

THE SHOFAR

MARCH 2023 - ADAR/NISAN 5783
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut



Join
the
fun!

Scroll
for
News,
events,
&
so
much
more!

COME HEAR THE MUSIC, SPIN YOUR GROGGERS,
AND ENJOY HAMANTASCHEN!
ALL ARE WELCOME!

A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman



This year, March brings with it one of our most joyous holidays — Purim. Purim is a time for us to eat, drink, dress up in costume, give gifts, and celebrate the downfall of Haman and the triumph of Esther, Mordecai, and the Jewish community.

Every year the festival of Purim is celebrated on the 14th and 15th of the Hebrew month of Adar, which, as it is the middle of a lunar month, always falls on a Full Moon. Traditionally, each Full Moon has a name, which is applied to the entire lunar month in which it occurs. The Full Moon of Adar is called the Worm Moon. The name for the Worm Moon refers to the beetle larvae which begin to emerge from the thawing bark of trees and other winter hideouts at this time of year. It is interesting that, in Judaism, we celebrate our holiday of hiddenness at the same time that the tiniest earthly creatures begin to emerge from their winter hiding spaces.

Luckily our tradition is filled with opportunities for us to look deeper into ourselves and Purim is no different! While our celebrations are filled with food, wine, and fun, the themes of this holiday require that we look inward and ask questions about our own hiding spaces; the most important of which is the question of why we feel we must hide in the first place.

As we celebrate Purim this week, let us ask ourselves the following questions:

Who are we hiding from?

What pieces of ourselves are we hiding from the world?

What is one way we can reveal an aspect of ourselves we are uncomfortable sharing?

This Purim, may we all find a way to show our truest selves, to come out of our hiding places, and to accept all of ourselves. Let us find a way to stop hiding and let our brilliant light illuminate the world.



*With Blessings,
Rabbi Bekah*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt



Dear Friends,

We just completed our calendar planning for the 2023-2024 membership year and it's nice to see that we're in full swing again. Although we maintained our main functions during the height of Covid, many of the close social activities were switched to virtual. So now, as we've come out of the pandemic, we're busy learning how to combine our in-person activities with our virtual programming to engage as many of our members as possible.

As you know, we kicked off last summer with a Member Picnic. That event spurred additional in-person social events including our gathering at Talcott Mountain Collective, Trivia Night, and Bowling. I'm happy to report that a very generous anonymous donor has once again agreed to sponsor our 2023 Member Picnic this July! I see this as becoming an annual social activity as we kick off the member year.

If you haven't been to services recently, consider periodically joining us on a Friday night to relax and celebrate Shabbat. There's a great feeling of comradery and warmth at these services. They are very engaging with Rabbi Bekah leading us in prayer and song, along with Adrian Durlister masterfully playing the piano, and Rabbi Gavi providing monthly educational sermons. Following services, we informally gather to schmooze over some treats during our Oneg Shabbat. The first Friday of the month we kick off the evening with a catered community dinner. On the second Friday we start services at 6:00 pm to make it more Family Friendly and we encourage you to bring your own dinner as we gather to eat a meal together following services.

I know some feel there are a lot of emails from FVJC-ES. This is due to the tremendous amount of programming we've got going. If you're not reading emails, then please visit the calendar on our website (www.fvjc.org/calendar) to see our full schedule of events. From Religious Services and School Events to Adult Education, Social Action, and Community Wide Programs, the events on our calendar are all important and we find email the best way to communicate with you so that you don't miss any event.

As we move out of the Covid pandemic you'll notice the large number of events successfully taking place for the community during this time of our unprecedented growth. All this new activity takes a tremendous amount of coordination, please be patient if you encounter periodic changes in announcements as we are continually adding programming to meet the needs of our growing membership.

L'Shalom,



Loel

THOUGHTS FROM Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Dear Friends,

I hope that you all are enjoying this surprisingly un-winterlike winter!

It's been nine months since I began as the Director of Lifelong Learning here at FVJC – Emek Shalom, and it's been a whirlwind of a time! The Religious School is up and running with our new curriculum and multimedia support, and both students and teachers are benefiting from our comprehensive, values-based program of study. Our Adult Education program is going well with classes and programs being very well-attended, and our Grief Group is continuing and is now open to additional participants. I am currently working with several conversion students and beginning later this month I will be teaching a three-class series on Judaism at Simsbury Public Library. It has been an intense and very meaningful time indeed! If you have any questions about our Adult Education Programs, groups, or Religious School, please reach out to me at rabbiruit@fvjc.org.

