

THE SHOFAR

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut

A WORD FROM Rabbi Bekah Goldman



Ya'll,
I think it's time.
I wore a knee-length dress to the temple this morning... and I wasn't cold!
My perennials are pushing up through the damp earth... and the dog hasn't trampled them yet!
I had tea INSIDE a cafe... WITHOUT my mask on!
I feel like a new human being... scared, but with a chance of brave!
We're going into the third year of this meshugas. Spring is here, giving us hope and a sense of rebirth. Passover is right around the corner — there really isn't a bigger advertisement for freeing ourselves from the chokehold this pandemic has had on us.
I think it's time.

Our tradition highlights the value of gathering as a community because Judaism acknowledges the power of being in each other's presence. We are strongest when we are able to support each other through life's ups and downs. There is a priceless opportunity for us to build relationships and community when we are together. Just think about the many Shabbat services or onegs where you've met a new friend, reconnected with someone you haven't seen in a while, or just noshed while watching the kids who've consumed obscene amounts of sugar run themselves ragged!
We've been deeply blessed to have maintained a strong Zoom and streaming community worship and learning experience throughout the pandemic, and it isn't over, but I do think it is time.
Time for us to trust each other.
Time for us to come back together.
Time for us to try again.

Put your fear aside, put on your bravery badges and come join me for the many programs and events that are happening inside our building. Everyone must make a decision based on their own comfort level, but I hope you will consider this a warm invitation to re-join me for Shabbat services, Mini Minyan, education programs, Yom Hashoah, MahJong, and everything else!

I miss you and we need each other.

*With Blessings,
Rabbi Bekah*



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Dear Friends,

I recently attended our Shabbat Purim service and reading of the Megillah. Rabbi Bekah and Adrian Durlester made it a fun, memorable, and lively service. Many were dressed in costumes which added to the festive evening. I was pleased to see so many of our new younger members at services along with their friends. I was also impressed by the number of seasoned members who attended and it was beautiful to watch the interaction between new and older members at this fun service.

With Purim now behind us and Passover on its way, it's nice to know that Spring is right around the corner. We're going to kick off the season by providing Passover "goodie bags" to all our members. This effort is being coordinated by our Membership, Outreach, and Retention (MORE) Committee, in conjunction with Sisterhood, Men's Club, Caring Community, and Social Action. In addition, to let our college students know that their synagogue family is thinking of them too, our College Outreach Committee will be sending a gift to remind them that they are an integral part of our congregation even when they are away at school.

This year, together with your Passover goodie bag, Men's Club will include a Yom HaShoah yellow yahrzeit candle, so all our congregants have an opportunity to commemorate the Holocaust by lighting a candle. Back in the early 1980s, my father and a close friend first created this idea as a Men's Club project for their synagogue (Temple Ner Tamid, Peabody, MA). Together they designed, manufactured, and distributed the very first Yom HaShoah yellow yahrzeit candles. It was a small effort to perpetuate the memory of the Shoah. The idea quickly took off as these candles are now distributed internationally to help us remember the Holocaust. In addition to lighting your candle at home, we'll have a community-wide lighting at 6:00 pm on April 27 as we kick off our public reading of names outside Eno Hall in Simsbury. Please sign up for a time to read names in this very moving 24-hour commemoration of the Holocaust led by FVJC-Emek Shalom. I'm very excited to announce that this year's commemoration will be in partnership with The Shoah Foundation and will include film clips of survivors telling us why it's so important to remember the Holocaust. Thank you in advance to Chuck Minor who chairs this annual FVJC-Emek Shalom event, along with member Dawna Sirard who works for The Shoah Foundation.

This late April we're also going to kick off our Mitzvah Movers Spring Fundraiser. This program is a 6-week event that anyone can partake in, while having fun, getting healthy, and raising funds for our synagogue. I appreciate everyone's support of this fundraiser since dues alone do not balance our budget; to truly ensure our financial stability and bridge the gap between member dues and our expenses, we rely on donations. You'll have a chance to see our budget on April 26 where we'll review our 2022-2023 proposed budget with the congregation. We'll then vote on the budget at our Annual Meeting on May 26.

Please be sure to add our member picnic to your calendar for Sunday, June 5, at Winding Trails in Farmington. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this free of charge, purely social event. Lunch will be provided along with full use of the facility. We could use some volunteers to help coordinate games and activities for the day. Please contact Chrisi Bonchick in the office or at admin@fvjc.org if you'd like to volunteer.

L'Shalom. Loel

YOM HASHOAH

**a 24 Hour Continuous Reading
of the victims of the Holocaust names.**

**APRIL 27-28TH, 6PM-6PM
ENO Hall, Simsbury, CT**

Will continue the annual tradition, started in 2011, of hosting a 24 hour continuous reading of the names of victims of the Holocaust in front of Eno Hall in Simsbury, Connecticut.

