THE SHOFAR

JANUARY 2023 - TEVET/SH'VAT 5783 Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom Simsbury, Connecticut

Happy New Year!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE YEAR AHEAD WITH YOU!



Tell us about your interests!

We are looking to build a

We are looking to build connections and deepen the strength of our FVJC-Emek Shalom Community.

Please take a moment and CLICK to complete our VOLUNTEER & INTEREST FORM.

What you are interested in?
Do you have a passion or area of expertise
you want to share with us?
What Social Programming are you looking for?
Where would you like to volunteer your time?

Once completed we will connect you with: Committees, Social Groups, ongoing projects, & upcoming events that you might find an interest in.

We look forward to hearing from you!



A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman

I'd like to share these beautiful words by Pastor Gene Ott, at Simsbury United Methodist Church, whose compassion and thoughtfulness prompted the planning of our January 5th inter-religious event. I hope you'll join us there:



Sharing Stories: An Invitation to Jan. 5th Meeting

When I was growing up, December was a thoroughly crazy month. My sister's birthday is in the middle of the month. there was decorating to be done. shopping/cooking. Christmas and Chanukah Chanukah. I come, you see, from an interfaith marriage. Most of you know that my mother is a retired Methodist minister, but many of you might not know that my father is Jewish. While we attended church (nearly) every Sunday and I was confirmed at St. Paul's UMC in Middletown. New York. mv family (and mv Dad's parents) gathered each year to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Chanukah. Now to be clear, for most Jews, these three holidays don't ever wind up on the same list. Hanukkah is really only a big deal for non-Jews and of course kids, but the thought of playing dreidel, eating gelt (those little chocolate coins), and getting "eight crazy nights" (as Adam Sandler memorably sang) of presents was a big deal for me and my sister. As I write this, our house here in Simsbury is decorated for Christmas, our menorah is out and I'm looking at my Grandparent's menorah as I write this in my office. As always happens, Hanukkah and Advent overlap, but this year the last night of Chanukah is on Christmas Dav which is pretty neat for this Judeo-Christian (big) kid. Needless to say, the traditions of my vouth have continued in my house.

Which is sort of why I'm writing this letter. You may or may not have noticed over the last few months the rise in antisemitic rhetoric on social media and in public discourse. Now to be fair, this hasn't really been in Simsbury (or not that I've noticed). but it's been out there and spread most notably by Ye (formerly Kanye West) and Kyrie Irving (of the Brooklyn Nets). However. antisemitism is as old as any other "ism" and in fact is consistently the most reported hate crime according to governmental agencies that track those numbers. In other words, while Tree of Life shooting Pittsburgh was horrendous, it isn't exactly an outlier for some in how they see their Jewish neighbors.

As a Christian pastor, with a long history of Judaism in his family, and having heard stories from my grandmother, who was born in Poland, about pogroms. I'm unwilling to sit by while these sorts of events happen so I reached out to Rabbi Bekah at the Farmington Valley Jewish Center and asked how SUM could help. We both agreed that it was time to talk, and so we've set up a time for our communities to come together, eat (perhaps some food. and surprisingly) learn about lighting a menorah. It will mean the world to me if you'd consider coming on January 5 at 6:00 PM in Wesley Hall. And, if you think this conversation, learning about each other, and working to push back against those who would seek to divide is a good idea, maybe you will consider joining a book study we're going to jointly offer.

We will be reading David Baddiel's book entitled "Jews Don't Count." I've read it, and found it thought-provoking, funny, and extremely timely. Stay tuned for when those joint book groups will meet.

I know that for many of you, the thought of antisemitism will conjure horrible images of the Holocaust, maybe Schindler's List, and that those thoughts might make you think this is all far away, from another time and very reactionary; I disagree. As people who follow an itinerant rabbi named Jesus, we are part of the lineage of David. At a time when we're getting ready to welcome the light of Christ back into the world in the form of a baby, let's join together with our ancestral cousins to shine that glorious light into every corner of our world so that hate and ignorance have no place to reside. Gene

Sharing Stories

Simsbury United Methodist (SUM) and the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation (FJVC)-Emek Shalom

will come together for an evening of education and fellowship.