*All the best,
Rabbi Gavi*



Religious School

Our Purim Celebration is Sunday March 5th! There will be face painting, Jewpardy playing, Megillah reading, and lots of Hamantaschen. Students, parents, and teachers are encouraged to get into the spirit and come to school in costume. We will have a costume parade for students at 10:20 and parents are encouraged to come for the parade and stay for the Megillah reading at 10:45. It should be lots of fun so please join us!

*Scan to
register for
Adult Ed
programming*



Adult Education

"The Legacy of Lurianic Kabbalah" class just began. Twenty-six of us are learning about the impact the Kabbalah of Isaac Luria has had on Judaism and Jewish practice. Beginning in May we will do a deep dive into the spirituality of Abraham Joshua Heschel with the class "I Asked for Wonder." And starting in March I will be teaching a three-part series on Judaism at Simsbury Library. The topics will be "Highlights of Jewish History" in March; "The Evolution of Jewish Theology" in April; and "Antisemitism Today" in May. 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




I ASKED FOR

WONDER

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

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



PURIM!



MINI-MINYAN

**MARCH 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**



FAMILY DINNER PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 3

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



MARCH 17TH, 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.**



MARCH 5, 2023



Scan to register
for our upcoming
& ongoing
Adult
Programming

**JOIN
US**

Rabbi's Hour 2023



55 Bushy Hill Road
Simsbury

*Meets twice monthly,
Monday's at 11AM
March 13th & 27th
Register today!
Led by Rabbi Bekah,
In-Person, and in Zoom!*



Visit your Portal
to register

**LED
BY:
RABBI
GAVI RUIT
AT FVJC-ES**

**1ST
&
3RD
TUESDAY
11:00 am**



COMMITTEE NEWS

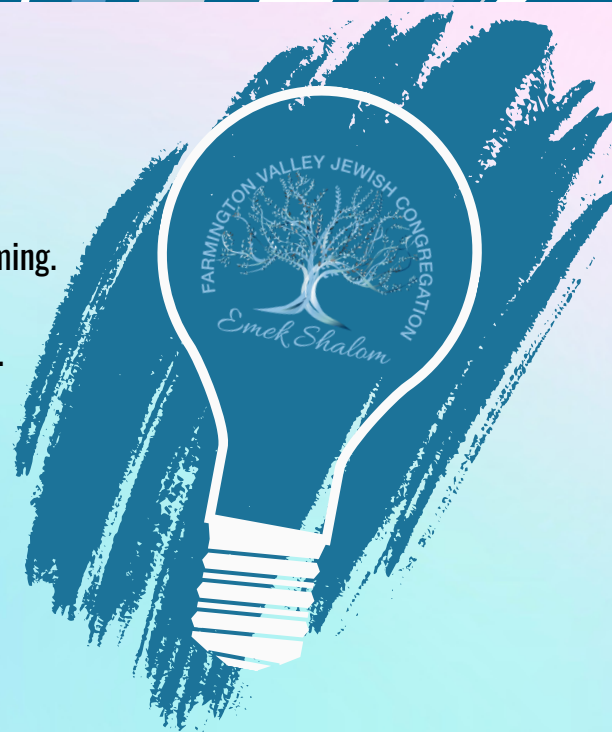
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LIDDY DOYLE, CHAIR, liddster@me.com

Our next meeting for the Lifelong Learning Education subcommittee is scheduled for March 21 at 7PM. I look forward to working with both groups and Rabbi Gavi as we continue to enhance our educational programming.

Interested in joining our Committee? Please email me for more information.

Liddy



Men's Club Meeting Sunday, March 12, 9:00 am

Join us for our next meeting.

The topic of the month:
Health and Fitness!

How can you change your habits now for a better year?

Curious about dietary habits?

Our resident expert Lisa Cooperman
(registered dietitian, food allergy specialist, nutrition consultant)
will provide perspective and answer your questions.

What physical fitness routine works best for you?

Let's discuss the different methods!

We can all benefit from learning from each other.

Please RSVP for a breakfast headcount.

RSVP LINK: <https://fvjc.shulcloud.com/form/March2023>

k.zall2468@gmail.com

Kevin Zall, Men's Club President

COMMITTEE NEWS

CORE COMMITTEE

SUE LERNER, suelerner@sbcglobal.net



Chag Purim Sameach! Our college kids will soon be receiving their Purim-themed care packages containing hamantashen, snacks and loads of candy! The package insert encourages the kids to seek out opportunities to celebrate the holiday, from attending a Purimspiel to simply sharing some of their care package goodies with friends. For many of the kids, these packages will arrive just prior to their Spring Break. We wish them all safe journeys, wherever they travel!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT!