We would like to invite you to:

SPEAK THEIR NAMES:

Click to sign up to join the continuous reading, where we come together to read as many names as possible in 24 hours so they may

NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.



Mitzvah MOVERS!

late April - May 2022

A hybrid event
to get us moving,
meet and make friends,
& raise funds for our
FVJC-ES Community!

an E-auction will run
simultaneously



Spring Fundraiser!

Gathering, Moving, & Donating!

E-Auction!

Event Committee

Debbie Bogatz,
Chris Bonchick
& Kathy Ungerleider

Reach out to admin@fvjc.org
if you have an item
to contribute to our E-Auction.

Mitzvah MOVERS!

- 1) Make a pledge to gather & get moving!
- 2) Select an activity that works for you.
- 3) Reach out to a friend within the Community or find a new one to join you!
- 4) Set your goal & pledge your donation

The possibilities are endless!
Golf, Tennis, Volleyball, Chair aerobics,
rounds of Mah Jongg, play groups, etc!

Find sponsors to help increase your donations!
Running? Reach out to Fleet Feet in Weha!
Golf? Check with your Club to see if they want to
donate a gift card to our Community!



Be on the lookout to
Sign-up to pledge and track!



ACTIVITY, GOAL AND PLEDGE TO DONATE!

Sign-up coming soon!



Save the date!

In-Person meeting will be held on:

Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:30AM!

All are welcome and we hope to see you there!



WE ARE HERE FOR THE FVJC COMMUNITY.

IF YOU NEED HELP OR SUPPORT

PLEASE CONTACT US.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP

PLEASE CONTACT US.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



COFFEE KLATCH!

Please watch your email
for upcoming
dates and locations!



COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE,

MARLO ZALL AND RUTH GOLDBLATT, CO-CHAIRS, membership@fvjc.org

This month we'd like to welcome three new families to our FVJC community.

Lorri and George Ominsky from Unionville

Dan and Nancy Weissmann from Simsbury

Davina and Marc Fogel and their children Jordan and Annette from Simsbury

We are glad you have joined our FVJC Emek Shalom family and look forward to getting to know you all better.

welcome ♥

In April the Membership and Outreach Committee will spearhead a spring drive-through event. In cooperation and coordination with Sisterhood, Caring Community, Social Action and Men's Club we will hand out Passover goodies as well as Yom HaShoah candles. Anyone who is not able to get their goodies in person will have an amazing volunteer drive it to their home!



PASSOVER DRIVE THROUGH EVENT!

SUNDAY APRIL 3, 2022

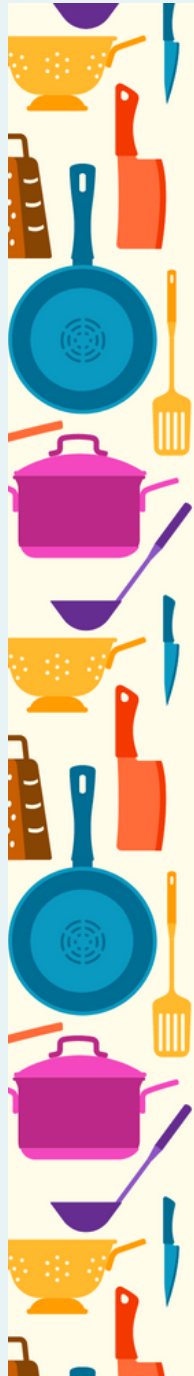
11:30AM SCHOOL FAMILIES
NOON-2PM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP
SOCIAL ACTION
CARING COMMUNITY
MEN'S CLUB
SISTERHOOD



COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE,
VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, viviannrubin@icloud.com



Breaking the cycle of homelessness

**We are collecting for the
SOUTH PARK INN,
a homeless shelter in Hartford.**

**The following items, in
new condition, are requested.**

(Our collection will help to create
'Welcome Home' baskets to be given out as
residents prepare to leave the shelter.)

*Laundry baskets, pots and pans, dishes,
silverware, coffee makers, toasters,
cleaning cloths and sponges,
can openers, kitchen utensils,
cleaning supplies, pillows,
Walmart gift cards
or any store that carries these items.*

**Items can be dropped off
in-person at our
Synagogue on April 3rd from 11-2
or drop off in the front lobby during
Office Hours and Shabbat Services
between now and Monday, April 4th**



We are planning to help the residents of the South Park Inn, a homeless shelter in Hartford, by creating "welcome baskets" for their residents as they transfer out of the shelter into their own places. The following items in new condition are requested:

Laundry baskets, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, coffee makers, toasters, cleaning cloths and sponges, can openers, kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, pillows, Walmart gift cards (or any store that carries these items and we will shop for you!)

