

Message from the Clergy



The English word quarantine comes from the Latin meaning “forty.” It came into use during the 14th century when European ports would impose a 40-day waiting period between the arrival in the harbor of a merchant vessel and the time it received permission to unload its cargo. Since epidemics often ensued following the disembarkation of crew and cargo from merchant ships, people correctly deduced that the imposition of a waiting period would reveal whether or not any illness manifested itself on board.

But why forty days? Well, folks knew their Hebrew Bible and were aware that the number 40 is significant in Scripture. In the story of Noah and the Ark the flooding lasts 40 days and nights; because the period after childbirth was especially dangerous for women in antiquity, Leviticus teaches that new mothers must be isolated for 40 days; Moses remains in God’s presence to receive the Torah 40 days and nights; and God decrees that the Israelites must wander in the desert for 40 years.

Modern Bible scholars suggest that the phrase “forty days and nights” be understood idiomatically to mean a long time without a clear end in sight. Noah and his family embarked upon their journey without a clear end in sight, while the Israelites panicked because they unexpectedly had to wait for Moses beyond the time of his anticipated return. Difficult experiences are certainly harder to bear when we don’t have any knowledge of when, exactly, they will end.

Yet we know that Noah and his family did leave the Ark and saw a rainbow signaling a new start for humanity. Moses did return and, despite the bad business of the Golden Calf, got Israel back on track. A new generation did enter the Land of Israel under Joshua to uphold their end of a covenantal relationship with God. Jews are inveterate optimists who never lose hope, as *Hatikvah*, Israel’s national anthem, states. Yet our tradition reminds us that hope and patience walk hand-in-hand – each makes the other possible.

We will return to our lives, schools, and workplaces. The time will come when we can greet each other in person with handshakes or hugs. Even if it takes “40 days,” so to speak, we’ll be there ready to go on the 41st! Until then we will continue to connect each and every day for prayer, study, companionship, and the sharing of occasions both happy and sad. Our commitment to community never stops . . . not even in this time of social isolation.

B’shalom,
Rabbi Jonathan Lubliner
Rabbi Shira Rosenblum
Hazzan Jesse Holzer

Building Closure Update

The building will continue to be closed through the month of May. We will continue our virtual learning and worship opportunities through May and into the summer. The Center is working with medical professionals and leadership to determine the safest way to reopen the building. Thank you for your patience as we continue to consider the well-being of our staff and members during this time.

Weekly Congregational and Family Learning

Topics will be announced weekly for the general learning sessions

For login information - www.jaxjewishcenter.org/virtual

Learning with Rabbi Jonathan Lubliner

Mondays at 7:00 pm

Healing Service hosted by Hazzan Jesse Holzer

Tuesdays at 5:00 pm

From the Rabbi's Kitchen to Yours...with Rabbi Shira Rosenblum

Wednesdays at 11:00 am

Coping with Loss...with Beth Shorstein

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Bedtime Sh'ma and Stories with the Clergy*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Your Coffee, Our Torah: Parashat HaShavua Online Discussion

Thursdays at 11:00 am

Mishnah Munchies hosted by Justin Sakofs

Thursdays at 3:30pm

Virtual Weekday Services

Sunday Morning Services

Sundays at 8:30 am

Weekday Morning Services

Monday through Friday at 8:00 am

Weekday Evening Services

Sunday through Thursday at 8:00 pm

Virtual Weekly Shabbat

Shoobee Doobee Shabbat with Hazzan Jesse Holzer

Fridays at 10:00 am

Kabbalat Shabbat Under Ground

For those joining on Zoom, linger for a few minutes after our Kabbalat Shabbat service to wish our fellow JJCers a Shabbat Shalom and a *L'chaim*

Fridays at 6:00 pm

Shabbat Morning Live with the Center's Clergy Team

Saturdays at 9:30 am

Havdalah: Close Shabbat with Hazzan Holzer and your Center Family

Saturdays at the conclusion of Shabbat

*Bedtime Sh'ma and Stories will take place on Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 pm.

