

THE SHOFAR

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut

A word from:

PRESIDENT, TRACY SMITH

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that it has been three years since I wrote my first column as president. Today, as I sat down to write my final column, I tried to reflect on the road we have traveled as a community. The past three years have seen wonderful anticipated change, such as the wonderful work our community undertook to renovate our Bimah and unanticipated changes such as our emphasis on security following the horrors of the Pittsburgh attack, and our ongoing response to the COVID19 pandemic.

Through all of these changes and challenges, one thing has remained constant, the tremendous talent of our lay and professional teams and the warm, generous and profound commitment of our congregation.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work so closely with both Rabbi Bekah and Chrisi Bonchick. FVJC is truly blessed to have a professional team whose deep commitment, grace under pressure and generosity of spirit know no bounds. I cannot count the number of calls and meetings we have shared but I know that I leave each one feeling grateful, fortunate and impressed that this congregation is so ably led.

Board members at FVJC often serve long past their initial term. They do so because they love the congregation and are willing to give selflessly of their time to help steer the organization. It has been, and will continue to be, an honor to serve with them.

Finally, FVJC is a special place. I am always impressed by the patience, determination, warmth and care I have seen repeatedly in this community. As we begin to emerge from this long, challenging year, I look forward to seeing the FVJC community thrive in the years to come.

With gratitude, Tracy



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BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT

We are announcing updated protocols for June through August. We are delighted to say that we are reopening and getting ever closer to “normal.” Please note that we will conduct a survey shortly to assess the rate of vaccination in our FVJC community. The following protocols may be amended somewhat based on the survey findings. The FVJC community has been enormously patient during this very difficult year and we thank you all for your commitment to FVJC and to the health and safety of the community.

Effective immediately, the following protocols will be in place:

Shabbat Services:

Indoor Shabbat services will have a capacity of 75 congregants in the expanded Sanctuary/Social Hall area.

We will ask congregants to remain masked while indoors at FVJC at this time.

Oneg Shabbats will not take place indoors at this time.

Outdoor Shabbat services will have an unlimited capacity and congregants who have been vaccinated are welcome to be unmasked at outdoor services. Unvaccinated congregants should take care to maintain social distance. We will be resuming Oneg Shabbats for our outdoor services

B’nai Mitzvah:

B’nai Mitzvah will also have a capacity of 75 guests. We ask that everyone remain masked for these events.

In cases where only the immediate family will be in the sanctuary and vaccination status can be assured families can be unmasked.

Mah Jongg:

Our beloved Mah Jongg Mondays will resume in the Social Hall. A survey is currently being conducted to determine the extent to which this group is vaccinated. Masking protocols will follow pending the results of that survey. We encourage any immunocompromised players to continue to mask. Snacks will not be provided during Mah Jongg at this time.

High Holidays:

We are eager to return to the sanctuary for High Holidays, but only if we can do so safely. We will be sending a survey to you all shortly to begin to assess our community “herd immunity” and our congregation’s comfort level with returning to larger events and will make the best possible decisions pending those results. At present, we can announce that many of our High Holiday services will take place at FVJC. We are working through options for our largest services in order to ensure safety for all.

We look forward to seeing you all at home, in our sanctuary, over the next several weeks.

With tremendous hope and gratitude,
Rabbi Rebekah Goldman, Tracy Smith and William White, MD

Mazel Tov!

JUNE B'NAI MITZVAH CANDIDATES

GRAHAM JOHNSON, JUNE 5, 10AM
TALIA COOPERMAN, JUNE 12, 10AM
BEN SILVERSTEIN, JUNE 19, 10AM
ARIANNA SCHUMAN, JUNE 19, 4PM
IAN FLINK, JUNE 26, 10AM

OUR TEENS ARE DOING GREAT THINGS!

SHS senior wins essay competition



Courtesy Photo

At the April meeting of the Metacomet Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1226, Commander John Fox congratulated Petra M. Leite, senior at Simsbury High School, for winning First Place at the Post level for the national Voice of Democracy Patriotic Audio Essay Competition. She was awarded a certificate and monetary prize. This year's VFW high school competition theme was "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" Petra's audio essay spoke of how the founders drafted the U.S. Constitution 233 years ago and what they debated. She answered the essay question both in agreement and against it. Her final analysis predicted that the American spirit would live on for a long time. Petra has been accepted to Wesleyan University starting this Fall. Joining her in receiving the award is her father, Richard Leite (on the left) and grandfather, Olav Leite (on the right.)