When we understand each other more, we hurt each other less.*

Thursday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m.
Simsbury UMC - Wesley Hall
799 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT

*from the vision statement of the connection Council for Interreligious Understanding

Please CLICK TO RSVP so we can plan refreshments.

Join the members of the Simsbury United Methodist Church as they join with our Community for a time of fellowship and learning.

"When we understand each other more, we hurt each other less."

Light fare of pizza and beverages will be served.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt

Dear Friends,



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Chanukah and holiday season. As you know, we kicked off the holidays with our Chanukah Holi-daze event. With over 150 people in attendance, it was a wonderful program. There was plenty of food, Mad Science entertainment, and a great social activity that was enjoyed by all, especially the children. Thank you to Maya Schnall and Kim Boorky who volunteered their time to plan, organize, and run this fun and successful event.

As we enter the new year, we're looking to continue to have more social activities for our members. Many thanks to Julie Greshin, our social programming chair, for coming up with innovative ideas. Please contact Julie (jbgreshin11@comcast.net) if you'd like to get involved in planning our next event.

This past year we experienced unprecedented membership growth. New members have joined us for 18 consecutive months, bringing our congregation to almost 250 memberships. There are many new faces enrolled in our Religious School, attending Shabbat Services, and participating in our social events. Please be sure to welcome anyone you don't recognize. Our friendly, warm, and inclusive congregation has become our brand, something that we are proud of and want to continue to foster.

Our membership growth also brings with it a responsibility to our greater community. You'll see that we're beginning to partner on more events with other faith-based congregations in our area and have recently joined the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) to promote social justice in the Greater Hartford area. These new partnerships don't stop us from looking out for our own local Jewish community as well. This was evident last month when Rabbi Bekah worked tirelessly with the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation to convince the Farmington School Board to reverse their recommendation to take Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur off their school calendar as school holidays.

In December, you may have noticed some construction vehicles in our parking lot. We are currently making several repairs and upgrades around the building. We are replacing all the windows in the Sanctuary and Social Hall along with making structural repairs around the windows. In addition, we are repairing our leaking roof with a new drip edge around the perimeter of the building. We also have a team working on our FEMA Grant led by Paula Schwartz, to make many security upgrades around our building.

There's a lot happening at FVJC-Emek Shalom and around our community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

L'Shalom,



relebrate; and HANKKAH! and

We kicked off Hanukkah
 with 150+ of our
 FVJC-ES friends
 and enjoyed pizza, latkes, candles, sufganiyot
 & fUN!



Thank you to everyone who helped us organize and celebrate our kick off to Hanukkah 2022!

We celebrated with a Hanukkah Holi-Daze family friendly event with over 150 members in attendance!

Mad Science put on a funny, educational, snow driven show! Pizza, donuts and latkes were enjoyed by all!

Special thank you's to FVJC-ES Sisterhood for their very generous donation,

the Men's Club for set up, clean up, providing and "cooking" the latkes

and to President Loel Goldblatt for his help in making this event possible.

We all hope to celebrate with many more special events in the future!

Maya Schnall, and Kim Boorky

THOUGHTS FROM Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Shalom friends.

I'm writing this the day after the first snowfall of the season. As someone born and raised in Southern California (a place not exactly known for snow), I always marvel at the stark beauty a snowfall leaves in its wake. As winter approaches, and times of darkness get longer and longer, we have our Festival of Lights to look forward to. This year, we added to that sense of joy and light with a Chanukah Celebration after Religious School. We had games, treats to nosh, and lots and lots of light!

Our school is moving along guite well, but we need your help. Will you add to the light of our Religious School? Because we continually have one or more teachers out sick, and one of our teachers is unable to continue teaching next semester, we really need to hire two additional permanent teachers. As a teacher for FVJC - Emek Shalom, you would embody the of L'dor v'dor value (from generation to generation) - the Jewish belief that we all have a responsibility to help educate our young ones. If you are interested in helping with this important responsibility, please contact me at rabbiruit@fvic.org 860-651-4218.



