

NEWS & VIEWS

חדשות והשקפות

NOVEMBER 2020

FAIR LAWN JEWISH CENTER / CONG. BNAI ISRAEL
VOLUME LXXI No.3 CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5781 - USPS 096-220



**FAIR LAWN JEWISH CENTER
CONGREGATION BNAI ISRAEL**

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NEWS & VIEWS (USPS #096-220) IS PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR. \$1.00 OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES IS FOR YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS & VIEWS. THE FAIR LAWN JEWISH CENTER - CONG. BNAI ISRAEL, 10-10 NORMA AVENUE, FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410 PUBLISHES NEWS & VIEWS. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT FAIR LAWN, NJ. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEWS & VIEWS,, 10-10 NORMA AVENUE, FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

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IN NOVEMBER

Due to Governor Murphy's Covid 19 Executive Order regarding social distancing, the Center office is open only by appointment.
To reach the office call 201 796-5040 or email info@fljc.com

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES VIA ZOOM
GO TO ZOOM.US OR DIAL 929-205-6099**

SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY- 7:30 PM
MEETING ID : 992 992 22789
PASSWORD: 609729

FRIDAY EVENING

KABBALAT SHABBAT- 6:30 PM
SHMOOZE TIME AFTER SERVICES

SHABBAT MORNING

SHMOOZE TIME- 9:00 A.M.
SHABBAT- 9:30 AM
FOLLOWED BY VIRTUAL KIDDUSH AND SCHMOOZE

HAYDALAH AT END OF SHABBAT

MEETING ID: 940 7714 6714
PASSWORD: 215407
AUDIO ONLY, NO VIDEO: 929-205-6099

CANDLE LIGHTING

NOV. 6	4:28 PM
NOV. 13	4:21 PM
NOV. 20	4:16 PM
NOV. 27	4:12 PM



SHABBAT ENDS

NOV. 7	6:36 PM
NOV. 14	5:28 PM
NOV. 21	5:22 PM
NOV. 28	5:18 PM



November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 3	Election Day
November 9	Kristallnacht
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 17	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
November 26	Thanksgiving

נחמו, נחמו עמי

WE NOTE WITH SORROW THE PASSING OF

JUDITH GOLDENBERG, DAUGHTER OF GWENDOLYN GOLDENBERG
OUR LONG TIME MEMBER SARA EGERMAN

MAY THE LORD CONSOLE AND SUSTAIN YOU,
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE MOURNERS FOR ZION AND JERUSALEM.



RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Rachel Salston

Shalom! As the new year of 5781 enters its second month, Marcheshvan, I start another new journey, that of living the day-to-day life as your rabbi. Every day is a new beginning, a new first for me here. Perhaps I am so focused on this because of the time of the year, and the fact that, as I write this, we are preparing for Shabbat Bereshit, the first parshah (portion) of the year. “Bereshit bara Elohim et hashamayim v’et ha’aretz.” “In the beginning of God’s creating the heavens and the earth . . .” So begins our Torah. We all know these words.

But here at Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B’nai Israel, and at many Conservative synagogues, we will not be reading these words on Shabbat Bereshit. We begin our reading a chapter later, in the middle of the story, or at the beginning of a different story. We read the Torah in a triennial cycle — that is, nearly every parshah is divided into thirds, and one third is read each year. At the end of three years, we complete the reading of the Torah in full. The triennial cycle has its roots in antiquity; we learn in Talmud Bavli Megillah 29b that the Jews of Eretz Yisrael were known to read the Torah in a three-year, rather than annual, cycle. A strong advantage of the triennial cycle is that it results in seven aliyot (divisions) of shorter lengths than in the full reading. This makes Torah reading more approachable for the beginner! (You, yes YOU(!) can read Torah if you can read Hebrew! Please contact me if you are interested in leyning, or learning to leyn, (Yiddish for reading Torah) and I will connect you with the correct people and resources!)

Our Torah reading for Bereshit this year, as we are in year two of the three-year cycle, begins not with “Bereshit bara” but with Chapter 2 verse 4, “Eileh toldot hashamayim v’ha’aretz b’hi’baram b’yom asot Hashem Elohim eretz v’shamayim.” “Such is the story of heaven and earth when they were created on the day Hashem God made earth and heaven —” Thus is the introduction to the so-called “second creation story” where God is almost immediately described as forming the Human Being from the dust of the earth. It is a contrast to the Seven Days of Creation described in the prior story, but it is also, equally, the story of our origins.

Our most famous Torah commentator, Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak of 11th Century Troyes, France), basing his work on an earlier midrash, raises the question on Bereshit 1:1 of, why should the Torah begin here? If the Torah is the Book of the Law for the Jewish people, which we know it as, wouldn’t it make sense to begin the Torah with the first mitzvah given to the Jewish people? That would be in Shemot 12:2, where we are commanded to observe Rosh Hodesh for the first time, and prepare for the first Pesah sacrifice. Why start with the beginning of the creation of the universe if this book is the story of our people? I could think of many other logical places for the Torah to begin her narrative, and I’m sure you could as well. God’s covenant with Noah. God calling Avraham. When the Children of Israel went down to Egypt. Moshe’s birth. The burning bush. The crossing of the Sea. Etc.

