

28!

New member
units since
July 1 2021 through
April 2022!

Inside you will find...

A Word From Rabbi Bekah
President's Message. Loel Goldblatt

153!

Kids aged
birth to 21
in our Community!

9!

The number of
states we have
members in!

LIFE AND LEGACY:
Building our future!



968!

The number of
people in our Community!

Committee News, Programming,
what is coming up in the months ahead!

Turn the page to learn about
an Ambassador Program,
Mitzvah Movers,
Community Picnic.

Upcoming Shabbat schedule,
Security Training,
and so much more!

A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman

Friends,

A synagogue community does so many meaningful things. It offers a comforting symbol of tradition to those who join it. It provides a beautiful space to commune with the Divine. It educates our children about our history and our people's struggle. It gives our children an opportunity to learn who we are and explore who they hope to be. It provides a space for us to hand our faith and way of life down to the generations after us.



More than anything, though, living in a community is an integral part of our Jewish experience. It is no accident that we call ourselves Am Yisrael– “the people of Israel.” Our sense of peoplehood has long been the defining characteristic of Judaism. Being a part of the Jewish community has always required a sense of shared destiny, expressed in the obligation to care for and celebrate with other members of the community. Part of this shared destiny is ensuring future generations are able to be a part of a thriving Jewish community. Not only should they have access to the beautiful Judaism we have been practicing and passing on for generations, but quite simply, they learn from our example.

But we can't pass on our way of life and they can't learn from us if our community is no longer here. This edition of the Shofar is dedicated to LIFE & LEGACY because we know the future of Jewish life in the Farmington Valley is in our hands.

If you have ever walked into FVJC to speak with God;
if you've ever been comforted by the tradition that speaks from the walls of our sanctuary;
if you've ever sent your children to be educated about our history;
If you've ever celebrated a lifecycle event in the midst of family and friends in our sanctuary;
Then you know how important this community is.

I hope that everyone who loves our congregation will consider joining me in making a commitment to an after-life gift to extend your legacy indefinitely and sustain this beautiful congregation we love for all those who come after us.

*With Blessings,
Rabbi Bekah*

We are extending our thanks to member, Dave Kravet, who provided the funding for the printing and mailing of this issue!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. Loel Goldblatt

Dear Friends,

Last year FVJC-Emek Shalom was selected to participate in the Jewish Community Foundation's Life & Legacy Program. This program was developed by the Grinspoon Foundation to support Jewish congregations in the implementation of an after-life giving campaign. It's with great pleasure I inform you that in our first year with this program, FVJC-Emek Shalom had 18 community members commit to after life gifts to support the next generation of our congregation. My wife Ruth and I are two of those members.



Ruth and I joined FVJC-Emek Shalom over 30 years ago when we first moved to Simsbury. I still remember stopping off at the synagogue the day we closed on our house. We met Rabbi Herman and Religious School Director Thelma Shenkman who were very happy to greet us and tell us about our new community. Little did we know at the time that we'd raise our children here and that one day I'd become synagogue president.

Our boys, Ari and Noah, started in Nursery School, attended Kids Shabbats, completed Religious School, Bar Mitzvahs, and Confirmation. As a family we traveled on a congregational trip to Israel in 2008 where each of us read from Torah on Masada, and in Jerusalem where Ruth and I renewed our wedding vows. I then returned to Israel on another congregational trip in 2018, this time with Rabbi Bekah.

Throughout the years, both Ruth and I have served on the Board of Directors as well as numerous committees. Ruth was Sisterhood President, led College Outreach, and is currently co-chair of Membership. I served on Ritual, House, Membership, and Strategic Planning Committees. Obviously we love to volunteer, but for us it's not work, it's our way of giving back to the wonderful community where we've made everlasting friendships and built a lifetime of wonderful memories.

Throughout the years, FVJC-Emek Shalom was here for us. Through the birth of our children, to the passing of Ruth's brother and my parents, to my recent battle with cancer, we were never alone. So when Ruth and I were asked to consider a legacy gift, there was no question and little discussion. It was obvious to us that this would be another way for us to not only "give back" to the community that has given so much to us, but a way for us to "pay it forward" to the next generation of congregants. This way we'll know that FVJC-Emek Shalom will be here in the future to provide that same sense of spirituality, community, and friendship to others that we have been so blessed to have.

Please join us on this path to ensure the future of our congregation. Our Shofar this month is dedicated to our Life & Legacy Program. I hope reading this will generate the same excitement for you that it has for me and my family.

L'Shalom. Loel



What does it mean to leave a legacy? This year 18 congregants at FVJC know the answer.