Religious School

For the most part, our fall semester We have a was a great success. We got our Education opportunities this winter. feet wet with our new curriculum - We are finishing up the Back to ShalomLearning – which has proved Basic class that gives an overview of to be a great resource. Our students Jewish continue values such as (repentance). HaKarat HaTov class Bayit (peace in the home). Our at the many ways in which this students are learning not only what particular form of Kabbalah these important concepts mean, but influenced Jewish also ways in which they can embody practice. And the fourth Wednesday these values out in the world. Our of the month we have Oueer students have also enjoyed the Ouorner, a study and discussion "extracurricular activities" they experience most school days. So far, Cooking and Folktales and Israeli Martial Arts seem to be the favorites. Both our curriculum and activities are important tools for helping our children develop a lasting sense of Jewish identity.

The only real issue we continue to run into is teacher absences. Given that we usually have one or more teachers out sick each day, and that we have a teacher who will be unable to continue teaching next semester, I am looking to hire two more permanent teachers. If you would like to embody the value of L'dor v'dor (from generation to generation) by helping to teach our children, please contact me at rabbiruit@fvjc.org 860-651or 4218.

Adult Education

number of history. literature. to learn about Jewish practice. The discussions have been Teshuvah lively and lots of fun. In February the The Legacy of Lurianic (looking for the good), and Shalom Kabbalah will begin. In it we will look customs and group for LGBTO+ members.

> In addition to the above classes, we will be partnering with Simsbury United Methodist Church in an called interfaith event Sharing **Stories** help to combat antisemitism. This three-session event begins on January 5th with a teaching, followed by two book discussion sessions on Jews Don't Count by David Baddiel. I will be teaching about Chanukah within the context of antisemitism at the January 5th session. Given the recent uptick in antisemitism, as well as the recent controversy with the Farmington School Board, it is particularly important that we as Jews make our presence known in the greater community. Interfaith events such as Sharing Stories are a powerful way to do that. I hope you'll consider joining us January 5th.











Scan to register for our upcoming & ongoing Adult Programming

Queer Tuorner

Led by: Rabbi Gavi Ruit 4th Wednesday of the month, 7PM

Rabbi's Hour 2023



55 Bushy Hill Road Simsbury

Meets twice monthly, Monday's at 11AM January 16th & 23rd Register today! Led by Rabbi Bekah, In-Person, and in Zoom!



The Legacy of LURIANIC KABBALAH

LED BY: RABBI GAVI RUIT THURSDAYS, 7PM

FEB. 23 MAR. 2,9,16,23,30





I ASKED FOR

WONDER

Spiritual Guidance from Abraham Joshua Heschel led by: Rabbi Gavi Ruit

> Thursdays, 7PM May 4-June 15 Click to RSVP





MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE

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

This month we welcome the following members to our congregation:

Carolyn Yagaloff, Simsbury Elissa and Michael Weissbrod, Simsbury Ilana and Scott Prenovitz, Farmington Herbert and Elinor Krasow, Florida



This month we are welcoming back some special folks to our FVJC Family: Elly and Herb Krasow. Herb was President of FVJC and Elly was a founding member and President of the FVJC Sisterhood in the 1970's. Herb was President when we received our first Memorial Scrolls Trust Holocaust Survivor Torah from London in 1973. We are so glad they stopped by to say hello while visiting from Florida and are now able to reconnect with FVJC.

If you have any questions about how to share information about our community with friends or relatives, reach out to Ruth or Marlo at membership@fvjc.org. Grab a few of our new brochures that are in the hall displays near the main office and share with friends!

Ruth & Marlo



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

January 8th, 10:30am (we will hold it both in person and virtually).

In the January meeting, we will also begin discussing Pride month planning.

