Cinematek Forest Hills Presents

Fanny’s Journey

November 18, 2017 8:00 PM

FHJC ANNUAL SHABBATON

December 8-9, 2017
Shabbat Dinner
Keynote: The Death of Debate and Rise of Hate: Technology’s Challenge to the Future
Keynote Presentation by Jonathan Vick, Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Associate Director of Investigative Technology and Cyberhate Response in New York.

Congregational Cholent Kiddush
8 Sessions to Choose from on Shabbat
Seudat Shlishit learning with Rabbi Skolnik
See pages 8-10 for more information.

RSVP online at www.FHJC.org/Shabbaton

Join the Forest Hills community for the

2017 INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 19—3:00 PM

Reform Temple of Forest Hills (71st Rd/ 112th St.)
Be there with the entire Forest Hills community to lift our voices as one in Thanksgiving prayer and song!

Refreshments following the service. Sponsored by the Forest Hills Interfaith Dialogue

Lights & Latkes

Tuesday

December 19, 2017
6:00 PM—7:30 PM
Communal Candle Lighting
Singing & Dancing, Latkes & Sufganiyot
FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Thanksgiving

The beginning of 5778, the new year that always feels like a new year to me, has been very kind to Robin and me. We have a new granddaughter, a new son-in-law to be, and I have a new knee that is enabling me to walk without pain for the first time in many years. Robin and I always feel blessed, but these past few months have been particularly good ones.

Giving thanks on a regular basis is not something that comes naturally to most of us; it’s something that must be worked on. I am completely convinced that the rabbincally generated obligation to pray three times daily is rooted in this consciousness. Prayer is not about gratifying God’s need for praise. It is about cultivating our awareness of the myriad blessings that sustain us daily.

That said, our American tradition is to designate one day a year for formally giving thanks for the blessings in our lives, and that day is, of course, Thanksgiving. Here in Forest Hills, for the past many years, we have, in advance of the day itself, marked this annual celebration with an interfaith service. Sometimes in synagogues, sometimes in churches, not yet in a mosque— I hope that will someday happen—we come together across faith community lines to express our gratitude for the lives of plenty that we lead, and the many blessings that are ours in this most remarkable country. Even now, when our country is riven by deep divisions, we are among the luckiest people on earth...

This year’s service will take place on Sunday, November 19, at 4:00PM, at the Reform Temple of Forest Hills, with clergy from most of the major houses of worship in our community. In addition to our clergy, Nagilay will be performing, and hopefully our Youth Chorus as well. I hope you’ll join us. It is invariably a wonderful event, and it will leave you feeling good... and grateful.

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Cemetery Clean-Up Event
Sunday, November 12

Volunteers from FHJC and synagogues around the tri-state area will be helping maintain the grounds at historic Silver Lake Cemetery, operated by The Hebrew Free Burial Society. Since the 1880s, the Society has provided low-cost and free burials to needy Jewish families. Our participation in this community-wide event ensures continued dignity to the grounds.

Our teams of volunteers will be leaving from FHJC at 9:00AM and returning at approximately 1:00PM. You can sign up to volunteer by email to volunteer.ghanj@gmail.com. Please include whether you can drive or need a lift.

** Teens: Great community service credit opportunity! **
NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN
Hazzan Henry R. Rosenblum

Some Early Cantorial History

In the Mishna, the prayer leader was called O-ver rifne ha’teyva ("one who descends before the chest") because the Ark in the ancient synagogue was not built into the wall of the synagogue but consisted of a portable chest containing the Sefer Torah. He was also called sheliah tzibbur, the messenger of the congregation, and hazzan (originally meaning "overseer"), which was the name most frequently used.

In Talmudic times (from the first half of the 3rd century CE to the 6th century CE), there was no permanent Cantor and any member of the congregation might be asked to lead the public prayers. The Talmud describes various duties performed by the Hazzan Ha-Kenesset (overseer of the assembly). He was a superintendent at prayer meetings, officer at proceedings, instructor of children, and, with special permission of the congregation, the Torah reader for special occasions. His more unusual duties included serving as town crier or sheriff, patrolling the streets as a town guard, and even blowing a Shofar from the roof of the synagogue to announce the beginning of Shabbat and Festivals!

That the Hazzan also served as prayer leader is indicated in the Talmud; it says that in Simoniya, at the recommendation of Yehudah Hannasi, Levi Bar Sisi functioned simultaneously as judge, schoolmaster, preacher and hazzan. This was the practice in small communities, where several offices had to be the responsibility of one person. It is uncertain when the change of the office of the Hazzan to that of Reader occurred, however it is first recorded in Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer. Apparently, after the fall of the 2nd Temple in the year 70 CE, there were not enough qualified personnel to act as sheliah tzibbur, so the Hazzan, who had always served the community and synagogue in one way or another and had a basic knowledge of the prayer chants eventually was retained as the prayer leader.

It was during the Gaonic Period (from the end of the 6th century CE to the middle of the 11th century CE) that the Hazzan Ha-Kenesset became the permanent Sheliah Tzibbur. Some reasons for these changes were the increasing complexity of the liturgy and the decline in the knowledge of Hebrew, as well as a desire to enhance the beauty of the service through its musical content. The Hazzan Ha-Kenesset, who traditionally guarded the correctness of the texts and selected new prayers, was a natural choice for this new permanent role.

