

THE SHOFAR

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut

A WORD FROM Rabbi Bekah Goldman

During our Simchat Torah celebration, we conclude the yearly Torah cycle with a dramatic reading of the final verses in Deuteronomy. Once we've taken a deep breath and have readied ourselves to start over, we begin again with a fresh start: creation. As we continue our journey through Genesis, we are bombarded with a variety of beautifully layered stories that help us shape our communal narrative with depth and meaning. The most prominent theme we find in these stories is hospitality. We see it all over this massive book — even in the places we least expect it. So when our world gets turned upside down and we have trouble finding a place to rest our weary hearts, we must make our own community a place of respite, a place of welcome, a home to anyone who finds themselves on our doorstep.

This is precisely why we are hosting our *New Member Shabbat* this month on *October 29th*. We wholeheartedly welcome our new and prospective members to join us, as our long-standing members create a space of warmth and welcome for everyone. I look forward to showing you how we embody the value of *haknusat orchim* (hospitality) in our community.

With Blessings, Rabbi Bekah



Rabbi's Hour
In Person & Zoom
listening, learning, connecting...

Monday's - 11AM
Returns
October 18th

Save the date!



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*All
are
welcome!*



Dear Friends,

As we progress through the High Holidays and into the New Year, and slowly make our way into our next new normal, FVJC-Emek Shalom Committees (including Sisterhood, Men's Club, and Task Forces) are hard at work preparing to start the year with many member activities.

These groups are what make us more than just a synagogue; we are also a community center that hosts activities and events for our members. These groups met as a team prior to the holidays, where chairpersons began planning for the year and were asked to find ways to work together to bring more thoughtful programming to you. One new element of our planning will be centered around our virtual/long distance members, where our committees and clubs will make it a priority to find ways to include all our members in activities that can be held in person and/or live streamed or zoomed.

If you're not already part of one of these groups, please consider joining. It's a wonderful way to contribute to our community, renew friendships, make new friends, learn a new skill or share your expertise. This can also be a great way to develop your leadership skills if that's of interest to you. A full list of these groups is provided in this issue of the Shofar. Please contact any of the leaders to let them know of your interest; it's easy to get involved at whatever level you choose. We plan to start a Diversity group this month; please let me know if you have interest in joining. Every voice counts.

There are also some committees in need of new leaders to help move them forward, please contact me if you have any interest in learning more about leading or being a part of any of the following groups:

·Adult Education ·Youth Group ·Fundraising ·Programming ·Social Media

If you don't see a group that interests you, please let me know and we'll see about getting it started!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

L'Shalom. Loel

VISIONARY MEMBERS

We deeply appreciate the generosity and support of our Visionary Members. Their support for our community will help ensure we are able to sustain the religious, spiritual, cultural, and educational programs for our entire congregation, while also assisting us in our efforts to grow membership beyond our local Jewish community.

For more information or if you would like to upgrade your membership category to Visionary, please contact Loel Goldblatt at president@fvjc.org

Current Visionary contributors as of September 2021.

VISIONARY PLATINUM: Loel and Ruth Goldblatt, David Kravet, Billy White

VISIONARY GOLD: Richard & Marianne Feifer, Daniel Joseph & Tracy Smith, Gideon & Jeryl Rothschild, Jon & Vivianne Rubin, Tom & Jan Ruderman, Herbert Siegel & Helen Wong, and Michael & Kathy Ungerleider

FVJC- EMEK SHALOM CLUBS, COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES

