

# THE SHOFAR

MAY 2023 - IYYAR/ SIVAN 5783  
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom  
Simsbury, Connecticut



JOIN US  
FOR  
THIS  
INFORMATIVE  
PROGRAM!

ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME.

REGISTER  
BY  
VISITING  
YOUR  
MEMBER  
PORTAL



OR  
SCAN  
ABOVE

WE HOPE  
TO SEE  
YOU  
THERE!

## MAY 17TH, 7:30PM DISCOVERING ISRAEL @75

**COME EXPLORE ISRAEL  
& THE GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE**

COME HEAR ABOUT OUR RECENT ISRAEL ADVENTURE AND HELP PLAN THE NEXT ONE!  
PANEL & DISCUSSION WITH: FEDERATION CEO DAVID WARREN, RABBI BEKAH GOLDMAN,  
2023 FEDERATION TRIP PARTICIPANTS.  
MEDITERRANEAN REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

**55 BUSHY HILL ROAD  
SIMSBURY, CT  
RSVP:  
WWW.FVJC.ORG**





# A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman



Chaverim,

In early September, on my way home from officiating a wedding in New Hampshire, I received a call from David Warren, the President and CEO of our Greater Hartford Jewish Federation. He began with an uncomplicated ask: "Come to Israel on the Federation trip in March." It was a challenging moment for me personally, and the High Holidays were right around the corner. I could barely think straight from all the strain, so I simply said, "I'll look at my calendar and discuss it with my president." I hung up the phone as I pulled into a gas station, and promptly forgot the conversation entirely. After many follow-up phone calls and a lot of back and forth with our board and the Federation staff, I booked my flight in January. I arrived at Ben Gurion airport at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 9th, and began my 5th adventure in Israel.

It did not disappoint, as you all saw from my Facebook posts, however, I returned home feeling far less optimistic about the future of Israel than ever before because of the unrest that persists at the moment. This year we celebrate Israel's 75th birthday as a Jewish state; a momentous occasion that unfortunately comes during a moment fraught with intense uncertainty. I'm scared for the future of Israel and for once, my Israeli friends are scared as well. It is precisely this fear that spurs me into action.

I stood at the Kotel as the sun set and Shabbat began, feeling helpless in such a precarious moment.

I decided I needed to do more as a Jewish American than just 'visit' Israel. I decided I needed to be more knowledgeable about Israel and I needed to educate others about the struggles she and her people are experiencing. I decided I needed to be back in two years or less, and that you should come with me.

This is exactly why I would like to invite you to join me, David Warren, and others who joined me on the trip, as well as an amazing Middle East historian and geopolitical expert to learn more about what is happening in Israel right now.

It is no longer enough to be passive lovers of Israel from afar. We all need to do more, know more, and engage more with Israel. This is just our first step as a community. Please join us on May 17th @ 7:30 pm for Israel @75.

*With Blessings, Rabbi Bekah*



**MAY 4TH, 6PM**

**LEADERSHIP IMMERSIVE**

**MUSICIANS & LOVERS OF ALL MUSIC ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US!  
WINE AND CHEESE NOSH TO FOLLOW**

**MAY 5TH**

**6PM - KOSHER SHABBAT DINNER \$18PP  
7PM - NARIYAH - SHABBAT SING OUT  
ONEG FOLLOWING**

**MAY 6TH**

**10AM - MINI MINYAN  
6PM - COMMUNITY HAVDALAH**

Nariya - The Shabbat Sing Out, is a Friday night Shabbat gathering. The festival-like atmosphere and original music is built around a circle of musical architects who have prepared for the service the night before at the Leadership Circle Immersive.

The Leadership Immersive brings together members of the community who play instruments, love to sing, or are excited to learn new music to share with the community. Chords & Sheet Music will be available. It is a combination of Torah study and musical engagement (with no proficiency required in either area).

This meaningful gathering allows participants to connect with each other, the music and their own unique concept of the Divine through deep spiritual engagement. This will set the foundation for you to collectively lead Nariya - The Shabbat Sing Out on Friday night.