--- One year ago FVJC was selected by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life & Legacy program, an after-lifetime giving initiative. The Grinspoon Foundation knows that organizations with endowments are far better positioned to survive into the future and Grinspoon is committed to helping organizations to build Jewish futures.

Over the past year a team of dedicated volunteers have been reaching out slowly within our congregation to ask for commitments to our LIFE & LEGACY fund. These conversations have been deeply touching and heartwarming. We have spent meaningful time with some of the longest-standing members of FVJC to listen to their stories about the past -- raising funds for a building, hiring the first rabbi, deciding to build the school wing --- and to discuss and secure their commitments to our shared future. We've spent time with current members who have raised their children and made treasured friends at FVJC, care deeply about their Jewish home and are eager to ensure its future.

Gifts to the Legacy Fund can be of any size. What's important is that the gift is meaningful to the giver. It is a tremendous gift to leave a legacy as endowment funds exist in perpetuity, meaning that a Legacy gift will give to FVJC forever.

Many of us at FVJC know how critical our own small endowment has been to us. In lean years knowing that the endowment's income comes to us annually has been a huge blessing. Now, as we look to grow that endowment, **LIFE & LEGACY offers each of us in our FVJC family the opportunity to make a commitment to leave a legacy, an after-lifetime gift** to ensure the future of the Jewish community in the Farmington Valley.

The beauty of Life and Legacy is that the commitment to give is far more important than the size of the gift. What is important to us and to this program is the commitment to the future of FVJC. Anyone can be a LIFE & LEGACY champion. --- If you love FVJC and want to support a Jewish future in the Farmington Valley, if you raised children in our warm, embracing community, if you feel the congregation nurtured you and your family, then please consider becoming a Life & Legacy champion. If you are interested in talking about LIFE & LEGACY, please reach out to Tracy Smith at tcsmith95j@gmail.com.

LIFE & LEGACY Champions to Date:

Anonymous	*Jeremy and Julie Greshin
Robin Bergman	David Kravet
*Robert and Sandra Bourke	*Ellen and Mark Lescher
Jack and Judith Farber	*Paula and Roy Schwartz
Robert and Phyllis Fishberg	Tracy Smith and Dan Joseph
*Loel and Ruth Goldblatt	*Kathy and Michael Ungerlieder

*Gifts given as individuals, two per couple

How Does LIFE & LEGACY work?

While some of us may want to make a meaningful gift now, we might not have the resources to do so until we pass on. LIFE & LEGACY gives us all the chance to commit to leaving a legacy to ensure the future of FVJC. **Gifts to this fund can be of any size, what is important is that the gift is meaningful to the giver.**

Legacy champions sign a Letter of Intent indicating their commitment to leaving an after-lifetime gift. There is no need initially to specify the amount of the gift or the type of gift. After completing your Letter of Intent you can take time to decide on the size and structure of your gift. Some Legacy champions have indicated that they will leave a percentage of their estate to FVJC, others have indicated that they leave a specific dollar amount, still others might leave an insurance fund or other type of vehicle. What matters is that you make a gift that is meaningful to you that invests in the future of FVJC.

All LIFE & LEGACY gifts are added to FVJC's endowment fund at the Jewish Community Foundation and proceeds from the fund will be available to FVJC every year in perpetuity.

LIFE & LEGACY Committee:

Tracy Smith, Chair	Dave Kravet
Sandy and Bob Bourke	Mark Lescher
Jeremy Greshin	Paula Schwartz

Testimonials:

Member Robin Bergman: I am not your typical giver. I'm a single mom and I didn't graduate from college till last year. While I will not leave a huge pot of money behind, I have known for a long time that I wanted to leave something to this congregation.

When I joined years ago, I was lucky enough to have met our founder, Sid Cohen, and I was inspired by his dedication. My parents were Jewish but I didn't really grow up with religion. In college I explored a lot and when I moved to Connecticut I came to FVJC and quickly knew that I had found my place and my people. I remember looking up at the open beams in our sanctuary and knowing that I was home. I was lucky enough to raise my daughter at FVJC. What I couldn't teach her myself the synagogue taught her. In essence, FVJC was my partner in raising my daughter.

When I decided many years ago that I would leave something to FVJC I didn't really think about what my gift could do for the future of the congregation. It didn't feel big or momentous to me. I just wanted to tell the synagogue how much I love it.

LIFE & LEGACY is for everyone. While I can't make a gigantic gift, and there will never be a building with my name on it, I can make a gift that is truly meaningful to me, and so can you! I am so glad that my gift will go "into the pot" and be a part of FVJC's legacy for the future.



Member Jack Farber: Judy and I decided to give what we can to LIFE & LEGACY because there is nothing more important to us than a Jewish presence in the Farmington Valley. It's a must. We remember the people who came before us and who started this enterprise. They didn't worry about themselves, they worried about people like me and I'm thinking about those who will come after me, our future. It's our obligation to ensure the future of FVJC because that's the future of Jewish life in the Valley.