May Virtual Special Events and Holidays

For information on how to join these events, www.jaxjewishcenter.org/virtual

Trivia Night with the JJC

Wednesday, May 6
6:30 pm

Unorthodox: A Discussion about the Series

Mondays, May 18 and May 25
7:00 pm

Celebrate Lag B'Omer with a Virtual Campfire, Music & Fun with Hazzan Jesse Holzer & Special Guests

Tuesday, May 12
6:00 - 7:00 pm

JJC Book Club

Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History by Keith O'Brien

Tuesday, May 12
7:30 pm

Jacob Campbell chants Haftarah as he reaches the age of Bar Mitzvah

Thursday, May 14
5:00pm

Learning and Conversation with the Interfaith Center of Northeast Florida

Sunday, May 17
1:00 pm

Martin J. Gottlieb Day School Eighth Grade Graduation

Wednesday, May 27
7:30 pm

Ma'ariv Services and Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot Learning Sessions

Thursday, May 28
8:00 pm

Morning Shavu'ot Services - Day 1

Friday, May 29
9:30 am

Morning Shabbat and Shavu'ot Services - Day 2 with Yizkor and Siyyum Confirmation

Saturday, May 30
9:30 am



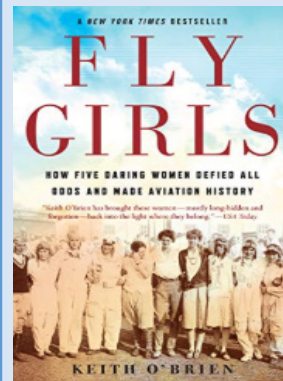
Trivia Night with the JJC
Wednesday, May 6
6:30pm

Bring your own food, drinks, snacks, phones, tablets, laptops, desktops! Please note that it is not a team competition unless you have several people in one place that are doing it together.

You will need 2 devices - one to see the questions and another to enter your responses. No app is needed but you can download Kahoot! if you want to. No experience necessary - the first few minutes will explain how it all works and it is very easy!



Join Haz and friends for an
hour of music to celebrate
Lag B'omer
May 12 at 6:00 pm



JJC Book Club Returns
Fly Girls: How Five
Daring Women Defied
All Odds and Made
Aviation History by
Keith O'Brien

Tuesday, May 12
7:30pm

Zoom Meeting with RSVP to Millie Tannen at
millids@aol.com

Between the world wars, no sport was more popular, or more dangerous, than airplane racing. While male pilots were lauded as heroes, the few women who dared to fly were more often ridiculed—until a cadre of women pilots banded together to break through the entrenched prejudice.

Fly Girls weaves together the stories of five remarkable women. Together, they fought for the chance to fly and race airplanes—and in 1936, one of them would triumph, beating the men in the toughest air race of them all.



First there was the book . . . Then there was the show . . . Now comes the conversation!

JOIN RABBI LUBLINER FOR A TWO-PART DISCUSSION ON THE BLOCKBUSTER
NETFLIX MINISERIES, UNORTHODOX.

Part One: Why are these Hasidim Different from All Other Hasidim?
Monday, May 18, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

A look at the origins, practices, and ideology of Satmar Hasidim in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and Kiryas Joel, a village 50 miles north of New York City whose 25,000 residents are mostly Satmar. Who are the Satmar Hasidim and what do they believe?

Part Two: "You Can Check Out Anytime You Like, But You Can Never Leave"
-- a Conversation with Professor Schneur Zalman Newfield
Monday, May 25, 7:00-8:00 PM

Raised within the Lubavitch Hasidic community, Professor Schneur Zalman Newfield left the world of ultra-Orthodoxy as a young man. A faculty member of Manhattan Community College, Newfield earned his Ph.D in sociology from New York University. He has just published a book entitled Degrees of Separation: Identity Formation while leaving Ultra-Orthodox Judaism. Professor Newfield will share his take on the accuracy of Unorthodox and the challenges of transitioning from one world to another.