*Emek Shalom*

# **MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND MAY 4-6TH**

**RABBI MICAH SHAPIRO**



**55 Bushy Hill Road  
Simsbury, CT**



**RSVP:  
[www.fvjc.org](http://www.fvjc.org)**

**ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED VISIT [WWW.FVJC.ORG](http://WWW.FVJC.ORG).**



# SHABBAT DINNER MAY 5TH, 6PM RSVP BY MAY 3RD, 12PM

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

## JOIN US!

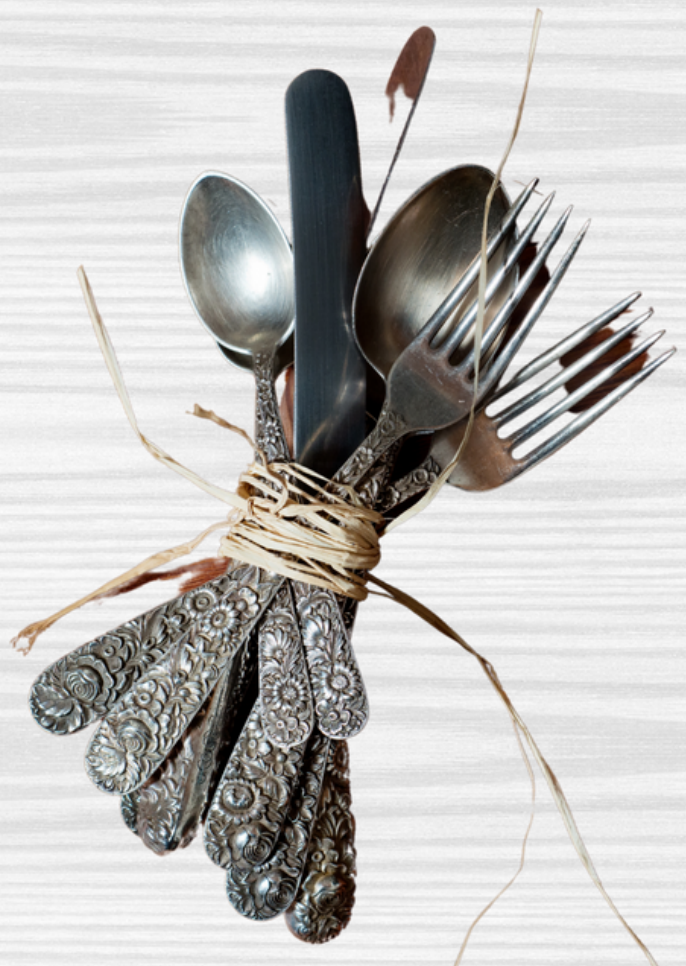
HONEY PECAN  
CRUSTED APRICOT CHICKEN  
STUFFED PEPPERS (VEGETARIANS)  
ROASTED ASPARAGUS  
MASHED SWEET POTATOES  
MESCULIN STRAWBERRY SALAD



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 ENSURE YOU CAN ATTEND.





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt



Dear Friends,

In my recent note about the 2023-2024 Slate of Officers, I mentioned that we've made some changes to the leadership model for our Executive Board of Directors to ease the workload of the President. I'd like to share with you a little more about this leadership transition here.

Our Board of Directors consists of Directors and Officers. In accordance with our bylaws, the Board of Directors manages the business and financial affairs of the congregation. It comprises the leadership of the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Emek Shalom and many also serve a dual role by leading some of our committees. The Officers include the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Officers together with the Past President form the Executive Board of Directors. Together, there are currently 19 lay leaders who make up our FVJC-ES Board of Directors.

The purpose of our committees is to formally bring together people with relevant interest or expertise to lead various elements of our congregation. I view the committees as an extension of the Board of Directors as they are where the detail work around activities and events gets accomplished. We have over 20 committees and encourage everyone to participate on a committee to help make our synagogue reflect the interest of our members. Please reach out to the committee chair if you're interested in joining a committee please reach out to the Committee Chair found in the document below.