LEAH LERNER, UPENN '23

Bat Mitzvah '14, Confirmation '17

College: University of Pennsylvania

Field of Study: Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Post-grad Plans: I will be getting a Master's degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics.

Jewish Life in College: I have been very involved with Penn's Jewish community throughout college. I was the President of my Jewish a capella group (Penn Shabbatoners), a Birthright intern, Chair of Nariya (a musical Shabbat service), and overall, a frequenter of Hillel!

Fondest Memory at FVJC: Sitting with my parents at Shabbat services – it always brought such a feeling of calm after a hectic week.

Care Package Impact: Getting a package in college – especially one filled with food – is SO much fun! I always did my best to make the treats last as long as possible. I loved how each one was tailored to the holiday/season.



COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

JULIE GRESHIN, CHAIR, jbgreshin11@comcast.net

We have a lot of fun programs coming up - we hope you'll mark your calendars and join us! Here is what's happening in the months ahead:

April 22nd

We're bringing back the progressive dinner! We will start and end the evening all together at the temple where we'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and later dessert, brought by participants. Between those two courses, couples will be randomly assigned to a home where they will enjoy a home cooked meal by our host volunteers. Meet and mingle with new friends and "old.".. We hope you'll join us - this event has always been a favorite!

June 11th

We're hoping to hold another informal gathering at Brignole Vineyards. People of all ages can relax, enjoy a glass of wine, play games and listen to live music.

July 16th

Winding Trails picnic - this event was incredibly popular last year, and we're excited to be able to repeat it this year. From noon-4pm, participants will be able to swim, play tennis or basketball, hike in the beautiful surrounding woods, play board games under the pavilion, and enjoy a BBQ lunch provided by our Mens' Club.

Keep an eye out for more details and RSVP timing! We hope you can join us at 1 or all of these Community events!

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

"The power of socializing within the Jewish community is that we are given the tools to enhance our connections and strengthen our identities."



COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE

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

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

Erin Blankenship Winsted, CT
Becky & Paul Stiles & Family Westphalia Germany

WELCOME

We recently read an article published by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) which discussed the differences between joining vs. belonging to an organization. The gist of the article is that there is a significant difference. Joining an organization implies that even when a community is warm and welcoming, the work of the group has been completed when people purchase a membership. To us it feels much more transactional. Belonging to an organization implies we want to know you and we want you to be a part of us. We value what you can bring to the table. The concept is “now that you are here, help us be better.”

“Belonging” to FVJC is more how we want and are striving to be! We want to get to know you. Bring your ideas and your energy so we can build a more responsive community. We are working to build a community that aims for our members to be noticed and known for the individuals that we are. With this continued aim in mind, we will be participating in a lecture series from the URJ that will enable us to learn more about engagement as we continue to grow.

In the coming month we plan to do some outreach calls. It appears that what started as a COVID connector is now a new tradition. Our plan is to continue to check in with each other a few times a year. It's an opportunity to share upcoming events and to hear from you. The feedback we get from these calls is valued and appreciated.

Let's make this a spring of engaging in our community, being curious, and finding a sense of belonging in whatever way makes you feel valued. We'd love to hear from you!

Ruth & Marlo



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

Noah Goldblatt,
noah.goldblatt@gmail.com

This month the IDEA committee would like to share a resource from the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) who is sponsoring several workshops on racial equity, diversity and inclusion (REDI).

They run through the spring, summer, and into the fall and are free. They cover varied topics such as Reconsidering Pride, Microaggression, High Holiday Greeter Workshops and Understanding the Impact of Whiteness and White Dominant Cultures. Some are single events and some are a series. This is a great resource we have by being a part of URJ.

Consider registering for any of these events and sharing what you learned!

Noah

COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, VM RUBIN@AOL.COM

We are planning a Dignity Grows packing event open to all temple members on Sunday, October 15. In order to host this program where toiletry totes for those in need are assembled, we must fundraise. Please see the flyer for our Game Day on March 19 or make a donation by scanning the QR code.

We will be volunteering at Foodshare on Tuesday April 18 from 12:30 to 3:30. Please contact me for more information if interested.