Where we begin to tell the story tells us what story we are trying to tell. Clearly the Torah is teaching that it is not only the Book of Law of the Jewish People (or the Five Books of Moses, a character who will not appear for many chapters), but the foundational story for our conception of the world and of our God. So too, I question where the beginning of my time here at FLJC/CBI should be counted from. The day I met many of you in my Zoom interview? The day of my hire? The day I moved to Fair Lawn? My first Zoom-Shabbat with you? My first day in the office? Rosh Hashanah? Yom Kippur?

Or is this my beginning, this new normalcy of day-to-day life that I know is not normal because we are still separated? Will the real beginning come when we can finally gather together, safely, in person? Yes and no to all. Every day is a new beginning, and every day we say brachot thanking Hashem for renewing creation. Every milestone is a new beginning. What are you beginning this November/Cheshvan?



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Abe Adler

A Message from Abe Adler, Executive Director

What do Tom Seaver and Noah (biblical, not Syndergaard) have to do with each other?

History is filled with individuals who had tremendous impact beyond their own lives. This includes sports superstars who through their demeanor, comportment, professionalism and excellence impact fans young and old. Tom Seaver was such an individual.

Even if you aren't a Mets fan, you have to admire not only Seaver's athletic accomplishments but also the high esteem with which people regarded him. When Seaver's passing was reported, sportscasters, news media, fans and anyone who was privileged to have played with him, worked with him or met him all remembered him with reverence for his abilities and for the way he conducted himself. He was a true teamplayer who shared advice with many and whose actions motivated fans young and old to do their best and to always take the high road. Seaver certainly had cause to gripe about Mets ownership, who let him go not once but twice. Instead, he is remembered for his high level of play and excellence on every team he played on and this excellence continued after his playing days during his sportscasting career.

It isn't easy being a Mets fan. We go through many losing seasons but every 4 to 15 years the Mets give us a thrill. This year's thrill is Steve Cohen buying the team from the Wilpons. I think anticipation makes us appreciate even more so when success comes around.

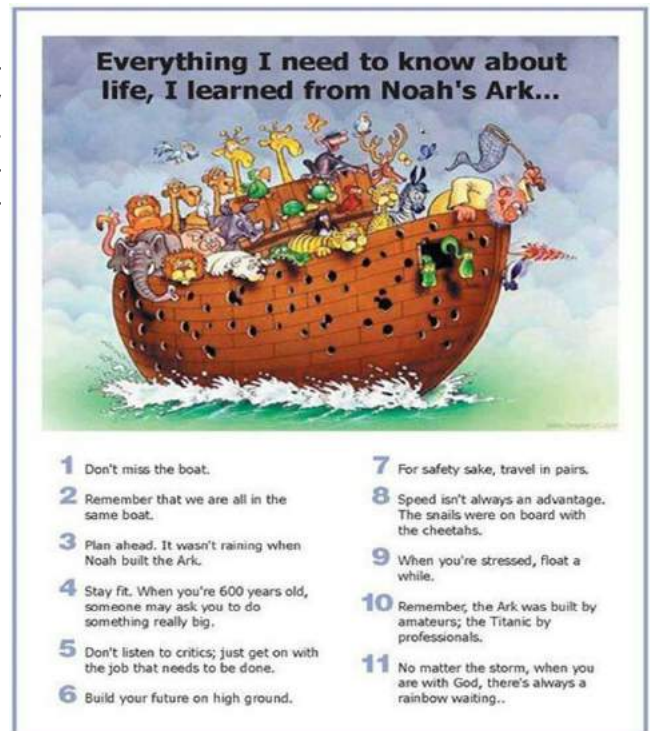
Noah spent 120 years building the Taiva or Ark. Imagine – building an ark for a flood the likes no one had ever seen before (I am not going to make comparisons to the pandemic). Clearly, Hashem wanted to give every possible chance for people to repent. Yet we don't read that Noah had doubts. We don't read that Noah questioned Hashem. Noah went ahead and did the job he was commanded to do. Ownership. Responsibility. Perseverance. Dedication. And then, one day Noah's hard work paid off.

Seaver and Noah shared many qualities. If each of us focused on what we individually can do and should do and less about what everyone else thinks of us, what a world this would be.

Some of you may have seen this but I think this year in particular with so much negativity these simple lessons are even more important today than ever before. Its not Midrash, its not Chassidus, its not Reform or Conservative. Its just common sense.

Seaver and Noah shared many qualities. If each of us focused on what we individually can do and should do and less about what everyone else thinks of us, what a world this would be. Some of you may have seen this but I think this year in particular with so much negativity these simple lessons are even more important today than ever before. Its not Midrash, its not Chassidus, its not Reform or Conservative. Its just common sense.

Stay strong. Stay safe. Stay in touch.
Chag Sameach!
Abe



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERING Jeffrey Herrmann



A Thanksgiving for the Ages

Our indiscretion sometime serves us well
When our deep plots due pall, and that should learn us
There's a divinity that shapes our ends
Rough-hew them how we will

Hamlet - Act V, Scene 2

There are no obvious links between November and the Jewish calendar. The High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah are behind us, and Chanukah does not arrive until December. The one holiday that all of us link to November is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is, of course, a very American holiday, a day of turkey, parades and football. This year will be very different because of Covid-19. However, I think it is helpful now to consider that the holiday of Thanksgiving has strong Jewish roots, both in its history and in its substance.

