

THE SHOFAR

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

Hey there!
You've been invited to the

F V J C - E S
M E M B E R S

Duck-Pin Bowling P A R T Y

FEBRUARY 26TH
4-6pm

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 12TH
Space is limited!

\$10 Per Person
FVJCES is subsidizing \$15 PP!
Shoes, bowling games,
snacks & drinks are included!

Laurel Bowling Lanes
266 Main St. Winsted, CT

*Building connections through
our Social Programming!*

Join
the
fun!

RSVP
TODAY!



Scroll
for
News,
events,
&
more!



A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman



My Beautiful FVJC-ES Family,

February has arrived, and with it comes... Valentine's Day? Don't be ridiculous. I was going to say, B'nai Mitzvah Season! You see, every year our amazing administrator, Chris Bonchick, schedules the incoming 4th graders' B'nai Mitzvah dates. That's right - four years prior to their B'nai Mitzvah date students are studying hard, growing in excitement, preparing in meaningful ways, and their families are planning for this momentous occasion!

This year, our first B'nai Mitzvah service of 2023, Eli Spiro on February 25th, is right around the corner (mazel tov Eli!). Eli is the first in his cohort to achieve this milestone, and those of us who have been working with him are mighty proud of his efforts. Not only has Eli chosen to sew his own custom tallit (something we offer all our students) but he is also playing his cello during the service. We know it will be a beautiful experience for Eli and all those who will be present to celebrate with him.

We know ya'll will be there to support Eli and to celebrate with him, as well. You might be thinking, "Rabbi, no one invited us!" Well, let me remind you: all of our services are open to synagogue members, as well as the general public! Anyone can join us to pray.

It is vitally important for our students to feel seen, heard, and supported by all of us — not just their family and friends — but those of us who have seen them participating in services for the entire year before their B'nai Mitzvah; those of us who have seen these little cuties run around the sanctuary their entire lives until they've reached this point.

If you believe in the concept of new year's resolutions, I've got a good one for you: Resolve to join us for these beautiful B'nai Mitzvah services this year. Not only will you get to pray in a different way, with different prayers and music, but you'll be enhancing the experience of a student, who, on their special day, will look out and see a sanctuary filled with the faces of their community. It means more than you could ever know.

Join us!