CLUBS	PRESIDENT	EMAIL
MEN'S CLUB	Kevin Zall	k.zall2468@gmail.com
SISTERHOOD	Lisa Cooperman	lisa.cooperman@outlook.com
YOUTH GROUP (NFTY)	TBD	president@fvjc.org
COMMITTEES	CHAIRPERSON	EMAIL
ADULT EDUCATION	TBD	president@fvjc.org
CARING COMMUNITY	Barbara Fichtenholtz	babbof@gmail.com
	Sue Krinsky	sjkrinsky@comcast.net
CEMETERY	Wendy Saffer	cemetery@fvjc.org
COLLEGE OUTREACH	Sue Lerner	suelerner@sbcglobal.net
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	Liddy Doyle	school@fvjc.org
DIVERSITY	TBD	president@fvjc.org
FUNDRAISING	TBD	president@fvjc.org
HOUSE	Dana Switzer	dana.switzer@collins.com
LEGACY GIVING	Tracy Smith	tcsmith95j@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP, OUTREACH AND RETENTION (MORE)	Marlo Zall	membership@fvjc.org
	Ruth Goldblatt	membership@fvjc.org
PROGRAMMING	TBD	president@fvjc.org
RITUAL	Robin Bergman	ritual@fvjc.org
	Ken Weinstock	ritual@fvjc.org
SECURITY	Stephanie Leite	stephanie@drleite.com
SOCIAL ACTION	Viviann Rubin	viviannrubin@icloud.com
SOCIAL MEDIA	TBD	president@fvjc.org
STRATEGIC PLANNING	Mike Sperber	masperber@gmail.com
TECHNOLOGY	Mark Orenstein	morenstein@alum.mit.edu
TASK FORCE	LEAD	EMAIL
COVID-19	Billy White	williamsbwhitemd@gmail.com
GRANTS	TBD	jeremy.greshin@comcast.net

*Please reach out to the Chair or Committee lead
to volunteer or learn more!*

Save the date!

October 15, 2021 - Pink Shabbat

honoring those that have been touched by cancer.

Presentation of the
Sandra L. Kravet Woman of Courage Award



**Our 2021-5782 recipient is:
Member, Amy Hershfield**

This award was established to recognize a woman in our community who has demonstrated dignity and courage in the face of personal adversity. The award memorializes Sandra Kravet who was a dedicated member of our congregation and who passed away in 2014 from cancer. It is a cash gift of \$1,000 which is presented each year in October. In addition the name of the recipient is written on a permanent plaque in the temple.

**SANDRA L. KRAVET
WOMAN OF COURAGE AWARD**



Thank you to David Kravet for his thoughtful donation made to cover the printing and mailing cost of this issue.

COLLEGE OUTREACH



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

Sue Lerner

suelerner@sbcglobal.net

With the High Holy Days now past us, it is time for the College Outreach committee to start thinking about our next holiday care package for Hanukkah! It is not too late to enroll your child in our wonderful program. The feedback that we receive from our grateful recipients is always positive.

Remember your college years and how special it was to receive a package of goodies?? Our packages serve a dual purpose ... not only do they contain fun and nutritious snacks, they also provide a reminder of the kids' FVJC-ES family and connection to Judaism!

The program is free, but we gladly and graciously accept donations from all congregants! If you would like to enroll your child, please go to <https://fvjc.org/core/> and register.



Shana Tova from Social action.

We would like to thank all of you who donated so generously to our annual Yom Kippur food drive to benefit Gifts of Love. They are always so grateful for our contributions.

A group of us also walked in the Jewish Community Walk for Hunger on 9/12 to benefit Foodshare.

Look for more exciting social action activities soon. We hope you will join us!

We will continue to meet monthly throughout the year to plan both congregational drives as well as in person volunteer opportunities. Please consider joining us or reaching out if you are aware of needs or projects that might be of interest to our group.



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

Vivian Rubin
vmrubin@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE

MARLO ZALL AND RUTH GOLDBLATT, CO-CHAIRS,
MEMBERSHIP@FVJC.ORG



We would like to welcome and welcome back the following virtual and in person members who have joined us in the last few months.

We are happy you have joined our community.