The natural progression for leadership within our congregation is for members to first join and get involved on a committee. As they get more involved, they may eventually rise to be the leader of that committee. Many of these leaders are also voted onto our Board of Directors where more strategic and financial decisions for the congregation are made. We then look to those on the Board of Directors to eventually expand their role by joining the Executive Board, culminating in the role of President.



Throughout my term, I learned first-hand that the responsibilities of the President have been too extensive as a volunteer position for a working professional like me, resulting in few people being willing to step up to take on this important leadership position. Last fall I brought together members of our Executive Board and Strategic Planning Committee to review some reasons for this reality and to develop a sustainable solution for the long term. Together we created a new leadership model where the responsibilities of the President would be distributed throughout the 6 members of the Executive Board. As such, I have delegated full authority for oversight of various committees and business operations to other members of the Executive Board. This new leadership model works in accordance with our existing bylaws which allow the President to assign special duties to officers and directors.

Over the past 4 months I've seen a significant reduction in my workload (generally down to fewer than 8 hours/week), something I expect will make others feel more comfortable stepping up to the position of President in the future. What this means for you is that questions or issues which you've traditionally brought to the attention of the President may now be delegated to others on the Executive Board who can provide more focus for a timely resolution. The Executive Board now meets twice a month in order to facilitate communication and work together to resolve issues and concerns in a timely fashion. This model also has the benefit of cross training and providing more in-depth leadership experience to a broader group of people, thus putting us in a stronger position as we grow and embrace our future.

The 2023-2024 Proposed Slate of Officers includes myself as holding a third term as President of FVJC-Emek Shalom. In accordance with our bylaws, this shall be my last year as President. As we continue to implement this new leadership model, I will work closely with First Vice President Garry Berman to ensure a successful transition to our next FVJC-ES President in 2024.

*Loel*



# President's Shabbat

FVJC-Emek Shalom recently honored all who have served as president of the congregation. Ten past presidents (and/or their surviving spouses) joined us on our Bimah and several others joined online. It was an honor for the congregation to welcome everyone back to FVJC-ES.

Our oldest living presidents regaled the group with stories of our earliest days as a community, sharing stories about the years when we did not have a building, but relied on neighboring churches to assemble. They worked with a small group to raise funds for the initial phase of our building and constructed the lectern we use by hand.

It was a joy to have so much of our history in one room and to reconnect old colleagues and friends.

Committing to leadership is a gift to the community and helps FVJC-ES to remain strong. We thank you for your dedicated service.

Photo: Barbara Fichtenholtz, Loel Goldblatt, Paula Schwartz, Ted Fichtenholtz, Phil Ettman, Harvey Goodfriend, Jack Farber, David Wolf, Fred Seidenberg, Barbara Marcus (wife of Milton), and Tracy Smith