We joined FVJC in 1974 when our four kids began Hebrew School. All of them were bar and bat mitzvah'd at FVJC and confirmed at FVJC. They've never forgotten that and still have dear friends from that time. In fact, we still have a video our son made with his best friend from FVJC that was a Saturday Night Live- like spoof of the Bar Mitzvah experience.

Judy joined the Sisterhood and was involved there. I joined the board when Phil Balsam, a past president, asked me to join. FVJC was social, not just religious, for us. We attended the annual community seder and played Bingo on Sundays to raise funds for the synagogue. There was lots going on. Everyone pitched in and did whatever had to be done. No one ever said "no".

We were always worried about funds in those days because we didn't have enough. We borrowed from Peter to pay Paul, so to speak. I remember one night at the Zinbergs house sitting with FVJC bills and deciding which to pay that month. That was the early 80's. We knew we'd muddle through, and we did.

In the mid 80's when I was president there were a series of fires set in synagogues in the Hartford area. People were scared that these were acts of antisemitism, which turned out not to be the case. The Men's Club members moved the Torahs from the synagogue to my house to keep them safe and we all slept in the synagogue for three nights to protect it from whatever might come. We cared that much.

It's so important that there always be a presence in the Valley for the generation that comes after you and me. I hope that everyone will make a gift to LIFE & LEGACY so that FVJC will be strong for generations to come.

DONATIONS

COMMUNITY DONATIONS - APRIL 2022



CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Appreciation Of:

Nan Shafer, wishing continued good health. from
Arthur & Gloria Levin

In Memory Of:

Rennie Odiorne, sister of Christine Hausman from
Michael & Kathy Ungerleider

COHEN MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

In Memory of:

Jeanette Cohen, Belle Lescher, and
Hans Stargardter from: Ellen and Mark Lescher

COLLEGE OUTREACH FUND

In Memory of:

Herbert Abrams from Betty Abrams

DONATION

In Appreciation Of Rabbi Bekah Goldman

In Memory of:

Sally J. Paris Lawrence Weinberg
from Stephen & Joyce Weinberg
Jacob Kandelman from Betty Abrams
Herbert Greif, father of Barbara
Sumner Wolfe, father of Chuck
from Charles & Barbara Wolfe
Marvis Bogatz from Debra Bogatz
Judith Dobrow from Dr. Robert Dobrow
Lenora Tripp from Herbert Siegel & Helen Wong
Douglas Koch from Marshall & Karen Berger
The Yahrzeit of Dinah Hausman,
by Christie and Sheldon Hausman
In Support of
the Holocaust Memorial Candle Program
from Charles & Barbara Wolfe
The Yahrzeit Of
Bernard Podos (Baruch Ben Avraham)
from Brandon & Linda Podos

DR. PETER LEBETKIN MEMORIAL FUND

The Yahrzeit Of

Barbara Somers and Deborah Kelly
from Kenneth & Faye Somers

HOLOCAUST TORAH SHOWCASE FUND

In Memory Of Marcia Goldblatt
from Ruth, Loel, Ari and Noah from Loel & Ruth

NANCY M. PETRY MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

Thelma Orenstein, mother of Mark
from Mark & Dianne Orenstein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of

Phyllis Berman from Barry Berman
Hans Stargardter from Bette Giordano
Hans Stargardter from Canton Artists' Guild Inc.
Hans Stargardter from David and Cheryllann Murray
Hans Stargardter from Eileen and Christopher Melley
Hans Stargardter from Henrietta Stargardter
Hans Stargardter from Judith and Edward Siegel
Hans Stargardter from Kerry Rausch & Kathryn Freda
Hans Stargardter from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt
In memory of Hans Stargardter by Judi and Mike Cohen from
Estelle Tauber from Michael & Kathy Ungerleider
Hans Stargardter from Mr. & Mrs. Coleman
Hans Stargardter from Nancy Valentine
Hans Stargardter from Philip Peyton
Hans Stargardter from Shirley Mae Neu & Frank Haviland

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of Shirley Maltz from Allen & Fran Maltz

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Honor Of The strong women of our family on Mothers Day
Tammi Girard, Marcy Kravet Jessica Kravet, Jennifer Girard,
from David Kravet
Rabbi Gavi Ruit - Welcome to FVJC from David Kravet

STRATEGIC PLANNING FUND

In Support of the Strategic Plan from Jon & Vivian Rubin

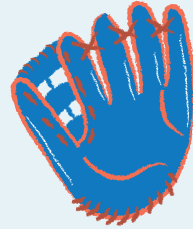
Nancy M. Petry Memorial Fund

Nancy was a professor at UConn Health in the field of behavioral medicine and a staunch supporter of education for children. The purpose of this fund is to advance Jewish and Hebrew Education at FVJC-Emek Shalom and was matched 5 to 1 by Billy White.