When the liturgy came to include piyyutim (religious poetry), it was the Hazzan who would compose and recite them and provide suitable melodies. This recitation of the poetry became known as Hazzanut, and eventually this term came to refer to the traditional form of chanting, not only of just the poems in the service, but the service in its entirety.

B’Shalom,
Hazzan Henry Rosenblum

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4 Kitah Gimmel Siddur Ceremony
November 12 Cemetery Clean-Up
November 14 Torah Fund Event
November 17 Family Shabbat Dinner
November 18 Cinemathek FHJC Presents Fanny’s Journey
November 19 Religious School Family Workshop
November 19 Interfaith Service
December 2 Men’s Club Rock & Roll Event
December 8-9 Shabbaton
December 9 Cinemathek FHJC Presents In Search of Israeli Cuisine
December 10 Book Fair
December 12 First Night of Hanukkah!
December 19 Lights and Latkes!

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 9-10, 2018

Scholar-in-Residence Program 2018

THE HISTORY OF CHUTZPAH
Rabbi Dr. Ed Feinstein

Please set aside the weekend of February 9-10, 2018, for our annual Scholar-in-Residence Program, once again made possible through the generous support of the Sevin family. Our guest this year will be Rabbi Dr. Ed Feinstein, the Senior Rabbi of Valley Beth Shalom Congregation in Encino, California. A faculty member of the Ziegler Rabbinical School of the University of Judaism, the Wexner Heritage Program, and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, Rabbi Feinstein is one of the most sought-after teachers and lecturers on the American Jewish scene.

With his unique blend of scholarship and humor, Rabbi Feinstein’s presentations will be devoted to “The History of Chutzpah,” tracing the Jewish idea of human empowerment through biblical, rabbinic and philosophical sources.

Please set aside the dates; this is a program you won’t want to miss!
THE PRESIDENT’S PEN
Contrasts and Introspection

A number of years ago I joined other Center members on a walk-a-thon through Forest Hills; an FHJC fundraiser in memory of Michael Bernstein, a Center member who valued fitness, but whose life was tragically cut short. We walked past a number of locations in Forest Hills that served as the home of the Forest Hills Jewish Center prior to its moving into our current location on Queens Boulevard, after World War II. As we walked through Forest Hills Gardens, the Van Court section and along Metropolitan Avenue storefronts, we noticed the homes of early Center members, and locations where the congregation had met. They moved quite a bit from their founding in 1931 prior to settling in to the location we have called home for close to seventy years. Change was very much a part of the earlier years.

For the past 15 years, the leaders of FHJC have dreamed of change. Zoning, the economy, and attempts at larger scale multi-site development lengthened our time-line, but also taught us many valuable lessons. Today, we are again poised to build a new home right here at 106-06 Queens Blvd, the location wisely chosen for us so many years ago. A new modern home on a site filled with memories and in a location that brought joy, comfort and community to so many.

Over the coming months, as the project becomes more defined, we look forward to sharing many exciting details with the congregation. We do know, as Rabbi Skolnik shared at Kol Nidre, that there will be a time when we are in a nearby temporary home, as our new permanent home is constructed. But even in a temporary location, it will still be our home, with our schools, our prayer spaces, our meeting rooms and areas where we gather for simchat.

I feel so optimistic when I think of all the positive effects a new, modern, well designed home will mean for us as a community – a warm prayer space where the clergy is sitting in our midst, not high above the congregation; an accessible bima, allowing all members to accept honors; a building with easy access for you and your guests joining you for a simcha; modern classrooms for our students; reliable heating and cooling; and many others.

There will certainly be a time for packing, deciding what to take, what we can part with and of course, determining how to incorporate parts of our current home into our new home. We will also ‘pack’ years of memories to carry with us. Some will have multiple generations of memories, some just a few years. But they are all part of what FHJC is today.

As someone who has lived in the same zip code since 1967, you may correctly guess I am not a big fan of change. Change is hard and comes with many questions. But change also brings great opportunity. And I am excited to part of planning our next home. Our founders would be proud that 86 years since our founding in 1931, we are continuing to plan our future.

Ilana Altman

Adult Education—Ongoing Learning Opportunities

Talmud and Israeli Songs with Rabbi Skolnik

1) On Thursday mornings, immediately following Minyan, study Talmud in Rabbi Skolnik’s office. The class will finish by 9:00AM, and a light breakfast is provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin one day a week with Torah study; Don’t worry if your Hebrew/Aramaic is weak… the class is conducted in English, and all Hebrew/Aramaic text is translated. This class will be learning about the inner dimension of Jewish prayer.

2) On Monday evenings, join Rabbi Skolnik for an 8-week class in “The Classic Israeli Songbook.” Rabbi Skolnik will be sharing some of the songs that have come to define Israel’s earlier years, classics of the time of the founding of the State, and also some of the great songs of more recent Israeli performers like Arik Einstein, Chava Alberstein, Shlomo Artzi and others. We’ve done a lot of these songs at our annual Yom Ha’atzma’ut Zimriyah program through the years, but this is your chance to learn those songs and make them your own. Class will meet on November 6, 13, 20 and 27, and December 4, 11, and 18. Join Rabbi Skolnik as he shares his passion of Israeli music.