Our involvement with GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) has begun. Opportunities to write letters or show up at the state Capitol to support bills for education, health care, the environment, homelessness, and gun violence are happening now. GHIAA provides help with the process. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved.

Finally, look for a drive to support JFS this month.

Please contact me for more information.

Viviann



We have helped with driving to appointments and providing some meals. We have also sent out snail mail cards and made phone calls to congregants who need a little extra something.

If you would like to be part of helping please contact me.

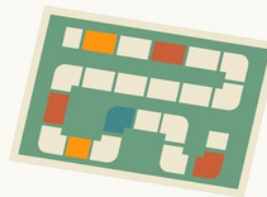
Barbara

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!
BYO cards & games to share!
3. \$10 per person.
Every \$10 covers one bag of products.
4. You can donate if you cannot attend!
5. Visit <https://dignitygrows.org/our-story/> to learn more about this great cause!



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



Scan to donate
today!
RSVP using the link
below!

CARING COMMITTEE

BARBARA FICHTENHOLTZ, CHAIR, babbof@gmail.com



girl scouts

MARCH 17TH, 7PM

EVJC-EMEK SHALOM 55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SISMUNTRY

COME
IN
UNIFORM!!

ALL
ARE
WELCOME!



CAMP HAVDALAH

MAR. 31ST 6PM

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

S'more's and
Chipwich Oneg follows!

**SONGS,
SNACKS,**

AND FUN!



Join us!



CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Honor Of

The birth of Cooper Wyatt Wurtzel, son of David and Kaitlyn Wurtzel
from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

In Memory Of

Michael Greenberg from David & Sandra Merrill

OPERATING FUND DONATION

In Appreciation Of Evan Marks, matching gift campaign from United Technologies Charity Custodial Account

In Memory Of

Helen Greif from Charles & Barbara Wolfe

Saul Finkle from Daryl & Karen Worobow

Stella Rulnick from Daryl & Karen Worobow

Irving Spungin, Clara Meister, Anna Spungin from Eric & Iris Spungin

Arthur Goldberg, brother of Stan and brother in law of Susan Levine. from John & Suzanne Schloss

Anne Schiff, mother of Elizabeth from Leonard & Elizabeth Banco

Arthur S. Goldberg brother of Stanley Goldberg and brother-in-law of Cantor Sue Levine. from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

David Berger Marshall K. Berger from Marshall & Karen Berger

Arthur Goldberg, brother of Stan Goldberg from Roy & Paula Schwartz

Arthur Schuman, father of Mark Schman from Roy & Paula Schwartz

Rita Blotner, Carl Blotner, Faye Solow, Nat Solow, Don Blotner, and Marion Solow from Steven & Linda Blotner

The Yahrzeit Of Esther Baron from Eric & Iris Spungin

DR. PETER LEBETKIN MEMORIAL FUND

The Yahrzeit Of Ernestine & Siegfried Kern from Gloria Lebetkin

HOLOCAUST TORAH SHOWCASE FUND

In Memory Of Melissa Towle from Barbara and Jerry Hirsch

MUSIC FUND In Memory Of Frederick R. Wachtel from Rona Gelber

NANCY M. PETRY MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of Cecelia Kaplan, mother of Liz Kempinski from Elizabeth Kempinski

NEST EGG FUND

In Memory Of Leona Lowry Engel from Richard/Marsha & Marsha Lowry

RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of

Simon Glaser, father of Ellie from Louis & Elinor Norton

Donald W. Paul from Sheldon & Kathleen Paul

In Support of

Fran Carnevale, with wishes of good health.

The Yahrzeit Of

The Yahrzeit of beloved mother of Gloria, Alice Radville from Arthur & Gloria Levin

Louis Levin, beloved father of Arthur from Arthur & Gloria Levin

DONATIONS

FEBRUARY 2023



SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!

DONATIONS

FEBRUARY 2023

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of

Hyman (Herman) Rosenfeld from Danny & Audrey Rosenfeld

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Memory Of

Arthur Goldberg from David Kravet

In Support of:

In support of Dennis Keenan with wishes for return to good health from David Kravet

Laura Fanelli with wishes for a quick and easy recovery from David Kravet

With wishes of health to Nan Shafer from David Kravet

With wishes of health for Carrie Kramer; in admiration of her courage from David Kravet

In Appreciation of:

Chrisi Bonchick, for her dedication to our community and her always cheerful spirit

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Memory Of

Arthur Goldberg, brother of Stanley Goldberg from Jon & Viviann Rubin



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