## FVJC EMEK SHALOM COMMITTEE CHAIR CONTACT MASTER

Clubs	President	email	Phone	Executive Board Liaison	Includes
Men's Club	Kevin Zall	<a href="mailto:k.zall2468@gmail.com">k.zall2468@gmail.com</a>	248-568-3344	N/A	Yom HaShoah Candles, Simsbury Celebrates
Sisterhood	Lisa Cooperman	<a href="mailto:lisa.cooperman@outlook.com">lisa.cooperman@outlook.com</a>		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	<a href="mailto:rabbiruit@fvjc.org">rabbiruit@fvjc.org</a>	860-651-4218	N/A	Rabbi's Hour, Nashim, Conversion Class, Israel American Political Conversation, Couples Book Club
Caring Community	Barbara Fichtenholtz	<a href="mailto:babbof@gmail.com">babbof@gmail.com</a>	860-658-0304	N/A	
Cemetery	Wendy Saffer	<a href="mailto:cemetery@fvjc.org">cemetery@fvjc.org</a>	860-673-6223	N/A	
College Outreach	Sue Lerner	<a href="mailto:suelerner@sbccglobal.net">suelerner@sbccglobal.net</a>	860-404-8884	N/A	
Education	Liddy Doyle	<a href="mailto:liddster@me.com">liddster@me.com</a>	860-881-9808	Tracy Smith	Mini-Minyan, Religious School, Mischpasha, Confirmation, JT Connect
Diversity	Jami Silver	<a href="mailto:jamisilver@gmail.com">jamisilver@gmail.com</a>	860-751-9916	Loel Goldblatt	
	Noah Goldblatt	<a href="mailto:noah_goldblatt@gmail.com">noah_goldblatt@gmail.com</a>	860-402-4910		
Fundraising	TBD			Jeremy Greshin	Capital Campaign
House	Dana Switzer	<a href="mailto:dana.switzer@collins.com">dana.switzer@collins.com</a>	860-651-4816	Paul Honig	Physical Plant, Grounds Beautification
Legacy Giving	Tracy Smith	<a href="mailto:tcsmith95@gmail.com">tcsmith95@gmail.com</a>	860-461-0236	Tracy Smith	
MORE	Marlo Zall	<a href="mailto:membership@fvjc.org">membership@fvjc.org</a>	860-408-1152	Loel Goldblatt	Chavurah's (Empty Nester, Baby Boomer, Couples Book Club, Interfaith, Young Families)
	Ruth Goldblatt	<a href="mailto:membership@fvjc.org">membership@fvjc.org</a>	860-214-9095		
Social Programming	Julie Greshin	<a href="mailto:jbgreshin11@comcast.net">jbgreshin11@comcast.net</a>	860-508-2789	TBD	Social Community event planning
Ritual	Robin Bergman	<a href="mailto:ritual@fvjc.org">ritual@fvjc.org</a>	860-402-8612	Tracy Smith	B'Nai Mitzvah
	Ken Weinstock	<a href="mailto:ritual@fvjc.org">ritual@fvjc.org</a>	860-918-5248		
Security	Stephanie Leite	<a href="mailto:stephanie@drleite.com">stephanie@drleite.com</a>	860-651-9886	Garry Berman	
Social Action	Viviann Rubin	<a href="mailto:viviannrubin@icloud.com">viviannrubin@icloud.com</a>	860-658-0236	N/A	
Social Media	TBD			N/A	
Strategic Planning	Mike Sperber	<a href="mailto:masperber@gmail.com">masperber@gmail.com</a>	860-651-3289	Loel Goldblatt	
Technology	Mark Orenstein	<a href="mailto:morenstein@alum.mit.edu">morenstein@alum.mit.edu</a>	860-658-5229	TBD	
Yom HaShoah	Chuck Minor	<a href="mailto:ctcrew@me.com">ctcrew@me.com</a>	860-218-3519		Yom HaShoah Reading of Names
Task Force	Lead	email	Phone	Executive Board Liaison	Includes
Covid-19	Billy White	<a href="mailto:williamsbwhitemd@gmail.com">williamsbwhitemd@gmail.com</a>	860-508-0606	Loel Goldblatt	
Grants	Paula Schwartz	<a href="mailto:paula@paulaschwartz.com">paula@paulaschwartz.com</a>	860-539-0524	Jeremy Greshin	
ShulCloud	Fran Carnevale	<a href="mailto:franb.camevale@gmail.com">franb.camevale@gmail.com</a>	860-597-2629	Paul Honig	







# ANNUAL MEETING

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND  
OUR VIRTUAL MEETING.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

ATTENDANCE LINKS  
WILL BE SENT AHEAD  
OF THE MEETING!





# THOUGHTS FROM Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung and we're getting some lovely weather. When the birds start chirping and the sky is clear and blue, most folks start thinking about summer vacation. When you're a rabbi, this weather usually means it's time to start planning for the High Holidays and the coming year. We're in the process of setting up an exciting year for religious school next year as well as a full adult ed program. We'll share details as they get finalized. Be sure to keep an eye out!

## Religious School

It's been an exciting year at FVJC – Emek Shalom Religious School. Our new curriculum and multimedia support technology have added depth and texture to our religious school program, and our students and their families have thoroughly enjoyed our community building events such as School Dinners, Hamantaschen Baking, and the Chanukah Mad Scientist event. Next year we will be instituting a new Teen Engagement Program for our High Schoolers and will also be sprucing up many of our classrooms. All in all, our Religious School is on a good track, but we need your help to continue to thrive.