Hazzan Rosenblum Teaches Beginning Hebrew

Hazzan Rosenblum will be offering a beginner’s class in Hebrew reading for those who have always wanted to learn but never seized the moment. Here is your opportunity! In just 7 lessons you can learn to read. Tuesday evenings, following Minyan. 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/5 and 12/12.
UNITED PARENTS

As we write this, the school year is in full swing!

The school year got off to a great start with a Welcome Back Breakfast for the Religious School on Sunday, September 10. Parents had an opportunity to mingle with one another while learning what is ahead for the school year. The Nursery School also held its Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday, September 10 in Cunningham Park in Fresh Meadows. The weather was beautiful, and parents, teachers and children all had a blast! The children even got to run around with the coaches from Soccer Friends. The picnic and the breakfast really helped get the school year off to a great start.

We began our celebration of Simchat Torah on Thursday evening, October 12 with an ice cream party! After a special first Hakafot for children, the children and their families enjoyed ice cream and other treats in the Crystal Room. It was wonderful to see so many smiling children dancing with the Torahs.

Dancing Danny is back! United Parents is once again sponsoring an Israeli Dance class on Tuesday evenings with Danny Pollock. There are classes for both beginners as well as experienced dancers. Please contact the main office for further information.

Our Family Shabbat Dinner will be held this year on Friday, November 17. This is always one of our most successful events, and we urge you to attend. Following services, everyone will enjoy a traditional Shabbat meal together. Magic Evan will once again entertain the children.

Sunday, December 10 will be our Scholastic bookfair. We were so pleased to bring the bookfair back to FHJC last year and look forward to doing it again. This will be a great opportunity to purchase Hanukkah gifts while supporting United Parents.

Speaking of Hanukkah, our Lights and Latkes celebration will be held on Tuesday night, December 19.

Please continue to cut out and save box tops for education! Thank you to Amy Manheim and Julie Pena for sorting, counting and packing all the box tops which were dropped off during this past year. The money collected benefits both our Nursery School and Religious School. Collection boxes are located in the main office and the Nursery School Office.

We also would like to thank everyone who participated in our Schools Supplies and Rosh Hashanah honey fundraisers. Both were very successful and allow us to continue planning events that benefit the children of FHJC.

We look forward to seeing you at many of the upcoming events!

Alyssa Pollack and Richard Chase

Kol Nidre Update 2017

Dear Friends,

We hope that you found the High Holidays to be meaningful and spiritually inspiring. May 5778 be a good, healthy and sweet year for our entire FHJC community.

At one point or another in our lives we all turn to our synagogue to help fulfill our spiritual, cultural, educational or social needs and we expect the synagogue to be there for us. We rely on our shul to prepare our children to face the world as proud and knowledgeable Jews. Virtually everything we do at FHJC touches the lives of our members, but it comes at great expense. Each of us must do our part to ensure that our high-quality, diverse programs will continue to be available to serve our FHJC community. Dues and tuition by themselves don’t cover our costs. We need your support to accomplish our important mission. This is of particular import now as we plan for the future of our synagogue.

For those of you who have already made your 2017 Kol Nidre donations or submitted your pledges, we are most grateful - thank you! If you have given in the past, but have not yet gotten around to it this year, please support us again. Attached is a pdf copy of the Kol Nidre Appeal brochure, or you can just call the office (718 263 7000 x203) to make your donations. If you have not made a Kol Nidre pledge in the past, this is the time to begin. And, if you have thoughts on how we can better meet your needs, please let us know. We want your input!

With warm regards and many thanks,

Pearl Buitron, Rae Theise Kerzner, Carl Koerner, Gail Port & Mark Raphael

The 2017 Kol Nidre Appeal Co-Chairs

Save Box Tops Please!

Every Clip Counts

New products are added from time to time so please check their website: https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products

Box Tops can be dropped off in the FHJC main office and the FHJC Nursery School Office. Please be sure to check that they are not expired. Thank you!
Mah tov u’haalecha Yaakov, mish-k’notecha Yi’srael: How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel!

Join us for a special evening dedicated to the Torah Fund Campaign

Tuesday, November 14

Mah tov u, a phrase that originates in the Torah and forms the basis of the opening prayer that is sung when entering the synagogue, is the inspiration for this year’s theme marking the 100th anniversary of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and its dedicated philanthropy, the Torah Fund Campaign.

The Torah Fund Campaign supports students enrolled in our seminaries around the world, who will become our movement’s future Rabbis, Hazzanim, Educators, Camp and Hillel Directors, Chaplains, lay leaders and our most innovative thinkers.

Tuesday, November 14
8 p.m.
at the home of Toby and Allan Silvera
$54 per person
RSVP by Monday, November 13

For more information, please contact: Anise Parnes, a.parnes8166@gmail.co Event Chairwomen: Miriam Chait, Anise Parnes and Shirley Rosman-Zucker

Religious School Reflection

Lynn Lancaster

Though the month of Heshvan is traditionally described as Mar Heshvan—bitter Heshvan, a month without holidays—we welcome it in the Religious School. Not only do we return to a consistent school schedule, but we also resume some of the programs that we regard as core to our program.