As we all know, the original Thanksgiving was held to celebrate the first harvest of the Pilgrims of the New World. It was a three-day feast held by the grateful settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for themselves and their Native American guests. Not as well known is the fact that the Pilgrims got the idea from the holiday of Sukkot. The Pilgrims, or Puritans as they were known at the time, were extreme Protestant fundamentalists who incurred the wrath of James I of England. A group of them left, not for America, but rather for Holland early in the 17th Century. There they encountered Jews from Spain and Portugal who had come to Holland for the same reason - to escape religious persecution. When the Puritans left Holland for the New World they carried with them not only a reverence for the Old and New Testaments, but also knowledge of the rituals of the celebration of Sukkot. Consider the similarities. Both celebrations involve the joyful celebration of the harvest, and take place in the Autumn of the year. Both holidays celebrate overcoming the obstacles of the wilderness, whether the wanderings in the Sinai Peninsula or across the great Atlantic Ocean. Both involve gratitude for having reached the Promised Land, where celebrations to Hashem could be conducted freely and in the open. Both involve the biblical command to give thanks, and both are based upon family and communal gathering. Of course, most importantly, both involve lots of food and feasting.

Though both Jews and Puritans share the belief that Hashem guides our destiny and shapes our ends, no one can anticipate the future. Less than a generation after the Mayflower, the Puritans seized political power in England, and coincidentally permitted Jews to reenter that country for the first time in more than four centuries. The descendants of the original Puritan settlers continued the celebration of Thanksgiving, and spread the custom throughout New England. In time, they would be the critical force to bring about a revolution against their mother country, and to establish a new nation, built, in part, upon the principle of religious freedom. Over the course of time, that new country would serve as a haven for persecuted Jews throughout the world.

This year presents novel challenges to all of us. We will probably not be able to gather together in the same numbers as we usually have, and some of the joy of the holiday may be subdued. Certainly, among the fans of the local football teams, the joy will be greatly subdued this year. However, there is even more reason than ever to reflect on the meaning of Sukkot/Thanksgiving. We are the recipients of Hashem's beneficence. We will undoubtedly survive the current difficulties and remain free to worship as we please, and to eat as much as we want.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving, consider one more interesting coincidence. The word in Hebrew for giving thanks is "hodu." That is also the Hebrew word for turkey and the country India (turkey being thought by Israelis as "Indian chicken").

Wherever you are, and however you celebrate, make sure that hodu is on your menu this Thanksgiving.

**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MOVIE REVIEW: "MENASHE"**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 8:00 P.M.

Set within the Hasidic community in Borough Park, Brooklyn, "Menashe" follows a kind but hapless grocery store clerk trying to maintain custody of his son, Rieven, after his wife, Lea, passes away. Since they live in a tradition-bound culture that requires a mother present in every home, Rieven is supposed to be adopted by the boy's strict, married uncle, but Menashe's rabbi decides to grant him one week to spend with Rieven prior to Lea's memorial.

Their time together creates an emotional moment of father/son bonding, as well as offers Menashe a final chance to prove to his skeptical community that he can be a capable parent. Shot in secret, entirely within the Hasidic community in the film, and one of the only movies to be performed in Yiddish in nearly 70 years, Menashe is a warm, life-affirming look at the universal bonds between father and son that also sheds unusual light on a notoriously private community.

Based largely on the real life of its Hasidic star, Menashe Lustig, the film is a strikingly authentic and deeply-moving portrait of family, love, connection and community. The movie is available on Netflix In Yiddish with English subtitles. **Please watch the movie before the review.**

Movie Reviewer: Rabbi Salston
Moderator: Charles Cohen

Zoom Meeting ID 970 3467 6353
Passcode: 405036

**COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL OF
BERGEN COUNTY**

CHSBC News:

With the High Holidays behind us, school has been moving along well. The teachers and students look forward to seeing each other via zoom, either once or twice a week. Most students have a scheduled meeting each week with one of their teachers to review material or to practice their reading skills. The latter is definitely a good outcome of this crazy COVID time. There are occasional technical difficulties, but we are working through them, and everyone is being patient and understanding.

Over half the Hebrew School students took part in a model sukkah-building competition, and seven students were highly commended for their creativity. Those with highest commendation were: Ryan Marcus, Rebecca Gotlib, Jacob Horvitz, Ben and Jacob Chung, Gabrielle Palmer, and Tyler Lipke. They received a Dunkin' Donuts gift card that they can use on multiple visits to get their favorite treats. The others who participated also received a gift card, but of a smaller denomination!

As the days get shorter, and the colder months settle in, we hope that in-person activities can happen soon. A Chanukah party is certainly thought about, with masks and social distancing, of course. Details will be shared once determined.

Wishing you all health and good weeks ahead,

Marcia Kagedan



**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JEWISH BUSINESS PRINCIPLES — Thursday, November 19, 8:00 P.M.**

What are the foundational ethical Torah principles that are still very relevant to doing business the Jewish way? Very often we are faced with making a difficult business decision, but the way forward is not clear cut.

It could be a sales or advertising matter, or human relations, doing an inventory, or just offering business advice. There are certain Torah teachings that one should have knowledge of, to help you through the process, which will be elucidated in our Zoom session. Q & A to follow. Moderator is Charlie Cohen.

