

THE SHOFAR

NOVEMBER 2023 - CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5784
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom
Simsbury, Connecticut

Hatikvah, 'The Hope'

*Kol od balevav p'nima
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa'atei mizrach kadimah
Ayin l'Tziyyon tzofiyah
Od lo avda tikvateinu
Hatikvah bat sh'not al-payim
Lih'yot am chofshi b'artzeinu
Eretz Tziyyon vY'rushalayim*

כָּל עוֹד בַּלֵּב פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יִהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
וּלְפָאֵתִי מִזְרַח קְדִימָה
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
עוֹד לֹא אֲבָדָה תִּקְוַתֵּנוּ
הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שָׁנוֹת אַלְפִים
לְהִיּוֹת עַם חֶפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

So long as within the inmost
heart a Jewish spirit sings,
So long as the eye looks eastward,
gazing toward Zion,
Our hope is not lost —
the hope of two thousand years:
To be a free people in our land,
the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

A WORD FROM, Rabbi Bekah Goldman

Dearest Chevre,



The past few weeks have felt like an eternity as the inescapable passage of time has slowed to an unbearably slow pace. As the clocks ticks by in slow motion, we have become acutely aware of two painful realities:

Israel and her people are in pain. We are suffocating in our uncertainty about the safety and wellbeing of those closest to us in Israel - our friends and family in harm's way. This has become an excruciating new norm, permeating our lives.

On our shores, it feels like accelerant has been poured onto the darkest and most hateful recesses of humanity as the flames of antisemitism spread far and wide across our nation, and even within our seemingly bucolic and sheltered New England community.

Both are undeniably terrifying and despair-inducing, yet we must rise against the hopelessness that could envelope us by doing what we, as a community and as a people, do best — persevering as one.

Let us:

- Reach out to each other with compassion;
- Make space to share our genuine feelings, worries, and stories;
- Act, so that we feel like we are helping in some way;
- Resolve to resist the despair that dampens our spirits;
- Actively learn what brought us to this moment and what happens next.

Most of all, let us commit to living!

In the words of my teacher, Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President of Hebrew College, "The deepest, most meaningful, and most effective form of resistance is to continue to live — and help others live — full, rich, faithful, courageous Jewish lives in vibrant Jewish communities. In this sense, it is more vital than ever that we continue to pursue ... Jewish life. If we lose ourselves amidst the noise of the moment — if we lose our collective sense of identity, meaning, and purpose —we have lost everything."

Let us fight the urge to get lost in the darkness, and instead be determined to find tikvah (hope) — that it may be our guide in these moments.

*With Blessings,
Rabbi Bekah*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Loel Goldblatt



Dear Friends,

As we navigate through a variety of emotions about the war in Israel and associated terror around the world, I also see us coming together as a strong and resilient community.

Over the past couple weeks, I've heard from many of you inquiring about the security of our building and the safety of all those who enter. I want to reassure you that we feel prepared based on the active security work and relationships we've been building over the past several years. As I'll describe below, you'll see we've worked together with the experts in this field to improve the security around our building for the safety of all our members and guests.

Our security team is led by FVJC-Emek Shalom member Stephanie Leite, Psy.D. Stephanie is a forensic psychologist and past president of the New England chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals and specializes in preventing targeted violence. She works closely with John Colangelo, the Community Security Director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. John has nearly 30 years of experience in law enforcement. He now serves as a representative of the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, who have access to deep intelligence databases. John works full-time to develop and administer a comprehensive program that provides threat mitigation and security consultations and trainings to Jewish institutions throughout Greater Hartford.

We have also been building a close relationship with the Simsbury Police Department. Along with SCN, they have been our partner in security and safety. They joined us at an FVJC-ES Security Committee meeting earlier this year and have been providing extra patrols of our building during Religious School as well as for our Religious Services since the recent attacks on Israel. As you're aware, we also hire an independent security company to provide armed security during Religious School, Religious Services, and all public events held at our facility.

Additionally, over the past year we have incorporated \$150,000 of security enhancements to our building and grounds through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Some of these enhancements include: a significant increase in number and quality of security cameras in and around our building, bollards and large rocks around the building, security improvements to windows, new fencing around the playground, and additional locking features on our doors.