With Heshvan, we begin our Rosh Hodesh and Bro Hodesh groups. These groups are a chance for our older students to celebrate Rosh Hodesh as they connect their Judaism to relevant issues of growing up in a complicated world. We are fortunate to be a part of the Moving Traditions network and have the continuing opportunity to train with them monthly. Our Rosh Hodesh groups are led by Aaron Yavelberg, Karen Stein and Lynn Lancaster.

We also resume making and packaging brown bag lunches for the Interfaith Nutrition Network. These lunches are distributed at soup kitchens and provide one more meal for hungry families. Unfortunately, these lunches are always in high demand. What better way to begin the month than practicing the mitzvah of caring for those in need.

We have resumed Israeli dancing with Dancing Danny. Our students from pre-k through Het have the opportunity to learn traditional and modern Israeli dance. They twirl and clap and smile. Learning and laughing go hand in hand.

All of these activities have the added benefit of helping build relationships and community across grades. Rosh Hodesh groups span 5th through eighth grade. Grades 3-7 help with some component of packing lunches and we dance in groups. These relationships benefit all of our students, allowing them to sometimes be the mentor and sometimes be with role models. No matter what month it is, we value the opportunity to grow relationships and grow Jewish lives.

The Forest Hills Jewish Center Reaches Out During Heshvan and All Year Long

By Dorrie Berkowitz

The month of Heshvan has recently become synonymous with hesed, or kindness. Why Heshvan? Probably because it’s the only month in the Jewish calendar without a holiday, so why not fill it with gemilut hesed, or acts of kindness.

Here at FHJC, however, we offer opportunities for gemilut hesed, or g’mach, all year ‘round. We hope you will take advantage of one or more of these opportunities to help those in the FHJC community and beyond.

The FHJC G’mach Initiative

In existence since 2009, our G’mach volunteers quietly provide comfort to FHJC members who ask for home or nursing home visits or friendly phone calls. This is a wonderful opportunity to cheer up a homebound member, to offer support to a new parent, or just to say “Hi” with a phone call.

Adult FHJC members — and teens accompanied by a parent — are welcome to volunteer. And if you or an FHJC member you know might benefit from a G’mach volunteer’s support, please contact Rabbi Skolnik, Hazan Rosenblum, or Dorrie Berkowitz through the FHJC office. All requests and support services are confidential.

Partner Programs with Queens Community House

For more than a year and a half, FHJC volunteers have partnered with the Queens Community House (QCH) in ever-expanding ways.

Through the Forest Hills Interfaith Dialogue, FHJC volunteers, along with volunteers from other faith communities, helped establish the monthly evening food pantry at QCH. Adults, and pre-teens and teens accompanied by parents, help out on the last Wednesday of every month to sort donated packaged food (3:00pm to 5:30pm) and/or distribute the assembled food packages to the recipients who come (Continued on page 15)
News from Nursery School
Lynn Fisher and Iris Chomsky

The Hebrew words for gratitude are Hakarat Hatov, which means “recognizing the good.” Thankfulness is defined as an awareness of a benefit; a feeling of gratefulness or appreciativeness. It is fundamental for future generations to have a deeper understanding of gratitude and thankfulness. At this time of year, Americans focus on what it means to be thankful. As American Jews, this is something embedded in our prayers, our customs and in our way of life. Among many other traditions, we say todah, thank you, when someone does something kind; we recite the Modeh Ani, the prayer thanking God for the gift of life; we practice Tikun Olam, acts of kindness performed to perfect or repair the world.

With the joy and commitment of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot behind us, we are beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving. Celebrating Sukkot was a natural starting point for the teachers to start discussing Thanksgiving as both holidays are connected to the harvest. During both holidays, we express our thankfulness for food, shelter and the kindness of others. The children of the Nursery School and Pre-K For All are focusing their attention not only on turkey and cranberries, but also on the deeper meaning of thankfulness. Our Morahs are modeling thankfulness as an everyday occurrence. We model awareness of what we have and the need to share with others in our community and in the world around us.

As the calendar transitions from Thanksgiving to Hanukkah, the Nursery children will begin to focus on the beauty of light as it ties to Hanukkah. The Morahs will stress how thankful the Jewish people are for the miracle of the oil and the bravery of the Maccabees. Thanksgiving reminds us of the pilgrims’ difficult journey to escape religious persecution. The pilgrims were thankful to be able to practice their religion in the new land. Hanukkah’s narrative is also deeply rooted in the fight for religious freedom. Hanukkah tells us about how we earned our freedom to practice Judaism and our thankfulness to God for the miracles.

As Jews, we look to the Torah for insight on the trait of thankfulness. Children continually look to their parents for understanding and insight. This is a perfect time to practice these ideals with your children. As parents, you have the strongest impact and you can do many things to encourage gratitude and thankfulness. Let your children see you thank your doorman for holding open the door, thank your significant other for giving you a compliment and even thank your child for cleaning up their toys. All of these simple actions are meaningful lessons that contribute to the overall development of your child’s character.

In working together and setting good examples, we can instill the true values of these holidays.

May you have a meaningful Thanksgiving and a happy Hanukkah.

The 5778 FHJC Sukkah looked beautiful thanks to a terrific turnout of volunteers:

If we’ve misspelled a name, or if we’ve left out anyone, let us know so we can make the correction.