To join the class, go to:
Zoom Meeting ID: 915 8008 0778
Passcode: 279902

or dial (New York) (929) 205-6099

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Michael Baer and Mark Meisel

The Social Action Committee wants to thank you for your support. We deeply appreciate your support of the Fair Lawn Volunteer Ambulance Corps; your donations provided meals from local food establishments for these first responders. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you also for your generous contributions to our **High Holiday Collection Fundraiser** for local charities helping those in need within our community. We will donate the monies raised to the Fair Lawn Food Pantry, Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern NJ, and the Center For Food Action.

These three local charities help the many people in our towns and communities in our area in need through several programs. Some of these programs include food pantries, Kosher Meals on Wheels, Snack Packs for food-insecure school children, programs for Holocaust survivors, mental health counseling, and homelessness prevention. They help families who are dealing with food insecurity, rent, utility bills and mental health counseling. Thank you for your donations and support. We also appreciate your support of Flowers by J-ADD, where your purchase of flowers helps provide a meaningful, productive job to a person with a developmental disability, and you receive beautiful flowers at your holiday table.

In December, Sisterhood and Social Action will provide another dinner to people in need, and will reach out for your help. This program is organized by Family Promise, and every day of the year their network of congregations, businesses and civic organizations prepares and serves a nutritious meal for approximately 130 people at the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center in Hackensack. Social Action is also supporting the Community Relations Advisory Committee, a group established a number of months ago by the Fair Lawn Borough Council, and their recent racial equality program. They are encouraging all the residents of Fair Lawn and other towns in our area to read the book "**So You Want to Talk About Race**" by Ijeoma Oluo. The Community Relations Advisory Committee is also discussing some concrete actions we all can take to combat racism in our communities. We will have several additional Social Action programs coming up; please watch for our announcements.

In early winter we will hold another Fundraiser for our local charities helping families in need to help those in our community during these very difficult times. Please watch for these announcements also. Thank you once again for your generous support of these programs.

Michael Baer and Mark Meisel



70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLJC/CBI
Past, Present and Future

Though our dinner is delayed, we ask for your help now to share the names and contact information of friends and alumni of the FLJC by emailing us at info@fljc.com. FLJC/CBI friends and alumni can include, but are not limited to, those married or who had an aufruf, celebrated their bar/bat mitzvahs at the FLJC/CBI, Nursery or Religious School graduates, sports team alumni, congregants who may have been or are no longer members, adult children who grew up in the congregation, past Board members, leadership installations, Menschen of the Year, photos/videos of past bbq's, carnivals, Israel parades, Yom HaShoah programs, dedications of building additions, expansions/renovations, and more.

For those on Facebook, please join and invite your friends to the FLJC/CBI Alumni Group by going to https://www.facebook.com/groups/904718576632567/?ref=group_header. Feel free to share your memories, pictures and anecdotes on the group page, or reach out to the Alumni Committee members: Ann Golick 201-475-5629 abgolick1@gmail.com or Fran Kessler 201-848-6845 fkess@optonline.net.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Steven Montag and Charles Cohen

A MOMENT TO BREATHE

Cheshvan and Kislev are the Jewish months occurring in November. They are generally viewed in a synagogue as an opportunity to take a breath and regroup after a long period of preparations and prayer for the High Holidays through Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

We are proud of the services we were able to deliver to our community over Zoom during these trying pandemic times. But as the old expression goes, "There is no rest for the weary." We continue to deliver daily Zoom services in the evenings and on Shabbat mornings. We are always looking for new participants and volunteers to help us with the preparation and delivery of these services.

We would also like to hear from you if you have an interest in resuming an early-morning service. Please reach out to the Rabbi, Steven Montag or Charlie Cohen if you are interested in participating in any of our services. New daveners are always welcome.

We announce the new month of Kislev, which occurs on November 16 /17, during the Shabbat service on November 14th. November 14th is also commonly used to celebrate the efforts and contributions of Jewish Veterans, as it follows immediately after Veterans' Day. Please let us know of any Veterans who may want to participate during this Shabbat.

Kislev is best known for the holiday of Chanukah, which begins on the evening of December 10th, 25 Kislev. The message of Chanukah is the eternal power of light over darkness — good over evil. Aside from commemorating the miraculous victory of the small Jewish army over the mighty Syrian-Greek empire, Chanukah celebrates the miracle of the oil. When the Jews sought to light the Temple menorah after the war, they found only one small jug of pure oil. Miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days, and the sages instituted the eight-day festival of Chanukah, on which we kindle the menorah nightly. Keep reading the Insider for information on upcoming events to celebrate Chanukkah in December.

A reminder that the Rabbinical Assembly has available for purchase via their web site bookstore, <https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/>, all of our currently-used Siddurim, including the daily Sim Shalom, Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals, and the Etz Hayim Torah. If you desire to own copies of these instead of using the pdfs provided in our Insider email each week, you may purchase them directly from this website. If you have any questions regarding the prayer books, please contact me at srdcmontag@gmail.com.

Stay safe and be well.