PROGRAMMING

COUPLES BOOK GROUP

**June 16th, 7PM
is our next
meeting!**

**Contact Suzanne Schloss at:
suzyandjohn@comcast.net. or
Sandra Bourke:
sandrabourke@yahoo.com**

ATTENDANCE ID'S
WILL BE SENT
BEFORE THE
MEETING.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

ISRAEL-AMERICAN POLITICAL CONVERSATION

FACILITATED BY: DAN WEISSMAN

**THURSDAY'S
7PM**

"Do you care about Israel?"

Do you care about the
United States?

Join us to discuss
American-Israeli relations
and how that impacts
Americans, Israelis and Jews all
over the world."

To register visit:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/DxVfO4U>

Attendance links will be delivered to all registered
participants 15 minutes before each meeting.



PROGRAMMING

Join us for our

MEMBER OF THE YEAR SHABBAT!

JUNE 25TH, 7PM

In-person, indoor

Join us as we honor
several members
who
worked
to keep our
Community
together
during this
extraordinary year.



PROGRAMMING

SUMMER SHABBAT

July and August

All services will be
held at 6:30PM



OUTDOOR SERVICES WITH ONEG
JULY 9TH AND 23RD
AUGUST 13TH AND 27TH

All other Summer services,
indoor, no Oneg will be served.

PROGRAMMING

WE'RE READY
TO GATHER!

BABY BOOMER CHAVURAH

Thursday July 8

5:30-8pm

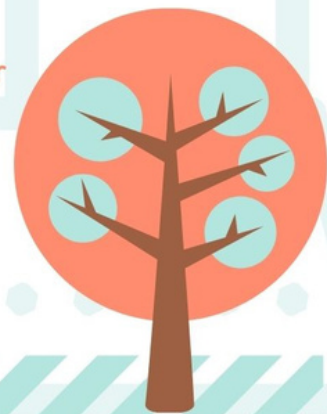
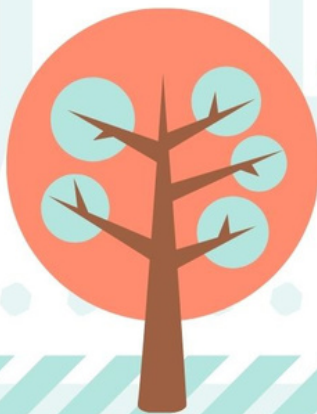
Simsbury Meadows Bandshell

BYO seating and dinner to
enjoy while we take time to be
together and catch up!

COVID protocols
will be followed.

Touch base with Debbie Bogatz or
Anna Cohen if you have ?'s.

dlbogatz@gmail.com ,
aecohen52@yahoo.com



COMMITTEE NEWS

Mazel Tov to the graduating high school Seniors! They should be celebrated for persevering through a difficult time in their young lives! We invite their parents to enroll them in our College Outreach program.



Although our program was on pause this past year, we will resume sending our much-loved college care packages in the Fall. College-aged kids will receive four holiday-themed (Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover) care packages throughout the year. There is no cost for this program, but donations are gratefully accepted from ALL congregants! Enrollment is not automatic. Whether new or returning, parents will be asked to enroll their students as soon as they know their child's address for next year. You can find this form on the FVJC website <https://fvjc.org/core/>.

If you are interested in learning more about our Committee, please reach out.

Sue Lerner

suelerner@sbcglobal.net

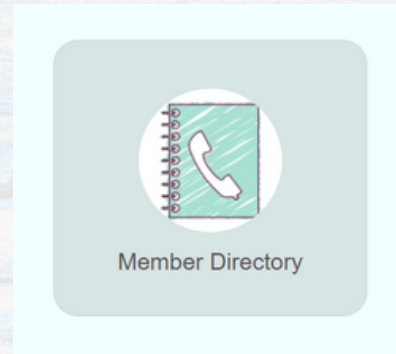


COMMITTEE NEWS



We are excited to call your attention to a great benefit of our new synagogue software management system. If you are like us, you are always on the hunt for the old printed version of our FVJC Directory to look up a phone number. While it is great to have a printed version around, we think the online version of the directory also has many features that are fantastic. Information is up to date easily accessed.

To find the Directory go to <https://fvjc.shulcloud.com/member> and sign in. In the General Information section, you will see this icon.



Click on the icon and you can find people using the search feature. You can sort by first name, last name and even town.

We invite you to sign in and update your information then try it out and find a friend to call and say hi!

If you have any suggestions or comments please reach out to: Ruth Goldblatt or Marlo Zall at membership@fvjc.org.

Keep an eye on your mailbox and e-mail
for our 2021-2022
Member Renewal packet!

Our 2020/2021 Religious School year has just come to a close. We celebrated with a mini "Israeli Fair" which included making both Israeli salad and zaatar with Stephanie & Sadie Leite, doing some Israeli dancing with Melissa from Terpsichore Dance & Theatre Company, and completing fun classwork (3-D maps of Israel and Hebrew scavenger hunts). Additionally, our final Mini Minayn gathering for the year met outside. Rabbi Bekah led storytime learning and songs; everyone joined in the Israeli dancing, and each young student was able to bring home a handmade mini Torah. Our building & grounds were beautifully busy!