Center Spotlight



Marvin Feldman

One of the benefits of retiring from the United States Air Force is the privilege of flying free (on a Space Available basis) on military aircraft. In October 2019, Marvin (a military retiree) and Carole Feldman took such a military flight to the US Naval Base Souda Bay, Crete, Greece from where they explored Greece's Jewish history in four cities (Chania, Corfu, Ioannina and Thessaloniki). Ioannina's story is perhaps less known.

The small northern Greece city of Ioannina's fascinating Jewish history dates back to the destruction of the Second Temple. It is both tragic and uplifting. Having arranged (ahead of time) a visit to the normally closed Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue within the Ioannina Old Castle walls, the Feldmans were greeted by a lady (a lifelong resident of the city) whose parents had survived the Nazi sweep of the Jewish community in 1944, by joining the Greek Partisans in the mountains. She had no other relatives in Ioannina or elsewhere - all had been murdered by the Nazis. This was a large, well-maintained synagogue (now only about 38 Jews live in the city which once had around 2,000 Jews). The shul was saved by the then-Mayor (who hid torahs and other religious items), convincing the Nazi occupiers to allow it to be turned into a public library. Incidentally, the current Ioannina Mayor is the first Jewish mayor in Greece. The synagogue is Romaniote (as is the Corfu one), with unusual seating and other unique attributes.

For Marvin, it was very emotional to hold a 350 year old Romaniote Torah. And, outside Ioannina's Old Castle walls, a small, but dignified memorial to those thousands of Jews who perished is prominently displayed.

The Jews of this area are not forgotten.

Setting Educational Goals as a Congregation

Through the poetry of *L'kha Dodi*, we are introduced to God as chief architect and for me educator, with the line "*Sof ma'ase B'mah-sh'hva t'hila*" - loosely translated as, "Ultimately created is first in thought" or more commonly, "Start with the end in mind." This is the philosophy that guides sports "Keep your eye on the prize" and educators with "Understanding by Design." If we know where we are heading, then the path to get there is more clearly recognizable.

This is a key element that has driven much of my educational career and leadership, here at the Jacksonville Jewish Center, I am applying it to our youth programming: Setzer Youth Education and the Bernard and Alice Selevan Religious School. After nearly a year, I understand our communal work in raising the next generation to be condensed in the idea of "empowering our Youth to engage, identify and own being active Conservative/Masorti Jews." This is the impact or change that we want to create within our youth so when they graduate and head to universities, they will use their Jewish knowledge to seek a Jewish community and then further enrich the Center upon their return visits. It is a tremendous goal, yet can be achieved through the careful planning and articulation of every program, activity and service we design and offer.

Over the next year, the Bernard & Alice Selevan Religious School will continue to work towards this goal by weaving Jewish learning and general interests. Consider the educational movement we've embraced known as STEAM Education, where Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math are placed at the center of the curriculum and as a Jewish School, how we can infuse Jewishness into those elements. The year can begin with a study on sound: how the sound of the *shofar* looks visually and is different from human voice and other instruments. Later in the year, cooking can easily be incorporated as a means to understand what the Israelites made when leaving Egypt was "unleavened bread" the crackers we buy in boxes or a piece of dough more akin to pita or naan. The engagement factor of games can give us the opportunity to role play what it was like to live in the shtetls of Europe or passages of immigration. The collection of these activities will allow students use their interests to access Jewish content and keeping them engaged and learning more about themselves.

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Siyyum 2020 Confirmands

On Saturday, May 30, at Shabbat and Shavu'ot virtual morning services, the congregation is cordially invited to attend the Confirmation of our 12th grade Siyyum students.

We will hear from each student as share their thoughts about their experiences in the Siyyum program and how it has impacted their Jewish identity.

