



FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

12 ADAR- 13 IYAR
5786

○○○○

MARCH / APRIL 2026

FJCC FLASH



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 www.flemingtonjcc.org

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 office@flemingtonjcc.org



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ISRAEL**

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

April 2026





Rabbi's Reflections

When the month of Adar begins, we increase our joy." Mi-sheh-nichnas Adar, marbim besimchah. Why? Because that is the month in which Purim falls. The theme of Purim is the classic one of Jewish holidays: they tried to kill us; they failed; let's eat (and drink)! We celebrate Queen Esther (and Mordechai) and the rescue the Jewish people from Haman's wicked plan. We shake our groggers upon hearing Haman's name, symbolically blotting it out. According to rabbinic lore, Haman is a descendant of Amalek, the people who attacked our ancestors (actually, they attacked the weakest of our ancestors), as they left Egypt. The Torah commands us to annihilate Amalek from that day on.

The question arises in rabbinic discourse: how do we fulfill this commandment today? After Haman, his ten sons, and co-conspirators, were hanged, where is Amalek today?

Maimonides (11th-12th centuries C.E.) writes (Mishneh Torah, "Forbidden Intercourse" 12:25): "When Senacherib, king of Assyria, rose to power, he confused [the identity of] all the nations, and mixed them together, and exiled them from their places. And, [for example,] those Egyptians who are now in the land of Egypt are different people [than the biblical Egyptians]. And so too... forbidden nations became intermingled with all the nations of the world..."

And again, he teaches (Mishneh Torah, Kings and Wars 5:4-5): "It is a Positive Commandment to exterminate the Seven Nations (who dwelt in the land of Canaan when the Israelites arrived there...) Nonetheless, they have already all been destroyed and their memory forgotten. It is, [similarly,] a Positive Commandment to obliterate Amalek, as it says...: "remember what Amalek did to you" (Deut. 25:17)... and "erase the memory of Amalek" (Deut. 28:19)... By Tradition, we have learned that "remember" means by speech, "do not forget" (Deut. 25:19) – means in one's heart. For it is forbidden to forget their enmity and hatred..."

We may not accept all of Maimonides' interpretations of the Torah passages which he quotes, but, halakhically, the point is clear: there are some commandments that have already been fulfilled, and there are some that are no longer possible to fulfill, because the object of the commandments no longer exists.

There was not much halakhic discussion of this ruling since then. But, after the Holocaust, some concluded that the Nazis are this era's version of Amalek. Indeed, they fit the bill almost exactly: killing for no good reason, especially the weakest among us. They behave exactly like (even worse than?) Amalek. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik was one who remarked on this parallel.

The question is: if they are truly Amalek, do we now proceed to fulfill the commandment, which requires us to wipe out the entire German nation, every man, woman, and child? Once we start down this path, we invite terrible consequences.

As early as the 1980s, there were rabbis who taught that the Palestinians (or all Arabs, depending on which opinion) counted as Amalek. In February, 1980, Rabbi Israel Hess wrote, in Bar Ilan University's student newspaper, an article entitled: "The Genocide Commandment in the Torah." In it he stated: "The day is not far when we shall be called to this holy war, to this commandment of the annihilation of Amalek . . ." Subsequently, Rabbi Hess resigned his post, and the article was pulled from the newspaper and its online access. (Cited by Steven L. Jacobs, "Rethinking Amalek in This 21st Century," Religions 8(9) (2017), 196. It is now, apparently, not possible to obtain a copy. See Martin Jaffee. "The Return of Amalek: The Politics of Apocalypse and Contemporary Orthodox Jewry." Conservative Judaism 63: 67 (2011) note 36.)

Today, and during the Gaza war, ministers in the Israeli government, as well as rabbis in universities and yeshivas, returned to this trope in their justification of the harsh response to the October 7th massacre, and the violations of human rights on the West Bank. There are many challenging aspects to taking this approach, in addition to the halakhic one I mentioned above. Among these objections is how neatly this approach feeds into the Hamas narrative of "Zionists commit genocide." We were so appalled by the protests on college campuses, accusing Israel of genocide. And, yet, if the Israeli leadership, if rabbis, if we... embrace this "Amalek" narrative... why should we be so upset? It's a Mitzvah.

Purim is a holiday to be celebrated, and a story to tell. We have heroes to honor, villains to vilify, and Hamantaschen to eat. Let us re-commit to our traditions, and do our best never to become like our worst enemies.

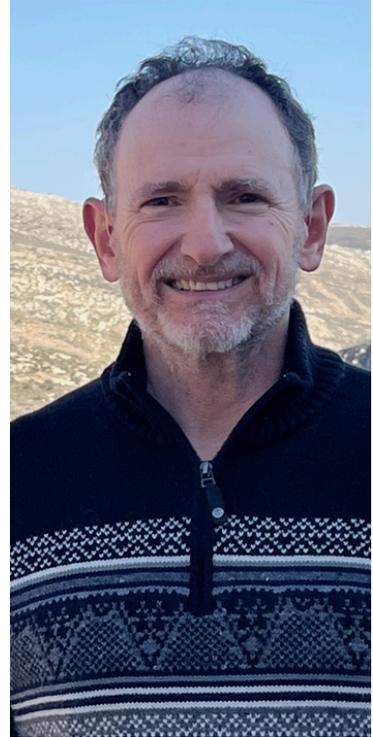
Happy Purim!

Rabbi Eric Cohen, PhD
rabbi@flemingtonjcc.org





From Our President



October 7th was one of the darkest days in Israel's history. More than a thousand Israelis were murdered, wounded, or kidnapped. Families were destroyed, and a sense of safety—painstakingly rebuilt over decades—was ripped away in a single day. Israel had grown accustomed to relative quiet from Gaza and, tragically, mistook that quiet for security.

Nothing good happened that day.

Still, it is important to acknowledge a difficult truth: it could have been far worse.

Hamas's attack was not meant to stand alone. It was one component of Iran's broader "Ring of Fire" strategy—an effort to encircle Israel with hostile forces in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and potentially Iran itself. The intent was a coordinated, multi-front assault designed to overwhelm Israel's defenses before it could respond.

For reasons that may never be fully known, the October 7th attack did not unfold as planned. Hamas appears to have acted before the other fronts were fully prepared, perhaps assuming that success would trigger immediate participation by Iran's other proxies. While some did join—most notably Hezbollah, which began firing into northern Israel on October 8th—the wider regional attack remained limited.

That distinction matters.