We're excited to announce that this fund met our goal with the support of so many friends and members who also feel passionate about FVJC's educational needs. Thank you to all who contributed.

Mitzvah MOVERS!

May 2022



Let's get moving, meet and
make friends, & raise funds for
our **FVJC-ES Community!**

Mission:

Take steps as a Community to
to 'walk' to Jerusalem!!
Your activity/counted steps
will take us there!

Visit your member portal to
register!



COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE,

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

We would like to welcome new members:

Dan and Nancy Weissmann

Davina and Marc Fogel

Shira Mahler and Edmund Skowronek

welcome

For several years the Membership, Outreach, and Retention Committee has wanted to refresh a program that has been used on and off for many years. We are pleased to announce the Ambassador Program will be beginning soon. The objective of this program is to connect new synagogue members with existing members and welcome them into the FVJC community. We want to encourage involvement and engagement, and to promote long term membership and a deep connection with FVJC. We are excited to see this program launch and look forward to feedback from the participants. We strive to be warm and welcoming and think this program will help build friendships and community as we continue to grow. A friendly face at an event, someone to call with a simple question. These are the “little” things that help someone feel welcome and appreciated.

We will be matching new members who wish to be part of the program with congregants who have been members for a while and who are willing to be a resource for the new members.

If you are a new member, would like to have an ambassador and have not yet been contacted regarding one, please reach out to Ruth or Marlo at membership@fvjc.org. We would love to hear from you.

If you would like to be an ambassador but are concerned about the time commitment, rest assured this does not take a lot of time. Our committee has worked on a “one pager” with information and guidelines to make this user-friendly for all. It’s easy and fun! Contact Ruth or Marlo at membership@fvjc.org to learn more. With approximately 30 new members and member families this year alone it means that we could really use everyone’s help! This is a great way to make new friends. We have some really interesting and talented new folks who have joined us.

Our legacy is to be a congregation that is here for generations to come and that we are known for being warm, welcoming, and inclusive. Join us as we continue to build on our solid foundation and welcome our new members.

*New
Membership
year
is just ahead!*

Annual
Meeting

MAY 26TH
7:30PM

*Renewal
documents
will be
coming soon!*

Ruth and Marlo

Member picnic!

June 5th

Time: 12:30–3:30pm

Winding Trails

NO COST TO MEMBERS!

Lunch, water activities, cards, Mah Jongg,
games, snacks and more!

Visit your Member Portal to RSVP



COMMITTEE NEWS

RITUAL COMMITTEE,

ROBIN BERGMAN & KEN WEINSTOCK, RITUAL@FVJC.ORG

Greetings from the Ritual Committee! We hope your spring is beginning to blossom. Now that we are consistently able to be in the sanctuary on Shabbat we hope you will join us. Check the online calendar to confirm the times for services, which are generally 7pm, 6pm on the second Shabbat of the month, and may be switched around for special programming.

First we would like to welcome Rabbi Gavi to FVJC-Emek Shalom! We are so excited that you have joined our community and look forward to getting to know you and partnering with you. Please join us at our meetings if you are able, and let us know what we can do for you.

We have some new tools to help many of our community feel more comfortable and able to participate on Friday nights. We have some adorable busy-bags for young children to engage with when they attend services - each one is packed full of quiet toys and a book, and can be borrowed at the beginning of services and returned at the end. In addition, we have a tool for hearing-impaired congregants - an app that you can download to your phone and listen to services live with the volume at the level you prefer held right up to your ear. Finally, we have ordered and now have available magnifying glasses to make reading our Siddurim a little bit easier for those of you who may think the print is a bit too small. We hope these little assists will make services a more enjoyable and comfortable experience for everyone.

Believe it or not we are beginning the work of planning the High Holidays already. We have contracted with Simsbury Farms to use the skating rink if necessary, although we fervently hope to be back in our sanctuary this year after two long years of exile. While traditionally our Torah has been read in Hebrew during the holidays, if you would like to read but do not read Hebrew, reading Torah in English is an option. Reach out to Rabbi Bekah if this intrigues you.

The Ritual Committee would like to invite you to consider working with us to keep Judaism and Jewish practice at FVJC-Emek Shalom relevant and interesting and welcoming. Is there something you would love to happen at Shabbat services, during the High Holiday services, or at any of the other meaningful moments throughout the year? Bring your ideas to our meetings to share them with us.

