

THE SHOFAR

JUNE 023 - SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5783
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut



Pride
SHABBAT
JUNE 16, 7PM
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
AS WE CELEBRATE AND HONOR
LOVE!



FARMINGTON VALLEY JEWISH CONGREGATION
Emek Shalom

JOIN US
FOR
THIS
SPECIAL
SERVICE

ALL
ARE
WELCOME.

JUNE SERVICE SCHEDULE

JUNE 02
7PM

JUNE 09
6PM

JUNE 16
7PM

JUNE 23
7PM

JUNE 30
7PM

JOIN US!

A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman



Friends,

You may have noticed that there have been a few new faces on the *bima* with me over the past few months. Additionally, we were blessed to have Cantor Sue back on the *bima* this Spring. I'm going to be very honest; this has been a tremendous source of support for me.

Our tradition describes the person who leads services as a *shaliach tzibbur* — *shatz* for short. Literally, the term means “messenger of the community” and the role can be designated to anyone over the age of 13. In Jewish law, there are a number of mitzvot for which we can appoint agents (*sh'lichim*) to perform on our behalf. Praying is one of those. The *shatz* recites prayers on behalf of those who are unable to do so themselves. This is one of the reasons we say “amen” after hearing a blessing.

For the process to work, the *shatz* must be aware that members of the community are entrusting their prayers to him/her. It is a big responsibility. Anyone who serves as a *shatz* should see him/herself as representing the Jewish people, both in and out of synagogue. The *shatz* should be humble, recognizing that leading services is not about “showing off” one's voice or knowledge, not about perfecting the prayers, but rather about guiding a community and enabling worshippers to have a meaningful experience during prayer.

For the most part, we are not a lay-led community. I am almost always present to lead our worship experiences. However, we should all make an effort to be responsible for our own relationship with God and our own prayer practice. It is my goal to encourage everyone, young, old, and in between, to make the commitment to learn how to be a *shatz* and to take on leadership roles during prayer. It would be an honor to welcome anyone in our community to join me up on the *bima*.

With that in mind, I want to introduce Erin Blankenship. Erin is brand new to our congregation! She joins us from Tampa, Florida, having left due to the state's wave of anti-LGBTQIA+ policies. While she works in language translation and marketing, Erin has a substantial background in language education, a passion for music, and hopes to become a rabbi-cantor someday.

Erin has been very involved in the Jewish community, teaching Hebrew in Tampa and here at FVJC-ES, chanting Torah, and helping to lead services. Erin is just one of the amazing people who occasionally joins me on the *bima*. There is so much more to her story, which I'll be sharing in our first “Lay Leader Spotlight” this month. She will be co-leading with Rabbi Gavi and Adrian Durlister this summer while I'm away. I hope you'll support her and come to pray with her for Shabbat services in July.

I also want to encourage you to reach out to me if you'd like to learn or practice prayer leading skills. Our *bima* should not only be a place for those with fancy titles; all are welcome and encouraged to join me in guiding our community in prayer.

With Blessings, Rabbi Bekah

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt



Dear Friends,

As we finish up the fiscal year and start our summer planning activities for High Holidays and next School Year, I'd like to say thank you to all those who work behind the scenes to make our synagogue so strong and vibrant. We've done a lot over this past year to continuously improve our synagogue in numerous ways, and because of this we are active and growing. Here's a quick snapshot of a few of our ongoing projects:

In addition to our expanded series of classes through our Adult Education program, we kicked off this past school year with a new interactive Shalom Learning curriculum for our religious school students. Rabbi Gavi has also been working with two consultants funded by a grant from Jewish Community Foundation to upgrade our Mini-Minyan and Family Education Programs, which you'll see in place next year. In addition, Rabbi Bekah and Rabbi Gavi are now developing a new Teen/Confirmation Program.

Our House Committee under the leadership of Dana Switzer is working on several building improvements this year including new exterior siding and new windows in the administrative wing (the Sanctuary and Social Hall windows were replaced earlier this fiscal year). Meanwhile, the Adrienne Cohen Education Wing will soon be upgraded through the generosity of the Cohen family with new flooring, ceiling tiles, and a fresh coat of paint. Our Technology Committee, led by Mark Orenstein, just updated our computer server. And with a \$150,000 FEMA grant in place, we have a team led by Paula Schwartz who are working with numerous vendors to enhance our building security.

Within our sanctuary, a team led by Mona Murphy is working with the designer of our beautiful ark to replace our aging Torah Cover which will complement our ark doors and stained-glass windows. This team will be holding a fundraiser later this year to further beautify other ritual items within our sanctuary.

