

THE SHOFAR

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut

A word from:

RABBI BEKAH GOLDMAN

Friends,

This year, as in many years, the Hebrew month of Sh'vat straddles two months on our secular calendar. January and February, though situated in the middle of our chilly New England winters, are packed with meaningful moments: the beginning of our secular year, the Birthday of the Trees (Tu BiSh'vat) and Black History Month. One flows right into the next, and as we say goodbye to Tu BiSh'vat and January, we move into February — Black History Month. This is a time when our entire country spends a dedicated month learning about and lifting up the accomplishments of Black individuals and movements. But it is also a time when we can recommit ourselves to the first part of Rabbi Hillel's statement in Pirkei Avot, "If I am only for myself, what am I?"

As Jews, we are tasked to uphold the values of tzedek (justice) and tikkun olam (repairing the world), especially in the midst of this pandemic, which among other things, has shone a light on the significant inequality People of Color experience in American society. This year, Black History Month resonates deeply for me, because Jews around the world are reading Torah portions that focus on our people's harrowing journey out of slavery toward freedom. It was not a quick or easy trek for them and took a miserable 40 years of wandering through the wilderness before they finally could lay their heads down in the land of milk and honey! But what about the journey to true freedom and equality for Black people in America today? Unfortunately their trek has taken even longer! During Pesach, we would say Dayenu! Hasn't it been enough?

During Black History Month, let us remember the plight of our ancestors and let that motivate us to perennially become allies with all marginalized peoples. Let us work together today, as our ancestors did during the Civil Rights Movement, as partners in the fight for social justice, universal humanity, inclusion and equality. May this month — and every month — serve as sacred inspiration for us to use the beautiful stories of the past to craft a future rooted in freedom, diversity, inclusion, equity and beauty for everyone.

With Blessings,

Rabbi Bekah



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All are welcome!

 JTConnect **PINK
SHABBAT**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021
7:00PM-8:00PM**

Join us for JTConnect's annual Pink Shabbat as we make havdalah as a community.

Led by JTConnect's teen engagement fellows, come learn about the incredible work of Sharsheret as we raise awareness for breast cancer.

**Everyone is welcome! Open to teens,
families, and community members!**

Visit jtconnect.org/pinkshabbat to register and purchase your **JTConnect Pink Shabbat Box!** All proceeds will be donated to Sharsheret.

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

**For more information contact
cara@jtconnect.org**



SHARSHERET

COMMITTEE NEWS

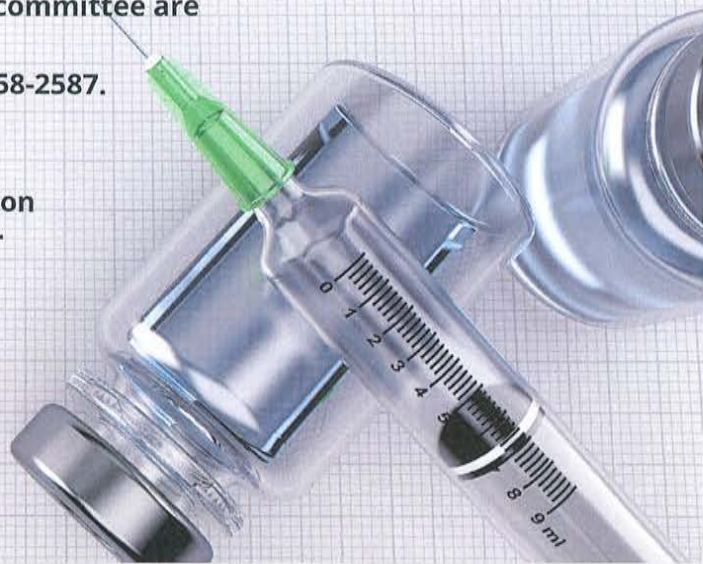
VACCINE SIGNUP SUPPORT

We're hoping that if you qualify for COVID-19 vaccine you've been able to sign up for an appointment. If you don't have a family member to help you, members of the Caring Community and Social Action committee are willing to provide support. Please call:

Barbara Fichtenholtz 860-604-5460 or Terry Cole 860-558-2587.

We are hoping that as more people get vaccinated we might be able to help with transportation to the vaccination sites. Planning is now underway for that eventuality. In the meanwhile, please continue to observe social distancing, mask wearing and frequent handwashing.