Steven Montag

Rabbi Ronald Roth's Tuesday Nosh and Knowledge Class is taking a new direction:
Jewish Ethics NOW

Log in on your computer or listen on your phone. Same great class on Zoom! Morning or evening!
Tuesdays 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM or Tuesdays 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Upcoming Schedule of Zoom Classes: November 3, 10, 17, 24

Two ways to connect:

To join the **video & audio or audio only from your laptop or smartphone**: (see link in the weekly *Insider*).
Meeting ID: 993 3007 5757/ Password 077431

To join the **audio call only**, dial one of the following numbers:

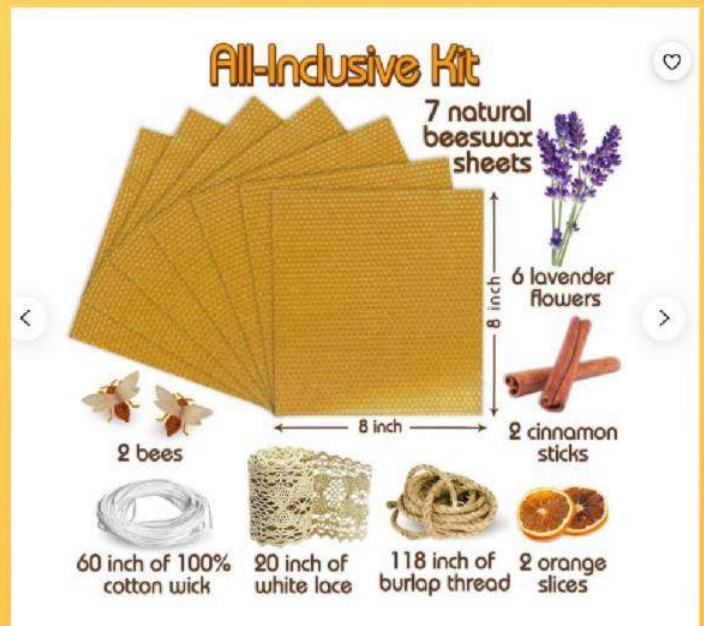
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US

and when prompted enter this: Meeting ID: 993 3007 5757 / Password 07743

Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel

Sisterhood Paid Up Membership Thursday, November 5th, 7:45 P.M.

**Make your own
beeswax candle
with Sisterhood.
We will deliver one
candle making kit
to each person
that registers.**



RSVP by 10/31 to either
Leslie Frucht -
lesfrucht@gmail.com
or call 201-396-0381
or Robin Baer -
Catskillbaer@optonline.net



11/10/2020
@ 8PM

BIBLIOTHERAPY*

Get-together on Zoom

Join your FLJC/CBI Sisterhood friends for a supportive and interesting experiential event.

*Bibliotherapy, aka book therapy/poetry therapy/therapeutic storytelling, is a creative arts therapy that involves storytelling or the reading of texts with the purpose of healing.

**WHILE BIBLIOTHERAPY MAY BE
THERAPEUTICALLY HEALING,
THIS IS NOT A THERAPY SESSION
AND IS EXPERIENTIAL ONLY.**

Group will
be led by
trained facilitator
Tammy Smith, LCSW

Bring a
poem/song/short
piece of literature

Sharing is voluntary

Confidential and
safe space

Totally free

**RESPONSES OR
QUESTIONS?**
FLJCCBISISTERHOOD
@gmail.com

Link provided upon
registration

MEN'S PROGRESS CLUB
Bob Sokol

MPC Members and prospective members,

We hope you had a great Fall, and welcome you back with open arms. As a member of the Men's Progress Club (MPC), you represent the strong shoulders of the Fair Lawn Jewish Center Congregation CBI. The MPC has been an active club for more than 75 years.

In September, the MPC and Sisterhood created gift bags for all members of the congregation, and distributed them to members' homes before the High Holidays. It was a great team effort.

On Sunday, November 1st at 10:00 AM we are hosting the Paid-Up Membership Breakfast with Dan Rosen, NHL Senior Sportswriter. We will enjoy an interactive discussion about everything related to hockey! We'll have an opportunity to ask questions about players, teams, arenas and the Stanley Cup - among other topics! Dan has been a writer for the NHL for a number of years, and you have probably seen his columns on NHL.com.

More events will be taking place, including a discussion on anti-Semitism in America, The Big Breakfast, World-wide Wrap, Installation, and General Business Meeting. If you haven't become a member yet, please join.

Please complete this form and return with your dues payment
MPC: 10-10 Norma Ave., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE MPC

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

By providing your email address you help us reduce costs, and make it easier for us to correspond with you.

Please select your Membership Level. New FLJC/CBI members since 1/1/2020 get free basic membership.

☐ **Malach (Angel) \$75 or more: *Big Macher benefits, plus name listed on a special plaque***

☐ **Big Macher \$55: *Macher benefits plus a free guest at most MPC-run events during the year:***

☐ **Macher \$40: *Member benefits plus your name added to the MPC letterhead***

☐ **Member \$30: *Access to every MPC event, and free entry into most MPC programs***

FAMILY MATTERS

WISHING A REFUAH SH'LEMAH TO:

Marcella Kaplan, Ruth Kahn, Arie Greenbaum, Jack Miller, Esther Oster, Judith Shain-Alvaro, Rose Lieberman, Flora Frank, Larry Mandel, Gail Rottenstrich, Judith Levy, Michael Siegel, Michael Vorobyov, Carol Marcus, Muriel Barker.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to **Linda & Jeffrey Herrmann** on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Georgina, born to their children, Neil & Yorine Herrmann.