Finally, please remember - your Simchas can be celebrated with a gift to the synagogue, a blessing on the bimah, or an honor during our services. If you would like to open/close the ark, light candles for the community, or chant Kiddush and Motzi with Rabbi on the bimah, please let the Ritual Committee usher know that you would like to participate.

B'shalom Robin & Ken



SHABBAT SERVICES TIMES

MAY 6 - 7PM

MAY 13 - 6PM

MAY 20 - 7PM

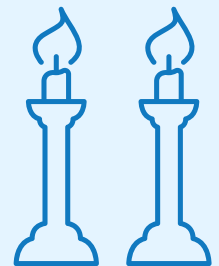
MAY 27 - 7PM

JUNE 3 - 7PM

JUNE 10 - 6PM

JUNE 17 - 7PM

JUNE 24 - 7PM



SCHOOL NEWS

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

LIDDY DOYLE, school@fvjc.org

Our Religious School year is almost over, but we will be busy and bustling through our last day. Reflecting on this year, we were thrilled to bring back our hamantaschen baking with parent volunteers, and we thoroughly enjoyed the School's Chanukah and Sukkot celebrations. Rabbi Bekah led beautiful mini minyan sessions, and family education programs both in the building and off-site. How meaningful it is to learn together.

We excitedly welcome Rabbi Gavi Ruit as Assistant Rabbi and Director of Lifelong Learning! As Rabbi Gavi settles in over the summer, please remember to register for the 2022/23 school year. We count on our registrations in order to plan for class size and necessary materials.

Lastly, the Religious School will be in need of volunteers in the 2022/23 school year; please reach out with your availability.

Enjoy your summer! Liddy



The time has come to officially reactivate Sisterhood membership with the collection of annual dues. Checks can be made payable to "FVJC Sisterhood" in the amount of \$50. Please remit your payment to the Synagogue by the start of our fiscal year by July 1, 2022. Sisterhood is a warm, multi-generational group who enjoy dynamic events and contribute to our Synagogue and community in many ways..





PRESENTS
Coffee Klatch May 2022
Join us in person
EVERY THURSDAY AT 11AM

May 5th - Beanz 300 W Main St Avon
May 12th - The Coffee Spot 750 Hopmeadow, Simsbury
May 19th - The Coffee Trade 21 W Main St Avon
May 26th - Giv Coffee - 194 Albany Tpke Canton



SERVICES



**GRADES 3 & 4
SIDDUR
SERVICE
FRIDAY
MAY 13TH
6:00PM**

CLICK to RSVP
by May 1st,
please include the
with the total number attending.



PAY IT FORWARD
LEADING AND LEARNING TOGETHER
A SHABBAT SERVICE EXPERIENCE



**May 21
2022** **10AM**

**Grade 5, 6 & 7 - in-person
attendance**
Students and parents/guardians
RSVP: TO SCHOOL@FVJC.ORG

**Confirmation &
Shavuot
Shabbat**

JUNE 3, 7PM



MAY 30, 9AM
**CEMETERY
SERVICE**
FVJC-ES MEMORIAL PARK

PRIDE SHABBAT

**JUNE 10
6PM**



**Member
of the
Year
Shabbat**

June 24, 2022, 7pm

COMMITTEE NEWS

SECURITY COMMITTEE, STEPHANIE LEITE & GARRY BERMAN



GET INVOLVED. GET EMPOWERED.
GET TRAINED.

**JOIN US FOR
BEAWARE:
INTRODUCTION TO SITUATIONAL
AWARENESS TRAINING**

BeAware, SCN's Introduction to Situational Awareness Course, will teach you how to recognize suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior and threats, and what to do – whether you are in synagogue, at school, or going about your day.

Designed for every member of the community, no background in security is required. The course will cover the basics of situational awareness and how to help protect yourself, your family, and your community.

TOPICS COVERED:

- Enhancing security awareness
- Identifying safety and security threats
- Recognizing and reporting suspicious activity
- Learning how to be an active participant in the safety of your community

CLICK TO RSVP THROUGH YOUR MEMBER PORTAL!

DATE & TIME: May 12, 2022, 7PM In-Person
LOCATION: FVJC Social Hall, you must RSVP for this event. Our current Covid Protocols will be in place.

[Learn More About BeAware](#) [RSVP Now](#) [Contact Us](#) [Feedback](#) [Help](#)

The Security Committee has been hard at work developing plans and procedures for keeping our second home safe. The goal is to accomplish at least one security-related task every month. Recently, we have developed a complete blueprint to send to the Simsbury Police Department. We have also started training with two organizations. One is through the Federation and is called Secure Community Network. Our contact there, John Colangelo, has been of enormous assistance to us. He has done two walkthroughs of our building to determine security vulnerabilities, has written a report on those vulnerabilities to assist us in obtaining a grant, and has helped us manage several national low-level threats to the Jewish community. We have also started working with CSS Entry Point, who will help us to develop a team of individuals who are interested in being our community security force and will operate along with our paid security guard.