Stay safe everyone!



RITUAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Member Ken Weinstock will be joining the Ritual Committee as co-chair. Fresh off his recently-completed term on the Executive Committee, Ken brings a deep commitment to the synagogue and a wealth of knowledge about the larger Jewish community to this new role. Welcome, Ken!

Marci Levin recently volunteered to take over the role as B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, working with Rabbi and the temple administrator Chrisi to help families navigate that very exciting and overwhelming year before the big event. Thanks, Marci!

The rest of the Ritual Committee is busy working out the details for meeting in person when the COVID restrictions will allow us to, and they are already planning for the High Holidays in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

If you would like to join our committee, or have any questions for us, please reach out.

Robin Bergman, co-chair of the Ritual Committee



COUPLES BOOK GROUP - CHAVURAH

Our next book will be: An Improbable Friendship: The Remarkable Lives of Israeli Ruth Dayan and Palestinian Raymonda Tawil and Their Forty Year Peace Mission by Anthony David. Please let me know if you are willing to facilitate the conversation. We will join by Zoom link (thanks, Bob B.) on Wednesday, March 10th at 7 PM.

For more information and ZOOM link please contact:
Sandra Bourke: sandrabourke@yahoo.com or Suzanne Schloss: suzyandjohn@comcast.net

COLLEGE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The CORe Committee wishes all of our college-age kids a joyous Chag Sameach on Purim at the end of the month! Spring semester will undoubtedly have its challenges, but we can all be united in celebrating the joy and merriment of this fun holiday.

As our holiday care package program is still suspended, we encourage your students, whether on campus or at home, to livestream a megillah reading, bake hamantashen, create and share mishloach manot or simply wear a fun outfit to mark the holiday. Happy Purim to all!

We graciously accept your donations! Information for both enrollment and making a donation are available on the FVJC website or you can contact Sue Lerner (suelerner@sbcglobal.net).

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Action volunteered again at a mobile Foodshare site in Windsor in January and February. This is a safe and rewarding activity and Foodshare depends on volunteer labor. Consider joining us next time!

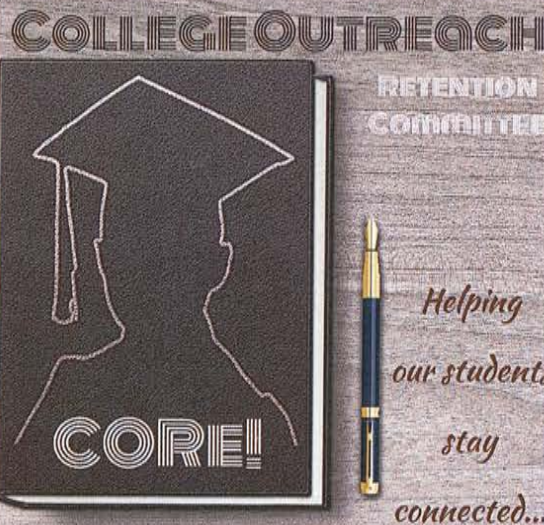
In addition, social action donated a Plan B meal to the ABC House. What teenage boy doesn't like a burger and fries!

We also have resumed our ongoing collection for Jewish Family Services. Currently their greatest need is pantry items. Specifically, they asked for laundry detergent, boxed cereal, pasta, snack bars, and paper goods. Items can be dropped off at the temple during Sunday school hours. There will be a box outside the door. Please consider supporting this endeavor as there is unprecedented need in the community.

Our next meeting will be Wed, 2/3 at 7:30 pm. Contact me for the Zoom link if you'd like to join us!

Viviann

COMMITTEE UPDATES AND INFORMATION

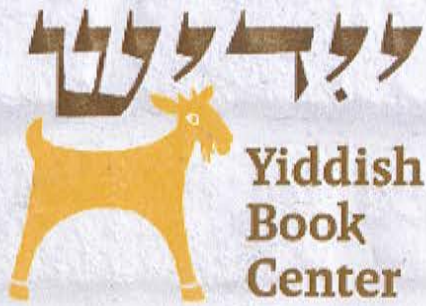


SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MEMBERS TO PERFORM TIKKUN OLAM (REPAIRING THE WORLD), TZEDAKAH (RIGHTEOUS GIVING), AND GEMILUT CHASADIM (DEEDS OF LOVING KINDNESS).