Had Israel faced a simultaneous, full-scale assault from multiple directions while still lulled into routine, the consequences could have been existential. Israel's missile defense systems—Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow—are formidable, but they are neither limitless nor impenetrable. In such a scenario, instead of speaking about thousands of casualties, we might be confronting tens or even hundreds of thousands of dead and wounded.

This does not make October 7th a blessing. The loss of life cannot be justified by hypothetical futures. The suffering of that day stands on its own and demands remembrance and mourning.

But failing to acknowledge what was narrowly avoided does not honor the dead either. Understanding the full scope of the danger Israel faced—and the catastrophe that did not materialize—is part of taking that day seriously.

Since October 7th, Israel has demonstrated extraordinary military capability. The enduring challenge now is how to translate those achievements into lasting security and, ultimately, a durable peace—so that a day like October 7th never happens again.

Jonathan Nemeth, President
president@flemingtonjcc.org

100 Weeks of Mitzvot Challenge

It's that time again to pick a 100 Weeks of Mitzvot Challenge winner. By random draw the winner is - NJ Gal. NJ Gal has been participating in this challenge since week 1 and quite impressively completed the majority of missions. In the past two months she, or perhaps he, has completed most of the following:

- Contacted their congressperson
- Taken a relaxing bubble bath or extra-long shower
- De-cluttered something in their house
- Assisted a person in need or a volunteered at a non-profit organization
- Made a donation (money, in-kind, or service) that benefits Holocaust survivors and/or supportive organizations
- Fed the birds
- Donated old books to a local library
- Let a stranger go ahead of them in line

Congratulations NJ Gal and thank you for doing good deeds!!! Your prize will be waiting for you in the office after March 9th.





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Hebrew School Update

You might think things slow down at Hebrew School between Chanukah and Purim, but that is not necessarily true. Once we returned from Winter Break, there was much work to do! We were busy with Tot Shabbat, Class Services, Tu B'Shevat, a Havdalah Program, and Tefillin Wrap. Take a moment and check out the Tefillin Wrap photos, some are new, and others, not so much!

The snow caused some delays, but we quickly caught up and began preparing for Purim, the Family Purim Celebration/Carnival, and Passover.

We have three Family Programs on the horizon. In March, there is the Family Purim Celebration, and an author visit for Passover. When we return from Spring Break, there will be a Shema and the Five Senses Family program.

Keep your eyes open for the "This Week in Hebrew School" email sent out each Friday.

[Click here to go to the Hebrew School Calendar.](#)

Questions? Contact Mrs. Walsh at kwalsh@flemingtonJCC.org.

Save the date

Family Passover Program
with Karen Rostoker Gruber

Sunday, March 8
10:00

Look for details &
registration link in the
coming weeks

Family Program
Gan - 6th Grade
The Shema and the Five Senses
April 12 10:00 - 11:30

Family Program
Gan - 6th Grade
Flemington Food Pantry
April 26 10:00 - 11:30



FJCC Community
Passover Seder
Second Night

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM

\$72 adults
\$36 children under 13

Seats are limited
RSVP by - March 1



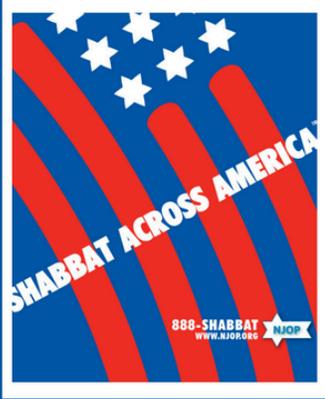


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Hebrew School Events

Tot Shabbat Goes to Shabbat Across America



Shabbat Dinner
Mar 13 6:00 PM

Adult \$5
Kids Free

Register by Mar 4

Musical Shabbat
7:30 PM

Strauss/Warschauer Duo



Back by popular demand!

RSVP Here →



Cupcake Decorating

during The West Side Woodwind Quintet
Sun, Mar 15 • 2:00-4:30pm • All Grades



Passover & Spring Break

No Hebrew School
March 29 - April 9

Classes Resume
Sunday, April 12

B'Yachad for Gan - 6th Grade

Mar 21 9:00 - 12:00

Programming includes classroom
learning, snacks, participating in
the Torah Service, and
concluding prayers.





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Youth Group

Escape Room

@ Ultimate Xscape Rooms in Somerville



Mar 22
Grades 8-12
3 PM @ FJCC
Free!

RSVP Required



Apr 19 • 11:30 AM • Grades 5-12

Program TBA

Questions? Contact Julia Sirota at julia.london.sirota@gmail.com





Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar, Jewish Holidays

Mar 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Family Purim 10am - Hebrew School 10am - Youth Group at 11am - Purim Carnival 11am - Purim Carnival	2 Fast of Esther Purim Eve 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 6:30pm - Traditional 7:15pm - Purim Meal	3 Purim 7:30am - Megillah 11:15am - Chair Yoga on 11:15am - No Yoga this 6pm - GS LT Meeting 7:30pm - Genealogy	4 Hebrew High Federation Shushan Purim 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav 7pm - 100th anniversary	5 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	6 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	7 Lunch and Learn Rabbi Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service
8 Family Passover Program 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning	9 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 7pm - Book CLub	10 11:15am - Chair Yoga on 5:45pm - Security Meeting 7pm - Center Series	11 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav 7pm - EB Meeting	12 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	13 Shabbat Across America 7:30pm - Musical Shabbat 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	14 Jack Daniels Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service
15 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning 2pm - West Side 5pm - Congregational	16 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	17 11:15am - Chair Yoga on 7pm - Movie Club	18 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	19 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 6:30pm - Women's Rosh 7:30pm - Bridge	20 Save Oneg 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	21 Beyachad Lefkow Kiddush Lunch and Learn 9:15am - Shabbat service
22 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Gan Goes to 10:30am - Model Seder 12pm - Youth Group Off	23 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	24 11:15am - No Yoga this	25 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav	26 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 7:30pm - Bridge	27 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	28 Clarín Kiddush 9:15am - Shabbat service
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Spring Break						
9am - Sunday Morning 3pm - Music Mountain 6pm - Dinner is served	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	11:15am - No Yoga this	Passover Eve	Passover (Day 1) 6pm - Community Seder	Passover (Day 2) 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	Passover (Day 3) 9:15am - Shabbat service