It's also heartwarming to know that we have the support of all the leaders of other houses of worship in Simsbury. As you saw by their recent letter to our congregation, they are offering support and solidarity to all of us, a very comforting gesture during this difficult time for Jews around the world. In addition, Rabbi Bekah reached out to the educational leaders of all the local public and private school districts in our area to be a resource to them for their questions about what's happening in Israel.

In summary, in addition to enhancing our security, we have strengthened existing relationships and community connections with our neighbors, the Simsbury Police Department, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The best way to make us a safer space is to take the free and easy trainings that we've been offering to our community so that everyone can be part of the solution.

L'Shalom (In Peace),

Loel



Simsbury

TOWNWIDE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023
6 PM

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SIMSBURY
689 HOPMEADOW ST.
SIMSBURY, CT 06070

VISIT [FCCSIMSBURY.ORG](https://fccsimsbury.org) FOR MORE
INFORMATION!

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!
A RECEPTION IS SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW
IN PALMER HALL.



COMMITTEE NEWS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

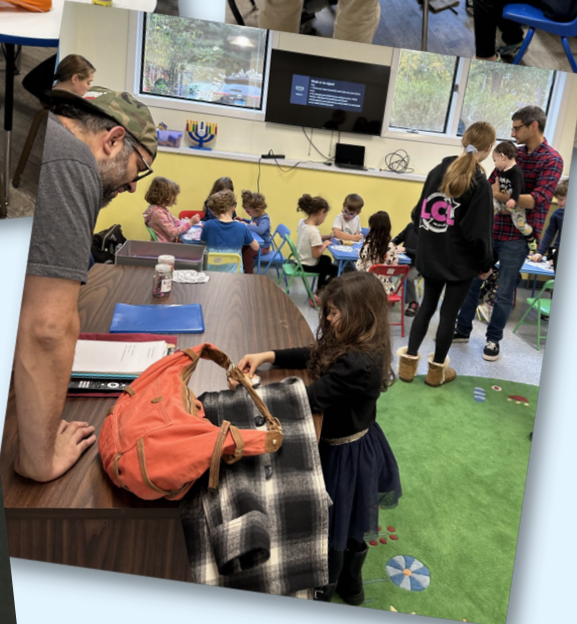
LIDDY DOYLE, liddster@me.com

On behalf of all of the Religious School staff, I would like to thank the parents for joining us at our first Open House. It was a pleasure to bring parents and children together in the classrooms. students and teachers were able to share both what they've been learning, and brief pieces of our Shalom Learning curriculum with our guests.

As we look forward to our many School activities (grade level dinners, students assisting in leading our Shabbat services, and family education sessions), we acknowledge and appreciate all of our volunteers whose time and presence help bring these events to fruition.

Please mark your calendars for our School/Parent Education Committee meeting on 11/21/23 at 8pm (zoom).

Liddy



SCHOOL PROGRAMMING



ATZMEINU

DISCOVERING OURSELVES
TEEN ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
GRADES 9-12



VISIT YOUR PORTAL TO REGISTER TODAY!



YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING

MINI-MINYAN & PJ HAVDALAH!
MUSIC, STORIES, CRAFTS,
AND MORE
FOR FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN
AGED BIRTH - 5
VISIT WWW.FVJC.ORG
TO REGISTER
ALL ARE WELCOME!



FAMILY DINNER GRADES 6 & 7

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

NOVEMBER 17, 6PM

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



FAMILY EDUCATION

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH LEARNING

✓ PREK-KINDERGARTEN - 10.15.2023
GRADE ONE - 11.05.2023
GRADE 2 - 12.17.2023
GRADE 3 - 01.21.2024
GRADE 4 - 02.11.2024
GRADE 5 - 03.03.2024
GRADE 6 - 03.17.2024
GRADE 7 - 05.05.2023
9:30AM