PROGRAMMING



Regenerating Jewish Culture

Great Jewish Books Summer Program

**A hybrid online/residential program for rising high school juniors and seniors,
June 20–July 30, 2021.**

At the Yiddish Book Center's Great Jewish Books Summer Program, rising high school juniors and seniors read selections from important works of modern Jewish literature and consider how they speak to the opportunities and challenges we face today. Under the guidance of college professors, they consider how the rich legacy of modern Jewish literature can inform us in the twenty-first century.

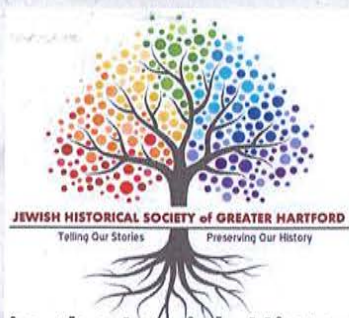
Although the program's focus is on reading, this is not school in any conventional sense: Great Jewish Books is a lively program full of social, cultural, and recreational opportunities—and no grades—for students who read for the love of reading and who are eager to discover the treasures of the Jewish canon.

New this year, the program begins with five weeks of virtual classes and activities and culminates in a week in-person at the Yiddish Book Center, where students immerse themselves in a lively world of Jewish culture and live in dorms on the nearby campus of Hampshire College.*Program dates: June 20–July 23, 2021 (online), July 25–30, 2021 (in-person) Every admitted participant receives a scholarship for the full cost of tuition, room, board, books, and special events.

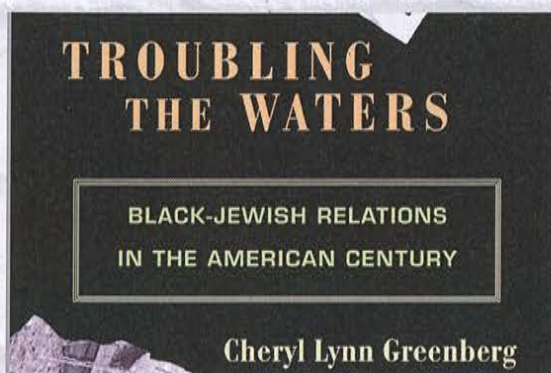
CLICK TO APPLY TODAY:

<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/educational-programs/great-jewish-books-summer-program/apply-great-jewish-books>

PROGRAMMING



Please join the Jewish Historical Society
February 9 at 7:00 PM for a talk by historian Cheryl Greenberg:
"Jews, Civil Rights, and Lessons Learned"



Professor Greenberg will share her reflections on some lessons we can take away from the history of Black-Jewish relations in the 20th century.

Over the past year, especially, discussions about white privilege and white supremacy have raised questions about where Jews of European descent fit in. Are Jews white, and if so, how has that affected Jewish involvement in civil rights in the past? How should it inform us moving forward?

Cheryl Greenberg is the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History at Trinity College, where she teaches African American history, race and ethnicity, and twentieth-century U.S. history. She is the author of *Troubling the Waters: Black-Jewish Relations in the American Century*. (2006)

CLICK TO REGISTER TODAY:
<https://jhsgh.org/jews-civil-rights/>

PROGRAMMING!

Nashim, a woman's circle

2 established groups...

4PM

Fall 2019-present
participants, Zoom
link to follow

5PM

2018-19 Established cohort
continuing their journey...
Zoom link to follow

1st Sunday of the month

Reconnect...

*Recharge
and
Reexamine*

*your
Jewish
life...*

*Join
us!*





TASTE OF TORAH

JOIN RABBI BEKAH

For a sweet opportunity to
dive into Torah for a little
virtual nosh on the d'rash!

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
FOLLOWING SERVICES.
STAY IN ZOOM
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE!



Rabbi's Hour

*Our program
meets
every Monday at
11AM!*

To join our group visit:

<https://p.constantcontactpages.com/su/f21DK66>

DONATION INFORMATION

THANK YOU!

<https://fvjc.org/donation-form/>

Give
today!