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April

Booking Calendar, Hebrew School Calendar, Jewish Holidays

Apr 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Spring Break						
9am - Sunday Morning 3pm - Music Mountain 6pm - Dinner is served	1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	11:15am - No Yoga this	Passover Eve	Passover (Day 1) 6pm - Community Seder	Passover (Day 2) 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	Passover (Day 3) 9:15am - Shabbat service
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Spring Break						9:15am - Shabbat service
Passover (Day 4) 9am - Sunday Morning	Passover (Day 5) 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah 6pm - CS LT Meeting 7pm - EB Meeting	Passover (Day 6) 11:15am - No Yoga this 7:30pm - Genealogy	Passover (Day 7)	11am - Adult Ed 8:30pm - Dinner is Served 8:30pm - Post Passover	7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	
12 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning	13 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	14 Yom HaShoah Yom HaShoah evening 11:15am - Chair Yoga at	15 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav 7:30pm - BoT Meeting	16 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 6:30pm - Women's Rosh 7:30pm - Bridge	17 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	18 LUNCH AND LEARN STO 9:15am - Shabbat service 11am - meditation
19 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning 10am - Five Senses 10am - Gan Goes to 12pm - Youth Group Even	20 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	21 Yom HaZikaron 11:15am - Chair Yoga at 7pm - Movie Club	22 Yom HaAtzmaut Yom HaAtzmaut Program 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav	23 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - No HH 7:30pm - Bridge	24 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	25 9:15am - Shabbat service
26 WOTY 9am - Alef - 6th Grade 9am - Sunday Morning	27 1pm - Parshat Hashavuah	28 11:15am - Chair Yoga at	29 4:30pm - Gimel - Vav	30 11am - Adult Ed 1pm - Mah Jongg 6pm - HH 7:30pm - Bridge	1 7:30pm - Musical Shabbat 7:30pm - kabbalat shabat	2 9:15am - Shabbat service



Happy
Passover



FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

Upcoming Events

Honoring the Memory of Mindy Engle-Friedman

The March 15th concert by the West Side Woodwind Quintet (WSWQ) at the Flemington Jewish Community Center is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mindy Engle-Friedman. In March 2025, Mindy lost her battle with cancer. Her leadership and countless hours of volunteering shaped our community into a vibrant place to learn, worship, and celebrate together.

Mindy was deeply involved in so many activities at the FJCC, giving her time, vision, and energy with extraordinary generosity. As a past president of the FJCC Board of Trustees, she helped guide the FJCC with wisdom and care; she also established the Center Series, enriching our cultural life, and was instrumental in launching the Farmland Ride fundraiser, which continues to support and strengthen our community today. Her legacy lives on in the programs she built, the people she inspired, and the community she so dearly loved.

The ensemble comprises five talented musicians, including Mindy's husband, Dr. Eliot Friedman. With great pleasure, we welcome them back to the Flemington area. During previous concerts, they entertained us with a varied program including classical and modern pieces. The upcoming concert is sure to delight the audience.

Join us on Sunday, March 15th, at 2:00 for the WSWQ concert to honor Mindy's memory and commitment to the FJCC. To attend, please register at the link below.

Proceeds from the concert will subsidize upcoming family programming and children's events at the FJCC. During the event, babysitting will be graciously provided by the FJCC Youth Group. Following the concert, we will have an opportunity to mingle at a dessert reception sponsored by Dr. Eliot Friedman.

THE WEST SIDE WOODWIND QUINTET

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
MINDY ENGLE-FRIEDMAN

SUN, MARCH 15 @ 2:00 PM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

EARLY BIRD THRU MAR 4: \$38/PP
AS OF MAR 5: \$45/PP

FLEMINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
5 SERGEANTSVILLE ROAD, FLEMINGTON, NJ



WWW.WSWQ.NET



PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
CENTER SERIES FAMILY PROGRAMS
THE CENTER SERIES WAS CREATED BY
MINDY ENGLE-FRIEDMAN



FOR MORE INFO: (608) 782-6410
HTTPS://FLEMINGTONJCC.ORG/

Back by popular demand!
RSVP Here → 

Cupcake Decorating
during The West Side Woodwind Quintet
Sun, Mar 15 • 2:00-4:30pm • All Grades






Purim

Everything Purim 2026

Sunday, 3.1

Family Purim Program 10:00

*Costume Parade
Purim story
Purim Sing-Along*

Purim Carnival 11:00

Monday, 3.2

*Traditional Megillah Reading
6:30 PM*

*Purim Meal following the
Megillah Reading*

Tuesday, 3.3

*Traditional Megillah Reading
7:30 AM*





Passover

Tuesday, March 31st - Search for Chametz at home, in the evening

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER - Wednesday, April 1st

Services for the Fast of the First-Born 7:30 AM
Burning the Chametz 9:00 AM at the synagogue
(or at your home before 11:59 AM)
Stop eating Chametz 10:55 AM
Services 6:00 PM
Light Candles 7:06 PM
1st Seder

Thursday, April 2nd
Services 9:15 AM

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER - Thursday, April 2nd

Evening services & Community Seder 6:00 PM
Candle lighting 8:07 PM
(from an existing flame, or non-electric pilot light)

Friday, April 3rd
Morning services 9:15 AM

7th DAY PASSOVER - Tuesday, April 7th

Candle lighting 7:12 PM
Evening services 7:30 PM

Wednesday April 8th
Morning services 9:15 AM

8TH DAY OF PASSOVER - Wednesday, April 8th

Candle lighting 8:14 PM
(from an existing flame, or non-electric pilot light)
Evening Services 7:30 PM

Thursday, April 9th
Morning services 9:15 AM
YIZKOR 10:15 AM (estimate, come earlier)

PASSOVER ENDS
Thursday, April 9th, 8:14 PM
Post-Passover Pizza Party 8:30 PM
**(Please: do not eat the Chametz
in your home until 8:45 PM)**



➔ See the full Passover Guide at the end of this newsletter ←



FLEMINGTON JEWISH
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Upcoming Events March

FJCC Fundraiser Clothing Drive

Drop off at the FJCC
5 Sergeantsville Rd.,
Flemington

Extended through noon on
Wednesday, March 4th

ClothingFundraiser.com collects: new or gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, purses, belts and bath linens, jewelry, strollers, bicycles and stuffed animals.

No: pillows, books, toys, furniture, appliances or household items.

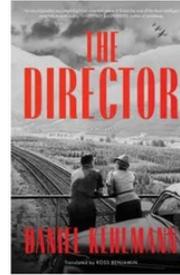
Dropoff date extended!