Please reach out to the co-chairs,

Jami Silver (jamibsilver@gmail.com) and Noah Goldblatt (noah.goldblatt@gmail.com),

if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, VMRUBIN@AOL.COM

We are working hard to add more programming for the community. Look for an announcement about GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) Shabbat where we will present the details of our involvement in this amazing social justice organization and explain how you can get involved.

Our next meeting will be Thursday Jan 5 at 7:30 on zoom. Please contact me with any questions or suggestions or if you

would like to join us. Viviann







MITZVAH DAY 2023

Join us for a multi-synagogue community service day for all ages!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 8:30AM

Beth David Synagogue, 20 Dover Rd., West Hartford

SERVICES

Chapel
Egalitarian Services
Sanctuary
Traditional Services with Mechitza

BREAKFAST

Join us to hear our guest speaker from Faces of Homelessness on behalf of Hands on Hartford share the struggle of housing insecurity

MITZVAH PROJECTS

Make meals, blankets, toiletry bags, and cards for those in need

REGISTER

Click HERE to register

CONTACT

For questions or to learn more, email socialjusticecbi@gmail.com

SUPPORT OUR EVENT

Go to <u>bethdavidwh.ora</u> and click on "Chesed Fund" in the Donation Category box. Write "Mitzvah Day" in the Messages/Comments section.













SHABBAT TZEDEK WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH TZEDEK SHABBAT @ 6PM

WE WILL BE JOINED BY OUR FRIENDS FROM THE GRANBY RACIAL RECONCILIATION COALITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH
JUSTICE PJ HAVDALAH @ 4PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH
SOCIAL ACTION @9AM
W/BETH DAVID & BETH ISRAEL

MLK MOVIE SCREENING @4PM DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH

MLK DAY CELEBRATION

CHURCH OF CHRIST



RSVP LINKS COMING SOON!

CORE COMMITTEE

SUE LERNER, suelerner@sbcglobal.net

Happy (Secular) New Year! We're wishing our college kids a great Spring semester as they head back to their campuses in the coming days! The CORe Committee is looking for a new Chair for the 2023-2024 year. If you are interested in hearing more about the role, please contact Sue Lerner (suelerner@sbcglobal.net).

Kory Zall

Bar Mitzvah, 2014

College: Springfield University

Field of Study: Sport Management

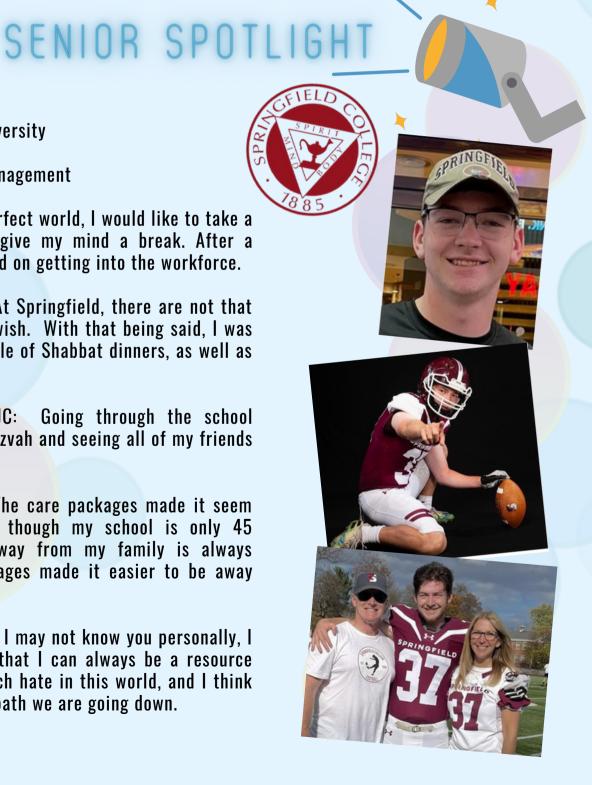
Post-grad Plans: In a perfect world, I would like to take a little time off, just to give my mind a break. After a couple of months, I intend on getting into the workforce.