Mazel Tov to **Stacey & Ritch Rosen** on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Adele, born to their children, Michael & Greta Rosen.

Mazel Tov to **Fran & Sig Westerman** on the marriage of their grandson, Evan, and Colleen Brody.

MAY YOU BE COMFORTED

Our condolences to **Gwendolyn Goldenberg** on the passing of her daughter, Judith Goldenberg.

Our condolences to the family of our long-time member **Sara Egerman**

VETERANS' DAY

Veterans' Day, originally known as Armistice Day, is a federal holiday observed annually on November 11, honoring the service of all U.S. military veterans,

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when mistice Germa-

into ef-
the urg-
major veter-
organi-
Armi-
Day



was renamed Veterans' Day in 1954.

KISLEV



Kislev is the third month of the civil year, and the ninth month of the ecclesiastical year. Its sign of the Zodiac is Sagittarius.

In a regular (full) year Kislev has 30 days, but because of Rosh Hashanah, in some years it is a 'short' year of 29 days, as it is this year. The first of Kislev never falls on Shabbat. On 1 Kislev a series of public fasts took place in Judea, in intercession for rain in years of drought. Kislev is sometimes known as the month of dreams.

The name of the month derives from the Akkadian Kislimu. But some popular etymologies connect it to the Hebrew root 'ksl' as in words from hope or positiveness, or 'ksil', Orion, a constellation that shines especially in this month, because of the expectation and hope for rain.

The first rainbow was seen in Kislev. When the waters of the Flood ceased, God blessed Noah, permitted him to use meat for food, forbade him to shed human blood, made a covenant for life with Him, and showed him the rainbow as an eternal covenant between God and us. In Rabbinic literature Kislev is believed to correspond to the Tribe of Benjamin.

- * 3 Kislev is the anniversary of a Hasmonean victory over the Greeks.
- * 7 Kislev marks the anniversary of the death of Herod.
- * On 15 Kislev in 167 BCE the Greeks set up an abomination in the Temple.
- * On 17 Kislev in 1947 the U.N. General Assembly approved a plan for the partition of Palestine, ultimately leading to the creation of the State of Israel.
- * 21 Kislev is known as "the day of Gerizim" commemorating the decision by Alexander the Great in favor of the Temple of Jerusalem, against the rival Samaritan claim for the Temple on Mount Gerizim.
- * 25 Kislev commemorates the miracle of Chanukah in 164 BCE.

From the days of the Hasmoneans, and as long as the Beit Din sanctified the months through the testimony of witnesses, messengers of the Beit Din went to places distant from Jerusalem to announce when the new month had been sanctified, so the dates of the festivals could be known.

When the Beit Din sanctified the month of Kislev, messengers were sent from Jerusalem so the people would know when Chanukah would begin.

COVID-19 AND YOUR PET

NEW DATE/TIME: Join us on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Veterinarian Tracy Kroll will discuss pets and the pandemic.



Dr Tracy Kroll

Dr. Tracy Kroll is a 1997 graduate of The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. She then completed a residency in behavior also at Cornell. She and her husband live in Harford County with their 2 teenaged children, 2 dogs, and a cat. She is a crocheter, cross stitcher, lacrosse mom, and Ravens, Star Wars, and Marvel fan. Not unusual to catch her singing while she works!

Questions? Contact:
cmgarfinkle@gmail.com

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **TIPS FOR ADOPTING A PET**
- **TRANSITIONING BACK TO WORK**
- **IS YOUR PET DEPRESSED?**

...AND SHE'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS!

fair lawn jewish center

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood

**DECEMBER 6TH, 2020
10:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

Safekeeping
Author: Jessamyn Hope

Moderator: Tzivya Kraus

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

November 2 is Balfour Day.

The Balfour Declaration is a statement by the British Government favoring the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine.

Dated November 2, 1917, it was addressed to Lord Rothschild, and was signed by British Foreign Secretary Arthur James (later Lord) Balfour. It stated:

"I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, the follow declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

'His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.' I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation."

The sentiments behind the Balfour Declaration go back to the beginning of the Zionist Organization, and perhaps even earlier. The statement of England realized much earlier than those of other countries the wisdom of giving the Jews a territory of their own. As far back as 1903 the British Government had made an offer of a territory in British East Africa for a Jewish settlement. The Zionist Congress declined the offer. With the outbreak of World War I, in January 1916 Zionist leaders in England formed a political committee which included, among others, Ahad Haam, Chaim Weizmann, and Vladimir Jabotinsky. They advocated the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine under British protection, stressing the importance of Palestine as a bulwark to secure the Suez Canal, the principal artery of communication of the British Empire.

Despite opposition both in England and among Jewish factions, the Zionists received valuable support from the United States, where the Zionist movement had made great strides under the leadership of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis. The concept was also favored by President Woodrow Wilson. After lengthy negotiations, the Zionist leaders were also able to secure the consent of the French and Italian governments.

KRISTALLNACHT

November 9-10, 1938 was a night of Nazi anti-Jewish rampage.

Officially, it was provoked by the assassination of Ernst vom Rath, third secretary of the German embassy in Paris, by Herschel Grynszpan, the son of Polish-Jewish parents who lived in Germany until their deportation to the Polish-German frontier in October 1938. Vom Rath was shot on November 7, and died on November 9.