With a growing membership (new members joining us every month for the past 24 consecutive months), our Membership, Outreach, and Retention (MORE) committee, under the leadership of Marlo Zall and Ruth Goldblatt, launched a New Member Ambassador Program that helps to welcome and orient our new members by pairing them with established members. It's initiatives like this that have grown our reputation as a very welcoming synagogue community.

Investing in our building, membership, and community demonstrates our commitment to the future of FVJC Emek Shalom.

L Shalom, Loel

MEMBER OF THE YEAR:

I'm honored to share with you that the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation—Emek Shalom Board of Directors has unanimously voted to honor Dr. William (Billy) B. White as our 2023 Member of the Year. Billy will be honored on Friday evening June 23 for tirelessly volunteering his time and medical experience to ensure that FVJC—Emek Shalom remained safe and functional, and that our congregants felt safe and protected, throughout the Covid pandemic.

Loel Goldblatt, President



MEMBER OF THE YEAR SHABBAT
JUNE 23, 2023 - 7PM

DR. WILLIAM WHITE

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

ANNABELLE BOORKY

TEEN OF THE YEAR



LEGACY LEADERS



The Greshins

Legacy Leaders is a monthly e-blast that highlights community members who care deeply about sustaining our vibrant Jewish community by promising after-lifetime gifts through the Jewish Community Foundation.

We are inspired by their vision and generosity to support their favorite causes and organizations, and pass on their values for generations.

Why We Give: Jeremy and Julie Greshin

We each moved to the Hartford area in the mid-1980s and met at a Jewish Federation Super Sunday event. We were married at Temple Beth Israel and continued to be involved with a number of Jewish organizations, including Jewish Family Services, the Hebrew Home & Hospital, the Federation, and temple youth groups. In 1997, we moved to Simsbury and joined Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation - Emek Shalom (FVJC), where our 3 children became b'nai mitzvah and were confirmed. We have both served on the Temple's board.

Judaism has played a central role in both our personal and our family's lives, and we want to help other members of the Jewish community in perpetuity. We want FVJC to thrive as the center of Jewish cultural and religious life in the Farmington Valley. FVJC is a warm and wonderful community of people from many different walks of life, and all are welcome. We made LIFE & LEGACY gifts to ensure our Temple's community continues to grow and to pay forward what we have been blessed to have.

Whatever you cherish most about Jewish life, a Legacy gift can make it last forever. To explore your Legacy giving options, contact Elana MacGilpin, Development Officer:
emacgilpin@jcfhartford.org.

Leaving a legacy means knowing you did your part to ensure that the next generation will have a Jewish home in the Farmington Valley.

Life and Legacy gifts are after-life gifts of \$1000 or more that support FVJC's future by adding to its endowment. We are honored by each legacy gift and grateful for its impact on the future of our community.

Are you interested in becoming a L&L champion? Contact Tracy Smith.

THOUGHTS FROM Rabbi Gavi Ruit

Shalom Friends,

Religious School

Adult Education

I hope that you all are enjoying the shift to warmer weather. If you're like me, you're looking forward to the start of summer with its gentler pace and focus on relaxation. We recently had our last day of Religious School for this year, and we will soon take a summer hiatus from Adult Education. This summer I will be focusing on building the curriculum for our new teen engagement program as well as tweaking our Religious School program for next year. I will have more time than I do during the school year, and I would love the opportunity to get to know more of you better. If you'd like to join me for a cup of coffee or a walk, please let me know at rabbiruit@fvjc.org.



**2023-2024
SCHOOL REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**

**CLICK BELOW
TO VISIT YOUR
MEMBER PORTAL!**



*All the
best,
Rabbi
Gavi*

We had a lovely end to the Religious School year on May 21st. Our students played games like Jewish Jeopardy (a fun way to review the year's curriculum), joined their parents for *t'fillah*, as well as singing and dancing, and finished the day with a visit from our friendly Ice Cream Truck. All in all, it was a wonderful end to an eventful year.

Plans are underway to make next year even better! We will be instituting a newly developed Family Education program to give our students and their parents the opportunity to connect with other families and learn together. And thanks to the generosity of the Cohen family, we will be refurbishing the Education Wing so that our students have a fresh and bright place to learn. The first year using our new curriculum – ShalomLearning – has been a great success and we are continuing to build on the extracurricular activities our students enjoy so much.

It's time to think about registering your children in Religious School for next year! Please go through your ShulCloud portal as soon as possible to register. If you have any questions about our Religious School program, please contact me at rabbiruit@fvjc.org.