Jamie Bielski
Benjamin Chafetz
Elior Lubliner
Itamar Lubliner
Zoe Mail
Zachary Shainbrown
Evelyn Mizrahi



Thank you to the Zimmerman Family - Seeman & Nancy, Morrie & Chase and Charles & Ellie for their support of the Siyyum trip to AIPAC in Washington DC.

This was my first AIPAC and after being there for just one year, I now know that this is an organization that I want to be involved in throughout college and for the rest of my life. I really appreciate your generosity and willingness to make this happen for us.

*B'Ahava,
Jamie Bielski*

I'm looking forward to being more involved in AIPAC on campus next year when I attend Tulane and attending more policy conferences in years to come. Thank you again!

*Best wishes,
Zoe Mail*

This entire trip helped educate me on the history of the United States, with tours of the DC area and museums, and also helped educate me on the political and economic relations between Israel and America. Again, thank you so much for this [generous] opportunity.

*Sincerely,
Benjamin Chafetz*

Welcome to Tina Silva -

Incoming Head of Schools for the DuBow Preschool and Martin J. Gottlieb Day School

We are pleased to announce that Tina Silva has agreed to become our next head of schools. Tina has over 20 years of experience in education including being the senior administrator of a pre-School and is the current principal of an elementary school in Woonsocket, RI. She has held that position since July of 2016. She will begin her position as head of schools on June 1st. We look forward to welcoming Tina to the team!



We are proud to announce the Graduation of the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School Class of 2020.

*We invite you to share in our joy
at their Commencement Ceremony
on Wednesday, May 27, 2020
at 7:30 p.m.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91713150047?pwd=dnQxNHBwMUUvRkOM2aVNOBU5BaHdYUz09>



Martin J. Gottlieb 2020 Graduating Class



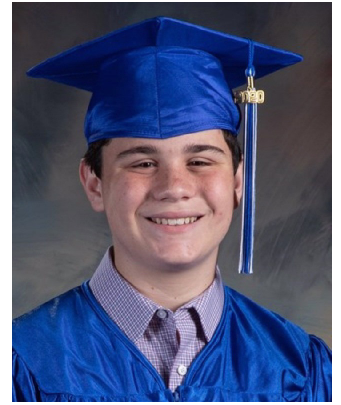
Michal Babadzhanov



Maria Bezverkh



Lily Davis



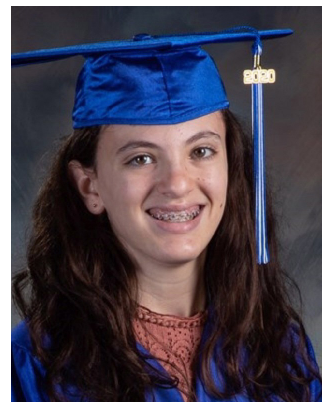
Jacob Gross



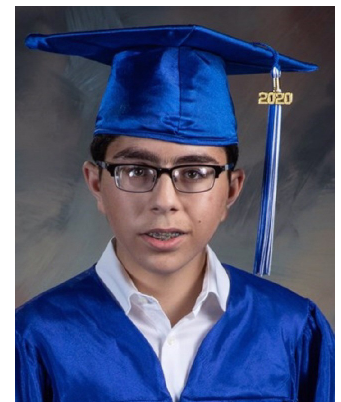
Mark Gruenbaum



Samuel Kaplan



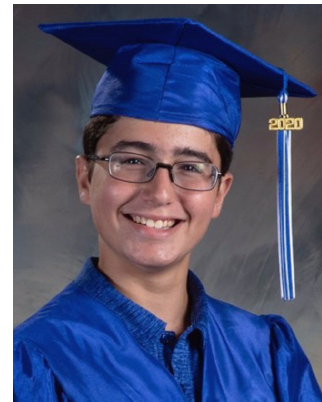
Madelyn Millrood



Jacob Morgenthal



Adalia Moyer



George Setzer



Aiden Smolensky



Elliana Tesler



Evan Wolpoff



Talia Zagagi

Many Mazels ...