Thanks to the educators and students in our Early Childhood and Religious schools for enhancing the sukkah with their decorations. Thanks to Margot Belgorod for photographing our community working together. Thanks to Sisterhood for providing the art supplies, garlands, and other “produce.” Thanks to Men’s Club for providing all the snacks and beverages. And very special thanks to our masterful Maintenance Staff for building a sukkah and hanging lights so the whole FHJC community can celebrate!

Dorrie Berkowitz, Membership Committee Co-Chair
Jonathan Vick will deliver our keynote presentation:
The death of debate and rise of hate—technology’s challenge to the future

America has long been the leader in the entertainment industry: movies, radio, television and then the internet. Along with technological and business leadership, the U.S. also became a thought leader. Free speech came to be seen as the cornerstone for a nation’s admirable success.

The concept of free speech was adopted by many disciplines and drifted into the realm of an absolute concept. The belief that no debate is necessary if free speech is absolute has become an accepted social currency. Where there is no engagement between unlike sides, there is no debate. Where there is no debate, the exchange of ideas and intellectual growth dies.

Presidential debates are anything but true debates; rarely do government officials or average citizens openly engage in verbal conflict, which is what debate is. Even creative conflict is avoided at all costs. Nature hates a vacuum - where debate is absent, opportunism steps in. Information - unquestioned, undeated, unexamined, and unchallenged - steps in to fill the void. Part 2 of Jonathan’s presentation will be Wednesday, January 3, after minyan, with computer and large screen!

Jonathan Vick is Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Associate Director of Investigative Technology and Cyberhate Response in New York. He joined ADL over 14 years ago after working in online marketing for Hearst Publishing, marketing for Philips Electronics, and trade development intelligence for the British Government. He is a specialist on the technology, business and politics of the internet and connected technologies. Jon has written extensively and created training material and consumer safety tools. He works with internet-related companies, law enforcement agencies and government. He is actively involved in training and liaison efforts for emerging technology markets in Latin America and South Africa. Jonathan is a recipient of ADL’s Senn/Greenberg Award for Professional Excellence. He is ADL representative to Twitter’s Trust and Safety Council, YouTube’s Trusted Flagger Program and a board member of the International Network Against Cyber Hate. He is a graduate of the Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Communications.

The Shabbaton expenses are sponsored by some of our members. The list will be available on the day of the program.

RSVP by Tuesday, December 5 by returning the form to the FHJC Office, or online at www.FHJC.org/Shabbaton
SESSION 1—Choose from A-D (1:30-2:15 PM)

- Session 1 Class A—Lenny Picker: Was Sherlock Holmes Jewish? A Look At The Evolution Of Jewish Detective Fiction - Not everyone is aware of the rich history of Jews who have written in the genre, including an early cultural Zionist, and a contemporary rabbi who has made Jewish literacy widely accessible, or their characters, who pit their brains against clever criminals hoping to get away with murder. Lenny Picker, who has read, at a conservative estimate, over 5000 mystery novels, and who has written about them since the Jimmy Carter era, will offer a comprehensive survey.

- Session 1 Class B—Nora Mandel: Toward An Iconography Of Anti-Semitic Images Of Jewish Women - Think of anti-Semitic images of Jews in Western culture: Shylocks with hook noses looms large. Male! Of course there is anti-Semitism against Jewish women, but what do their stereotypes look like? In my reviews and monitoring of film and television over the past 20 years, I’ve looked for anti-Semitic images of women and have been surprised not only at the lack of research on the subject (both journalistic and academic), but that to understand the assumptions, one has to go back to the Middle Ages. My talk will be an exploratory survey of popular culture, from the Middle Ages, through the Nazis (then and now), and recent entertainment media, in the U.S. and beyond. Nora Lee Mandel has reviewed documentaries, independent, and foreign-language films, particularly of Jewish interest, for websites and publications over a dozen years. Her ongoing Critical Guide to Jewish Women in Movies, TV, and Pop Music [http://MavensNest.net/Lilith.html] has been the basis for her previous Shabbaton talks.

- Session 1 Class C—Jay Luger: There once was a chief rabbi of Rome/ The Eternal City was his congregation’s home/ He abandoned his old boss/ As he bowed to the cross/ So his congregation never ever bade him shalom. Tse u’lemad (come and learn) why Rabbi Israel Zolli converted as WW2 winding down. Jay has an MA in Jewish History from YU and many additional years of study at JTS. He is a feline veterinarian.

- Session 1 Class D—Rabbi David Cavill: God of Fire - The Torah contains recurring elements in which the Divine manifests through expressions of fire. Fire continues to be important to Jewish religious imagination beyond the bible. Drawing on his rabbinical school thesis, Rabbi Cavill will present several texts in which the Divine appears through imagery and practices connected to fire. David Cavill was ordained as a rabbi in April 2017 at the Academy for Jewish Religion. He earned the degree of Master of Divinity at Yale University and completed the Jewish Theological Seminary’s undergraduate Joint Program with Columbia University. David currently works as the Controller of New York City Audubon Society and has a background in nonprofit management.

