

Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation – Emek Shalom May 2009: The Shofar

President's Message – Daryl Worobow, 404-0579, drwor@aol.com

As I finish this article, we faced with a nearly \$60,000 budget shortfall. What does this mean? Why did it happen and how do we remedy this issue? The Temple has run minor deficits normally affecting our June budget and we have rebounded from it.

Nearly \$45,000 of this shortage comes from unrealized dues payments. Over 100 congregants still needed to address outstanding bills, both small and large. The Executive Board has attempted to contact congregants having outstanding balances either by phone or mail already. I ask those congregants to deal with this issue now, in whatever manner you can!

If you are behind in your dues and are facing extenuating financial hardship, please reach out to myself or David Goldshall, Dues Manager. Our flexible, non-judgmental and confidential dues-abatement application process is decided by three people, and we have never turned anyone down. But, we must have a conversation so that we can plan realistically for the rest of this year.

Your participation in our Voluntary Dues program introduced this year, for those who can and are willing to pay more than the required dues. has never been more critical. Please contact me if you can donate more.

We have requested a line of credit from New Alliance Bank to help manage this short-term crisis. Donors to our Eternal Light Endowment Campaign have been asked to donate directly to the Temple for 2009. Other possible donations are currently being sought as well.

Mindful of the continuing economic challenges we face in our community, the board has developed a budget for 2009-2010 that reflects both increases in revenue and decreases in spending in order to minimize budget gaps like those we face right now.

Four main points of the budget we are proposing for next year to Congregation include:

*We are planning an increase of 1.75% in dues for next year. There are no planned increases in school tuition or for any other fees.

*We have reduced projected administrative costs by almost \$40,000.

*Salaries and hourly wages are being held at current rates for the upcoming fiscal year.

*Continued input from congregants and the need for expense savings have led the board to plan High Holiday Services at the temple and not use area schools or hire a student rabbi.

*To help congregants who prefer to use credit cards, we will accept charge cards for dues under a four payment plan (with a possible a fifth payment for religious school tuition if applicable). The congregant will be responsible for applicable service fees,

*All congregants must pay their July and August bills (and tuition if applicable) prior to receiving any High Holiday Tickets. Those who require abatements will need to contact us before the holidays to make appropriate arrangements.

I encourage you to attend our Temple Information Session on Sunday, May 17th at 9:30 AM to discuss any of these proposed policies and the proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Daryl Worobow

Thanks to Randi Chin and the Sisterhood for a terrific "Comedy Night," our newly established Men's Club for a great networking event, and the Fichtenholtz's for leading the sponsorship of our JCC Author's Event, which was just held. Look to our Progressive Dinner on June 6th as well. Shalom!

Cantor's Corner – Cantor Susan L. Levine, 658-0369, cantor@fvjc.org; Office Hours: Mondays – 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesdays – off, Thursdays – 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Fridays – 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

April came and went so very quickly. Before moving on, I want to tell you just a bit about our Women's Seder. Around our Seder table this year were 17 women. We sang, discussed and experienced the Passover Seder ritual in a very unique and special way. We talked about the generations of women in Jewish history and the meaning it held for us. After we had concluded our Seder, we promised to come back next year and do it again. Thank you to all the women who participated helped and were a part of this wonderful happening. A special Todah Rabah, Thank you, goes to Judi Cohen for spearheading this and making it happen.

As always, it is on to more activities within our synagogue. Our next Klezmer Shabbat will be: Friday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. The sounds of our singing on this Kabbalat Shabbat will be accompanied by our terrific Klezmer Band. Each and every time we are able to have them join us, they bring additional *ruach* (spirit), enthusiasm and joy to our service. As Kabbalat Shabbat is a time of singing around the Shabbat table, you can expect lots of great melodies to sing, clap and move to. They will be back again on Friday, June 12th as well. Don't miss it!
B'shalom!

Religious School: Contact: Marlena DeRosa – 651-4218, school@fvjc.org.

We are winding down as we near the end of the school year. Once again, I want to thank all of you for helping to make this another successful Religious School year. There are so many people I want to thank: Jennifer Shufro, Education Chair; the moms that helped bring the "Wednesday snack program" back, Barbara Feldstein for the wonderful model Seders and the moms that are helping to coordinate the teacher appreciation luncheon. Without all of you, we would not have the great school that we are so proud of.

Just a few reminders, there is Religious School on Sunday May 3 and on May 17, which will be our last Sunday; we will be having regular classes on May 17 from 9 to Noon. There will be Hebrew school on Wednesday May 6 and 13. Final Progress Evaluations will be handed out on Sunday May 17. Please join us as our Grade Ten students are confirmed during Shavuot on Friday May 29.

Our *Midrashei Chayim* students will be going on a trip to New York City in June, they will be going to Ellis Island and seeing Irena's Vow on Broadway, it should be a wonderful experience for them. *Midrashei Chayim*, our grades eight through ten program, has been very successful and hopefully we will see many of our seventh graders return to participate in this program. If you have any questions, please call me in the Religious School Office at 651-4218.

50th Anniversary Committee Forming!

Yes, FVJC will be celebrating its Silver anniversary in 5771 (2010-2011) and we are forming a committee to plan the celebration. If you are interested, please call Nancy Brownstein (860-675-6015 home or 860-604-7714 cell) to volunteer. We need lots of help to plan activities for everyone to enjoy during the year leading up to and a special celebration in April 2011. Please help. All are welcome!