Jared and Kimberly Boorky and Family

Bruce Fishkin and Rae Eskin

Noah Goldblatt

Ari Goldblatt

Toby Green

Faith and Stephen Kamins

Michael and Erika Kantor and Family

Lindsay Kostruba and Family

Joshua and Jody Lowy and Family

Eliot and Kathileen Mag

Jessica McEleney and Family

Daniel and Alexandra Rozenfeld and Family

Dawna Sirard

Morgan Rubin and Matthew Sorrels

Maya and Jesse Schnall and Family

Dana and Andrew Somen and Family

Rose Soucie

Jamie and Michael Sternberg and Family

Marcie Swift

The Membership Outreach and Retention Committee (MORE) has been busy all summer and early fall welcoming our new and returning members to the FVJC Community. As part of the official welcome we are hosting a new and prospective member Shabbat on October 29th, 2021. It will be an opportunity to welcome and honor our newest members. While we are still unable to eat food together during an Oneg after services, we are planning to feast on friendship instead. After services there will be tables set up where members from our many committees will be available to answer questions. Whether you are new to the congregation or just want to try something different we invite you to join us! Details to follow.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO WELCOME
A NEW MEMBER TO OUR COMMUNITY?**

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be paired up with a new member or new member family.

If you would like to be a source of information and a friend to a new member or new family please reach out to Marlo Zall or Ruth Goldblatt at membership@fvjc.org.

MITZVAH PROJECTS AND MORE!

Anna Stiebel, Mitzvah Project

Join Me and Reilly in Helping Children in Foster Care and Adoption Programs.

What is Fostering Friendships?

Fostering Friendships was created in 2018 by Reilly Bard. This organization benefits children in foster care and adoption programs. We provide children "Care Bags" that include a stuffy, soft blanket, a book, and small activity. Oftentimes children move to new homes without their own items and these "Care Bags" give them something comforting of their own.

What Can You Donate? We need books for children ages toddler to high school. Monetary donations are welcome.

There will be a donation box for children's books located at FVJC. You can also reach out to Anna Stiebel at stiebelanna@gmail.com. Venmo can be used for monetary donations at @Krista-Stiebel. We will be collecting donations until November 1st.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!



Drexel University Community Scholars Program.

College student and member Judy Bergman has been recognized for completing her 1 year internship with the Jewish Relief Agency.

Jewish Relief Agency serves over 6,400 diverse low-income individuals across Greater Philadelphia by relieving hunger, improving lives, and strengthening the community. During JRA's Monthly Food Distribution Program, volunteers pack and hand-deliver free, nutritious food and hygiene supplies to individuals in need.

Today Rabah Judy!
Keep up the great work!

ETHAN COURNOYER MITZVAH PROJECT!



Biking for Shelter Donations

**The Warming Center at Marshall House
(Salvation Army)
225 S Marshall St, Hartford, CT 06105**

Needed Items:

Flip flops (for showering), Socks, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Umbrellas
Winter Gloves, Rain Ponchos, Individually wrapped snack foods

Or Venmo a donation to amy-cournoyer-3
and we will take care of the rest!

Contact abcournoyer@gmail.com if you have any questions!

Thank you!

*Collection boxes can
be found in our
lobby!*

**Questions about our B'nai Mitzvah process?
Reach out to mitzvahcoordinator@fvjc.org**

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The Reform Rabbis of
Greater Hartford Present:

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 7-9:30pm

Begins October 6, 2021

The 18 classes will be held at:

Congregation Beth Israel
701 Farmington Ave., W. Hartford, CT
Tuition: \$180 per individual or \$230 per couple

Discover the endurance of traditions
and learn more about the Jewish way of life.

If not now, when?

The curriculum promises study of:
Basic Hebrew, Jewish History, Prayer, Holidays and
Life Cycle Events, Jewish perspective on spirituality,
values and community

THIS YEAR-TWO OPTIONS:

- 1) In person with the Reform Rabbis of Greater Hartford
- 2) Remote learning, 21 Zoom classes, by the Reform Judaism Organization at:
Reformjudaism.org/learning/Judaism-classes

Online learning is available at:
The Union for Reform Judaism—learning@urj.org

QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION: Wendy Berg
wberg@cbict.org or 860-233-8215

jewishhartford.org/jflf



Jewish Free Loan Fund of Greater Hartford

Are you in a financial bind?
You may qualify for an
interest-free loan. Uses
include:

- Medical & legal bills
- Home & vehicle repairs
- Small business expenses
- Adoptions and IVF
- Credit card consolidation
- Living expenses
- Income & property taxes
- Childcare

Learn more at
jewishhartford.org/jflf
860.281.1007



WELCOME TO SHEVET!