The exciting part is still to come. If you are interested in learning more about security and, potentially, training to be a part of our security force, we want you to join us. The first in-person training event will be on May 12 at FVJC with Mr. Colangelo. We will learn about situational awareness, the first step in managing potential threats and disturbances. Please see the link in our on-line communication to sign up. If you have any other questions, please reach out to Stephanie or Garry. Chrissi can get you our contact information. The next event will be doing a walkthrough of the synagogue, to get to know one another, label the windows, and share the plans for shelter-in-place and other evacuation strategies. Maybe we will even have pizza.

We look forward to seeing you on the 12th!

Stephanie & Garry

CARING COMMITTEE, BARBARA FICHTENHOLTZ, babbof@gmail.com

Our Committee is here when you need us. We reach out to congregants who may need help or support in various ways. If you are in need of magnification to read the prayer book, look for full page magnifiers outside the Sanctuary. Feel free to use them during all services.

If anyone has an issue or needs assistance please contact Rabbi Bekah or reach out to me and Caring Community work to try and address it.



Barbara

COMMITTEE NEWS

CORE COMMITTEE,

SUE LERNER, suelerner@sbcglobal.net

HELP WANTED: We are the College Outreach Committee and are looking for a parent or FVJC community member to shadow our current Chair next year and then take over duties for the 2023-2024 academic year. We are also reaching out to parents who would like to serve on our committee. Our task is a fun and easy one: we send four holiday-themed care packages to college students living away from home. Every Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover, we let our young adults know that their synagogue family is thinking of them by sending themed treats such as apple snacks and honey at Rosh Hashanah or gelt at Hanukkah. However, with the high cost of shipping, we will need to turn to more creative, less expensive ways to keep our young adults connected to their FVJC family and their Jewish roots. If you currently have a child enrolled in our program or have a child who will be enrolled in the next year or two, please consider volunteering for this worthwhile program ... it means so much to our kids! This program is free to FVJC community members, but we graciously accept donations. Please consider making a donation to our committee to honor your (grand)child's accomplishments or to celebrate a milestone such as a graduation.

Also, please join us in wishing a hearty Mazel Tov to our graduating College Seniors:

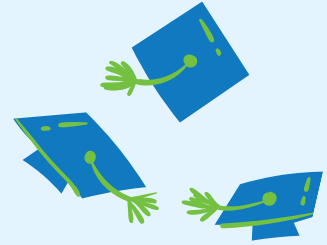
Sarah Bonchick will be graduating from the College of Charleston with a BA in International Studies, Europe Concentration, and a minor in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Sarah has accepted a position with the Kiawah Island Golf Resort as an Assistant Manager in one of their world renowned business units.

Amanda Joseph is graduating from Tufts University with a double major in Sociology and Psychology. In July, Amanda will begin working as an analyst in the consulting group at Fidelity Investments

Jenn Ungerleider is graduating from Dickinson College with a BA in Economics with minors in Psychology and Religion. Jenn hopes to work for a sports marketing agency in New York City.

We wish them all the best of luck as they start a new chapter in their lives!
Hatzlacha Rabbah!

Sue Lerner



*Congratulations
to all our
High School
graduates!*



COMMITTEE NEWS

IDEA COMMITTEE,

JAMI SILVER & NOAH GOLDBLATT

jamibsilver@gmail.com, noah.goldblatt@gmail.com



Join the conversation!

The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Committee seeks to educate, provide support for, and increase the tenets of Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility within our FVJC-ES community. As a committee, we have identified a number of areas that could help make FVJC become a more inclusive and accessible space.

As we started out, we asked ourselves, “how do we create an inclusive space for everyone in our temple” regardless of physical and mental abilities, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, income, and other identities. We are devoted to helping our synagogue be a place where all people can feel welcome and able to access the services that our temple offers. We know there are areas where we do this well and as a community made up of thoughtful and empathetic folks, we know there are ways we can do even better. As we become more diverse and more inclusive, we will also become a stronger and more beautiful community.

While inclusivity in all forms matters, the committee has chosen to focus our efforts right now on creating gender-inclusive spaces within the synagogue. Just like in our broader community of Farmington Valley (and beyond), there are people of all ages who identify as male or female, and there are those who don't identify within that binary and find the idea of gender a bit more complicated. As a community, we want our synagogue and the spaces we create to be areas that include everyone, regardless of how they identify. In the weeks to come, we are working on ways our synagogue can better serve each of us, allowing every individual to feel a sense of welcome and a feeling that at FVJC, each of us belongs.