*With Blessings,
Rabbi Bekah*

TU BISH'VAT SHABBAT & SEDER

FEBRUARY 3RD

6PM

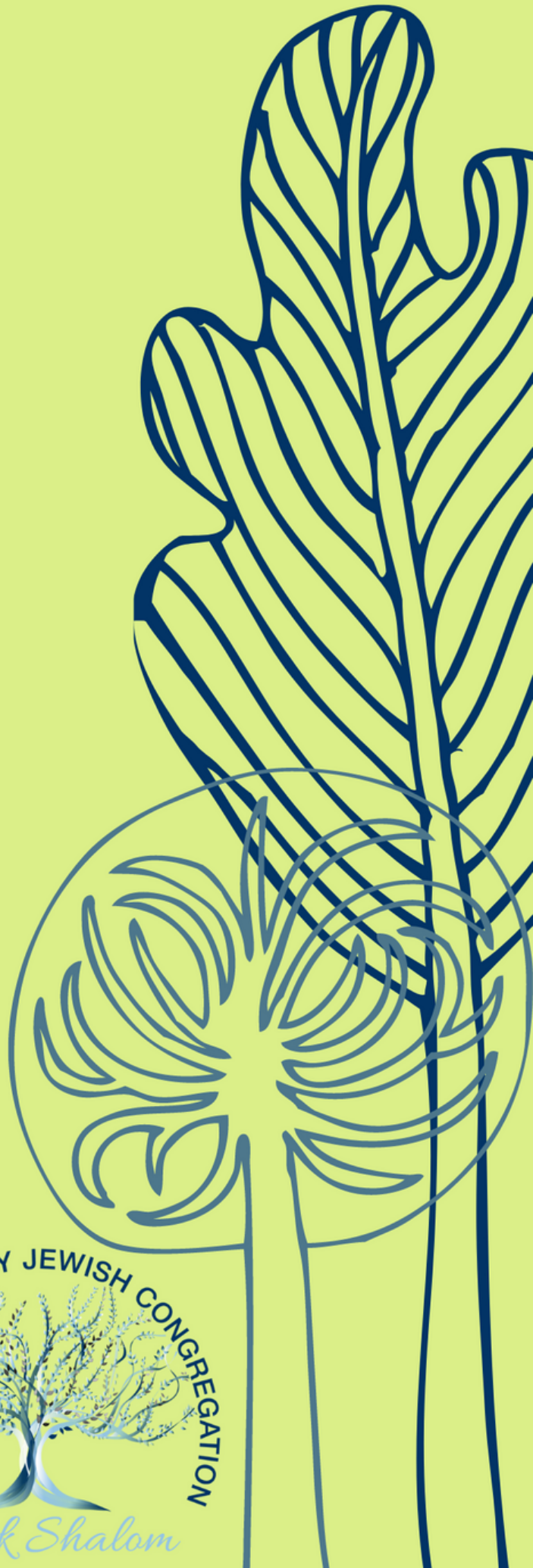
SHABBAT

SERVICE & SEDER

SEDER LED BY RABBI BEKAH
TEACHING WITH RABBI GAVI

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

PLEASE NOTE:
CATERED DINNER
RSVP IS CLOSED



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt



Dear Friends,

There are a lot of activities going on at FVJC-Emek Shalom and my calendar is filling up. Our members are leading some special programs. So, in addition to Shabbat services, we're active with social, educational, cultural, and community wide programs that help define us and make your membership so special. And we're already starting to think about programming for next year, as this month we'll be developing our 2023-2024 calendar based on input from several of our committees.

Our Social Programming is going to continue this month with a Duck-Pin Bowling party on Sunday, February 26th. This will be a casual fun afternoon for all ages. Our Social Programming Committee is working hard to bring us fun and social activities and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

We're a strong community that also values and supports education as evidenced by a successful Nancy M. Petry Memorial Fund Drive for Hebrew education, where 80% of our donors don't even have children in our Religious School. Regarding Jewish Education, one concept that I know little about is Kabbalah. This aspect of Jewish Mysticism has always intrigued me, so I'm really looking forward to attending Rabbi Gavi's Adult Education program later this month titled "The Legacy of Lurianic Kabbalah". This is a free program for our members, and I look forward to learning about Jewish Mysticism with you.

You may remember last year's program about the history of FVJC-Emek Shalom. It was sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and titled "A Synagogue Takes Root in the Farmington Valley." I'm excited to let you know that Ellen Lescher, who compiled our history and developed the program, is now working together with Lauren Shafer to take the next step by creating a history exhibit for our synagogue. They are currently gathering ideas and are looking for possible grants to bring this together. Anyone who is interested in contributing to this project is welcome to contact Ellen (lescherell@gmail.com) or Lauren (lauren.g.shafer@gmail.com).

Last month we kicked off our sharing stories inter-religious event at Simsbury United Methodist Church (SUMC). This was brought together by our collective clergy as another way to get to know our neighbors so we can be there to support each other. Together we're reading David Baddiel's book *Jews Don't Count* for a discussion later this month. We've now also connected our Security Committee with SUMC's Safety Committee to share best practices.

Please be sure to add some of these events to your calendar. I look forward to seeing you this month.

L'Shalom,

Loel

THOUGHTS FROM Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Shalom Friends,

We will soon be starting two Education Subcommittees – Religious School and Adult Ed. If you are the parent of a religious school student, I hope you will consider joining the Religious School Subcommittee! This subcommittee will help guide the Religious School in terms of programming and activities, and your input is invaluable. If you are interested in Adult Education, I hope you will join the Adult Ed Subcommittee. The input I get from this subcommittee will help me develop future classes and programming. Thanks so much!



*All the best,
Rabbi Gavi*

Religious School

We've had a lot going on in Religious School these days. In addition to their regular Jewish Values and Hebrew curriculum, our students engage in art, music, dance, cooking, and Israeli martial arts activities. In December we had a fun-filled Hanukkah event that included a Mad Scientist demonstration. All together we had about 150 participants enjoying goofy Scientists and delicious sufganiyot (filled donuts).

Tu B'shvat and Purim are fast approaching, and we have lots of fun activities in store for our students. They are learning about Tu B'shvat right now and will get to enjoy a Tu B'shvat seder and they will be learning how to make Hamantashen – that ear-shaped cookie of Purim.