*All the  
best,  
Rabbi  
Gavi*

## Please Help Our Religious School Continue to Thrive

Have you ever wanted to give back to our wonderful community here at FVJC – Emek Shalom, or to the Jewish People generally, but weren't sure how to do so? I encourage you to consider becoming part of our Religious School Teaching Team! One of the foundational values in Judaism is L'dor v'dor – from generation to generation. L'dor v'dor means that every generation of Jews has a responsibility to teach and guide the generations that follow. And I believe there are few better ways of transmitting the value of L'dor v'dor to our students than to have members of our FVJC – Emek Shalom community teaching them. If you don't have a background in teaching, please don't be concerned. We've been using our new curriculum ShalomLearning for a year now and it has proven to be very user-friendly – even for those who have never taught before. Each lesson plan comes fully developed with activities, supportive materials, and everything else you will need to lead meaningful and enjoyable lessons. And I will be here to support our teachers every step of the way. At present, we are still short on the number of teachers we need to fully round out our religious school program. So please consider joining our teaching team!

## Special Notice to Parents of Our Religious School Students

As an added incentive, if you have a child in FVJC – Emek Shalom's religious school, we are instituting Free Tuition for one of your children if you join our Teaching Team! That's a year of free tuition for one child, in addition to the regular hourly pay for teachers, when you join our team. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at rabbiruit@fvjc.org or 860-651-4218.

## Adult Education

We've also had a lot going on in Adult Education. We recently finished the Legacy of Lurianic Kabbalah class where we delved into the mystical origins of Kabbalat Shabbat. The next class – I Asked for Wonder – begins in May and delves into the beautiful theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of Judaism's most revered modern theologians. Also in May, I will be teaching the final session (of three) at Simsbury Library. This final session will focus on modern antisemitism.

I've also developed a catalog of classes for next year that will be coming out soon. Be sure to keep an eye out for it!





RSVP by:

by May 1st to rabbiruit@fvjc.org  
please include the  
with the total number attending.

# GRADE 3 SIDDUR SERVICE FRIDAY MAY 12TH 6:00PM

**BYO DINNER WITH  
A FUN ONEG FOLLOWS**

## **BNAI MITZVAH PREPARATION SERVICE**

LEADING & LEARNING TOGETHER  
A SHABBAT SERVICE EXPERIENCE

**May 13, 2023, 10AM**



**Grades 4, 5, 6 & 7**

**in-person attendance requested**  
Students and parents/guardians

RSVP: TO RABBIRUIT@FVJC.ORG



Register for Young Family  
Programming today!



## **MINI MINYAN LAG B'OMER**

**MAY 6TH 10AM**

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





ADULT  
ED.



I ASKED FOR  
**WONDER**

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

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



*Nashim,  
a woman's circle*

4PM Meeting  
In-Person & Virtual

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



**May 7, 2023**



*Rabbi's Hour 2023*



*Meets twice monthly,  
Monday's at 11AM  
May 8th & May 22nd  
Register today!  
Led by Rabbi Bekah,  
In-Person, and in Zoom!*





# COMMITTEE NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE

MARLO ZALL AND RUTH GOLDBLATT, CO-CHAIRS, [membership@fvjc.org](mailto:membership@fvjc.org)

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

Sarah and Robert Cleary and family - West Suffield

Amy and Ethan Raskind and family - Simsbury



As we have mentioned over the past few months, we have been participating in the URJ's (Union of Reform Judaism's) lecture series about engagement. Each time we meet there are a panel of guests who answer questions regarding engagement using the lens of their own congregations. The panelists are from around the country and include lay leaders and rabbis. Some of the congregations are in person, some are all virtual. Some represent very small congregations, some very, very large ones from all corners of the US. Each time we attend a session we are exposed to concepts the speakers share about their congregations and their approaches to engagement.

Here are some takeaways from our last session with URJ. We encourage you to take a moment and think about what these mean to you and to our FVJC family and how we embrace the concept of belonging and what that looks like for each of us.