I would like to thank all of our School parents for the generous contributions toward our teacher gifts. Everyone has worked hard in new and different ways this year, and your support is truly appreciated. Please join me as we especially thank Susan Johnson for her years of teaching and helping to lead our Lower School. Her knowledge and energy have been invaluable!

Our team of educators, comprised of Rabbi Bekah, Za Flores, Jennifer Holzman, Stacy Roos, Susan Johnson, Ambrosia Williams, Cassie Rosin and Mr D, have risen to each challenge of the pandemic with grace and teamwork. FVJC-ES is so lucky to have these educators!

Liddy Boyle



MAY DONATIONS

DONATION INFORMATION

THANK YOU!

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

Give today!

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Honor Of Rabbi Bekah from Stanley Goldberg & Cantor Susan Levine

CEMETERY FUND

In Memory Of Jacob Kandelman Herbert Abrams from Betty Abrams

The Yahrzeit Of Marcia Goldblatt from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

OPERATING DONATION

In Honor of:

the Bat Mitzvah of Talia Cooperman from Barbara and Jerry Hirsch

The 5781 Confirmation Class from Mark & Ellen Lescher
the birth of Cedar Solomon Nuckels Gould, grandson of Drs. Bruce and Lisa Gould from Mark & Ellen Lescher
Toby Ryder Schwartz from Roy & Paula Schwartz

In Memory of:

George Glaser from Barbara and Jerry Hirsch
Marion Finkle from Daryl & Karen Worobow
Harry Kaplan from Elizabeth Kaplan
Morris Banco, father of Leonard Carl Schiff, father of Elizabeth from Leonard & Elizabeth Banco
Nathan Lescher from Mark & Ellen Lescher
Beloved Aunt, Sadie Leinwand from Micheal & Sandra Delin
Beloved brother, Ellis Delin from Micheal & Sandra Delin
Sybil Reno from Paul Finkle

The Yahrzeit of:

David Meyer from Audrey Meyer-Lampert
Martin Rubin by Vivian and Jon Rubin from Jon & Vivian Rubin
Bernard Weiss from Mitchell & Ronnie Weiss

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of:

My great-aunt, Minnie Warshaw Dick from Rona Gelber
Sally J. Paris, Lawrence J. Weinberg from Stephen & Joyce Weinberg

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In Memory of:

Dr. Richard Lowell Rubenstein from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt
Willena Theriault, mother of Samantha Sherman from Samantha Sherman

RABBI DAVID SOBEL MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of: Bob Bourke, for his special birthday. from Arthur & Gloria Levin

In Memory of:

Dr. Richard Lowell Rubenstein, father of Hannah Rubenstein
George Glaser, brother of Ellie Norton

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of Rabbi Bekah for the lovely naming and bris for our grandson, Cedar Solomon Nuckels Gould.
Bruce and Lisa Gould from Bruce & Lisa Gould

In Honor of Rabbi Bekah. Thank you for helping to make Michelle and Percy's wedding so beautiful and meaningful!
from Lawrence & Linda Merlin
For Rabbi Bekah, for helping to make the Bat Mitzvah of Charlye so special. from Stephen & Cara Sutton

In Memory of: Kenneth Newman from Steven and Rochelle Bartelstone
Mary Weiner from The Kagel Family & Steven Kagel

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Marvis Bogatz, beloved Mother and Grandmother from Debra Bogatz

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Appreciation of:

In appreciation of Michael McCormick from David Kravet
Chris Bonchick for everything you do from David Kravet

In Honor of

the wedding of William Rosedale and Bill Frizzle. from David Kravet
engagement of Jessica Kravet and Nathan Rosemond from David Kravet

In Memory of:

George Glaser, brother of Ellie Norton from David Kravet
Rolland Castleman from David Kravet
Harry Greenfield from Nanette Shafer

THELMA R. SHENKMAN LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of Frances Furman Weiner from Beverly Jackowitz

THANK YOU!



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

All are welcome...

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator: Marci Levin, mitzvahcoordinator@fvjc.org

FVJC Sisterhood: President, Lisa Cooperman, lisa.cooperman@outlook.com

Membership: co-Chair's: Marlo Zall & Ruth Goldblatt, membership@fvjc.org

Men's Club: President, Dan Kessler, dkessler13@hotmail.com

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

Ritual Committee: co-Chair's: Robin Bergman & Ken Weinstock, ritual@fvjc.org

Treasurer: Paul Honig, treasurer@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)