Adult Education

We have some exciting adult education opportunities coming up. The Legacy of Lurianic Kabbalah class begins February 23rd. In this class we will delve into the impact Lurianic Kabbalah has had on modern Jewish theology and practice. You'll be surprised to find the many ways Lurianic Kabbalah has seeped into our modern practice and you'll learn how the profound trauma of the Spanish Expulsion led to an incredibly empowered theology.

Also in February, we will continue our interfaith dialog about antisemitism with Simsbury United Methodist Church. We will be discussing the book Jews Don't Count by David Baddiel. Our first event with Simsbury United Methodist was a tremendous success and I hope that you will consider attending!

Finally, keep an eye out for a series at Simsbury Library that begins in March. Simsbury Library is interested in doing an inclusion series and is beginning with FVJC – Emek Shalom and Judaism. I will be teaching three classes: an Overview of Jewish History, the Evolution of Jewish Theology, and Antisemitism Today. I hope you'll check them out!

The Legacy of

LURIANIC KABBALAH

LED BY: RABBI GAVI RUIT
THURSDAYS, 7PM

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



*Scan to
register for
Adult Ed
programming*



MINI-MINYAN



**FEBRUARY 4TH
10AM**

MUSIC, STORIES, CRAFT'S,
AND MORE
FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
AGED BIRTH - 5
VISIT WWW.FVJC.ORG
TO REGISTER
ALL ARE WELCOME!
55 BUSHY HILL ROAD
SIMSBURY



**SCAN TO
REGISTER!**



**SCAN TO
RSVP
TODAY!**

FAMILY DINNER GRADES 4 & 5

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



FEBRUARY 24TH, 6PM

\$18 per adults, \$9 per child

Menu selections can be found when you click the RSVP!

Our service begins at 7pm!

CLICK TO RSVP TODAY!



*Nashim,
a woman's circle*

4PM Meeting
In-Person & Virtual

**Join Rabbi Bekah
for this monthly
meeting.**



FEBRUARY 5, 2023



Scan to register
for our upcoming
& ongoing
Adult
Programming

Queer Quarner

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



Rabbi's Hour 2023



Meets twice monthly,
Monday's at 11AM
February 6th & 27th

Register today!
Led by Rabbi Bekah,
In-Person, and in Zoom!



55 Bushy Hill Road
Simsbury



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



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Visit your Portal
to register

LED
BY:
RABBI
GAVI RUIT
AT FVJC-ES

1ST
&
3RD
TUESDAY
11:00 am

COMMITTEE NEWS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LIDDY DOYLE, CHAIR, liddster@me.com

We will be holding our Education (Subcommittee meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Our religious school-specific (PTA style) subcommittee is comprised of current school parents.

If you are a religious school parent interested in the Religious School Committee, please join us on February 21, 2023 at 7PM via Zoom

The School Committee will:

- - plan educational and social events for our school children and their families
- - work to strengthen key in school programming

Our next meeting for the Lifelong Learning Education subcommittee is scheduled for March 21. I look forward to working with both groups and Rabbi Gavi as we continue to enhance our educational programming.

Liddy

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR
Hamantaschen Baking Day!
FEBRUARY 26th & MARCH 1ST
DURING SCHOOL

PLEASE SEE OUR
SIGN-UP FOR
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES!

Hamantaschen Recipe

Ingredients
5-6 cups of flour (start with 5 and then add more if dough is sticky)
1 1/4 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 Tbsp baking powder
1 cup vegetable oil
1/2 tsp salt
3 Tbsp orange juice
Filling
of choice:
Comstock cherries, apricot preserve,
Nutella, prune, etc.

Preheat oven to 350*
Sift dry ingredients; combine OJ & vanilla; beat eggs with sugar, then add oil. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture, alternating with OJ mixture until blended. Knead dough for 5 minutes. Chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Flour work space, section dough into 3 balls. Roll out until medium thickness. Cut into circles. Pinch 2 corners. After you add a very small amount of filling into center of dough, you will get 3rd corner!

Bake on lightly greased cookie sheet until golden brown, about 30 minutes

Enjoy!



Scan to sign-up to volunteer!

COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

JULIE GRESHIN, CHAIR, jbgreshin11@comcast.net

Save the date for these
upcoming
MEMBER EVENTS!

Sunday, Feb 26th:

4-6pm Laurel Lanes DuckPin bowling event. Great for the whole family.

RSVP today!

April Meet up!

Gather at an area winery or brewery!
Details coming soon!

