FJC Brotherhood

BONDINGS

WEBSITE: fjcbrotherhood.org
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September 2026

L'Shana Tovah!

BROTHERHOOD OFFICERS:
President: *Jim Linsky*
1st Vice President: *Andy Zetlan*
2nd Vice President: *(open)*
Treasurer: *Harvey Albert*
Recording Secretary: *Andy Jablon*
Corresponding Secretary: *Barry Lew*

RECENT PAST PRESIDENTS:
Arthur Brecher
Joel Lubin
Alan Bernstein

BONDINGS Contributors:
Bob Mendes
Bob Zibbell
Andy Jablon

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Mark your Calendars!

Breakfasts ***(start at 9:30 am)***

September 27th – **Speaker is John Hough, the owner and editor of the Upper Cape Enterprise newspaper**

October 18th – Speaker is Congressman Bill Keating

December 27th – Speaker is Author Dan Neuburger presenting his book "*The Last to Leave*" *(Holocaust narrative/historical awareness)*

December 20th – Annual Wine Tasting and Dinner Event

Bowling

Noon at the Lanes, Mashpee Commons – First and third Wednesdays of the month

Editor's Corner

One of the most distinctive aspects of Jewish tradition is the importance it places on **learning—not simply as a means to acquire knowledge, but as a way of living a meaningful Jewish life**. Jews are always encouraged to continue learning, questioning, discussing, debating and growing. The goal is not simply to know what previous generations thought, but to engage with those ideas and determine what they mean for us today.

The rabbis of the Talmud placed extraordinary value on study. In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), we are taught: **"Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it."** The idea is that a Jewish text can be revisited repeatedly, with new insights emerging as our own lives and perspectives change.

Perhaps most importantly, Jewish tradition sees learning as a **lifelong responsibility**. The commandment to study Torah does not come with an expiration date. A person does not finish learning simply because he or she has graduated from school, raised a family or retired. Every stage of life provides new experiences through which Jewish teachings can be understood differently.

There is also an important distinction between **learning** and **education**. Jewish **learning** is not intended merely to fill our heads with information. Ideally, what we learn should influence how we behave. Learning about kindness should make us kinder; learning about *tzedakah* should encourage us to give; learning about community should motivate us to participate / volunteer.

For many Jews today, lifelong learning can take many forms: attending a Torah discussion, reading a Jewish book, studying Hebrew, exploring Jewish history, participating in a synagogue class, discussing Jewish ethics with friends—or simply asking questions about what it means to live a Jewish life.

Ultimately, **Jewish learning is less about reaching a destination than continuing the journey**. Each generation receives the wisdom of those who came before, examines it through its own experience, and adds its own new traditions.

Learning is not just something Jews *do* throughout their lives. It is a key to our growth and understanding.

Andy Zetlan (ajzetlan@gmail.com)

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A New Year's Message from your Brotherhood President

This past week, I was in San Diego celebrating the birth and naming of our third grandchild—all girls, by the way. She was born on August 13th, one month early, weighing barely five pounds. When I held her, she seemed to rest completely in my right hand. It had been a difficult and dangerous pregnancy from the beginning, with real concern for her mother's life and uncertainty about how fully the baby would be developed at birth.

So where, you may be wondering, is the president's New Year's message? To find it, I went back 36 years, to the birth of our youngest son—the father of all three of our grandchildren. He, too, was born under life-threatening circumstances. The paramedics arrived, the ambulance rushed to the hospital, and an emergency C-section followed.

Our Jewish tradition teaches that a newborn's Hebrew name is often given in memory of a loved one who has passed. But not this time—and not 36 years ago. Our son was named Chaim, for the life he fought so hard to claim. And on August 29, at Temple Solel in San Diego, his newborn daughter was named Chaya, the feminine form of that same name.

Grandparents are a child's link to the past, and grandchildren are our link to the future.

L'dor va-dor—from generation to generation.

As we enter this new year, may you have more *nachas* than you can handle, more family time than you can imagine, and just enough kvetching to remind you that you are part of a Jewish family.

G'mar Chatimah Tovah.

Jim Linsky (jimlinsky@comcast.net)

Volunteer Recognition!

As you know, our group runs successfully due to the volunteers from our FJC Brotherhood members. At times, someone goes above and beyond for the group.

This month, we are recognizing **Jody Yudien** for finding our most recent breakfast speaker and successfully bringing her to our August Breakfast. Her talk was well-received and resulted in a highly successful addition to our breakfast speaker series.

Our thanks for making our breakfast a success, Jody …. *Your next breakfast is on us!*

Member Submissions

(Consider submitting your own article! Send to ajzetlan@gmail.com)

Hebrew School Reflections

Hebrew School Reflections

By: *Andy Jablon, Brotherhood Member*

My family moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when I was nine years old. This marked the beginning of my Hebrew school journey, which I attended three days a week. The program continued until I became a bar mitzvah, which was 60 years ago.