JTCONNECT TLPI @ FVJC

CALENDAR 2023-2024

September

10 Kickoff Celebration

October

13-14 JTConnect/USY Shabbaton on
Jewish Giving @Camp Laurelwood

22 First Day of TLPI@FVJC

November

5 Teen Conference on Antisemitism
@Emanuel

12 TLPI@FVJC (Combined Session)

19 Social Action Project: Mega
Pumpkin Pie Bake

December

17 TLPI@FVJC

11 Social Event: JTConnect Hanukkah
Party

January

14 Social Action Project: MLK Day of
Service

21 TLPI@FVJC

February

10 Social Event: Pink Shabbat
w/USY@Emanuel

25 TLPI@FVJC

March

13 Mandatory Event: TLPI Parent's
Night

17 Social Action Project: Dignity
Grows @SSDS

20 TLPI@FVJC Zoom Session
(7-8pm)

23 Social Event: JTConnect's Purim
Party Bus

24 TLPI@FVJC

April

21 TLPI@FVJC (Combined Session)

May

2 JTConnect's Eat, Drink, and
Connect Event - Teens Attend
Free

19 TLPI@FVJC

20 Mandatory Event: TLPI Grants
Celebration and Senior Send-Off

JTConnect @ FVJC meets 1X per month on
Sunday from
12:00pm-2:00pm at the
Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation
(55 Bushy Hill Road, Simsbury)

JTConnect's Teen Philanthropy Program
TLPI@FVJC returns for a 2nd year! Welcoming
returning and new students 8th-12th grade!

Change the world with your peers and gain
valuable leadership skills!

*TLPI Combined Session brings TLPI students
from the (3) synagoues sites where we offer our
TLPI program, to one location to hear from a
featured speaker from the Jewish nonprofit
community.



JTConnect @ FVJC
TLPI Educator
Caroline Poland
JTConnect's Executive Director



COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

JULIE GRESHIN, CHAIR, jbgreshin11@comcast.net



We had a wonderful turnout at our first event of the new year at Lost Acres Vineyard in early October. The weather was spectacular, and people relaxed and chatted with old friends and made some new ones.

Coming up next is our second annual Trivia Night, hosted at FVJC-ES on Saturday night, **November 11th from 7:00-10:00 pm**. This adult members-only event was a lot of fun last year, and we hope for a repeat this year. We will run through about 75 questions from a variety of categories including World, Ancient and Presidential History, Art, Music, Movies, Television, Geography, Sports, Current Events, Literature, Science and Jewish Topics. There's something for everyone! BYOB and snacks to share with your table.. Coffee/tea and desserts will be served. There is no reserved seating; you'll pick your seat when you arrive. There is no cost for this event, but please sign up so we know how many people to expect. And there are prizes for the winning table! We hope to see you there!

SECURITY COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE LEITE, CHAIR

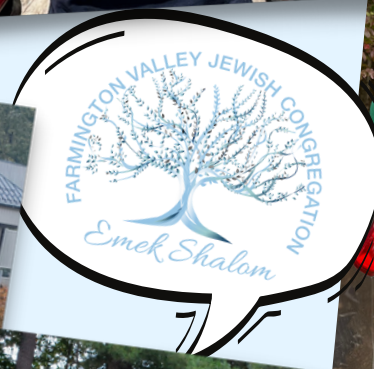


The past few weeks have been difficult ones, leaving us all feeling vulnerable. We understand your concerns. We hope it's reassuring to know that many different facets of the FVJC-ES community have preventatively focused on our safety for many many years. Indeed, when the Simsbury Police Department came to our building recently, they were impressed with our diligence to safety. For a complete description of what we have been doing, please read the president's message.

We will continue to monitor for safety concerns, along with our SCN and Simsbury PD partners, and will keep you informed of anything concerning. Together, we are strong. If you are interested in joining the committee, please sign up for the doodle poll so we can get together in November: <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/a0Zq4GRe> See you soon, and be safe.

The Security Committee

OUR COMMUNITY



THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO SHARED THEIR PHOTOS!



*All
members
are
welcome!*

*Join
us!*

TRIVIA

NIGHT.

**NOVEMBER
11th at
7:00 PM**

SOCIAL HALL

A night of friendly
competition where you can
test your knowledge in a
variety of categories!