SESSION 2—Choose from E-H (3:00-3:45 PM)

- Session 2 Class E—Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor: When David Slew Goliath: What You Thought You Knew! “David and Goliath” is often used to describe a power struggle where the weaker party triumphs, as we (in the West) nearly all know the “Bible Stories” version of David slaying the giant. Our understanding is challenged, though, by a careful reading of the biblical account and the other Ancient Near Eastern evidence. You may never use that metaphor the same way again! Rabbi Chana Thompson Shor was ordained from JTS, in 1995, where she also studied Hebrew Bible in the graduate school. She completed “about half” of a Ph.D., which was interrupted by the (joyful!) arrival of a second set of twins. Among other activities, Chana keeps her Bible skills sharp with an obsessive interest in the Exodus narrative, and an ongoing study of the Book of Samuel.

- Session 2 Class F—Mitchell Frank: We Were As Dreamers - There was a Zionist movement 2,500 years ago, when exiles to Babylonia returned to the land of Israel after Babylon was conquered by Persia. Who were these Shavei Tzion, these returners to Zion? Who was their Ben Gurion? Their Rav Kook? What did they dream? What were their obstacles? How did Judaism become transformed in their era? In this presentation we will review selected readings from the later Biblical writings to get a sense of the period, its all-too-human heroes, its crises and triumphs. Mitchell is a clinical psychologist who holds graduate degrees from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and YU.

- Session 2 Class G—Dr. Stephen Teitelbaum: Posthumous Sperm Retrieval: Mechanics, Ethics, and Halacha, and The Socioeconomic Implications for The Fallen IDF Soldier- Posthumous sperm retrieval is a procedure performed to extract spermatozoa from a recently deceased man. The sperm would then be available for fertilization. We will explore the mechanics of the procedure as well as the ethical and halachic considerations surrounding the use of such sperm for posthumous conception. I also hope to touch on the issue of survivor benefits for the posthumously conceived offspring of fallen IDF soldiers. Open discussion is encouraged. Stephen practices urology in Brooklyn, NY.

- Session 2 Class H—Adam Monaco - With Great “Koach” Comes Great Responsibility, Volume 2 - Superman is a character with a long history of being one of the world’s most famous superheroes. Created by two Jews in Cleveland, he represented something amazing for all people, young and old. In this session, we will discuss the Man of Steel’s roots and connections to Judaism. Adam Monaco is a middle school English teacher, with nearly two decades of teaching in both public schools and yeshivas. He holds an MS in English/Secondary Education. He also runs the FHJC Kadima group. Adam has been keeping comic book stores in business for almost 30 years.
Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 5, 2017, for all parts of the Shabbaton. Thanks to our generous sponsors, there is no charge for the Shabbaton, except for Shabbat dinner. Please use this form to sign up for the dinner and/or the Shabbat afternoon sessions and childcare.

Or, register online at www.FHJC.org/Shabbaton.

**Family reservations for Friday Night Dinner:**

- # of adults age 13 up at $30: ______
- # of children age 4–12 at $10: ______
- # of children age 3 & under free: ______

List first name & last name of all participants please:

___________________________________________________________________________________

Address          Phone          Email

Total for dinner: $ _______ Handicap Access Required ___yes ___no   # of Vegetarians _____ # of GF _____

Please seat me with: __________________________________________

Enclosed is payment of $__________ for the Shabbat dinner.  _____# Children needing childcare during presentation

Credit card info (MC or Visa)______________________________exp___________ or enclose a check payable to FHJC.

**Shabbat afternoon session reservations: Please list each family member separately:**

Full Name

Session 1 Choice: □ A □ B □ C □ D

Session 2 Choice: □ E □ F □ G □ H

Full Name

Session 1 Choice: □ A □ B □ C □ D

Session 2 Choice: □ E □ F □ G □ H

Full Name

Session 1 Choice: □ A □ B □ C □ D

Session 2 Choice: □ E □ F □ G □ H

**Childcare Reservations**

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Additional donation to help defray the extra costs of the Shabbaton: $ ______

Please send this form with your payment (if attending the Shabbat dinner) to the Forest Hills Jewish Center, 106-06 Queens Blvd, Forest Hills, NY 11375  attn: Shabbaton
SISTERHOOD

Our Sisterhood year got off to a wonderful start with the Installation of our new officers on September 12. The festivities were accompanied by seasonal drinks (Appletinis, Shirley Temples, made with pomegranate juice, and Honey Pepper Bourbon) and seasonal foods (apples, honey, and honey cakes) as we welcomed our new Co-Presidents, Debra Weil and Marcia Belgorod, along with the 2017-2018 Sisterhood Board Members. Shanah Tovah pencils were distributed to our returning Religious School students to help them start the New Year with new writing materials. Sisterhood members joined together with Mens’ Club and United Parents to help decorate the FHJC Sukkah and celebrate hiddur mitzvah – the beautification of the mitzvah. Our Chamsa Making program is now scheduled for December 11, where we will be making chamsaot to decorate our homes for Hanukkah and learn more about Birkat Habayit – Blessing our homes.

Sisterhood is gearing up for many new and exciting programs this fall. Our Torah Fund campaign is underway, with many members already wearing this year’s Mah Tovu pin celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s League. If you have not yet had the opportunity to get your pin, please contact the Torah Fund Chairwomen, Anise Parnes, Shirley Rossmann-Zucker, and Miriam Chait, and show your support for Torah Fund and Women’s League. We will be having the kick off Torah Fund event on Tuesday evening, November 14 with a Dessert Reception at the home of Toby Silvera. We will be celebrating the Seminaries around the world that are supported by our contributions to Torah Fund.