SHEVET IS A NEW JEWISH LGBT+ GROUP
INTERESTED IN CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

WE INVITE ALL LGBT+ INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES AND
TO REGISTER, EMAIL US AT SHEVET18@GMAIL.COM OR
FIND US ON FACEBOOK.

CHECK OUT OUR PAGE FOR INFO
AND FUTURE EVENTS !



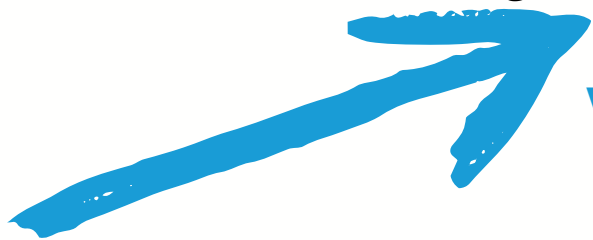


On October 10th, we're on the move to fight hate across the country!

It's not just a walk — it's an opportunity to move as an individual, family or community toward a future without antisemitism, racism and all forms of bigotry.

However you move, register for the 2021 ADL Walk Against Hate today! Join an in-person Walk in your community or sign up to participate virtually. Engage friends, family, neighbors and coworkers, and set a fundraising goal to make a difference in your community.

Let's Get Moving! <https://www.walkagainsthate.org/>



Visit HERE to register!



ADL is a leading anti-hate organization that was founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry. Today, ADL is the first call when acts of antisemitism occur and continues to fight all forms of hate. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education and fighting hate online, ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination or hate.

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

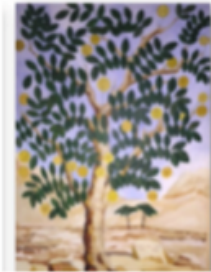
Sanctuary Chair Plaque

Location: Sanctuary
Cost: \$250 per plaque
90 characters, 3 lines
Example: *In honor of our Ina Green
Beloved Mother and Wife
The Green Family*



Tree of Life Leaf Artist Designed Canvas

Location: Front Lobby
Cost: \$126 per leaf
Name and Year
Example: *Miriam Schwartz
May 1, 2015*



Tree of Life Leaf Plaque

Location: Sanctuary Lobby
Cost: \$306 per leaf
100 characters, 3 lines
Example: *In honor of our daughter Miriam's Bat Mitzvah
May 1, 2015
The Schwartz Family*



Eternal Flame Endowment Campaign Plaque

Location: Front Lobby
Cost: \$10,000 per plaque
8 Lines



PERPETUAL MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY

Sanctuary Perpetual Memorial Plaque

Location: Sanctuary
Cost: \$500 per plaque
3 lines
Example: *Hebrew Name
Full English Name
Passing Date & Hebrew Passing Date*

They will be lit in perpetuity on the anniversary of their death





If you are interested in one of our Memorial Plaques, please complete this form and send to admin@fvjc.org.

DEDICATION ORDER FORM

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	

CHECK ONE:	IN HONOR OF:		IN MEMORY OF:		DONATED BY:	
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CHECK ONE:	SANCTUARY CHAIR PLAQUE		TREE OF LIFE PLAQUE		TREE OF LIFE CANVAS	
	ETERNAL FLAME PLAQUE		PERPETUAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE			

WORDING FOR DEDICATION. See character limits above. Please print clearly.

line 1	line 5 (Eternal Flame Endowment only)
line 2	line 6 (Eternal Flame Endowment only)
line 3	line 7 (Eternal Flame Endowment only)
line 4 (Eternal Flame Endowment only)	line 8 (Eternal Flame Endowment only)

WORDING FOR PERPETUAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE ONLY. Please print clearly.