**BYO DRINKS (ALCOHOLIC AND/OR NON-ALCOHOLIC) & SNACKS TO SHARE
WITH YOUR TABLE.**

**A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE DESSERTS WILL BE PROVIDED,
AS WELL AS COFFEE/TEA/SELTZER.**

**THE EVENT IS COST-FREE
WE ASK THAT YOU RSVP BY VISITING
YOUR MEMBER PORTAL TODAY**

Visit your Portal to register today!

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 family this month:

Leesa Wallace Avon CT
Rita Dauber Bloomfield CT
Suzanne Jacobs St. Paul MN
Jennifer & Nick Shufro Sarasota FL
Raina Cox & Nola Cox Simsbury CT
Susan Shapiro Simsbury CT
Julia Harrington Avon CT

Welcome

On November 3 the Membership and Outreach Committee is sponsoring our New Member Shabbat. We are excited to officially welcome the many new members of all ages to our FVJC family. Since our last New Member Welcome Shabbat a year ago, 43 member and member families have joined our community! We have added members both locally in Connecticut and virtually. Currently we have members in Minnesota, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Illinois, Florida, Massachusetts, and Germany! I mean how awesome is this! The Membership and Outreach Committee has also started sending welcome packages to our virtual members. Why not spread the love with some tangible connection to our community. We hope our newest members, whether local to the Farmington Valley, or in our more far reaching communities, enjoy the gifts we deliver and mail to them. It is one of the perks of being on the Membership and Outreach committee to be the bearer of gifts!

We are aware that it is important to us all that we remain the little shul in the woods and yet meet everyone's needs. These needs grow and change as our family grows. One way is to continue to nurture our ambassador program. It is still active and we are continually matching new members who wish to have an ambassador with a current member who has volunteered. It is heartwarming when folks make a real connection and new friends are made. This year we were able to see our ambassador pipeline move to the next level. A few of our newer members who were beneficiaries of the ambassadors last year are now ambassadors themselves this year! If you get a call from us please consider volunteering in this small way to help keep our community connected.

We look forward to seeing a full sanctuary for our **Welcome Shabbat on November 3 at 7PM..**

We welcome your input and expertise, time and effort no matter how big or small. You can reach us at membership@fvjc.org.

See you soon,

Ruth & Marlo

COMMITTEE NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

VIVIANN RUBIN, CHAIR, vmrubin@aol.com

Social Action hosted a Dignity Grows packing event in October attended by 25 people who helped to pack personal care items for those in need. Many thanks to our volunteers!

We will volunteer at Foodshare on November 16th. There are a few spots left. Contact Viviann if interested.

For All Ages, whose mission is to decrease loneliness in our community by forging connections, will be holding Unite by Light, where luminaries will be placed on Hopmeadow Street on Sunday December 3. This is a community event where people come to view the luminaries and hear music. This year FVJC will host an event to decorate bags to place on the luminaries. It will be held on **Sunday, November 12 at 10 am. To sign up to attend, click on the link below.** All attendees will get a free cupcake.

Finally, we hope to get more folks in our congregation involved in the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance. Our temple has joined 33 other faith-based groups in the Hartford region to advocate for greater social justice in our communities. Areas of interest include the environment, education, housing, gun violence and access to health care. By joining together, we can advocate to effect change on these important social justice initiatives. Please contact Viviann if you'd like to learn more.

Viviann



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

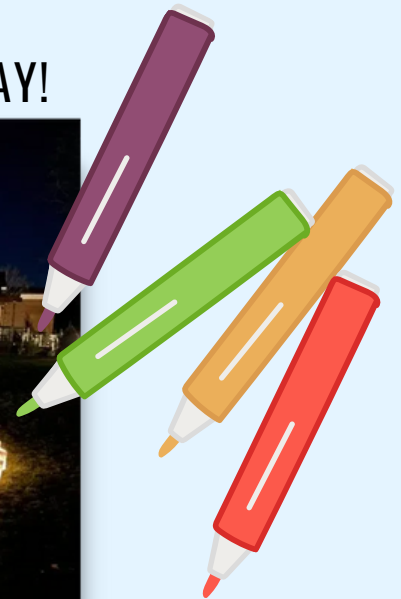
FOR ALL AGES LUMINARY DECORATING EVENT! JOIN US!
FVJC-ES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 10AM

The Power of Intergenerational Connection
Bringing people together across the ages is
important for so many reasons.