Sisterhood will be celebrating Jewish Book Month with not one but two book discussion groups meeting during November. Our newest program, Daytime Readers, led by Miriam Weintraub and Anna Grosz, will begin meeting on Thursday, November 16 at 1:30pm to discuss The Bridal Chair by Gloria Goldreich, and again on December 14 to discuss Whispers From the East by Amie Ali. The Daytime Readers will continue to meet on the second or third Thursday of each month to discuss books of interest and have some cookies together. Evening readers – don’t despair! Our yearly book discussion with Robin Skolnik continues as we meet The Beauty of Science Fiction literature. Don’t miss out! As you can see – this is NOT your Grandmother’s Sisterhood! If you don’t see the program that interests you – let us know, and who knows? Maybe it will be advertised in the next Message.

Happy Fall!
Debra and Marcia

A MEN’S CLUB MINUTE

Last year, at about the same time of year, my message was that reports of the death of the Men’s Club were greatly exaggerated (see M. Twain) and that we were definitely alive. This year my message is that we are a vibrant and growing organization that donates our time, expertise and money to our Shul and neighboring communities while still finding time to have fun. Our opening event earlier this month was a great example of all this in action. On Sunday evening, October 8th, we hosted our third or fourth annual Scotch and Beer BBQ in FHJC’s Sukkah. Approximately 60 men, women and children from our FHJC community and our Forest Hills community attended the event where our Men’s Club “chefs” did all of the cooking (and probably a lot of the drinking). We were also able to scare the rain away, even though there was a 100% chance of rain called for.

Our next event is a Rock and Roll evening on Saturday, December 2nd, at 8:00 PM, in the Heller Ballroom. The popular NYC band ‘Nite Brigade’ will be playing our favorite tunes from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. Tickets are $20 per person (with a buy three and get a fourth ticket free discount). Snacks and beverages are complimentary and BYOB is also there for you.

Looking ahead, in January we will host the second Havdallah evening event for kids on Saturday, January 6th; and, then, the following morning, Sunday, January 7th, we will have our annual Shiva Minyan Breakfast. Finally, on Saturday night, January 27th, we will be part of the very popular Coffee House happening.

Hope to see you at all of these events,
Warren Wankoff, President
FHJC Men’s Club
**Schedule of Services**

Unless otherwise indicated, our regular schedule of services is as follows:

**Shaharit:**
- Weekdays: 7:00 AM
- Shabbat: 9:00 AM
- Sunday, and legal holidays: 8:20 AM

**Minha/Ma’ariv**
- Weekdays: 7:30 PM
- Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: See Calendar
- Saturday night, Sunday, and legal holidays: Sundown

**Schedule of Children’s Services**

**Junior Congregation:**
- 10:15 AM - Noon—Little Synagogue

**Kids Congregation:**
- 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM—Room M4

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<td><strong>Daylight Saving Time Ends</strong></td>
<td>16th of Heshvan</td>
<td>8a Nagillah</td>
<td>12:30p COY Author’s Cafe</td>
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<td><strong>Election Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thanksgiving Day</strong></td>
<td>5th of Kislev</td>
<td>9a No Religious School</td>
<td>10:30a Sisterhood Balance Class</td>
<td>8a Rabbi’s Hebrew Class</td>
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<td><strong>Veterans’ Day</strong></td>
<td>22nd of Heshvan</td>
<td>Parashat Chayei Sara</td>
<td>9a Recognizing our Veterans</td>
<td>1p Hebrew Literature Group</td>
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**Thank you to our November—December Congregational Kiddush Hosts**

**November 4—**
- Marcy Mirkin and Adam Schutz on the occasion of the Bat Mitzvah of Leah
- Barbara Bernstein on the occasion of the aufruf and upcoming marriage of her daughter Allison to Aaron Shine

**December 2—**
- Vilia & Vladimir Somershaf on the occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Max.

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### December 2017 ~ Kislev-Tevet 5778

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*ALL WEEKDAY EVENING EVENTS AND CLASSES ARE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:30 PM MINYAN, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.*

Please try to attend the minyan on the nights you attend those events. Thank you.
NOVEMBER BAT MITZVAH

Leah Schutz
Bat Mitzvah
November 4, 2017
Leah Schutz, an 8th grader at Louis Armstrong Middle School, loves spending time with her friends, family, and listening to American & Israeli pop music. Leah is an avid photographer and budding visual storyteller, she also has a huge passion for surfing. She has tremendous compassion for the underdog and is not shy about pointing out social inequities and offering alternatives. Leah has inherited the same spry wit of her grandfathers whom she is named after. She feels lucky that her bat mitzvah is actually on her birthday and has been volunteering and fundraising for the God’s Love We Deliver Birthday Cake Project as her mitzvah project.

