the Mitzvah Challenge – In the spirit of עולם תיקון (repairing the world), participate in a weekly mitzvah. There will be a checklist of tasks, and we encourage you to undertake as many as you can. Complete the 1st mitzvah by attending the Progressive Dinner in late January.

Commemorate Rabbi Jaffe's 10th Yahrzeit – Alumni of the FJCC Hebrew School are returning to lead a Shabbat service in August 2025, as we fondly remember Rabbi Jaffe.

Bury a Time Capsule – What do you want FJCC members to remember 25 or 50 years from now? Donate items to a time capsule that we will bury on the lawn. Future generations will have the opportunity to look back at the FJCC's 100th celebration.

Plant 100 Daffodils – Participants of all ages will help us beautify the grounds by planting 100 daffodils in the woodlands outside the sanctuary. The planting will take place in Fall 2025, and in the early springtime we will be rewarded by a spray of yellow sunshine.

Buy a Brick – Make your mark by donating an engraved brick. We will set them in the pavement and (again) have a celebration to mark the occasion.

Grand Gala Celebration – Wow! It will be a grand party as we (members, alumni, past congregants, friends of the FJCC, community leaders, etc.) gather together in January 2026 to remember our 100-year history and to set a course for the future of the FJCC.

Do you want to join the planning committee? Do you have photos or stories to share? Can you suggest ways to make the events spectacular? Will you help publicize our activities? To join the effort, please contact: president@flemingtonjcc.org

100th Anniversary

The Flemington Jewish Community Center's 100-year anniversary will be celebrated for the "100 weeks to 100 years" -- starting in January 2025 and culminating in a gala in January 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. Provide your name, contact information, and tagline
3. Email your entry to 100thcatchphrase@flemingtonjcc.org by 1/2/25
4. The 100th Anniversary Committee will select the top **5** entries (*blinded to the submitter*) and select the best idea.

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



100th Anniversary

100 Weeks of Mitzvot Challenge

As part of the "100 Weeks to 100 Years" Anniversary Celebration, there will be an FJCC 100 Weeks of Mitzvot Challenge. This challenge is designed to encourage congregants to do weekly good deeds during the period between the Progressive Dinner and 100 Year Gala. Often the weekly mitzvah corresponds with a holiday, special occasion or FJCC happening and they generally are Mitzvot that benefit others, Mitzvot that benefit the FJCC or Jewish Causes, and/or a Self-Care mitzvot. Each week's mitzvah will be published in News & Notes and will be posted in shul in the lobby. To participate, access the shared Mitzvah Challenge spreadsheet at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/>

Create a username to remain anonymous and complete the week's mitzvah sometime between Sunday and the following Shabbat.

Log your progress and you will be automatically entered in a prize lottery. Winners will be drawn every other month and announced in News & Notes. Begin participating in January or at any point over the next 100 weeks. The mitzvot you do may feel small but their impact will be enormous.

The first mitzvah, to be completed between 1/19-1/25 is easy: **Attend the Progressive Dinner!** For additional information please contact Pam Nemeth, pambn@comcast.net



Do Good!
Feel Good!

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!

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

Babysitting for grades 1-12 is available through the FJCC Youth Group!

HEBREW SCHOOL

January was all about Chanukah. The students recited the brachot and sang songs. Rabbi Cohen shared instructions on lighting the Chanukiya, and the kids enjoyed a wild game of dreidel.

The mighty few in Hebrew School had enough tzedakah to purchase 5 coats to donate to United Way. Our next Tzedakah Project is to collect food for the Flemington Food Pantry.

The students will lead services on January 31, we hope you can join us.



FLEMINGTON FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVE

January 5 - April 6

Starting in January we will be collecting non-perishable food items. We encourage each student to bring one item in each time they come to Hebrew School.

Food items do not need to be kosher



A graphic with a blue and white background featuring two lit candles in yellow holders. The text 'HEBREW SCHOOL CLASS SERVICE' is written in orange, slanted letters. Below it, the date and time '1/31/25 7:30 PM' are also written in orange, slanted letters.