For All Ages was founded to end loneliness and isolation, shift norms and outcomes for older adults, and improve the mental, physical, and social health of all people of all ages.

Reuniting the generations, showcasing the wisdom and vibrancy of older adults, and countering the loneliness and isolation that are at epidemic levels across all age groups.

REGISTER FOR OUR EVENT TODAY!



Please click below for a wonderful video, produced by Kendra Brisco in partnership with Duncaster, it highlights FOR ALL AGES.

During this beautiful time of year, Sisterhood has a lot to be grateful for. We are growing in numbers with the addition of many new and wonderful women to not only Sisterhood but to FVJC-ES as well. The annual Yom Kippur breakfast and Sunset in the Sukkah were sponsored and arranged by Sisterhood with the gracious help of many members.

We look forward to many upcoming events such as the Banquet and the Vendor Fair and hope to see you soon.



Reach
out
to
President,
Lisa
Cooperman
at
[lisa.cooperman@
outlook.com](mailto:lisa.cooperman@outlook.com)
for
information
about this active
group!



CRAFT & BOUTIQUE FAIR

SPONSORED BY FVJC SISTERHOOD

Sunday, December 3, 2023
9am to 2pm
FVJC-ES



55 Bushy Hill Rd, Simsbury



HOLIDAY, CRAFT & PERSONAL SHOPPING
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



Reach
out
to
President,
Kevin Zall at
k.zall2468@gmail.com
for
information
about this active
group!

**SUKKAH BUILD
5784!**

Thank you to our Men's Club for
coming out to build our Sukkah!

We appreciate your dedication
to the Community!

COMMITTEE NEWS

GRANTS COMMITTEE

PAULA SCHWARTZ, CHAIR, paula@paulaschwartz.com

Our FEMA Security Grant project is nearing the end and we hope to have it completed within the month. Thank you to our terrific team for helping to reach the finish line and give us updated security measures. The team includes Paula Schwartz, Mark Lescher, Dana Switzer, Max Cohen, Eric Spungin, and Tracy Smith. There are now 28 cameras installed, new lighting around the building, bollards and rock protection around the building, new walkie-talkies, window film protection and numbering, new doors in the social hall, handicapped access at the social hall with intercom, card swipe, and a new heated ramp. The main door lock has been updated, new locks have been placed inside bathroom doors, panic buttons have been installed for our staff and a new, safer fence erected around our playground. While we stay vigilant during these difficult times, these measures were taken after an extensive security assessment was conducted through Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and Secure Community Network.

Any questions, please contact Paula Schwartz, chair at 860-539-0524.

Paula

CARING COMMUNITY

BARBARA FICHTENHOLTZ, CHAIR
babbof@gmail.com

Pink Shabbat was wonderful.

We saw almost 100 people join us for services.

We appreciate the participation of everyone who served on the committee, took part in the service, or helped provide the Pink Oneg.

Mazel Tov to Carrie and Robin!

Times can be very hard for many of us now. If we can lend support to you in any way please contact me.

Wishing all our FVJC-ES families a Happy Thanksgiving and Shalom.

Barbara

Caring Community



COMMITTEE NEWS

MITZVAH KNITTERS

JODI MARKS, CHAIR, Jodiellen@comcast.net

Do you knit or crochet?

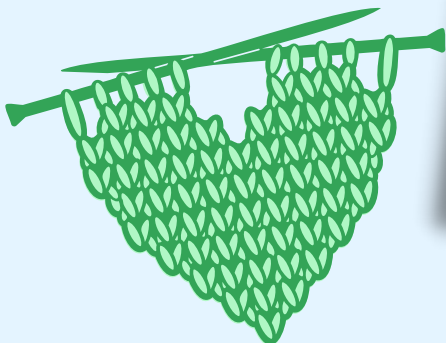
If so, the Mitzvah Knitters wants you! We knit or crochet shawls that we donate to cancer patients receiving chemo.