Lebetkin Gloria
Gelber Rona and Barry
Weinberg Stephen, Joyce
Weinberg Stephen, Joyce
Abrams Betty
Banco Elizabeth, Leonard
Berger Karen, Marshall
Berger Karen, Marshall
Bourke Robert, Sandra Lynn
Bourke Robert, Sandra Lynn

In Memory of:
In Memory of:
In Appreciation of:
In Memory of:
In Memory of:
In Memory of:
In Memory of:
Donation:
In Memory of:

Bourke Robert, Sandra Lynn

In Honor of:

Degroat and Simon Elizabeth,
Stuart

In Memory of:

Kaplan Elizabeth

In Memory of:

Kaplan Jay

In Memory of:

Levin Arthur, Gloria

In Honor of:

Lowry Marsha, Richard

In Memory of:

Paul Kathleen, Sheldon

In Memory of:

Spungin Eric, Iris

The Yahrzeit of:

Worobow Daryl, Karen

In Memory of:

Carnevale Ann & Fran

In Memory of:

Shafer Theodore

Donation:

Rosenfeld Audrey and Danny

In Memory of:

Levin Arthur, Gloria

Donation:

Kravet David

In Honor of:

Kravet David

In Memory of:

Kravet David

In Honor of:

Kravet David

In Memory of:

Cohen Anna, Jerry

In Acknowledgement

of:

Donation:

Carnevale Ann & Fran

Donation:

Cooperman Lisa, Todd

In Loving Memory of:

Rubin Jon, Vivian

Donation:

Siegfried & Ernestine Kern
Frederick R Wachtel
Rabbi Bekah
George S. Paris
Arthur Freund
Anne Schiff, mother of Elizabeth Banco
Marshall Berger, Rose Berger
David Berger

Dr. Peter Lebetkin Memorial Fund
Music Fund

Operating Fund

Marsha, cousin of Barbara and Ted
Fichtenholtz
The Goldman-Mag Family with best wishes
for their new home.
Louis Simon

Sigmund Schnur
Florence Kaplan and Joseph Kaplan
Mona Murphy
Leona Kowry Engel
Donald W. Paul
Irving Spungin
Saul Finkle, Stella Rulnick
Anthony Carnevale

JANUARY DONATIONS

Rabbi Bekah's Discretionary Fund

Religious School Discretionary Fund
Religious School Scholarship Fund
Sandra L. Kravet Woman of Courage Fund

Hyman Rosenfeld

Rabbi Howard Sowalsky

Jean and Stush Frank

Jessica Kravet

Marvin Sperling

the birth of Shira Belle Lescher

Sidney and Doris Cohen Memorial Fund

Social Action Fund

Leonard H. Silberman



TREE ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____

TREES ARE \$18 EACH (PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FVJC-ES SISTERHOOD)
CIRCLE: IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF

NAME: _____
IF IN MEMORY OF, RELATION TO RECIPIENT _____
IF IN HONOR OF: OCCASION _____

IF IN MEMORY OF— CIRCLE HOW IT WILL BE SIGNED:
"WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY" OR "MAY IT SERVE AS A LIVING MEMORY"
PLANTED BY _____

MAIL CERTIFICATE TO ADDRESS: _____

RECIPIENT PHONE NUMBER _____

PLEASE SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO OUR SISTERHOOD TREE CHAIR— JODI MARKS

55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY, CT 06070

FOR ANY QUESTIONS: JODI.ELLEN@COMCAST.NET OR 860-658-5562

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SISTERHOOD AND JEWISH NATIONAL FUND.





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www.instagram.com/fvjcsimsbury
www.fvjc.org.org
membership@fvjc.org



Rabbi Bekah Goldman 860-256-9822, rabbibekah@fvjc.org

Temple President: Tracy Smith Cell 860 751-9418 president@fvjc.org

Religious School Education Chair: Liddy Doyle, school@fvjc.org

White and Katzman: for account questions:

Ann Wilson: 860-291-8777, ext. 117

Temple website: www.fvjc.org

Temple Calendar: www.fvjc.org/calendar/

Temple fax number: 860-658-4273

Temple Mailing Address: 55 Bushy Hill Road Simsbury, CT 06070

Administrator: Chrisi Bonchick 860-658-1075, admin@fvjc.org

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10AM- 2PM

Wednesday's 4-6PM Sunday's 9-11:30AM (when school is in session)

Website questions: Ari Mills, arimills@me.com

Sisterhood - lisa.cooperman@outlook.com

Men's Club - dkessler13@hotmail.com

Membership - Marlo Zall & Ruth Goldblatt, membership@fvjc.org