NYC Day Trip!

Timing and details coming soon!

June Member Picnic!

We will be gathering again for this fun
Member event! Stay tuned!

COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE

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

We would like to welcome the following new and returning members to our FVJC-ES family this month:

Liz and Bob Melvin
Mary and Andy Glassman
Diana Lemkoff
Victor Paige

Welcome!

We are already helping to build next year's events with the other committees and look forward to lots of events in the coming months and the year ahead. Sometimes it's even hard to find available dates in the calendar as there are so many events in the works at FVJC. What a fabulous problem to have!

If you'd like to join our Membership and Outreach Committee, please contact Ruth or Marlo at membership@fvjc.org. It is not a large time commitment and a good way to meet new folks who are joining our community.

Thanks again to our Ambassadors for their ongoing outreach.

Ruth & Marlo



FVJC-ES Book Club!

Our next meeting will be February 27 at 7 pm, at the Synagogue.

We will be reviewing the book, 'Jews Don't Count' ahead of the Community Conversation with our friends from Simsbury United Methodist Church on February 28th.

See the flyer that follows to RSVP for that discussion!

If you have interest in joining,
please contact Group Coordinators:

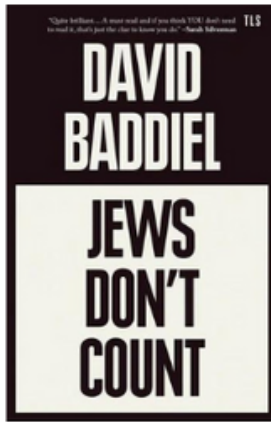
Sandra Bourke 860 305 8015 or Sue Schloss 860 658 2503
so you can be on our mailing list, or just come along and join us!

All are welcome!



SUM | IT ALL ADDS
UP TO **LOVE**

The Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation & Simsbury United Methodist Church Present



Book Discussion
Jews Don't Count, David Baddiel
February 28, 6:30 pm

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation
55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury, CT 06070
Our gathering features a kosher potluck meal
See SignUp Genius for details

**Neighbors getting together once again to
build relationships, learn, and deepen the dialog.**

Read the book. Come to the discussion. See you there.



**Join us as we host our friends and
neighbors from Simsbury United
Methodist Church**



Visit the sign-up to register!

COMMITTEE NEWS

SECURITY COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE LEITE, CHAIR, stephanie@drleite.com

Security Committee: With the new year come new commitments to ourselves. Perhaps you are interested in committing more time to the safety of our community? If so, we want you to join our team, which already has so much news to share.

Your presence is needed at our February 2 meeting with John Colangelo. Mr. Colangelo is our security consultant, and is coming in to answer any questions you may have. This should be fun, mellow, and connecting.

Your fingers are needed to work our phones. We recently discovered that the phones, which are in every classroom and many of the public rooms, have some special buttons that everyone should know about. If you press feature key #7, you can broadcast to everyone in the building. This is important to know about in case of an emergency, though should only be shared with responsible synagogue members. If you want to dial out on a phone, you must press the function button #3. This allows you to call out if you want to call 911, or if you have a pizza emergency.

Thanks for all you do. Together, we are strong.

Stephanie



**SECURITY
ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION
FEBRUARY 2ND
7PM**

We all have so many questions.

**Now you have an opportunity to ask
all your questions
of the FVJC Emek Shalom
security team & our security
consultant.**

**This session is in a round table
format. Please come if you are
interested in joining the security
team, have concerns about our
protocol, or would like to help us
make the building a safe place to
worship.**

Click to RSVP, thank you.

COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, VMRUBIN@AOL.COM

January was a busy social action month. We had a successful dental hygiene drive which supplied more than 125 toiletry bags assembled at Mitzvah Day on 1/15! We also have full sized toothpastes that will be given to Jewish Family Services. Thank you to all who contributed!

We will be hosting a Game Day fundraiser on Sunday, 3/19 from 1-4. Proceeds will go to a Dignity Grows packing event open to all FVJC members.

Finally, our involvement with the Greater Hartford Action Alliance has begun. This is a group of 49 area faith based organizations that unite to promote social justice issues in our community. Please consider getting involved. We are currently looking for core team members and those interested in being part of a rapid response team (by attending a press conference, writing letters, etc) to support the current issue campaigns (mental health, gun violence, educational equity, environmental and housing access and affordability). Please contact me for more information.