The following have made donations in memory of Ruth Danis:
Carol & Howard Hankin
Roz Feuer
Esther & Ted Feldman
Miriam Weintraub
Marilyn Bochner
Lewis Polishook & Susan Shapiro, Aliza and Bina
Esther Wolberger
Bruce Danoff
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab
Ellen Cahn
Michael & Gila Wasserman
Rebekah & Norman Fassler

HAZZAN’S MUSIC FUND
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab—in honor of Hazzan Henry Rosenblum
Marcy Mirkin, Adam Schutz & Leah Schutz—in all his hard work preparing Leah for her Bat Mitzvah
Members of Nagilah—in memory of Ruth Danis

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND
Helaine & Andy Bass—in honor of the engagement of Elaine & Paul Suchow’s son Joshua
Helaine & Andy Bass—in honor of the engagement of Marilyn and Eli Hertz’s son Danny
Helaine & Andy Bass—in honor of the birth of Marilyn and Eli Hertz’s granddaughter
Judy & David Zipkowitz—in honor of Ben Leeman’s honor of Chattan Torah

DECEMBER BAR MITZVAH

Max Somershaf
Bar Mitzvah
December 2, 2017
Max Somershaf is a 13 year old who is having his bar mitzvah on Dec 2nd. He goes to school at Kew Forest and his favorite subjects are History and Math. He focuses on basketball every single day and hopes to become a college athlete and maybe even a player in the NBA. He lives with his Mom, Dad, and sister and loves them to the moon and back. He hangs out with friends on the weekends and is a great person to be around.

Jack Vogel
Elaine Vogel & Family—in memory of beloved husband, loving father & grandfather, Jack Vogel, we love you & miss you. (40th yahrzeit)

Siddur Lev Shalom
Cindy & Ami Megiddo—in memory of Ruth Danis

Leah Weinberg Fund
Erwin Weinberg—in honor of the birth of Meirav Zemer Warren
Erwin Weinberg—in memory of Ruth Danis
Lesley, Allen Kanter & family—in memory of Michael Bernstein
Lesley Kanter—in memory of Leah Weinberg

Pulpit Fund
Lucy Preisler—in gratitude for honors received
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab—in honor of Rabbi Skolnik
Sarah & Stephen Markowitz—in honor of the birth of Susan and Alan Kirschner’s granddaughter
Tikva, Zahava, Hanna & Dorothy Mahlab—in celebration of Dr. Ben Leeman, Chattan Torah & Judy Gostl, Kallat Bereshit
Grace Schwartzberg—in honor of the engagement of Talya Skolnik to Adam Dicterow
Marian & Martin Krasilovsky—in gratitude to Norman Gursen & Dr. Martin Topol for honors received
Rita Berger Fund
Lottie & Henry Burger—in memory of Ruth Danis

Rita Berger Fund
Anise Parnes—in gratitude to the Ritual Committee for honors received (Sukkot)
Louis Jaari—for the yahrzeit of his brother, Simon Moskowitz
Amy Manheim—in memory of her mother, Audrie Rothschild, first yahrzeit
Anne Franklin—in memory of her mother, Belle Franklin, yahrzeit
Anthony & Georgette Dankner and family—in memory of his mother, Katharina Dankner

Judy Gostl—received the honor of Kallat Bereshit
Anise Parnes—in loving memory of Howard Goldman, z”l
to QCH to pick up the donations (5:30pm to 8:00pm). It’s a great way to help those in need as well as to make connections with others from around Forest Hills. If you are interested in volunteering for a shift, please contact the FHJC Food Pantry Liaison, Hal Berkowitz, at redzonehal@aol.com.

In addition to volunteering for a shift at the pantry, volunteers are also needed to donate packaged food and to transport it to QCH. To donate packaged, nonperishable food, please bring your donations to the bin in the FHJC office during the last week of each month. To volunteer as a driver to deliver the packages to QCH on the last Wednesday morning of each month, please contact Hal Berkowitz at redzonehal@aol.com.

QCH also runs a Friendly Visiting Program, which is similar to FHJC’s G’mach Initiative. The Friendly Visiting Program reaches out to the larger Forest Hills community, as well as to those in Rego Park, Corona, and Elmhurst. Its goal is to create intergenerational relationships with home-bound seniors in those neighborhoods. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, contact the QCH Volunteer Coordinator at 929-296-3264 or email volunteer@qchnyc.org.

FHJC’s Ongoing Food Donations

FHJC has a long-standing partnership with City Harvest, thanks to FHJC’s Social Action chief, Ron Sternberg. Donations of nonperishable packaged food are accepted at the FHJC office and are then picked up by City Harvest. (Donations are shared with QCH’s evening food pantry at the end of the month only.) When you go shopping, consider buying a can or two of beans or a container of oatmeal. It’s another easy way to help someone in need.

Continuing Hesed Events at FHJC

All through the year, FHJC provides opportunities to help those in our FHJC community as well as the wider Forest Hills community.

When Masbia re-opens, we will again coordinate volunteer shifts to serve dinners at the Rego Park location. Watch for information coming soon.

On November 12, we will again participate in the Hebrew Free Burial Society’s cemetery clean-up event. This is a great event for individuals as well as families to help provide dignity and respect to those who may not have received any in life. Contact David Zipkowitz at volunteer.fhjc@gmail.com to participate.

Adults can also donate liquid life at the Blood Drives that are scheduled throughout the year. Look for the posters that will be placed around FHJC.

As you see, we at the Forest Hills Jewish Center know that there’s always a way to help those who need help. Plan on participating during the year either as an individual or with your family, and remember to honor your commitment. You and the people you help will be all the better for it.