FJCC Book Club

March 9 at 7:00 PM
At the FJCC

The Director
by Daniel Kehlman

A visionary tale inspired by the life of the 20th century film director G.W. Pabst, who left Europe for Hollywood to resist the Nazis and then returned to his homeland with his wife and young son and began making films for the German Reich.

Musical Shabbat

The Strauss/Warschauer Duo

Fri March 13
Services @ 7:30 PM



CONGREGATION BUDGET MEETING

MARCH 15
5 PM



Movie Club

Double Feature

Marjorie Morningstar* (on youtube)
and
Dirty Dancing

March 17
7:00 PM

* Please watch Marjorie Morningstar first
Watch at home - discuss on Zoom



MAME!

March 29 3:00
Music Mountain Theater

How to purchase your tickets is in News & Notes

Contact Bruce after you purchase your ticket.

beardcnj@gmail.com



Dinner is Served
March 29 6:00

Triumph Brewery
400 Union Square Drive
New Hope, PA

\$40pp 4-course dinner inc tip

Contact Kim if you are going to dinner is served
kimfmuller@yahoo.com



If you are going to the play & dinner, you must contact both Kim and Bruce



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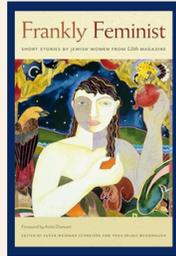
Upcoming Events March and April



Rosh Chodesh Discussion Group
Short Stories for Women, by Women

Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Thursday, March 19

Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Thursday, April 16



6:30 PM on Zoom
Look for selections in News and Notes
May 17, June 15, July 15

Meditation Shabbat

MARCH 21 **Cantor Flo**

APRIL 18 **Mira Berzofsky**

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Lunch and Learns - Join us!

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"Ot Azoy! That's how you say itin Yiddish"
Lunch and Learn - March 7th
after services with Josh Wilk.

Yiddish is making a comeback.
Let's learn some interesting words & phrases.

Josh Wilk had his Bar Mitzvah at the FJCC in 2013. After high school, he went on to study Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, where he began exploring Yiddish. Josh has a matsters degree in history. He translated Yiddish newspapers from the 1930s to understand Jews' political opinions during a time of crisis. Josh did research on Yiddish music and culture, day-to-day life, and general linguistic conventions.



Kitniyot
Rice and Beans
March 21 after Beyachad

To eat or not to eat?
Rabbi Cohen explains the Passover practices regarding kitniyot

We are collecting dried beans and rice to donate to Hope of Harbor from March 1 - March 22

Sean Redmond
Deputy Director -North Region,
JFED Security
April 18

Stop the Bleed

JFED Security will teach you how to stop/slow down bleeding in the event you're the victim and/or to assist a victim of an attack. It's an invaluable training in these uncertain times.





FLEMINGTON JEWISH
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Upcoming Events in April

**FJCC Post Passover
Spring Break
Pizza Party**

Thursday Apr 9
8:30 PM
Angelo's
Flemington

Look for details in News and Notes

Yom Ha Shoah
April 14
7 PM

Save the Date for Sisterhood's...

Woman of The Year

Sunday, April 26th
TIME AND
LOCATION TBD

Ongoing Events

FJCC CARES

The FJCC Weekly Mitzvah Project!

Shabbat Bag prepared & delivered to FJCC members in need, including soup, challah & a cookie.

If you know of someone who needs a Shabbat Bag, please reach out to Rabbi Cohen by Wednesday each week.

The FJCC Cares delivery list has been growing, and we need volunteer drivers to distribute our Shabbat Bags. Let the office know if you would like to help.





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Ongoing Events

Adult Education
with
Rabbi Cohen



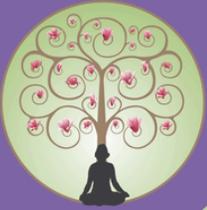
Thursdays
11:00-12:30
All are welcome!

Parshat HaShavuah
with Rabbi Cohen

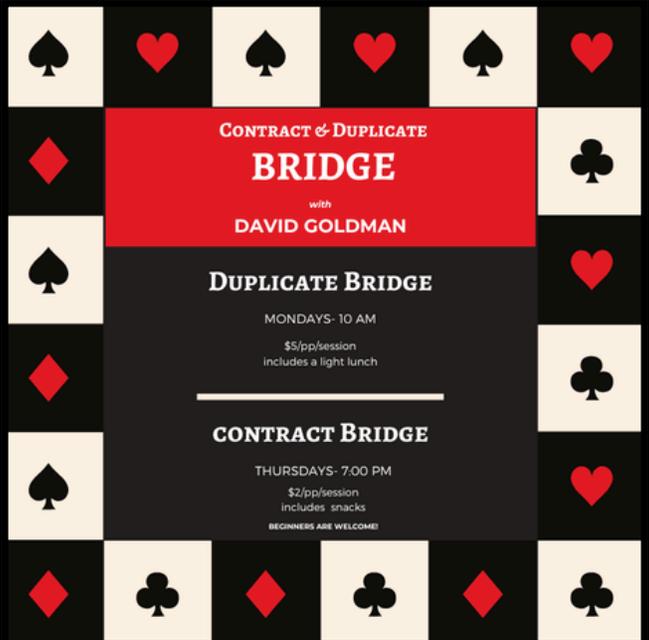


Mondays, 1 PM

Not Just for Seniors



Winter is here.
Chair Yoga will be on Zoom starting 1.6.2026
email karenyoga108@yahoo.com
or call 908-642-0989 for the link
\$5 per class

**CONTRACT & DUPLICATE
BRIDGE**
with
DAVID GOLDMAN

DUPLICATE BRIDGE
MONDAYS- 10 AM
\$5/pp/session
Includes a light lunch

CONTRACT BRIDGE
THURSDAYS- 7:00 PM
\$2/pp/session
Includes snacks
BEGINNERS ARE WELCOME!