Apparently, it was evident to my parents that Hebrew schooling offered little else to a scholarly 13-year-old man. Or perhaps after all those years of complaining, they finally relented. However, I can't help but wonder what it was all for, considering the afternoons I spent at Temple after regular school, missing out on after-school neighborhood activities in the prime of my youth.

One thing I'm amazed about is that, despite being removed from the synagogue for all these years, *I can still read Hebrew*. I'm pretty sure I owe that to Hebrew school. But don't ask me to translate. Beyond that, there's little I remember. I just draw a blank. So, I made a promise to myself not to subject our son to afternoon Hebrew school. Instead, he attended Sunday school at Brandeis, where many of the other parents agreed to spare their children the full Hebrew school experience that they felt was torturous.

I'd be curious to hear from other Brotherhood members to get their perspectives on their Hebrew school experiences. It might help jog our memories for those of us who are a bit hazy about life all those years ago.

jabsandy24@gmail.com

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NON COMPOS MENDES

By: *Bob Mendes, Brotherhood Member*

Jimmy Cannon was a mid- twentieth century sports columnist who often let non-sports topics leak out of his typewriter. His column was syndicated in newspapers all over the country, probably in Boston as well. I read him in New York and remember one very popular feature, "*Nobody asked me, but…"* he would run occasionally. I'm about to swipe it from him.

NOBODY ASKED ME, BUT…

- When I see a couple sitting at a restaurant table, both of them texting, I wonder if they're texting each other.
- We often use the term, "bite down," but when you think about it, only the lower jaw is movable. Therefore, shouldn't we be saying, "Bite up?"
- Why do we use the term bedroom to describe the room in which we sleep? Because it has a bed? Using that logic, the kitchen should be called the stove room.
- I don't like the new rule which permits beefy linemen to get behind a running back and push him forward. That used to be a violation.
- And as long as I'm complaining, let me get back to a favorite gripe: the TV weather people. The other night a weather girl came on the air and told me the following. "Tomorrow will be cloudy and a little warmer than today. I'll have the complete weather forecast coming up." That *IS* the complete weather forecast!
- Here's a good sign for the environment. A new store in New Bedford named "Start at the Bottom" specializes in selling cloth diapers. A landfill saved!
- When I see a package that has the legend, "Some assembly required," I back off. We English majors and tools don't mix well.
- FINAL THOUGHT: Josef Goebbels would be proud to see that his symbol of hate, the swastika, has survived almost a century and is now thriving in the United States. The latest example is a synagogue in Chicago where it showed up over the weekend.

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What's in a (Jewish) Name?

By: Bob Zibbell, Brotherhood Member

Several weeks ago, my adult granddaughter, Kayla, came to visit. A few months earlier, she had given birth to a baby girl, Sunny, my and my wife's great-granddaughter. Part of her reason for visiting was to give her daughter a Jewish name and have it entered into and recognized by the Jewish Community. She also wanted to take a Jewish name herself and participate in the same process.

A brief background. My wife, Ina, has belonged to the FJC since the early 1990's. I belonged solely for the past many years just to the Brotherhood. I identify as a member of the Jewish community in cultural way, but not in a religious way. Although my parents were likely atheists, or at best agnostic, my mother spoke Yiddish and read Yiddish writers. I lost whatever faith I had during adolescence, but also identified as Jewish, partly from growing up in the Jewish section of Boston in the 1950's, where one established an identity almost by osmosis. My son – Kayla's father - though Bar Mitzvahed, was not a person of faith either (took after his father), but identified as Jewish, so much so that he had his Hebrew name tattooed on his arm. My granddaughter grew up with no religious training, but she became interested in joining a faith community. In Atlanta, where she lives, she attended a couple of reform services, which seemed to further her interest.

So, given Kayla's desire, Ina contacted Rabbi Zinn and we all met on a Thursday in his office to discuss the naming. My grandson-in-law, Evan, from Atlanta, while observing no specific faith, was invested in this process. After some discussion, we learned that my granddaughter's middle name, Moriah, already was Jewish (from Mt. Moriah). She and rabbi Zinn finally settled on a name for Sunny, Shlom Sion. Shlom was based on Ina's father's name, Saul, and Sion, from Evan's great-great grandfather, who lived in Tennessee but fought in the Civil War for the North against slavery – thus a social justice legacy. Shlom Sion represents a joining of the two names, and, symbolically, the two families.

The next evening, Friday, we all attended services. Sunny was the star of the show, vocalizing as the congregation sang and clapping to get their attention. She proved to be competition for the Rabbi, which made the service a delightful and funny experience. Kayla, Evan, and Sunny went up to the front to the chapel, as she and Evan explained the reasons for the Jewish names they chose. At the end, the Rabbi handed them a document acknowledging their commitment to the community. I believe they will explore a liberal synagogue in Atlanta. I don't know whether this is a matter of faith or a desire to be part of the Jewish community, but I suspect they will figure that out as Sunny grows up. With all the angst in the world, this was a moment of joy that will not be soon forgotten.

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