Which one of the following strikes a chord with you and why? Are involvement and affiliation the same as belonging and engagement? Probably not. Belonging implies a feeling of being seen and understood. When you walk through the door at FVJC do you feel like you are seen? That you are understood? And if not, why not? What can we as a community do better so that all our members are seen and heard? That you are being seen as an individual no matter what. When we are valued for our individuality, we want to engage more and be heard more. We feel our voice counts. Engagement can translate to action, whether that means attending a service, volunteering for an event, coming to an event, participating on a committee or even making a monetary donation. Each is an integral part of belonging to our community in a vital way. You matter and we are glad you are here.

The Membership and Outreach Committee welcomes anyone who wants to participate on our committee. Feel free to reach out to Ruth or Marlo at [membership@fvjc.org](mailto:membership@fvjc.org) to learn more.

*Ruth & Marlo*



# COMMITTEE NEWS

## COLLEGE OUTREACH COMMITTEE, SUE LERNER, [suelerner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suelerner@sbcglobal.net)

Mazel tov to the following college Seniors! From a Freshman year interrupted by Covid to the ensuing challenges that the pandemic created, it's a huge accomplishment to get to this point, and it's a testament to our students' dedication and perseverance. As they move on to the next phase of their lives, we wish them all the success in the world! May they continue to grow and thrive, and may they always remember the values that our Jewish community holds dear. Once again, congratulations to all the graduates and their proud parents!

*Sue*

**Judy Bergman** is graduating from the School of Education at Drexel University, majoring in Elementary Education with a concentration in Middle Level Math and English, and minoring in Global Studies. She is currently interviewing with schools in Philadelphia for a middle school math teaching position to start this fall. Additionally, she will be completing her Master's in Global and International Education, also through Drexel University, by the spring of 2024.

**David Bonchick** is graduating from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a BFA in Fine Arts, with a concentration in Painting, Printmaking & Neon. David will be returning to Connecticut for a few months while he works to build his website, continues to network with artists and galleries, and looks to show his art both online and in person over the coming months. As many artists will tell you, they work to blend their love of craft with the need to earn a living and we are excited to see how David brings this balance together in the coming months.

**Hannah Boruchov** is graduating from Northwestern University in June with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Art Theory and Practice, as well as earning a Segal Design Certificate. Hannah hasn't yet decided where she will be post-grad, but her family is so proud of her and sure that she will make the world a better place with her amazing skills!

**Sam Feifer** is graduating from Vanderbilt University's School of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, with a minor in Engineering Management. In July, Sam will be working as a software engineer at Red Hat. While the position is fully remote, Sam plans to live in the NYC area.

**Leah Lerner** is graduating Summa Cum Laude from The University of Pennsylvania's College of Arts & Sciences with a Bachelor of Arts degree in PPE (Philosophy Politics & Economics). Leah will be continuing her educational journey at The London School of Economics where she will be pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations.

**Kory Zall** is graduating from Springfield College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport Management. During his time at Springfield, Kory was a four-year student athlete and a two-year Student Ambassador. After interning with the New York Red Bulls (a Major League soccer team) this past semester, Kory will be officially working for them for the rest of the 2023 soccer season doing game-day operations. Kory will be living in New Jersey.





# COMMITTEE NEWS

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, [VMRUBIN@AOL.COM](mailto:VMRUBIN@AOL.COM)

We volunteered at Foodshare this month (Not pictured is Stephanie Leite.). Please consider joining us next time!

Also, we are restarting the ongoing collection for Jewish Family Services that stopped during the pandemic. Please consider bringing cleaning supplies or full size toiletries to donate when you come to services.

Thank you so much for your support!

*Viviann*

Viviann  
[vmrubin@aol.com](mailto:vmrubin@aol.com)



## dignitygrows

This Mother's Day & Father's Day  
please consider  
donating to our Social Action Drive for  
Dignity Grows in honor of your loved one.

A \$10 donation fills a bag with  
personal hygiene care items  
for Women & Men who are in need.

A donation notice will be sent from Social  
Action to each recipient noted.