We also know that change in any community can be uncomfortable and raise questions. We will be offering more opportunities for education, discussions, questions, and ideas as we move forward in making FVJC the most inclusive space it can be. As a committee, we welcome your thoughts and ideas, as well as your concerns. Our meetings take place the second Sunday of every month at 7pm (currently we meet on Zoom- our upcoming meeting will take place on May 8th, 7pm). We would love to see you there as we work on creating an inclusive and diverse community.

Mark your calendar for the next IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) Committee meeting, Sunday, 7:00pm May 8th . All are welcome to join via Zoom!

Save the dates for our next meetings: June 12th, 7pm and July 10th, 7pm

Jami and Noah

COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, viviannrubin@icloud.com

Happy Spring from Social Action. We spent our last meeting reflecting on the work we accomplished as a community this year and planning for next year.

We held 3 community drives that were well supported by the congregation at large supporting the hungry, the mentally ill and the homeless.

We also had 3 volunteer opportunities at Foodshare in Bloomfield where we sorted produce that would be distributed at their mobile food distribution sites. These outings are hard work but also very rewarding. We hope to find other ways to volunteer in the community and involve more congregants in these activities.

We supported the SIMSBURY ABC House here in town with a restaurant gift card as they are unable to accept homemade food donations.

We baked Passover treats for Rabbi Bekah who was able to distribute them on her visits.

A few of us volunteered at the Meals for Ukraine event at Simsbury United Methodist Church where dehydrated packets of minestrone soup were assembled and packaged to send overseas. The Barn Covenant Presbyterian Church hopes to do a similar event on May 21. Their website has details.

Ideas for next year include projects within our religious school, Mitzvah Day and more!

Our next meeting will be in August when we will begin preparation for the Yom Kippur Food Drive and the rest of our yearly agenda.

Please let me know if you are interested or if you have any social action projects that you would like to pursue.



VIVIANN

COMMITTEE CONTACT

Looking for ways
to get involved?

COMMITTEE CONTACT LISTING					
Clubs	President	email	Phone	Executive Board Liaison	Includes
Men's Club	Kevin Zall	k.zall2468@gmail.com	248-568-3344	N/A	Yom HaShoah Candles, Simsbury Celebrates
Sisterhood	Lisa Cooperman	lisa.cooperman@outlook.com		N/A	Mah Jongg, Mitzvah Knitters, Sisterhood Book Club
Youth Group (NFTY)	TBD			N/A	Summer Camps
Committees	Chairperson	email	Phone	Executive Board Liaison	Includes
Adult Education	Rabbi Gavi Ruit	rabbiruit@fvjc.org	860-651-4218	N/A	Rabbi's Hour (Rabbi Bekah), Nashim (Rabbi Bekah), Conversion Class, Israel American Political Conversation
Caring Community	Barbara Fichtenholtz	babbof@gmail.com	860-658-0304	N/A	
Cemetery	Wendy Saffer	cemetery@fvjc.org	860-673-6223	N/A	
College Outreach	Sue Lerner	suelerner@sbcglobal.net	860-404-8884	N/A	
Childhood Education	Liddy Doyle	school@fvjc.org	860-881-9808	Tracy Smith	Mini-Minyan, Religious School, Mischpasha, Confirmation, JT Connect
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access	Jami Silver	jamibsilver@gmail.com	860-751-9916	Loel Goldblatt	
	Noah Goldblatt	noah.goldblatt@gmail.com	860-402-4910		
Fundraising	TBD			Jeremy Greshin	Fundraisers, Capital Campaign
House	Dana Switzer	dana.switzer@collins.com	860-651-4816	Paul Honig	Physical Plant, Grounds Beautification
Legacy Giving	Tracy Smith	tcsmith95j@gmail.com	860-461-0236	Tracy Smith	
Membership, Outreach, Retention (MORE)	Marlo Zall	membership@fvjc.org	860-408-1152	Loel Goldblatt	Chavurah's (Empty Nester, Baby Boomer, Couples Book Club, Interfaith, Young Families)
	Ruth Goldblatt	membership@fvjc.org	860-214-9095		
Programming	TBD			TBD	Hospitality, Yom HaShoah Reading
Ritual	Robin Bergman	ritual@fvjc.org	860-402-8612	Tracy Smith	B'Nai Mitzvah
	Ken Weinstock	ritual@fvjc.org	860-918-5248		
Security	Stephanie Leite	stephanie@drieite.com	860-651-9886	Garry Berman	
Social Action	Viviann Rubin	viviannrubin@icloud.com	860-658-0236	N/A	
Social Media	Dawna Sirard	dvsirard@gmail.com	860-576-0928	N/A	Facebook, Twitter, Local Press
Strategic Planning	Mike Sperber	masperber@gmail.com	860-651-3289	Loel Goldblatt	
Technology	Mark Orenstein	morenstein@alum.mit.edu	860-658-5229	TBD	
Task Force	Lead	email	Phone	Executive Board Liaison	Includes
Covid-19	Billy White	williambwhitemd@gmail.com	860-508-0606	Loel Goldblatt	General Medical Issues
Grants	Paul Schwartz	paula@paulaschwartz.com	860-539-0524	Jeremy Greshin	
ShulCloud	Fran Carnevale	franb.carnevale@gmail.com	860-597-2629	Paul Honig	