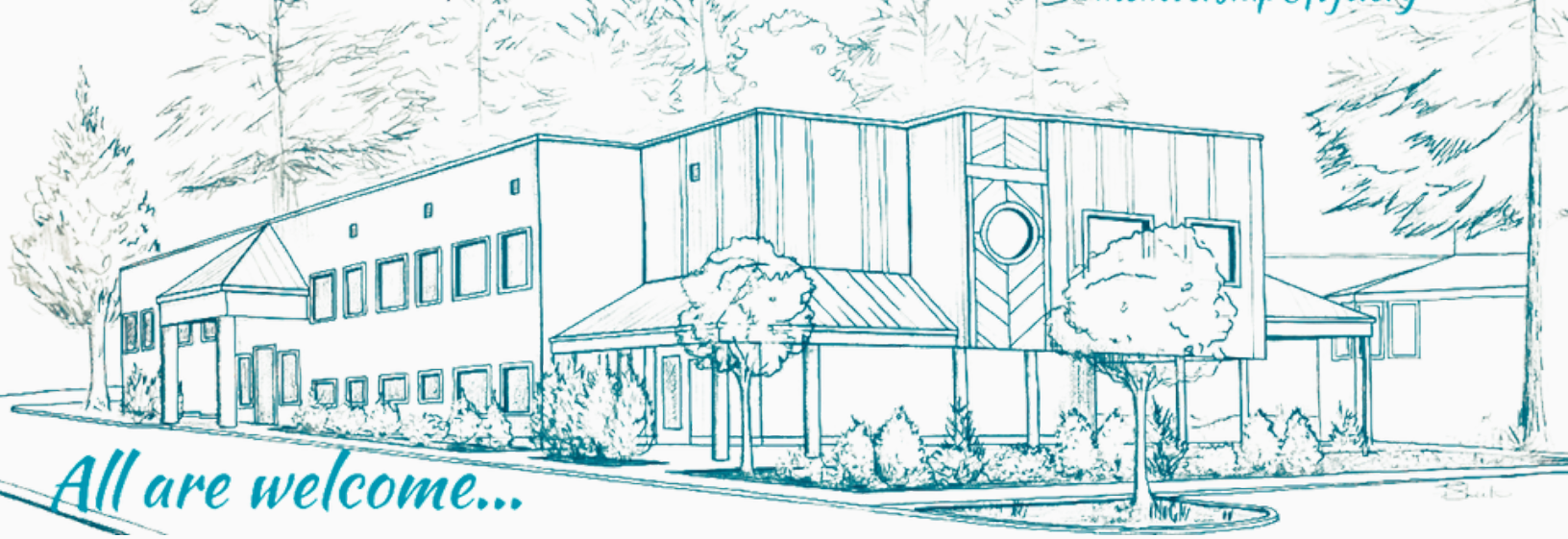
line 1 Hebrew Name
line 2 Full English Name
line 3 Passing Date

Form must be accompanied by a check **payable to FVJC-ES**. All funds (less the cost of the plaque), go directly to the FVJC-ES fundraising account. Send form and check to: **FVJC-ES, 55 Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury, CT 06070.**

Sign	Date	Amount Due
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www.facebook.com/fvjces
www.instagram.com/fvjcsimsbury
www.fvjc.org.org
membership@fvjc.org



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Synagogue President: Loel Goldblatt, 860-805-4102. 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, Kevin Zall, k.zall2468@gmail.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

Member Portal: <https://fvjc.shulcloud.com/member>

Synagogue:

website: www.fvjc.org, calendar: www.fvjc.org/calendar/

fax number: 860-658-4273

mailing address: 55 Bushy Hill Road Simsbury, CT 06070

Administrator: Chris 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)