PAST EVENTS

Steve Katz: An Evening of Storytelling and Song

Kudos to the Center Series Committee for putting together a wonderful evening of storytelling and song with Steve Katz, founding member of Blood Sweat and Tears. Steve performed to an audience of over 150 people on January 14 at the FJCC. While most of us know the award-winning music of Blood Sweat and Tears, fewer of us were familiar with the colorful stories leading up to his Blood Sweat and Tears days. He shared that folk and blues music influenced his music style and mentioned how events of the times, such as the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement fueled a generation of music. His pleasant and often humorous storytelling gave the audience a glimpse at the decades of music that many of us grew up in.



Volunteers waiting for the doors to open



Pre-performance schmooze



A packed house!

**Contact Nadine Milecofsky
at auntdeeny@gmail.com
if you would like to join
this hard working and fun
group of volunteers.**

SISTERHOOD

Chinese Dinner, Karaoke & Menorah Lighting!



SISTERHOOD



SISTERHOOD



Thank you Mike Wolf for running the karaoke board!

DINNER IS SERVED

Good Times



FUN!

EAT AT THE ROCK



JANUARY

Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar, Jewish Holidays

Jan 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Hanukkah (Day 4) 9am - Sunday Morning	30 OFFICE CLOSED Hanukkah (Day 5)	31 Hanukkah (Day 6) / Rosh	1 Hanukkah (Day 7) NO HEBREW SCHOOL	2 Hanukkah (Day 8)	3 7:30pm - Storytelling 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	4 9:15am - Shabbat service 11:15am - Meditation
5 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10:30am - Sisterhood	6 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Anne Petit	7 11am - Yoga In the Social 7:30pm - Genealogy	8 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8	9 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	10 Asarah B'Tevet (Tenth of)	11 9:15am - Shabbat service
12 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - EB meeting 10am - Gan Goes to	13 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Anne Petit	14 11am - Yoga in the Social 5:45pm - Security 7pm - Center Series	15 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	16 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	17 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	18 9:15am - Shabbat service
19 Youth Group Shul In NO HEBREW SCHOOL 9am - Sunday Morning	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Anne Petit	21 11am - Yoga in the Social	22 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8	23 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 9-12 7:30pm - Bridge	24 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	25 Progressive and 100th 9:15am - Shabbat service
26 9am - Alef - Vav Hebrew 9am - Sunday Morning	27 9am - Nursery School In 10:30am - Bridge 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Anne Petit	28 9am - Nursery School In 9am - Nursery In Social 11am - Yoga in the Social	29 4:30pm - HS Gimel - Vav 4:30pm - Jr. HH 7&8	30 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	31 Class Service Class Service 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	1 9:15am - Shabbat service



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Storytelling Shabbat

Fri, Jan 3

Share A Memory or Anecdote

Stories should be between 3-5 minutes

Contact: Mona Shapiro
by Dec 25
monajudith@aol.com

A stack of colorful sticky notes in shades of yellow, pink, and light blue. The top-most note is light blue and has the text "What's Your Story?" written on it in a black, handwritten-style font.

Next Sisterhood General Meeting

**Sunday,
Jan. 5th,
10:30am**

A photograph of a modern conference room. A long white table is surrounded by black chairs. In the background, a large screen displays the text "Sunday, Jan. 5th, 10:30am" in purple.

ANNE PETTIT
OUR RETURNING
SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

JANUARY 6, 13, 20, 27
ON ZOOM
7:00 PM

A portrait of a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a green jacket. She is smiling and standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books.

YOU ARE FORMALLY INVITED TO
**THE FJCC SISTERHOOD
PROGRESSIVE
DINNER**
January 25th
6:30pm \$50pp

VEGETARIAN, KOSHER & KOSHER-STYLE MEALS
50/50 RAFFLE! 100 WEEKS TO OUR 100TH YEAR!

Two circular logos. The left one is a colorful arc of dots with the text "FLEHINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1926-2026". The right one is a circular logo with the text "COME JOIN US! WE CELEBRATE AND COUNT DOWN TOGETHER!" and "Come Join Us!" in the center.

- RSVP by January 17th - Babysitting available through FJCC Youth Group -
SAVE YOUR SPOT - REGISTER TODAY!