Items can be dropped off at FVJC at the drive-through event on April 3rd or in a box at the Synagogue through Tuesday, April 5th.

There is also an opportunity to volunteer with us at Foodshare on Tuesday, April 19th. Come join us and sign up directly at Foodshare: <https://www.ctfoodshare.org/get-involved/>

Helping those in need!

COMMITTEE NEWS



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee

We will be working to promote IDEA Within Our FVJC-Emek Shalom Community!
Join us for our next community conversation about IDEA

Sunday, April 10th 7PM
(We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month!)

Look forward to seeing you there! Jami Silver and Noah Goldblatt

**COLLEGE
OUTREACH
AND
RETENTION
COMMITTEE**
SUE LERNER
**suelerner@
sbcglobal.net**



Soon, our college kids will be receiving their last care package of the year. Because shipping costs have skyrocketed, we're trying something a bit different. Our young adults will be receiving a small gift card tucked into their Passover card. It is simply a reminder that their synagogue family is thinking of them. Also included is a message reminding them just how much their presence is missed at the synagogue and encouraging them to find a Seder to attend - or even to think about hosting their own! We have received feedback that the touchpoints these care packages provide is meaningful to our kids living away from home. Not only are they reminded about the Jewish holidays, they know that they are still an integral part of our congregation even when they are absent. If you find value in maintaining this worthwhile program, please know that we gladly and graciously accept donations from all congregants.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Sue Lerner

PROGRAMMING

*Nashim,
a woman's circle*

Book of Ruth - 4PM Meeting
Book of Psalms - 5 PM Meeting

**First Sunday
evening of the
month!**

**Please visit
your Member
Portal to
register!**

April 3, 2022



**VISIT YOUR
MEMBER PORTAL
TO REGISTER!**

HOPE TO
SEE YOU THERE!



**Rabbi's Hour
April 4 & 18
11AM**

*All Meetings will be
held in Zoom!
Click to register for this
series!*



**APRIL 24TH
9AM**

**For families
with children
aged birth - 5.**

**VISIT
YOUR
MEMBER
PORTAL
TO REGISTER!**

MINI-MINYAN

**REMEMBER TO VISIT
YOUR MEMBER PORTAL
TO UPDATE PHONE OR ADDRESS
CHANGES!**

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



LEARN TO PLAY **Mah Jongg!**

Need a refresher?
Starting out?

**Mondays, 7PM
April 25th - May 23rd**



\$10 for playing card.
RSVP: Judi Cohen, jcreads@hotmail.com

Remember, every Monday at 12:45PM you can join Nan Shafer to learn this great game!
nanetteshafer@gmail.com



Baking Science: Virtual Author Event with Dikla Levy Frances Wednesday, April 6, 3:00pm

Join us for a virtual conversation with Dikla Levy Frances, as we celebrate the release of her new book, *Baking Science: Foolproof Formulas to Create the Best Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Breads and More*.

Dikla Levy Frances is the creator of *One Sarcastic Baker*, a blog dedicated to sharing recipes and teaching foolproof baking tips to readers. Her work has been featured on feedfeed, Wilton.com and The Nosh.

She currently lives in North Carolina with her family.

Book giveaways will be part of this event!

Please register; Zoom links will be sent out before the event.

If you have a question for Dikla, send it ahead of time to Barbara,
bgreenleaf@avonctlibrary.info

Co-sponsored by the Avon Library and
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Emek Shalom.



Leading on Climate

Religious Communities United on Climate Justice



Monday, April 11, 2022
7:00 - 8:30 pm EST via Zoom

[Click here to register.](#)

Moderator:

Teresa Eickel, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN)

Panelists

Rev. Kelcy G. L. Steele, Pastor, Varick AME Zion Church, New Haven
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Temple Beth El, Stamford
Senator Paul Anwar, CT State Senator - District 3
Sr. Elaine Betoncourt, Sisters of St. Joseph, West Hartford
Elijah Harris, DEI Director, Jewish Youth Climate Movement

Partners



Connecticut Roundtable
on Climate and Jobs



VARICK
RELEVANT & RELATIONAL CHURCH



Temple Beth El

A diverse and welcoming Conservative synagogue



**THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford



**Jewish
Federation**
OF GREATER HARTFORD

**JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL**



Interreligious
Eco-Justice Network



JYCM

To Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6tqj1mVHtJ74RHTI1HEXjHYKOnOSwRc>

HAPPY PASSOVER!

CLICK BELOW FOR A RECIPE COLLECTION!