You can:

Send a check to the Synagogue Office  
or donate through your Portal to the Social  
Action Fund.

Questions?  
Social Action Committee  
Vivian Rubin, [vmrubin@aol.com](mailto:vmrubin@aol.com)  
Caring Community Committee  
Barbara Fichtenholtz, [babbob@gmail.com](mailto:babbob@gmail.com)





# COMMITTEE NEWS

## SECURITY COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE LEITE, CHAIR, [stephanie@drleite.com](mailto:stephanie@drleite.com)

The security committee is continuing our good work of assessing both our needs and learning from those in communities like ours. While we are extremely excited to see how our building improvements will make the community safer, we are also looking elsewhere for inspiration.

On 4/10 we had a great session with Mindy Levy, from Legion. Legion is an organization of people focused on learning martial arts to keep themselves and their communities safe. The training they offer is amazing. They will soon be interviewing people to join the next class, a year long

*Stephanie*

## CARING COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

BARBARA FICTENHOLZ, CHAIR, [babbof@gmail.com](mailto:babbof@gmail.com)

Caring Community is there for all congregants who may need a little extra attention. This might include snail mail, email, a phone call, meals, rides or anything we are able to do to help. Please consider helping when you can.

Contact us to be on our list. Have a great summer!

*Barbara*





# LAC B'OMER BBQ!

SPONSORED BY OUR FVJC-ES MEN'S CLUB

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS!

PLEASE RSVP TODAY!

**MAY 10, 6PM**

**FVJC-ES GROUNDS**

**BYO CHAIRS & A DESSERT TO SHARE!**

HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS  
SIDE SALADS, CHIPS & DRINKS

**RAIN OR SHINE**

COME RIGHT FROM WORK OR SCHOOL  
& CONNECT WITH FRIENDS  
RSVP BY VISITING YOUR PORTAL TODAY!





A close-up photograph of two hands weaving a basket with vibrant pink, green, and orange threads. The hands are positioned at the top of the frame, with fingers deftly manipulating the threads. The background is a dense, colorful pattern of woven threads.

# WEAVING OUR STORIES

**MAY 15 AT 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

FVJC - EMEK SHALOM, 55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY,

SIMSBURY UNITED METHODIST (SUM) &  
FARMINGTON VALLEY JEWISH CONGREGATION EMEK SHALOM (FVJC-ES)  
WILL UNITE AGAIN TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS,  
LEARN, AND DEEPEN THE DIALOG.

OUR EVENING WILL FEATURE A VEGETARIAN KOSHER POTLUCK MEAL. FVJC  
WILL BRING THE MAIN DISHES. SUM WILL BRING SALADS & SIDES.  
COME TO THE DISCUSSION. SEE YOU THERE.

RSVP:

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/5080E49A8AD22A3F94-BOOK](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E49A8AD22A3F94-BOOK)

*RSVP Today!*



*Join us!*



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





# COMMUNITY TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023 - 7PM

SERVICE & TORAH  
TEACHING  
ICE CREAM SNACK!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FVJC-ES 55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY





# LEARN TO PLAY **Mah Jongg!**

For New Players Only!

Mondays, 7PM  
June 5, 12, 19 & 26th

1st two classes are required.  
Class fee: \$15 for a Mah Jongg card  
Class size limited to 8 with a wait list.  
RSVP: Judi Cohen, [jcreads49@gmail.com](mailto:jcreads49@gmail.com)





## **ADRIENNE COHEN EDUCATION FUND**

In Honor Of

Asher Cohen's 6th Birthday from A. Ezra & Nancy Andrews

Asher and Ava Cohen Birthdays from David Andrews

# **DONATIONS**

**APRIL 2023**

## **CARING COMMUNITY FUND**

In Memory Of

Jeff Dauber step father of Kim Ganslaw and Cassie Budman from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