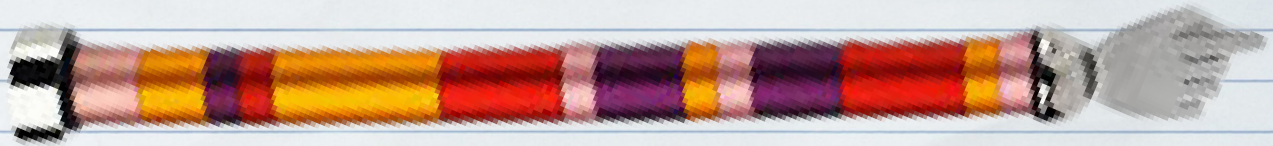
Reach out to find out more!

You can make a difference!



M E M B E R S H I P

**Keep an eye on your inbox for
2022-2023 renewal information!**



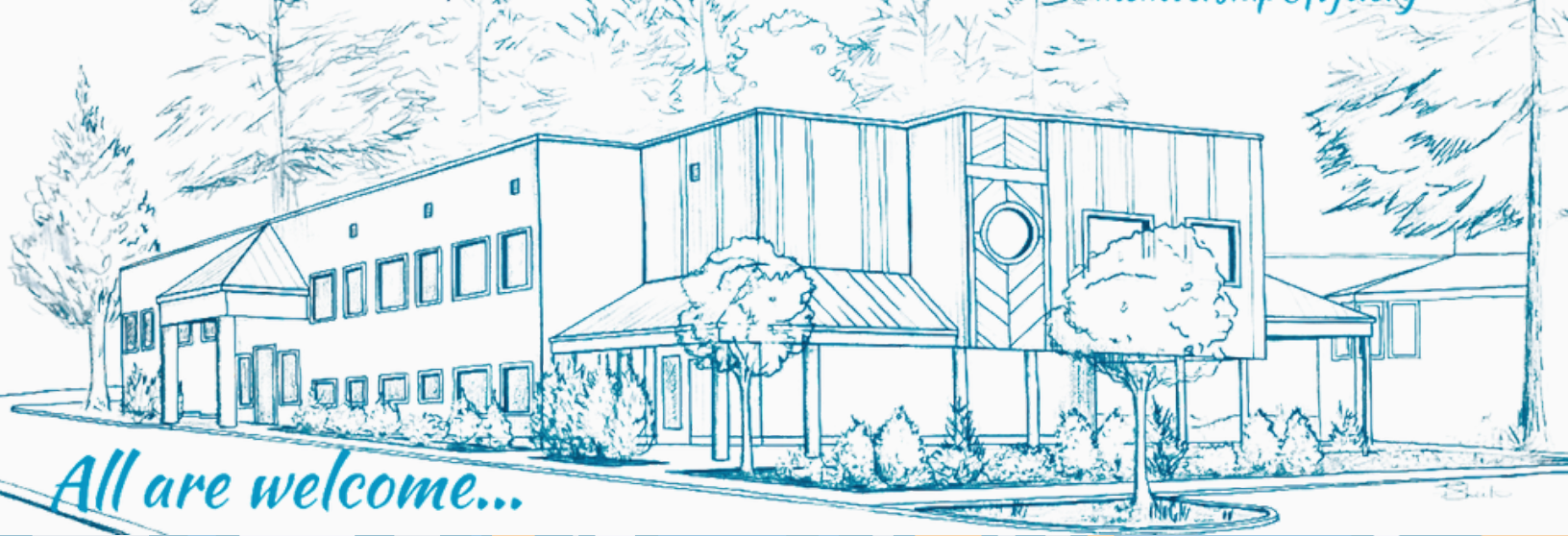
**RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL**



**REGISTRATION
WILL BE OPEN IN YOUR
MEMBER PORTAL THIS JUNE!**



www.facebook.com/fvjces
www.instagram.com/fvjcsimsbury
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Rabbi Gavi Ruit: 860-651-4218, rabbiruit@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: 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)