Mah Jongg

Thursdays, 1-3:30
\$5 cash at door
New & Experienced Players Welcome!
Bring friends
Light snacks



Contact Karen Walsh
kwalsh@flemingtonjcc.org

DINNER IS SERVED
FJCC Dinner Club

Sept 14 ~ Oct 19 ~ Nov 6
Dec 17 ~ Jan 18 ~ Feb 12
Mar 22 ~ Apr 9 ~ May 31

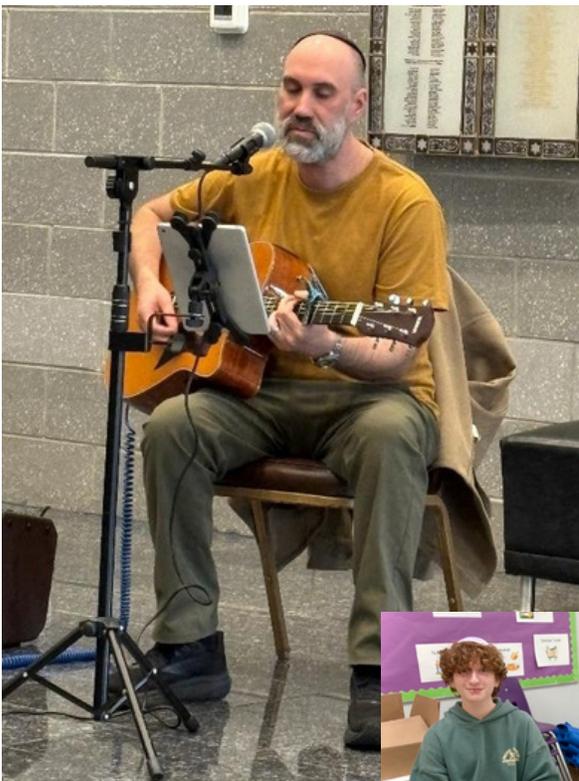




Happenings

Desserts Unplugged

On Sunday, January 11, new member Brian Rappelfeld entertained about 40 of our members, friends and family by playing a mixture of rock and folk songs on his guitar. People swayed, danced, clapped, sang along with Brian, and enjoyed some tasty food and drink. The French Fry Bar was a big hit! Thanks to the Youth Group, the young children were busy decorating cupcakes while their parents were able to enjoy the music. At the end of the event the children joined the group to dance along to Brian's rendition of "Wagon Wheel".





Happenings

The Sweetest of Gatherings on January 24th, honoring Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin



On the evening of January 24 numerous members of the FJCC came together at the Clarin home to honor Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin for all that they do for our community. In addition to socializing and enjoying some delicious desserts, speeches were given by Jonathan Nemeth and Mitch Clarin while Bruce and John were presented with a beautiful challah platter. We also enjoyed stories from Bruce and John recalling when they first came to the FJCC, and how it eventually grew to feel like home.

Thank You to Mitch and Barb Clarin for hosting this "Sweetest of Gatherings".

A Note from Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin

Fellow Congregants,

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for the special gathering at the Clarin household on Saturday, January 24. Your presence and participation made the event truly memorable, and we are deeply thankful for the support and sense of community you have shown us.

Since our arrival in the early 1990s, the Flemington Jewish Community Center has become a central part of our lives. It is a place of warmth and hospitality. The congregation consistently welcomes visitors and newcomers with open arms, making everyone feel at home (and, of course, ensuring we are well fed on every occasion!).

We would also like to acknowledge the many individuals who contribute their time, resources, and energy to our community; they equally deserve this honor. Their commitment and selflessness ensure that our congregation remains vibrant and welcoming.



FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ MARCH / APRIL 2026 | 12 ADAR - 13 IYAR 5786

Happenings

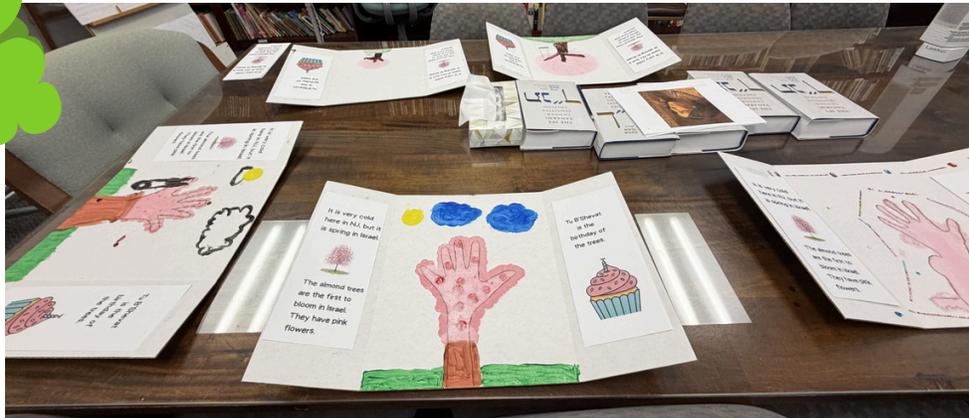
Tu B'Shevat

Sunday, February 1st

There was still snow on the ground in Flemington, but the almond trees are blooming, ushering in spring in Israel.

The Alef and Bet students made almond tree art while the fourth through sixth graders did some Torah study about fruit trees.

We all planted parsley in hopes it will be ready for our Passover seder. Rabbi Cohen led a mini Tu B'shevat Seder. A special thank you to Heather Goldschmitt for shopping for the seder.





FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

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Happenings

Havdalah

On February 7, Rabbi Cohen shared Havdalah with the Hebrew School families. Students came in pjs, with stuffed animals. They made spice bags, learned songs, and sang with glow sticks glowing. The evening ended with make your own Ice Cream Sundaes.





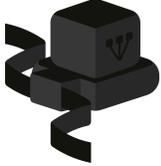
FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ MARCH / APRIL 2026 | 12 ADAR - 13 IYAR 5786

Happenings

World Wide Tefillin Wrap

On February 8, also Superbowl Sunday, the Hebrew School families participated in the World Wide Tefillin Wrap. We joined communities across the globe wrapping tefillin. This is not the first time the Hebrew School has wrapped tefillin. Check out photos from past to present.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 1- **Ryan Goldschmitt**