DONATIONS

COMMUNITY DONATIONS - MARCH 2022

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Honor Of

Mazel Tov to the Bogatz family on Hailey's Baby Naming! from Michael & Judith Cohen

In Memory Of

In memory of Estelle Tauber beloved mother of Mona and Jim Murphy from Michael & Judith Cohen

COLLEGE OUTREACH FUND

In Appreciation Of

Ellen Lescher and all the work, organizing and passion she put into telling the story of FVJC for the Greater Hartford Jewish Historical Society. from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

DONATION

In Memory Of

In memory of Estelle Tauber, mother of Mona Murphy from Hannah Rubenstein and Fred Feibel from Frederick Feibel, DVM & Hannah Rubenstein-Feibel

Barry C. Cadoff from Marilyn Cadoff
Estelle Tauber from Robert & Ellen Hyner
The Yahrzeit Of
Alma Haugen from Audrey Meyer-Lampert

DR. PETER LEBETKIN MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

Roger Eisenstein from Andrea Kern
Roger Eisenstein from Susan & Michael Schenker

MUSIC FUND

In Honor Of

The arrival of Betty Goldfarb's grandson Lukas Man Singh Makkar. from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

NANCY M. PETRY MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor Of

In honor of the birth of Billy White's granddaughter Talia. from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

In Memory Of

Cecelia Kaplan from Elizabeth Kempinski

Donation

Kathy & Michael Ungerleider

Adrian Durlerster

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation Of

Rabbi Bekah creating a beautiful and loving baby naming ceremony for Hailey from Debra Bogatz

In Honor Of

Hailey's baby naming from Sapora & Michael Bogatz

In Memory Of

Estelle Tauber from James Murphy, Sr. & Mona Murphy

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

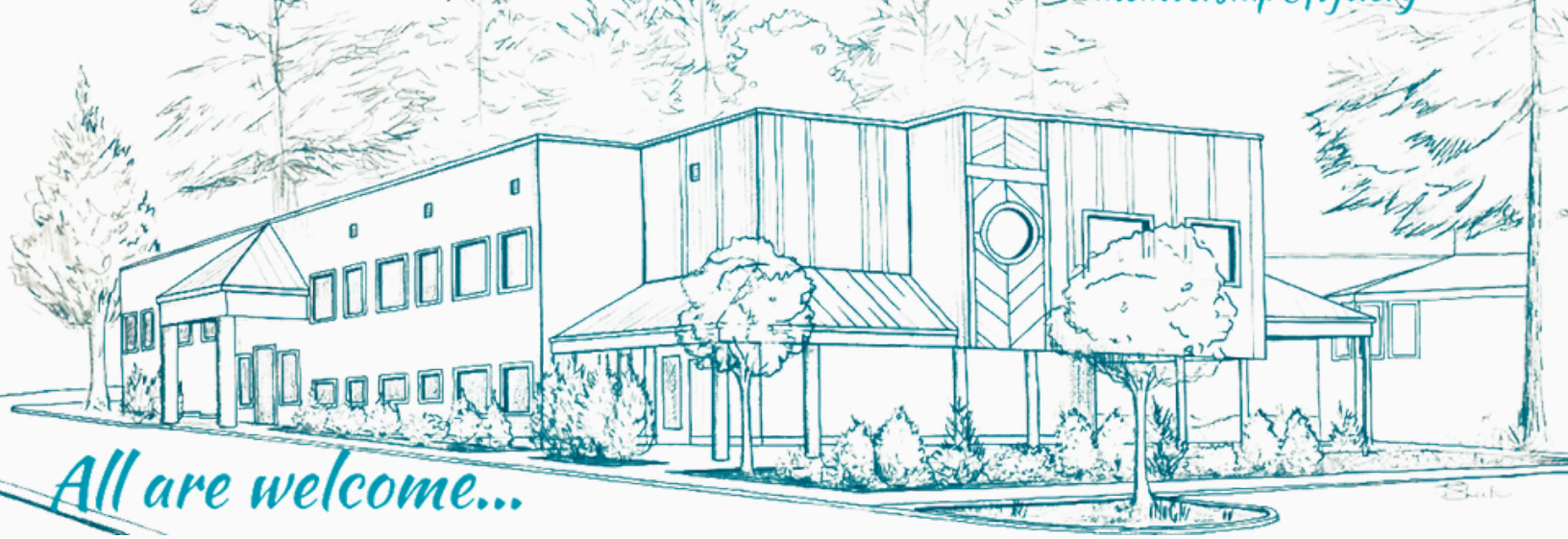
In Memory Of

Riva Drechsler from David Kravet
Angela O'Hanlon, beloved mother of Christine O'Hanlon Bonchick, professional social worker, life-time volunteer, woman of valor, from Hannah Rubenstein and Fred Feibel





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: TBA, 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

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)