Elana Maiman & Andrew Marks

and their parents:

Lynn Maiman and Leonardo Maiman
Diane and Jeffrey Marks from Scarsdale,
New York

March 17, 2020 #quarantinedtogether



Andrew Jacob Grossman

Born 4/18/20 to Cara and Larry
Grossman, Grandson to Phyllis and
Larry Goldberg

Mazel Tov on Reaching the Age of Bar and Bat Mitzvah



Ari Willens - March 26

Ari Willens is a 7th grader at the Bernard & Alice Selevan Religious School and Fruit Cove Middle School, where he is in the gifted program and plays the alto saxophone in the school band. His favorite subject in school is Math. Ari enjoys running, creating videos, coding and spending time with his friends, family and his dog, Truffles. As part of our Center B'nei Mitzvah Training Program, Ari and his family chose 13 mitzvot that engaged the family in strengthening their Jewish home, synagogue and community. Ari especially enjoyed the community mitzvot of delivering hot meals to those in need through Meals on Wheels and baked goods to First Responders during the holidays. We wish Mazel Tov to Ari, his parents, Sara and Michael and to his brothers, Jonah, Gabriel and Nathan.



Amelia Tesler

April 30

Amelia Tesler is a 7th grader at the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School where her favorite subject is history. Amelia enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family. As part of our Center B'nei Mitzvah Program, Amelia and her family chose 13 mitzvot that involved the family in building up their Jewish home, synagogue and community. Amelia especially enjoyed delivering meals to families in need and donating money to local first responders. We wish Mazel Tov to Amelia, her parents Anna & Vladimir, and siblings Adam and Sofia.



Jacob Campbell May 14

Jacob Campbell is a 7th grader at the Green Cove Springs Junior High where his favorite subjects are math and science. Jacob excels at cross-country running and enjoys spending time with his friends and family. As part of our Center B'nei Mitzvah Program, Jacob chose 13 mitzvot that involved Jewish values and rituals including not gossiping for 24 hours and not eating hametz on Passover. Jacob found practicing his Haftarah with his tutor, Lois Tompkins a very meaningful experience. We wish Mazel Tov to Jacob, his father David, sister Mia, and grandparents Rita & Manny Stearman.

Do you have a simha that you would like to share with the congregation?

Has there been a recent wedding, engagement, birth, or B'nei Mitzvah in your family? We are happy to share your family's milestones or announcements. If you have a milestone or announcement you would like included in our next monthly newsletter, please email jsmith@jaxjewishcenter.org with the information and a photo, if you have one.

Youth Groups



Mazel Tov to the newly elected 2020-21 USY Board!

President - Jagger Leach
VP Religious Education - Allie Bielski
VP Israel Affairs - Stav Salzman
VP Membership/Kadima - Bethany Finkelstein
VP Social Action/Tikkun Olam - Maiah Jaffa
VP Communications - Daisy Handmaker
Ex-Officio - Arin Nathans

Mazel Tov to Arin Nathans who was elected Mercaz SubRegional President!

Chalutzim Cooking Show
Wednesday, May 6th
3:00 PM

Let's make some smoothies! Bring: Honey, Different fruits (your choice!), Milk, Ice, and a Blender.

Calling Chalutzim, Kadima & USY!
End of the Year Party
Sunday, May 17th
2:00 PM

It's time to reflect on the year, and to celebrate the year ahead. See you there!

Wazzup 8th Grade
Wednesday, May 13th
7:00 PM

We'll be officially initiating 8th grade into USY!

Email youthdirector@jaxjewishcenter.org for Zoom information for these events.

Member Directory Update

Have you moved? Have a new phone number or email address?

It's that time of the year when we need you to update your addresses, emails, phones etc... so our directory will be as up to date as possible.

Update your information by emailing any changes to Rose Tincher at rtincher@jaxjewishcenter.org or over the phone at 904-292-1000.