Dr. Richard Tannen from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

The Yahrzeit Of

Kurt Hopfer from Dr Sidney & Adrienne & Sidney Hopfer

## **COHEN MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

In Memory Of Nan Shafer from Mark & Ellen Lescher

## **COLLEGE OUTREACH FUND**

In Memory Of Noel Davidson from Fay Trachtenberg and Howard Goldman Trachtenberg

## **OPERATING FUND DONATION**

In Memory Of

Nan Shafer, a dear friend, fellow teacher and wonderful person. from Angela Ritter

Jeff Dauber from Cassie & Zachary Budman

Herbert Greif, from Barbara and Chuck Wolfe from Charles & Barbara Wolfe

Noel Davidson from Charles Bell

Marvis Bogatz, from Debra Bogatz

Noel Davidson from Denise Donnelly

In Memory of all who perished Ida Rosenthal Strauss (Sid's maternal Grandmother), Marianne Strauss (Sid's maternal Aunt) from Alzey, Germany, who were murdered at Treblinka October 1942. from Dr Sidney & Adrienne Hopfer

In memory of Noel Davidson. Iris and Eric Spungin from Eric & Iris Spungin

Bernice Wergeles from Fred & Amy Wergeles

Noel Davidson from James Vinick

Noel Davidson from Jim & Ronnie Eacott

Nan Shafer from John & Suzanne Schloss

Rebecca DeRosa from John & Suzanne Schloss

Noel Davidson from John Donnellan

In memory of Noel Davidson from KAREN PAHL

Noel Davidson from Laura Adelman

In Memory of Noel Davidson from Lenora and Tom White

Noel Davidson from Linda Jainchill Jainchill

Belle Lescher from Mark & Ellen Lescher

Jeanette Cohen from Mark & Ellen Lescher

Noel Davidson from Mark & Ellen Oland

Noel Davidson from Michael & Roberta Hurwitz

Richard Tannen from Roy & Paula Schwartz

Alexander Siegfeld from Sam Sheiker & Alisa Siegfeld

Noel Davidson from Steven and Rochelle Bartelstone

*Thank you!*



**SCAN TO DONATE TODAY!**



# DONATIONS

## APRIL 2023

### **DR. PETER LEBETKIN MEMORIAL FUND**

In Memory Of Nan Shafer from Gloria Lebetkin

### **HOLOCAUST TORAH SHOWCASE FUND**

In Memory Of Marcia Goldblatt by Loel and Ruth Goldblatt from Loel & Ruth Goldblatt

### **MARLENA DEROSA FAMILY PROGRAM FUND**

In Memory Of

In memory of Sumner Wolfe, father of Chuck Wolfe upon his yahrzeit From Barbara and Chuck Wolfe

### **MEN'S CLUB / SISTERHOOD DONATION - In Support of Yellow Candle Program**

from Robert & Sandra Bourke

from Sheldon & Christie Hausman

The Yahrzeit Of

Donation in memory of Esther Levine Yagaloff from Carolyn Yagaloff

### **MUSIC FUND**

In Memory Of

Ruth Bourke, Edith Epstein, Ida M. Resnick & Lillian Rulnick from Robert & Sandra Bourke

### **PAULA LIEBERMAN FUND**

In Memory Of our friend, Noel Davidson from Richard & Anita Newman

### **RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In Memory Of Nan Shafer from Claire Silverstein

### **RABBI DAVID SOBEL MEMORIAL FUND**

In Memory Of Nan Shafer from Robert & Sandra Bourke

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In Memory Of Jeff Dauber, grandfather to Naomi and Ben Ganslaw and Tovah and Ari Budman. from Gillian Kanter

### **SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND**

On Mothers Day in honor of the strong and wonderful women in my family: Tammi Girard, Marcy Kravet, Sam Kravet, Jessica Kravet, Jennifer Girard, Nathalie Melanson from David Kravet

In Memory Of Mary Ward from David Kravet

### **SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

In Memory Of For Sarah Mirkin's step father, Mr. Noel Davidson from David Skoloda  
Alice & Don from Susan Reich

### **THELMA R. SHENKMAN LIBRARY FUND**

In Memory Of Hans Stargarter from Henrietta Stargardter

Thank You





## 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](http://www.fvjc.org), **calendar:** [www.fvjc.org/calendar/](http://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