The group was started as a Bat Mitzvah project by Elora Rosedale many years ago. We continue it in memory of Elora's mom Aileen Rosedale, who was instrumental in keeping the group going. We meet once a month on a Monday morning. The next two scheduled meeting are on November 13 and December 11 at 11 am at the temple. Mahjongg players can feel free to bring a lunch to eat before Mahjongg. Anyone who isn't able to come to the meetings, can make shawls at home and bring them to the synagogue office. I'm also willing to pick them up from you.

In addition, we have some experienced knitters who are willing to teach, if you want to learn. If interested, please contact me. We would love to have you join us.

Mitzvah Knitters
Jodiellen@comcast.net
860-994-3869

Pictured below are
16 completed shawls
ready to go to the
chemo center.



2024 Mah Jongg Card Can Be Ordered

Orders are now being placed for the 2024 cards from the National Mah Jongg League. The NMJL cost is \$14 for a regular card and \$15 for large print size.

You may bring an envelope to Monday Mah Jongg with the following information:

In an envelope please put your name, address, cellphone and email address on the outside and the total of cards ordered for each size.

If you're ordering for others and you want them to receive them directly, include a list in the envelope with the above information for each person ordering.

Make checks payable to Paula Schwartz, 26 Buckingham Road, Avon, CT 06001 or use Zelle at 860-539-0524 (Paula's cell phone) or bring cash.

If you order through the mail, please place the above envelope in a mailing envelope addressed to me.
Paula Schwartz, 860-539-0524

Deadline is December 1.



Monday

MAH JONGG!

1-3PM

Click here to pre-register with
Program Coordinator
Paula Schwartz

All levels are welcome to join
this fun, active group!

KRISTALLNACHT

5784 COMMEMORATION
NOVEMBER 8TH, 5:30PM
IN-PERSON &
STREAMED TO MEMBERS

LIVE MUSIC 20's & 30's

BENEFIT SOCIAL

Wednesday, Nov. 15th 2023
6PM TO 8PM | DINNER & DRINKS

\$20/TICKET

All proceeds donated to
Magen David Adom

RSVP required - security will be present
Address shared after RSVP / West Hartford

URBAN DOR
YOUNG ADULT JEWS IN HARTFORD



MAGEN
DAVID
ADOM
IN ISRAEL



URBAN DOR
YOUNG ADULT JEWS IN HARTFORD



DONATIONS OCTOBER 2023

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

The Yahrzeit Of
Susan Ungerleider
from the Family of Michael and Kathy Ungerleider

OPERATING FUND DONATION

In Honor Of
Loel Goldblatt's special birthday. from Arthur & Arthur & Gloria Levin
In Support of
FVJC-Emek Shalom from Friends of Monday Mah Jongg
The Yahrzeit Of
Edith Simon from Elizabeth DeGroat & Stuart Simon

PAULA AND STEPHEN LIEBERMAN FUND

In Honor Of
our friend and partner, Alisa Chestler's father Stephen Lieberman.
from Dick & Becky Cowart

In Memory Of
Stephen Lieberman from Arthur & Arthur & Gloria Levin
Dr. Stephen Lieberman from Elaine Silver
Stephen Lieberman from Jeffrey & Annmarie Tepper
Stephen Lieberman from Richard & Anita Newman
Stephen Lieberman from Robert & Sandra and Bob Bourke
Dr. Stephen Lieberman from Saddle River Jewish Community Organization
Dr. Stephen Lieberman from Sanford & Karen Teplitzky

RABBI BEKAH'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of
Rabbi Bekah for leading the heartfelt unvieling service for Rose L. Silverman
from Linda Angel & family

SIEGEL - WONG FUND

In Memory Of
Herb Siegel from Alison & Alan Gittleman

SISTERHOOD FUND

In Support of
FVJC-ES Sisterhood from David Kravet

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor Of
Robin Bergman and Carrie Kramer-Minor,
the 2023 FVJC Women of Courage from Sheldon & Christie Hausman

*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, **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