Viviann



HELP WANTED: Caring Community is looking for congregants who are willing to send a snail mail card to Temple members who may need a little something extra. It takes so little time but will mean so much. To be put on the volunteer list please contact me.

Caring Community continues to help with members who need meals and rides. Please join us.

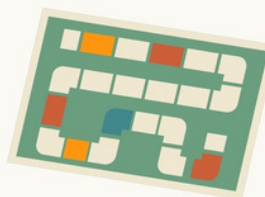
Barbara

Games Fundraiser! benefiting Dignity Grows!

MARCH 19, 2023
1-4pm



1. Come with your family & friends to play games & raise funds for Dignity Grows!!
2. Mah Jongg, Canasta, Scrabble & More!
3. \$10 per person. Every \$10 covers one bag of products.
4. You can donate if you cannot attend!



Social Action event. Light refreshments will be provided. Join us!

5. Visit <https://dignitygrows.org/our-story/> to learn more about this great cause!



CARING COMMITTEE

BARBARA FICHTENHOLTZ, CHAIR, babbof@gmail.com

COMMITTEE NEWS

CORE COMMITTEE

SUE LERNER, suelerner@sbcglobal.net

HELP WANTED! The CORE Committee is looking for a new Chair for this much loved program to ensure its continuation next year. Every year, our young adults aged 18-22 living away from home are sent four holiday-themed care packages. The treats are both a connection to Jewish holiday traditions and a reminder that FVJC values our members near and far. You do not need to have a child in the program in order to head up this committee. The role is a wonderful way to contribute to our synagogue community without a big time commitment. If you would like to hear more about this opportunity, please contact Sue Lerner at: suelerner@sbcglobal.net.



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

**We are looking for members interested in joining our committee!
If you are interested in making FVJC more accessible and inclusive,
please consider joining us!**

**February 12th, 7PM
(via Zoom).**

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

Join us at
Hammer & Stain,

South Windsor 2/19/23 @ 2pm

BRING OUT YOUR CREATIVITY
CHOOSE YOUR CRAFT PROJECT

WWW.HAMMERANDSTAINSOUTHWINDSOR.COM
PRICE RANGES FROM 45 TO 85

Choose Your Own Craft Project at our next Sisterhood event.
Join us on **Sunday Feb 19th at 2pm** at Hammer and Stain in
South Windsor. Registration link:
[https://hammerandstainsouthwindsor.com/products/02-19-
2023-private-party-hosted-by-lisa-2pm](https://hammerandstainsouthwindsor.com/products/02-19-2023-private-party-hosted-by-lisa-2pm)

For any questions, reach out to Lisa at
lisa.cooperman@outlook.com or 860-965-6280.

FARMINGTON VALLEY JEWISH CONGREGATION

Emek Shalom
Sisterhood



CARING COMMUNITY FUND

The Yahrzeit Of

Yahrzeit of Irwin Lawrence Gere, Father of Debi Miller from Debi Miller

Joseph David Pear from Dr Sidney & Adrienne & Sidney Hopper

DONATION

In Memory Of

Katherine Burdock from Arthur & Gloria Levin

Leonel Theriault, father of Samantha Sherman from Samantha Sherman

MARLENA DEROSA FAMILY PROGRAM FUND

In Memory Of

Rebecca DeRosa from Cheryl Zellman & Marc Gordon

Rebecca DeRosa from Ron Salm Salm

MUSIC FUND

In Honor Of

the milestone birthday of Helen Wong. Sending our love, from Robert & Sandra Bourke

NANCY M. PETRY MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

Rebecca DeRosa from Mark & Ellen Lescher

RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation Of

In memory of Robert and Judy Dobrow, with love from their family. from Robert J Dobrow Living Trust & Trustee

Charles Dobrow

In Honor Of

Ellen Van der Veen, mother of Hannah Richard L. Rubenstein, father of Hannah from Frederick Feibel, DVM & Hannah

Rubenstein-Feibel

In Memory Of

of Ed Silverstein, with great affection for Ed and his family. from Beth Hannon

Ronna Sussman and Ira Sussman, parents of David from David & Audry Eppner

The Yahrzeit Of

Anthony Carnevale from Fran & Ann & Fran Carnevale

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Memory Of

Shayna Lamson from David Kravet

Robert Schor from David Kravet

Malcolm Lamson from David Kravet



SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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