Food Drive Drop-off Location: JJC Portico



Starting **Monday, May 4**, members of the community are welcome to bring food-drive donations, **Monday through Friday**, to the Jacksonville Jewish Center portico between the hours of **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Please place the donations on the tables provided. All donations will be brought inside by Center staff each weekday afternoon. The donations will then be delivered to JFCS to assist with providing food to those in need.

Dear Community,

JFCS was founded in 1917. Spanish Flu struck the US and the world in 1918. JFCS has been through this before.

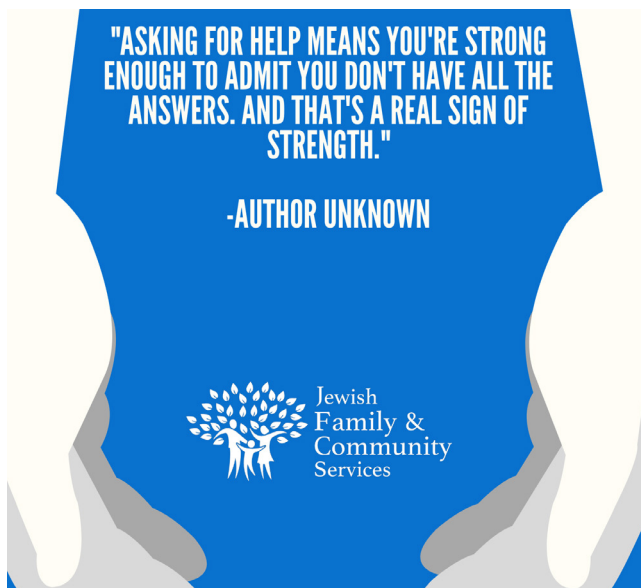
We are in the business of helping. It's quite literally why we exist. For more than 102 years we've been here for you when you need us, and we are here for you now. Our Jewish Services department specializes in helping our community with:

- financial assistance for rent and mortgage payments
- paying utility bills
- food (private appointments are available at our Max Block Food Pantry)
- counseling
- many other needs

If you think you might need help during this unprecedented time, please do not hesitate to call or email: Hilary Rotenberg, Director of Jewish Services, 904-394-5722 or email us at info@jfcjax.org

Our assistance is completely confidential.

Sincerely,
Colleen Rodriguez
Executive Director, Jewish Family & Community Services



Setting Educational Goals as a Congregation continued

In addition to knowledge and engagement, the program is also designed to strengthen our community. This can happen two fold, one is through the increased use of Hebrew as this develops a sense of identity as well as community and in connecting our children to each other through communal programming. Both coalesce in the participation of authentic *t'fila* experiences like Shabbat in the Round, when we gather and join in joyous song to welcome Shabbat.

This brings us full circle, the adoption of Shabbat in the Round as a regular sacred practice, causes us to alter our teaching strategies so that participation in these *t'filot* are more accessible and gain a deeper understanding and stronger commitment to being a community. Communal and educational decisions are not made in a vacuum, rather they are part of our holy living system and must connect us both inwards and externally.

To be part of this communal development, reach out to me, Justin Sakofs at jsakofs@jaxjewishcenter.org and together we'll learn and empower others to engage and share the beauty of the our Jewish community.

5781 Center Yearbook

It's that time of the year again!

We are looking for photos of your family *simcha*, New Year's Greetings and Memorial Messages.

Get us digital photos of your new babies and great shots of your weddings for inclusion in our 5781 yearbook.

Looking for ways to send your best wishes for a sweet New Year to your Center family and friends or remember a loved one who passed? **Submit a New Year's Greeting or Memorial Message.**

Business Advertisement opportunities are available!

Reach hundreds of people every day at the fraction of the cost of other media!

This year's submission deadline is Friday, July 10, 2020! For more information please call Tracy or Dari at 292-1000 or go to www.jaxjewishcenter.org/yearbook to turn in your submissions.