March 3- **Martin McInerney**

March 4- **Cheryl Weisenberg, Michael Rumore, Daniel Rapkin**

March 5- **Arielle Rumore, Frederick Rothstein**

March 7- **Liz Slavin**

March 8- **Lev Rutbeck-Goldman, Andrew Ollwerther**

March 9- **Bradley Mason**

March 12- **Judy Gold**

March 13- **Asher Rosenbaum, Jordan Franklin**

March 14- **Sharon Brooks, Shane Gerstein**

March 15- **Daniel Weinstock**

March 17- **Patricia Lefkow**

March 19- **Andrea Goldstein-Byne**

March 20- **Jerrold Atlas, Mary Ellen Ort**

March 22- **Philip Stern**

March 23- **Sharon Zimmerman**

March 24- **Scott Hornick**

March 25- **Jacob Weinstock-Gallagher, Joel Goldstein**

March 27- **Caroline Farber, Fred Eisinger, Fredrick Kleiman**

March 28- **Stephanie Goldman**

March 30- **Eric Sirota**

March 31- **Jenna Shankoff, Dana Cohen**

April 1- **Ethan Rednor, Rose Weitz**

April 2- **Matthew Winnick, Alexandra Fox, Phillip Franklin**

April 4- **Carol Wolf**

April 5- **Brian Goodman**

April 6- **Andrew Weinstein, Benjamin Goodman**

April 8- **Steven Weinstein**

April 10- **Douglas Atlas, Danielle Rubin**

April 11- **Jacob Sperling**

April 12- **Charlotte Byne, Lisa Ziv**

April 13- **Olivia Kleiman, Greg Scibilia**

April 14- **Cheryl Schutz, Alexander Rapkin**

April 15- **Jacob Walsh**

April 16- **Rachel Silberman**

April 17- **Marsha Gerstein, Shellie Jacobson**

April 18- **Alexandra Rubin**

April 19- **Dana Schindler, Natalie Atlas**

April 20- **Howard Rosenbaum**

April 21- **Fred Sornstein, Ethan Gertzman**

April 23- **Amy Marshall, Ian Jakubowski, Colin Jakubowski**

April 25- **Elise Franklin, James Fox**

April 26- **Brett Bragin**

April 27- **Nathaniel Nemeth, Hannah Sornstein**

April 28- **Zoe Quinn, Jackie Lefkow**

April 29- **Erica Agins, Sharon Goldstein, Noah Doshna**

April 30- **Alan Hylton**



HAPPY Anniversary!

March 6

Jerrold and Linda Atlas

March 10

Dena and Greg Scibilia

March 20

**Bruce Moskowitz and John Fellin
Ronald and Mary Ellen Ort**

March 31

Seth and Dana Cohen

April 8

Mark and Laurie Weinstein

April 14

Eric and Jane Wasserman

April 20

Ray and Liz Slavin



Yahrzeits

March 1- **Charles Schutz**

March 3- **Irene Abramson, Morris Neibart,
Edythe Stern**

March 4- **Lillian Belger, Hildegard Likuski**

March 5- **Joseph S. Fox, Dr. Laurence Shatkin**

March 6- **Betty H. Mehrlust, Kitty Zuchovicki**

March 7- **Katherine Formica,
Sara Reta Schutz**

March 8- **Melvyn Kestenbaum**

March 9- **Lorraine Klein, Richard Marshall,
Eugene Wetstein**

March 10- **Marilyn Weiss**

March 11- **Seymour Gitlin, Rose Marshall**

March 12- **Marian Daniels, Etta Moskovitz,
Irma Marcella Salbin**

March 13- **Raymond Cook, Archie Fagan,
Stacey Zisook Robinson, Evelyn Simon**

March 14- **Marvin Zimmerman**

March 16- **Corinne Nifoussi**

March 17- **David Greenberg, Edwin Large**

March 18- **Janet Engle, Anna Goldstein,
Rose Slavin**

March 19- **Minnie Arowitz, Mordeci Friedel,
Bessie Hurwitz, Denis Edward Ort,
Alan Stolpen, Thomas Sudzin**

March 20- **Marvin Jacobson**

March 21- **Sidney Gold, Irwin Kawarsky,
Kitty Lefkow, Regina Sperber**

March 22- **Reubin Bragin**

March 23- **Harry Rubin, David Waldman**

March 24- **Harold Kern**

March 25- **Rita Lefkow**

March 31- **Mindy Engle-Friedman**

April 1- **Samuel Goldman**

April 2- **Peter Doshna**

April 3- **Yaakov Kirschen**

April 4- **Ethel Weiner**

April 6- **Raymond St. Pierre**

April 7- **Martin Shapiro**

April 8- **Jules Wasserman**

April 9- **Ronald Shankoff**

April 10- **Michelle Cohn**

April 11- **Saverrio Zuchovicki**

April 12- **Sylvia Mittler**

April 13- **Sol Gerstein**

April 14- **Jacob Dvoor**

April 15- **Ida Dvoor, Irwin Goldman**

April 16- **Shirley Klinger, Dorothy Ort**

April 17- **Faye Nahama, Jerome Weiner**

April 18- **Abraham Simon**

April 20- **Herman Lefkow, Benjamin Thomas,
Anita Winnick**

April 23- **Milton Frant**

April 24- **Daniel Itzcough Orlin,
Lawrence Rubin**

April 25- **Irwin Mogel**

April 26- **Irving Ort**

April 28- **Chaim Leaf**

April 29- **Jo Ellen Leavitt**

April 29- **Jo Ellen Leavitt**

April 30- **Samuel Linsenbaum**



Donations



General Donations

JANE & ERIC WASSERMAN

-In memory of Milton Rosen,
beloved father of Richard Rosen
-In memory of Marilyn Dvoor,
beloved mother of Debbie
Hylton

ROSE & ED MEHRLUST

In memory of Ross Goldstein,
beloved son of Marsha Goldstein
and Bruce Davidson

BARBARA & MITCH CLARIN

-In memory of Ross Goldstein,
beloved son of Marsha Goldstein
and Bruce Davidson
-In memory of Marilyn Dvoor,
beloved mother of Debbie
Hylton

MARLENE DVOOR

In memory of Marilyn Dvoor,
beloved mother of Debbie
Hylton

UNITY SPIRITUAL CENTER

MARIIA & DMITRY KOGOSOV

MELISSA & FRED KLEIMAN

ANONYMOUS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

SHARON & KEN BROOKS

For the yahrzeit of Robert
Brooks, beloved brother of Ken
Brooks

NANCY & FRANK RUMORE

In memory of Ross Goldstein,
beloved son of Marsha Goldstein
and Bruce Davidson

LARISSA & ADAM WOLF

Family tzedakah box donation

SANDY & RONALD MISHKIN- CUSANO

HUGH & JUDY COHEN

SHARON & JOEL GOLDSTEIN

Center Series

ALEC SOTO & JAY KAWARSKY

For the yahrzeit of John deSoto,
beloved brother of Alec Soto

JERROLD & LINDA ATLAS

ANONYMOUS

100th Year Celebration

ROBERT & MARY BENJAMIN





Donations

Thank You



Kiddush and Oneg

LESLEY & CLIFF LEE

For the yahrzeit of Charles Cohen, beloved father of Lesley Cohen-Lee

ELIOT FRIEDMAN

Kiddush for the yahrzeit of Helen & Milton Friedman, beloved parents of Eliot Friedman