Attempts to persuade England to convince Germany to suspend measures of retaliation against German Jewry failed through British refusal to be associated with any support for German Jewry.

Widespread attacks on Jews, their property and synagogues took place throughout Germany and Austria on November 9-10. The number of broken windows led to the night becoming known as Kristallnacht — The Night of Broken Glass. At least 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. According to Nazi records, more than 800 shops and warehouses, and 171 homes were destroyed, and nearly 200 synagogues were demolished.

Although the German government attempted to present the 'Aktion' as a spontaneous protest by the Aryan population, previous acts by the German government — requiring the registration of all Jewish-owned property both in and outside Germany, the imposition of a million-Mark fine on the Jews, the confiscation of all insurance claims, and decrees intensifying 'aryanization' of German life — proved the falsity of claims of spontaneity.

With the release in 1939 of many of those arrested, emigration from Germany greatly accelerated.

Kristallnacht proved that henceforth there was no place for German and Austrian Jews in the German economy, and, with the dissolution of cultural and communal Jewish bodies, and the banning of the Jewish press, no independent Jewish life was any long possible in Germany.

73 YEARS SINCE PARTITION

Seventy-three years ago this month the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution 181, which called for the partition of the British-ruled Palestine Mandate into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The historic Resolution, passed on November 29, 1947 by a 33-13 vote, with 10 abstentions and one absentee, paved the way for Israel's independence a few months later.

The partition plan was based on a report submitted by the U.N. Special Commission on Palestine (UNSCOP), established in May 1947 to work out a solution regarding the disputed territory that would be acceptable to both Jews and Arabs. Visiting the region, members of the Commission concluded that the conflicting national aspirations of the two peoples could not be reconciled. A majority of delegates thus recommended the establishment of two separate states, Jewish and Arab, to be joined by economic union, with Jerusalem an internationalized enclave.



The partition plan was far from ideal from the Jewish community's point of view. The boundaries put forward in the plan were based solely on demographics, and did not take into account security concerns. The proposed Jewish state did not include Jerusalem, leaving more than 100,000 Jews in the city isolated from their country, and circumscribed by the Arab state. And though the Jews were allotted more land, the majority of that land was in the Negev desert. Nevertheless, the Jewish community welcomed the partition plan.

In the months preceding the fateful vote at the United Nations, members of the community from Palestine and around the world mobilized to lobby in favor of the plan. Most importantly, they won sympathy for their cause in the United States — including the White House and Congress — garnering support which ultimately proved crucial for success at the U.N. Hearing of the vote backing a Jewish state, joyous crowds filled the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The Jewish Agency, which was the recognized representative of the Jewish community, praised and recognized the U.N. resolution. Mainstream Zionist leaders emphasized their commitment to working towards a peaceful coexistence with the region's other inhabitants. The Arab leaders, however, rejected UNSCOP's recommendations and the subsequent partition resolution, denying any Jewish claim to the land. They refused to establish an Arab state in the area, since this would imply recognition of a Jewish state in the remaining part of Palestine. Due to Arab opposition, the partition plan could not be fully implemented.

On May 14, 1948, the date before the British Mandate over Palestine was to end, the Jewish leadership approved a proclamation declaring the establishment of a Jewish state. Within hours, five Arab countries invaded the new state, launching what became Israel's War of Independence. Seven decades later, we remember the joy that marked the vote establishing a Jewish state, even as we lament the Arab intransigence that has borne so much conflict.

Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel

ADULT EDUCATION PRESENTS

Monday, November 9th at 8:00 P.M.

MENASHE LUSTIG

AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX

MENASHE

Menashe (Menashe Lustig) is a widowed Hasidic Jew, with a 10 year old son, living & working within an Hasidic enclave in Borough Park. Based loosely on actor's real life.

Yiddish with English Subtitles.



Please watch movie
before class.



MOVIE REVIEWER: RABBI SALSTON
MODERATOR: CHARLES COHEN

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving, of course, is not on any calendar of Jewish holidays. Nonetheless, it is a very Jewish holiday.

The Puritans were very well versed in the Bible, and they knew that Sukkot (which we celebrated last month) was an Autumn harvest festival. There is evidence that the first Thanksgiving was based on this Jewish custom of celebrating the success of the year's crops.

The ancient Israelites made an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Sukkot, and the Puritans made a pilgrimage to the New World in search of a place to practice their religion; that's why they were called Pilgrims

During Sukkot the Israelites lived in makeshift booths. During the first winter in Massachusetts the Pilgrims dwelled in makeshift huts — wigwams the Indians helped them build. In the Autumn of 1621 the Pilgrims invited their Indian neighbors to celebrate with them. Historians speculate that this celebration occurred between late September and early November, but was most likely in early October, around the time of Sukkot.

Sukkot, of course, is a week-long festival. The first Thanksgiving was a three-day celebration, much more similar to the Jewish harvest festival than to today's Thanksgiving dinner, which usually begins in late afternoon and concludes after only a few hours.

Even the foods of both holidays are similar. Casseroles with vegetables or fruit, and pastries filled with apples, nuts, pumpkins or squash may be found on the table at both holidays. Stuffing one food inside another is a metaphor for abundance. Think of the cornucopia — the horn of plenty.

Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday, to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November, which occasionally was the fifth Thursday of the month. In 1939 Franklin Roosevelt changed the date to the fourth Thursday of November.