Lay-Led Saturday Morning Worship

FVJC-Emek Shalom will hold its very first lay led Saturday Morning Shabbat Worship Service on Saturday, May 2, at 9:00 am in the Multi-Purpose room. Our Religious Committee is happy to introduce this service as an alternative to or in addition to attending Friday Night Shabbat Services. Shabbat Morning Services will be held on the first Saturday of each month. We hope to see many of you there on Saturday, May 2

Women's Spirituality Group

Explore your spirituality, broaden your horizons, and develop new friendships. Fun, educational, open-minded dialogue. Come and invite your friends of all faiths – the next workshop is in May and is open to 20 women on a first-come, first-served basis. To join or for more information please contact Alice Seidenberg: 778-7938 or e-mail: aaseidenberg@sbcglobal.net.

Mondays with the Rabbi – The Bible: Join us for weekly study and discussion about the BIBLE from a human point of view; character study of biblical personalities; family relationships and dynamics; as well as events to see what modern wisdom we can gain from ancient texts. Mondays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. -- For more information please contact Edie Offenhartz at 693-0155 or ZedieZed@aol.com.

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Victoria Black will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 16, 2009. She is the daughter of Johanne Bach and Robert Black.

Yahrzeit List – Jerry Hirsch, 658-7951, barbandjerryh@sbcglobal.net

May 1, 2009: Elise Heller, Harry Kaplan, Robert Shawn Cohen, Estelle Wolf, Evelyn Zeligman, Mary Metcalf, Barnett Lieberman, Celia Kaugman Gersten, Harry Ginsberg

May 8, 2009: Sumner Wolfe, Marcia Goldblatt, Sophia Lewanda, Madeline Lewanda, Sara Shapiro, Fanny Schifferson, Helen Brayer, Anne Schaffer, Wolfgang Weigert, Morton Schultz, Ruth Bisberg, Irene Ellenberg, David Hirsch

May 15, 2009: Raymond Markowitz, Leon Goldsholl, Herman Greenberg, Frank Kamins, James Jay Lazar, Sam Rothman, Jerry Shimberg, Lottie Tachman, Maurice Goodman, Edward Schwartzman, Mollie Cohen

May 22, 2009: Daniel Seidenberg, Faye Garry, Carl Schiff, Irene Gallo, Anne Siegal, Charna Eisenberg, Lillian Vine, Lillian Lustgarten, Sidney Lott, Elliott Bennett, Theodore Goodman, Walter Minkoff, Mary Yaffe, Samuel Barson, Louis Sodokoff, Louis Weinberg, Ray Weissman, Willena Theriault

May 29, 2009: Nathan Krevolin, Eugene Kenton, Marc David, Herbert Greif, Beatrice Steinberg, Samuel Gersten, Helen Hauptman, Bryan Scott Schneps, Abraham Rowen, Bernice Weinstock, Jennifer Sloan, Mollie Merrill, Sidney Greenberg, Hyman Zell

In memorium

Manny Hauptman, father of Elaine Katz

Kids' Shabbat Family Game Night!

Join us for a short service, dinner and games. Date: May 1, 2009 Time: 5:45 P.M.

Please RSVP by Friday 4/24 Stephanie and Richard Leite, 651-9886, stephanie@drleite.com

Hosts: The Kaufman Family. Bring your check, made out to FVJC, to the dinner \$3 for children, \$7 for adults; Great for Pre-K – Second Grade. Upcoming date to save: 6/5 - Shabbat at the playground (5:30).

Kids Shabbat is partially underwritten by the Rose and Wolfgang Weigert Education Fund

College and Graduate Studies Scholarships for Temple Members

The Temple has available two scholarships for students pursuing a college or post-graduate degree: The Paula Lieberman Scholarship, established by the Lieberman family in memory of beloved wife and mother Paula Lieberman and the Harold Wolinsky Scholarship, established by the Wolinsky family in memory of beloved father and grandfather Harold Wolinsky. For more information or an application, please e-mail Rabbi Herman at rebbeherman@gmail.com or call him at 651-8576. Completed applications must be returned to the Rabbi at the Temple by June 1.

Temple Clean-Up Day (and Men's Club meeting)

Join us on Sunday, May 3rd for an "old fashion cleanup and sprucing-up of the temple property!" The Board and the Men's Club will be joining together to clean-up the temple property from 8:30 AM till 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 3rd. If you have a rake, bring it or a gas leaf blower, we can use it. If you have any questions, please call Daryl Worobow at 404-0579. Come join us for coffee and donuts and a great day to spruce up the Temple!

The Mitzvah Marchers are Back!

The Temple's RELAY for LIFE team, the Mitzvah Marchers, is again walking to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Simsbury Relay for LIFE takes place on June 13, 2009 at Simsbury High School, from 4pm until 10am the next day (camping out is optional). Susan Gentile is heading the team this year, so if you'd like more information, to join the team, or to make a donation, please go to the Team website: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/MitzvahMarchers> or contact Susan at 651-6608 or sgentile@ymail.com.

Please join us at FVJC's Annual Progressive Dinner – June 6, 2009!

The event is open to both current and prospective members and is sure to be a fun-filled evening. Appetizers begin at 6:30 at a location to be announced; guests are then divided among several members' homes for dinner, then we all reconvene for dessert.

We are looking for members to volunteer their homes for dinner (food and wine is provided).

The cost is \$20 per person to cover the dinner, and guests are asked to contribute an appetizer or dessert. Please use the form below to RSVP.

Questions? Please call a Progressive Dinner Planning Committee member: Lori Kase (658-0769), Marianne Berman (658-1100) or Johanne Bach (658-7470).

Thank you and we hope to see everyone on June 6th!

Progressive Dinner Reservation Form

Please include a check for \$20 per person made out to FVJC

Name(s): _____

Number of People: _____

I/we will bring: Appetizer_____ Dessert_____

I/we would like to offer my home for dinner: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

**Send to:
Lori Kase
9 Joyce Lane
Simsbury, CT 06070**