We've had very good turnout for our Adult Education programs this year, and I have developed a catalog of classes for the coming year that I hope you all will enjoy. The High Holiday prep class – Prepare to be Transformed – begins August 17th. This class is designed to help be as spiritually prepared as possible to get the most out of our holiday season. In February I will be teaching from my book *The Story of Dinah: Rape and Rape Myth in Jewish Tradition*. The Story of Dinah looks at the intersection of rape culture and Jewish tradition, and it has been very well received in both rabbinic and academic circles. In November and January, I will be teaching classes about Lifecycle Events and Jewish Practice. I will also be starting a new series called Jewish Thinkers – Big Ideas that looks at the impact of several important Jewish thinkers on Jewish life and practice. And finally, in March begins the class *The Megilla'ot and the Cycle of Life*. This teaching is inspired by my beloved teacher Tamara Eskenazi and looks at how the five megilla'ot (Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Ester) and their corresponding holidays (Pesach, Shavuot, Tisha B'Av, Sukkot, and Purim) works as a metaphor for the Adult Lifecycle.

Learning
IS FUN

REGISTER
NOW

JTCONNECT
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN
FOR THE 2023-2024
PROGRAM YEAR!



PJ HAVDALAH - 4PM
JUNE 10

55 BUSHY HILL ROAD, SIMSBURY
VISIT WWW.FVJC.ORG TO RSVP!!!

SUMMER CAMP
CRAFTS & SONGS!

Join us in your
jammies
& bring a friend!

For children
ages birth -5!

VISIT
YOUR
MEMBER
PORTAL
TODAY!

COMMITTEE NEWS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LIDDY DOYLE, CHAIR, LIDDER@ME.COM

Many of you may be familiar with Annabelle from seeing her playing quietly with some of our youngest members during services on Friday evenings. Our Religious School staff knows Annabelle as a reliable, consistent, and positive teen helper in Morah Marlo's Pre-K/K class. Annabelle always has a smile on her face, no matter what is going on around her. When asked to help with a specific task, Annabelle's answer is always "yes!" We are grateful for Annabelle's positive, helpful presence each week at Religious School, and we look forward to watching her grow in her teaching skills with us.



**TEEN OF THE YEAR:
Annabelle Boorky**

Congratulations to Annabelle for being recognized as our 2023 Teen of the Year!

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank all of our teaching staff from this school year. It is truly a community effort to make our religious school run, and our teachers and volunteers are critical. Please reach out to me with your interest in joining the Education Committee, and/or your interest in volunteering for specific Religious School events.

Sincerely, Liddy Doyle, Education Chair

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 family this month:

Eric and Alexa Greenberg and Family from Canton, CT
Miriam Greenberg from Simsbury, CT
Loren Webber and Don Shubert from West Hartford, CT
Nancy and Robert Sharp from Mooresville, North Carolina



We are hoping to put together a golf foursome to represent FVJC Emek Shalom at the Simsbury-Granby Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament on June 9. We are sponsoring a tee as well so if you are playing on another team and see our sign, take a picture and share it on social media and tag FVJC Emek Shalom or send to membership@fvjc.org so we can post it. We are also looking forward to our annual picnic in July!

The Membership and Outreach Committee welcomes anyone who wants to join our committee. We are a very friendly group and it's a great way to meet our members and make a difference. If you are interested in learning more please contact Ruth or Marlo at membership@fvjc.org.

Ruth & Marlo



MEMBER PICNIC

Members are invited to come together
on **JULY 16TH from Noon- 4:00PM**
for an afternoon of fun games, food and friends!

All your favorite picnic foods and much more!
Games for all ages including tables for cards and mahjong.

Water sports, basketball, volleyball and all that Winding Trails has to offer.
Bring your bathing suit and towel if you plan to do water sports.

Come for an hour or stay the entire time. Watch for our RSVP coming soon!

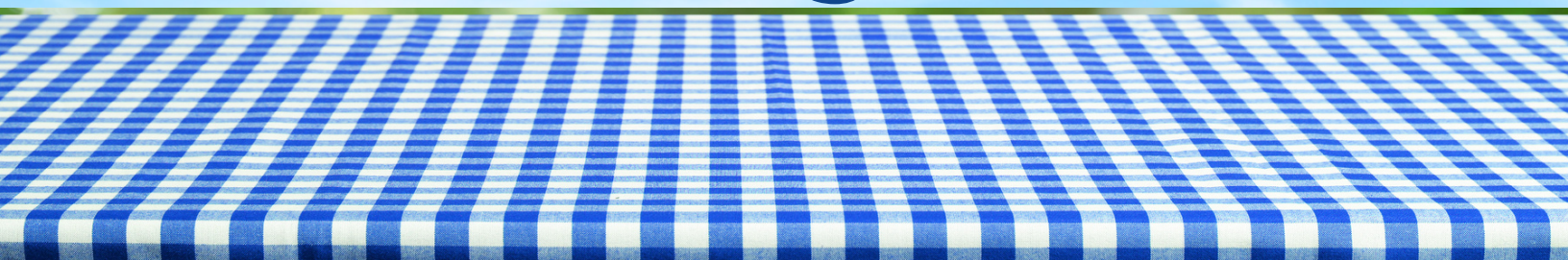
No cost to members due to a generous member donation!
Just a day of connecting and fun! Look forward to seeing you there!