So, with Sukkot and Thanksgiving so similar in theme, and so close in time, is there any reason to celebrate two harvest festivals only a few weeks apart?

During Sukkot, at home and in shul we thank God for our blessings.

Thanksgiving is a holiday when all people thank a Superior Being for their blessings, and it's easy to include friends of all faiths.

Giving thanks is an integral part of Judaism. Thanksgiving is a very Jewish holiday indeed.



THE GENEROUS HEART WILL BE FULFILLED

GENERAL FUND

Fair Lawn Jewish Center

Marion Herrmann

Gwendolyn Goldberg

My heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved daughter, Judith Lilly Chedzhemova

Gwendolyn Goldberg

My heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved daughter, Judith Harriet Goldberg

Mary Smart

In memory of Irving Fletcher Marcia Schreier

In memory of Irving Fletcher

Ronald M. Sonkin

Loren Rosenthal

In honor of Rosh Hashanah Debra Bernstein

Rachelle Shapiro and Family

In memory of Dr. Robert T. Shapiro Frances Shapiro Skrobe, John and Brian Skrobe

Mary Smart

In memory of Irving Fletcher Alexis Ferrara

Mary Smart

In memory of Irving Fletcher Adria and Lewis Kaplan

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In memory of Irving Fletcher Marcia Schreier

Mary Smart

In memory of Irving Fletcher Livia J. Squires

Mary Smart

In memory of Irving Fletcher Lorene H. Squires

Bena Weil

In memory of Steve Weil Miriam & Alan Levi

Roz & Jeff Wisotsky

In honor of your son's marriage Stacey and Ritch Rosen

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Neil Garfinkle

Mazel tov for being chosen "Mensch of the Year", a well-deserved honor Linda & Jeff Ayes

Neil Garfinkle

Mazel tov for being named "Mensch of the Year" a well-deserved honor Carol Lazerowitz

JUNE & DAVID SALZMAN FUND Education Enrichment

Richard Kalman Salzman

June Salzman

THALER FUND Camp Ramah Scholarships

Charlie Cohen

Yasher Koach for your excellence as Gabbai/Master of Ceremonies on Simchas Torah Norma & Irv Pollack

Rabbi Rachel Salston

In appreciation of your inspiring conduct of our High Holidays season services this extraordinary year Norma & Irv Pollack

YAHREZEIT

Lazar Abkin

Michael Abkin

Charles Baltin

Rochelle & Steve Baltin

Graham Barker

Muriel Barker

Stefania Berenstein

Stella Sonnenschein

Rachel Blackin

Jack Blackin

Samuel Blumrosen

Tamar & Jack Joffe

Harry Breindel

Eileen & Steven Schwimmer

Gertrude Crausman-Cohan

Judith Shain-Alvaro

Israel Crausman

Judith Shain-Alvaro

Morris Crausman

Judith Shain-Alvaro

David Dorogi

Ann & Georg Rasko

Trude Deutschman

Olivia Schoenberger and family

Harry Epstein

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Isabel H. Freeman

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Louis Harris

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Marna Fierman

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Marna Fierman

Jacob Kagan

Roberta Lichtman

Charles Levine

Judith Brown

Molly Levine
Judith Brown

Solomon Linderman
Sheila & Myron Linderman

Abram Manketo
Bill Weiss

Benjamin Mordkowitz
Ira Mordkowitz

Mildred Mordkowitz
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Esther Oster

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Don Ovadenko

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Alan D. Paley

Shirley Pintel
Laura & Joshua Pintel and family

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Betty Hirsch

Rochel Presaizen
Ella Berger

Shae Presaizen
Ella Berger

Stanley Reiman
Doris Reiman

Irving Rosenthal
Ira Mordkowitz

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Ira Mordkowitz

Rose Rubinoff
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Miriam Parkinson

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Kenneth Toron
Shari Toron

Max Weiss
Bill Weiss

Ida Zisblatt
Phyllis Mirchin

YIZKOR

Carol Frank
Flora & Eugene Frank

Edward Frank
Flora & Eugene Frank

Goldie Frank
Flora & Eugene Frank

Lawrence Goodman
Rosalyn Goodman

Celia Goodsmi
Barbara & Phil Steinberg

Nemo Goodsmi
Barbara & Phil Steinberg

Alex Kirshenbaum
Ruth & Harold Kirshenbaum

Hila Kirschenbaum
Ruth & Harold Kirshenbaum

Joseph Meyer
Flora & Eugene Frank

Sylvia Meyer
Flora & Eugene Frank

Robert Shapiro
David Shapiro

Ann Steinberg
Barbara & Phil Steinberg

Ben Steinberg
Barbara & Phil Steinberg



May their memories

be for a blessing

The Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel
presents *New York Times* best-selling
author Kristin Harmel to highlight her latest work,
The Book of Lost Names.

Sunday morning, November 15, 2020 at 11:00 am via Zoom.



Kristin Harmel is the *New York Times* best-selling author of a dozen novels including *The Book of Lost Names*, *The Winemaker's Wife*, *The Room on Rue Amélie*, and *The Sweetness of Forgetting*. Her work has been featured in *People*, *Woman's Day*, *Men's Health*, and *Ladies' Home Journal*, among many other media outlets. She lives in Orlando, Florida.

To RSVP, secure Zoom link and for questions, please email:
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