JUDY & HUGH COHEN

Kiddush in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hugh's bar mitzvah

AMY COOK

Kiddush for Seena Cook, beloved grandmother of Amy Cook

FRED EISINGER

Kiddush for the yahrzeit of Sally Eisinger Stein, beloved mother of Fred Eisinger

MARSHA & ZEL GERSTEIN

Kiddush for the anniversary of Zel's bar mitzvah

CAROL & MIKE WOLF

LARISSA & ADAM WOLF

Kiddush for the anniversary of Vicki's bat mitzah

FLO AND LOREN HURWITZ

Kiddush for the anniversary of Loren's bar mitzvah

Kiddush and Oneg

NADINE MILECOFSKY

Kiddush for yahrzeit Herbert Milecofsky, beloved father of Nadine

CARA LONDON & ERIC SIROTA

Oneg for Craig's Musical Shabbat

EVIE & PHIL STERN

Kiddush for the 70th Anniversary of Phil's bar mitzvah

BRUCE MOSKOVITZ &

JOHN FELLIN

BARBARA & MITCH CLARIN

Giving Garden

ROSE & ED MEHRLUST

Family Promise

SHARON & JOEL GOLDSTEIN

Building

MARSHA & ZEL GERSTEIN



PASSOVER

April 1 - 9, 2026
Nissan 15 - 22, 5786



A QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE
TO PREPARING FOR PASSOVER



PASSOVER

I THE LAWS OF HAMETZ

DEFINITION OF HAMETZ (LEAVEN)

Hametz is any one of the following grains—oats, spelt, wheat, rye, and barley—that has come in contact with water for 18 minutes or more. This is the beginning of the leavening process.

Hametz can also be any food product, whether solid or liquid, that is produced from the above grains even if these grains are of the smallest quantities. (The only exception is matzah, when the dough does not come into contact with water for more than 18 minutes and the dough is baked in less than 18 minutes.)

Dishes, utensils, ovens, and ranges that have absorbed even the smallest amounts of hametz and hametz products are forbidden to be used during the week of Passover unless they are properly cleansed and kashered according to Jewish law.

It was the custom of Ashkenazic Jewry during the week of Passover not to eat rice, corn, and vegetables of the pea family as though they were really hametz. The reason for the custom was that the above vegetables were ground into flour to make bread. To avoid any confusion between these vegetables and the five hametz grains, the custom was created to abstain from eating these foods during Passover week.

Nowadays, there is little chance of this confusion. Eating these products, as long as they are marked KOSHER FOR PASSOVER L'Ochlei Kitniyot, "Kosher for Passover for those whose custom is to eat rice, corn, and vegetables of the pea family," is not a violation of the Torah's prohibition on Hametz. As noted above, Jews of non-European descent routinely eat these on Passover.

However, out of respect for people eating at your home, or in whose home you eat, ALWAYS ASK WHAT THEIR CUSTOM IS, and abide by it.

Any non-hametz food product that was prepared in vessels and utensils that did absorb hametz is prohibited to be eaten during Passover.

WHAT IS NOT HAMETZ?

The following types of food are not considered hametz in themselves:

- a) Meat, poultry, and fish
- b) Fruits and vegetables
- c) Dairy products

The above-mentioned non-hametz food categories must be processed, canned, bottled and packaged with rabbinic certification to guarantee that no hametz ingredient is included in the processing.

a) The following does not require any rabbinic certification:

- 1. Those foods written in Paragraph #1 in their raw or fresh condition
- 2. Refined sugar (excluding brown sugar, which does require supervision)
- 3. Salt
- 4. Ground coffee (excluding instant coffee)

Pure fruit juice without additives in a glass jar or bottle only



PASSOVER

The prohibition against the use and consumption of hametz applies to those products that are edible and fit for human and animal consumption.

Those products that are made from hametz that are not edible and are not fit for both human and animal consumption are not considered hametz, and one may derive use and benefit from them. Some examples of such products are toothpaste, deodorants, hair sprays, shampoos, soaps, lipsticks, talcum & baby powder, and cold creams & hand creams. Although toothpastes and lipsticks do not require rabbinic certification for use during Pesach, one should only use a fresh tube of toothpaste with a new toothbrush and a fresh stick of lipstick.

THE SALE OF HAMETZ

The Torah teaches that during the eight days of Passover, Jews must not own or use any form of hametz. In the past, Jews would destroy all the hametz and hametz products before the Passover holiday or a Jew would give away all the leaven to a non-Jew as a gift that would be his permanent possession. However, Jews began to acquire much larger quantities of hametz for business or the home. The destruction or the giving away of these vast quantities of hametz would have meant a tremendous financial loss for Jews. The Rabbi's teach "Rachmana liba Be-ee." "The Law requires the heart." Jewish law gave us an alternative that has shown great compassion and understanding of the material needs of the Jewish community. This alternative is called "machirat hametz"—the selling of hametz.

The selling of the hametz is a legal business transaction with a non-Jew that involved the drawing up of a legal contract based upon rabbinic law and signed in the presence of two witnesses who also sign the contract. The contract includes an assessment of the value of the hametz being sold, a statement of the terms of delivery, and other conditions. The rabbi on Passover eve acts as the agent who will negotiate the sale with the non-Jew. The two people will reach an assessment of the value of the hametz, and the rabbi will ask for a down payment of money on the hametz. The rabbi will stipulate with the non-Jew that the balance of the money be paid on the night after the eighth day of Passover after the appearance of the stars. If, at that time, the non-Jew does not want to pay the balance, then the rabbi will return the deposit to the non-Jew and the sale will not be completed. This year, please do NOT eat the hametz you have asked the rabbi to sell on your behalf, until Thursday, April 9th, 8:30 PM. This will give the rabbi sufficient time to meet with the non-Jew who purchased our hametz.

This is a legal and binding sale and not a joke as some people claim. Any person who does desire to sell his or her hametz may come to the synagogue office or fill out the form below appointing the Rabbi as his or her agent in the sale of hametz. Please remember that the sale of the hametz is not reserved only for traditional Jews, but every Jew can participate in the mitzvah. Even if that person does not observe the traditions of Judaism in his or her home, the person should not feel ashamed but should try to do this mitzvah.

PLEASE NOTE: Even if one will be away from one's home during Passover, one is still obligated to sell his or her hametz.