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

January 1
Jeffrey Gold

January 3
Ariel Hylton

January 4
Kenneth Stern

January 5
Elle Martoccia

January 8
Nathaniel Silberman

January 10
Stacey Gould

January 11
Victoria Wolf
Ronald Ort

January 12
Dena Scibilia
Barbara Batt
Scott Byne

January 14
Tina Martoccia

January 16
Jack Daniels
Jason Holley

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
Loren Hurwitz
Abbey Mondshein

January 25
Evelyn Stern

January 28
Nathan Treinish
Deborah Ort

January 31
Salena Kern
Rita Lefkow
Daniel Wasserman

HAPPY
Anniversary

January 24th
Tina & Scott Martoccia

YAHREZEITS

January 2, 2025

Robert Brooks

January 3, 2025

Mildred Rothstein Cohen

January 5, 2025

Lillian Volowitz
Sam Feldman

January 6, 2025

Morris Triber
Ethel Stevens

January 7, 2025

Ruth Sudzin

January 8, 2025

Susan Mehrlust

January 12, 2025

William Thomas

January 13, 2025

Robert Sugar

January 14, 2025

Arthur Rogow

January 15, 2025

Alma Thomas

January 20, 2025

Claire Kurtz Stein

January 23, 2025

Milton Friedman

January 24, 2025

Morris Wolf

January 25, 2025

Michael Arcus
Martin Welt

January 27, 2025

Louis Naar
Charles Cohen

January 29, 2025

Max Wortman

January 30, 2025

Michael Berk

May their memory be a blessing

Contributions

Rabbi Discretionary

Mitchell & Barbara
in memory of Alan Clarin

Shellie Jacobson
In memory of Alan Clarin, Mitch Clarin's father

Wright & Ford Funeral Home
In memory of Alan Clarin, Mitch Clarin's father

Mary Ellen & Ron Ort
Donation to HIOC

Dena & Greg Scibilia
In memory of Alan Clarin, Mitch Clarin's father

Jerrold & Linda Atlas
In memory of Alan Clarin, Mitch Clarin's father

Pamela & Melvin Weill

General Donations

Cara London & Eric Sirota
In support of the Steve Katz concert
(For Center Series)

Warren & Michelle Kupfer
Alan Clarin, beloved father of Mitch Clarin.

Austin & Sharon Rednor
In memory of Isadore Katz

Kenn & Randi Pogash
For genizah, burial of old books

Kenneth Hyman

Florence Friedman Hurwitz & Loren Hurwitz
In honor of the birth of your new grandson.

Cheryl & Matthew Schutz
Thank you to those who donated refuah shelemah wishes, brought food or visited while Matt was in rehab and extended hospitality while he was recovering

Yvonne & Paul "PJ" Magala
In honor of the FJCC

Bruce Moskovitz & John Fellin



Contributions

Kiddush/Oneg/Nosh

Dana & Seth Cohen

12/6 Oneg for the yarzeit of Alana, beloved daughter of Dana & Seth

Richard Goldstein

12/6 Oneg for the yarzeit of Annie, beloved mother of Richard

12/27 Oneg for the yarzeits of Linda Goldstein beloved wife of Richard; and Abraham Goldstein beloved grandfather of Richard

Mona & Dein Shapiro

12/13 Oneg for the yarzeit of Pearl S Greenberg, beloved mother of Mona

Flo & Bruce Newrock

12/7 Kiddush for the yarzeit of Milton Newrock beloved father of Flo

Eleene Gallagher & Dan Weinstock

12/14 Kiddush for the yarzeit of Joseph Weinstock beloved father of Dan

Karen & Hotch

12/20 Oneg in honor of Abby, Ben & Rumour

Anneliese & Howard Nifoussi

12/28 Kiddush for the yarzeit of Joseph Nifoussi beloved father of Howard

Family Promise

Joel & Sharon Goldstein

in memory of Shelly Goldstein, beloved sister of Joel

Building Fund

Zel and Marsha Gerstein

In memory of Alan Marshall Clarin, beloved father of Mitchell Clarin.

In honor of Giving Tuesday.

FJCC Cares

Marsha Gershberg

In honor of Terri & Bernie Zucker

Austin & Sharon Rednor

Refuah Shlemah to Bernie Zucker

Garry & Rachel Rodriguez

In memory of Mitch Clarin's father, Alan Marshall Clarin.



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\$275 ¼ page

\$550 ½ page

\$1000 full page

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