Reach out to the Social Planning Committee with questions
Julie Greshin, Chair, jbgreshin11@comcast.net
Laurie Kyzivat, Liz Melvin

2023 MEMBER PICNIC

July 16TH, Noon-4PM

Winding Trails



COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, VMRUBIN@AOL.COM

Happy Summer from Social Action!

Our current focus is on food insecurity right here in Simsbury. We will have an ongoing collection of food for Simsbury Social Services. Things most needed include: coffee, tea, oatmeal, granola bars, pasta sauce, crackers, and canned tuna and chicken. This effort will be ongoing through 8/15. Please consider bringing an item to the temple when you visit this summer. Together we can make a difference.

To support the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance's social justice agenda, temple members have been writing letters to support bills relating to education, healthcare, the environment, and housing. Please contact me if you'd like to learn more! Our voice will be louder with greater participation.

I wish you a relaxing and fun summer.

Viviann

vmrubin@aol.com



Summer FOOD DRIVE

Through August 15th
Drop-off in our Lobby

A collection of various food items including jars of jam, bottles of juice, boxes of corn, cans of tuna and sardines, jars of orange and honey, cans of beans, a jar of carrot, a jar of cucumber, and a can of peas.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

OATMEAL, COFFEE, TEA, CANNED MEALS,
PASTA SAUCE, GRANOLA BARS, CRACKERS, TUNA,
CANNED CHICKEN AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTACT
OUR SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
THROUGH THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE
ADMIN@FVJC.ORG

COMMITTEE NEWS

CARING COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

BARBARA FICTENHOLZ, CHAIR, babbof@gmail.com

We are the committee of FVJC-ES that helps those in our community who need something extra when dealing with an illness, a death, or perhaps becoming new parents.

Please join us in making phone calls or sending emails or cards. Have a wonderful summer.

Barbara Fichtenholtz

babbof@gmail.com



SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

July 1st - August 25th

All Shabbat Services will be held at 6:30PM

A light summer Oneg will follow services

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In Memory Of

Gilda Lieberman, Aunt of Barbara Fichtenholtz from Mr David & Mrs.Linda Levine

DONATIONS

MAY 2023

COLLEGE OUTREACH FUND

In Memory Of Jacob Kaufman from Betty Abrams

OPERATING FUND DONATION

In Honor Of Robin Bergman from Richard/Marsha & Marsha Lowry

In Memory Of

Mollie Merrill from David & Sandra Merrill

Noel Davidson from Ellie Cohen

Bernice Weinstock from Kenneth Weinstock & Pamela Dutta

Morris Banco, father of Leonard Carl Schiff, father of Elizabeth from Leonard & MsElizabeth Banco

Nathan Lescher from Mark & Ellen Lescher

Bernard Weiss from Mitchell & Ronnie Weiss

Noel Davidson, father of Linda Davidson Soboroff from Susan Siderman

MEN'S CLUB / SISTERHOOD DONATION

In Support of the Men's Club from Steven & Linda Blotner

MUSIC FUND

In Memory Of Minnie Warshaw Dick, Great Aunt of Rona from Rona Gelber

RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation Of Rabbi Bekah's support and guidance from Kar & Randi Chin

In Memory Of

Nan Shafer, from her Monday Mah Jongg Friends

Carol H. Jensen from Robin & Craig Faust

Sybil Goldberg from Stanley Goldberg & Cantor Susan Levine

Richard Tannen from Todd & Andrea Burrick

SANDRA L. KRAVET - WOMAN OF COURAGE FUND

In Honor Of

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 Appreciation Of

Mom (Barbara Wolfe) Happy Mother's Day!

Love, Your daughters Jen Wolfe, Beccky Stiles, & Sarah Balazs from Jennifer Wolfe

Kate Scurlock for Mother's Day from Rhonda Scurlock

Hilary Cocalis for Mother's Day. from Rhonda Scurlock

thank you



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