PASSOVER

II KASHERING OF UTENSILS

1. The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to halakhah, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil (kevoles kakh polet). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing. Earthenware (china, pottery, etc.) may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware that has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.
2. Metal (utensils wholly made of metal) used in fire (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should have water boiled in them that will overflow the rim. The utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water.
 - a. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.
3. Oven and ranges: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens. A microwave oven, which does not cook the food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and a cup of water should be placed in it. Then the oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be Kashered for Pesah.
4. Glassware: Authorities disagree as to the method of kashering drinking utensils. One opinion requires soaking in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesah or putting it through a dishwasher.
5. Dishwasher: After not using the machine for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run.
6. Electrical Appliances: If the parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned.)
7. Refrigerators need only be thoroughly cleaned with warm water and soap. The racks don't need to be covered, but if you wish to use foil or wax paper, pierce it to allow air to circulate in the refrigerator.
8. Tables, closets and counters: If used with hametz, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.
9. Kitchen sink: A metal sink can be kashered by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.
10. Hametz and non-Passover utensils - Non-Passover dishes, pots, and hametz whose ownership has been transferred should be separated, locked up, or covered, and marked to prevent accidental use.

III THE SEARCH FOR THE HAMETZ

1. The Talmudic tractate known as "Massechet Pesachim" requires an intensive and careful search for hametz in one's house on the night before Passover as soon as possible after nightfall. This cleansing of the home before Passover is traditionally known as "bedikat chametz." This year, the search for hametz takes place on Tuesday, March 31st, after sundown.



PASSOVER

1. The traditional supplies used for the search are listed below:

- a. A candle
- b. Wooden spoon, paper bag, paper plate, or paper cup
- c. A feather

2. Since most of our homes are cleaned and ready for the Passover holidays, it is customary to place crumbs of bread in the various rooms of our homes (especially those rooms in which hametz was consumed) before the search.

3. Prior to beginning the search, the following blessing is recited:

"BARUCH AHTAH ADONAI, EHLOHAYNU MELECH HA'OLAM ASHER KID'SHANU BIH-MITZ-VOH-TAF, VIH-TZEE-VANU AL BEE UR HAMETZ."

"BLESSED ARE YOU, SOVEREIGN OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS SANCTIFIED US THROUGH HIS COMMANDMENTS AND COMMANDED US CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HAMETZ."

1. The person then moves from room to room with a lit candle (please note: the house must be darkened) and gathers up the crumbs with the feather and places them in the wooden spoon or paper bag. No conversation is permitted until the search has been completed. The hametz that is found during the search is then tied up and put away so that it will be burned the next morning.

2. After the search has been completed, we recite the following formula for nullification of the hametz:

"ALL LEAVEN AND ALL HAMETZ THAT IS IN MY POSSESSION THAT I DID NOT SEE AND DID NOT DESTROY, LET IT BE NULL AND OWNERLESS AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH."

IV FAST OF THE FIRST BORN

1. It is a tradition that on the day preceding Passover, the first-born sons of our people fast as an expression of thanksgiving to G-d for having spared the first born of the children of Israel from the plague that destroyed the first born of the Egyptians. This year the fast takes place on **Wednesday, April 1st**.

2. It is permissible for the first born to break the fast for the purpose of celebrating certain religious observances such as a wedding, a circumcision, or the completion of a tractate of the Talmud. In most instances, the Rabbis of many congregations will study a Talmudic tractate during the year and complete it on the eve of Passover. There are rejoicing and celebration when the Rabbi asks not only the first born, but everyone to participate in his simcha. The celebration is known as a "siyum." and we will have minyan and a study session on **Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 AM**, for the Fast of the First Born.

V BURNING OF THE HAMETZ

1. The book of Exodus tells us: "You shall destroy leaven from your houses." On the morning of Passover eve, the hametz that was collected during the bedikat hametz the evening before and other hametz is burned in a fire. The fire is normally lit outdoors, and the hametz is then thrown into the flames.

2. After the hametz is thrown into the flames, the following statement is said in English: "Any kind of leaven which is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have destroyed it or not, shall be regarded as null and void and shall be as the dust of the earth."

No hametz may be eaten after **10:55 AM, on Wednesday, April 1st**. The burning of the hametz should take place on **Wednesday, April 1st, before 11:59 AM**. There will be a community burning of Chametz at FJCC that day, **9:00 AM**.



PASSOVER

Form to Appoint an Agent to Sell My Chametz (Shtar Harsha'ah)

I, (please print) _____, fully empower and permit Rabbi Eric Cohen as my agent to act in my place and in my behalf to sell all my chametz and chametz mixtures as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law and to lease all places wherein the chametz owned by me may be found, especially in the premises located at (please print addresses):

Home: _____

Work: _____

Other: _____

The Rabbi has full power to sell and to lease by transactions as he deems fit and proper for such times as he believes necessary in accordance with all detailed terms and forms according to Jewish law. Also, I do hereby give the Rabbi full power and authority to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell and lease. This is meant to conform with all the Torah and Rabbinic regulations and laws, and to be in accordance as well with the laws of the State of New Jersey and of the United States of America.

Signature

Date

PASSOVER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Tuesday, March 31st

Search for Chametz - At home, in the evening

FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

Wednesday, April 1st

Services for the Fast of the First-Born 7:30 AM
Burning the Chametz 9:00 AM at the synagogue
(or at your home before 11:59 AM)
Stop eating Chametz 10:55 AM
Services 6:00 PM
Light Candles 7:06 PM
1st Seder

Thursday, April 2nd

Services 9:15 AM

SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER

Thursday, April 2nd

Evening services & Community Seder 6:00 PM
Candle lighting 8:07 PM (from existing flame, or non-electric pilot light)

Friday, April 3rd

Morning services 9:15 AM

7th DAY PASSOVER

Tuesday April 7th

Candle lighting 7:12 PM
Evening services 7:30 PM

Wednesday April 8th

Morning services 9:15 AM

8TH DAY OF PASSOVER

Wednesday April 8th

Candle lighting 8:14 PM
(from existing flame, or non-electric pilot light)
Evening Services 7:30 PM

Thursday, April 9th

Morning services 9:15 AM
YIZKOR 10:15 AM
(an estimate, come earlier)

PASSOVER ENDS

Thursday, April 9th 8:14 PM

Post-Passover Pizza Party 8:30 PM
(please: do not eat the Chametz in your home until 8:45 PM)





FLEMINGTON JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

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