Jewish Life in College: At Springfield, there are not that many people who are Jewish. With that being said, I was still able to go to a couple of Shabbat dinners, as well as a Passover dinner.

Fondest Memory at FVJC: Going through the school leading up to my Bar Mitzvah and seeing all of my friends grow as individuals.

Care Package Impact: The care packages made it seem like I was home. Even though my school is only 45 minutes away, being away from my family is always difficult. The care packages made it easier to be away from home.

Closing Thought: Even if I may not know you personally. I want everyone to know that I can always be a resource for you. There is too much hate in this world, and I think it is time to change the path we are going down.



SECURITY COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE LEITE, CHAIR, stephanie@drleite.com

Security Committee: The security committee is focused and ready to meet the needs of the congregation for the next year. In January, we would like to get together and label all the rooms with numbers, in case of an emergency. If you would like to join us, please contact Stephanie or Garry and we can pick a date that works for everyone.



Stephanie

CARING COMMITTEE

BARBARA FICHTENHOLTZ, CHAIR, babbof@gmail.com

Caring Community is there to help with the needs of our FVJC-Emek Shalom community. We help with notes, calls, rides to medical appointments and Synagogue activities and setting up Shivas. Everyone needs help at some times.

If you want to help when there is a need or find you need help please contact me. Barbara



The Couples Book Group has decided to become more inclusive and open to all, not only couples. Please join us!

Our new name is FVJC-ES Book Club!

Our next meeting will be January 3, 2023 at 7 pm, at the Synagogue. We will be reviewing a MOVIE, Gentlemen's Agreement, which can be found on YOUTUBE.

If you have interest in joining, please contact Group Coordinators:
Sandra Bourke 860 305 8015 or Sue Schloss 860 658 2503 so you can be on our mailing list, or just come along and join us!

All are welcome!





SHABBAT DINNER JAN. 6TH, 6PM RSVP BY JAN. 4TH, 12PM

MONTHLY CATERED KOSHER DINNER \$18 PER ADULT, \$9 PER CHILD, \$54 MAX PER FAMILY

JOIN US!

CHICKEN MARSALA
PORTABELLA MUSHROOM STACKS
(VEGETARIAN & GF)
ROASTED ASPARAGUS
ROASTED POTATOES
MESCULIN STRAWBERRY SALAD

KIDS MENU: CHICKEN TENDERS ONION RINGS

OUR RSVP DATE IS FIRM PLEASE VISIT YOUR MEMBER PORTAL TO RSVP AND MAKE YOUR PAYMENT.

IF A MEMBER FINDS THEY
NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ATTEND,
PLEASE REACH OUT
TO EITHER RABBI BEKAH OR RABBI GAVI
& THEY WILL WORK WITH YOU
TO ENSUREYOU CAN ATTEND.



CAMP HAVDALAH JAN. 28, 4PM

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENING
FILLED WITH CAMP SONGS!
LEARN ABOUT JEWISH SUMMER CAMP!

RSVP in your Member Portal!
S'more's and Chipwich nosh follows!

SONGS, SNACKS,

AND FUN!







Join us!





A film taking you on the journey of a Jewish real estate developer whose mother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

FEATURE FILM TABLE READ!

Join us for the **official** reading of our script! Speaking parts, stage directions, and scene headings are read out loud by members of our congregation.

Q and A to follow.

Interested in a speaking part? RSVP today!

JANUARY 29TH - 1PM

FVJC Emek Shalom - Social Hall



Learn about Alzheimer's



Presented by the Connecticut chapter of the Alzheimer's Association

CLICK TO RSVP



PJ HAVDALAH - 4PM JANUARY 14 '23

SS BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY

CRAFTS & SONGS!

Join us in your jammies & bring a friend! For children ages birth -5!



SCAN TO REGISTER!





FAMILY DINNER 6TH GRADE

Connect with peer families and join us as your student participates in our service!

JANUARY 20TH, 6PM

\$18 per adults, \$9 per child Menu selections can be found when you click the RSVP! OUr service begins at 7pm!

CLICK TO REVP TODAY!



CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Honor Of Nan Shafer from Friends of Monday Mah Jongg

OPERATING FUND DONATION

DONATION
In Honor Of
Ruth Goldblatt from Joanne Cohen

In Memory Of
Mae Reinstein Klatsky Benjamin Klatsky from Alan & Lydia Klatsky
Jed and Herb Golinsky from Eric & Iris Spungin
Rebecca DeRosa from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt
Marilyn Berger from Marshall & Karen Berger

In Support of FVJC-Emek Shalom from Michael & Judith Cohen

of all those departed, from Robert & Jean Giunta

The Yahrzeit Of Susan Finkle from Elizabeth DeGrout & Stuart Simon Ruth Sevin from Lynne Bossart

DR. PETER LEBETKIN MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of Irving Kern from Gloria Lebetkin

HOLOCAUST TORAH SHOWCASE FUND

In Memory Of Our son, Kenneth Krasow. from Herbert & Elinor Krasow Arthur Freund from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of Katherine Burdick, sister of Christie Hausman from Robert & Sandra Bourke Rose Weinstein from Robert & Sandra Bourke

RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of
Pearl Deligdish by Caren and Henry Karpik
Herbert Sinai Friedman from David & Audry Eppner
Kathrine Burdick from Sheldon & Christie Hausman

The Yahrzeit Of Max Hausman from Sheldon & Christie Hausman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of Robert Shanahan from Brandon & Linda Podos

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Appreciation Of Rabbi Bekah Goldman from David Kravet

In Honor Of Martha Lott, Carrie Kramer, Mona Murphy, Ruth Goldblatt, Jodi Marks, Joanne Cohen, Amy Hershfield and in memory of Aileen Rosedale from David Kravet

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Memory Of Kathrine Burdick from Sheldon & Christie Hausman

DONATIONS

DECEMBER 2022

NANCY M. PETRY MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor Of Our healthy family from Michael & Judith Cohen

In Memory Of

Marcia Riemer from Danny & Audrey Rosenfeld

Nancy Petry from Dr. William White & Krista Weaver

Llyod Kaplan, father of Liz Kempinski from Elizabeth Kempinski
Abraham Kempinski, husband of Liz Kempinski from Elizabeth Kempinski

Marilyn Berger from Marshall & Karen Berger

Thank you!

Garry & Marianne Berman Linda Pisano Elin Ostvik-White & Josh Indeck Jonathan Helitzer Peter & Marcy Schulman Melanie & Dana Switzer Rabbi Bekah Goldman & Saul Mag Paul Honig & Diane Goldberg-Honig Daniel & Alexandra Rozenfeld **Judith & Michael Cohen** Elizabeth Kempinski Mark & Dianne Orenstein Fran & Allen Maltz Michael & Kathy Ungerleider Robin Bergman Sheldon & Christie Hausman Cantor Susan Levine & Stanley Goldberg **Judith & Michael Cohen** Peter & Marcy Schulman John & Suzanne Schloss **Rov & Paula Schwartz** Loel & Ruth Goldblatt



Jervl & Gideon Rothschild

SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!



CONTACTINFORMATION

Rabbi Bekah Goldman: rabbibekah@fvjc.org Rabbi Gavi Ruit: rabbiruit@fvjc.org Synagogue President: Loel Goldblatt, president@fvjc.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Chair's: Marlo Zall & Ruth Goldblatt, membership@fvjc.org
MEN'S CLUB:

President, Kevin Zall, k.zall2468@gmail.com
RITUAL COMMITTEE:

Chair's: Robin Bergman & Ken Weinstock, ritual@fvjc.org
SISTERHOOD:

President, Lisa Cooperman, lisa.cooperman@outlook.com TREASURER:

Paul Honig, treasurer@fvjc.org

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

General Synagogue information:

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

fax number: 860-658-4273

55 Bushy Hill Road Simsbury, CT 06070

Administrator: Chrisi Bonchick, 860-658-1075, admin@fvjc.org
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10AM- 2PM