

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

January 2015
Vol. XXXX Issue 5



Rabbi's Message

Change for the Environment

This month is Tu B'shvat, the birthday of the trees, when we celebrate our connection to God, Israel, and the environment. Through this holiday we are reminded to be *shomrei adamah*, guardians of the earth, as Genesis 2:15 teaches us in the creation narrative that human beings were given the task on Earth "to till it and to tend it." The Rabbinic tradition builds on other Biblical commandments warning us not to destroy wantonly. As Maimonides wrote in his *Mishneh Torah*, "One who smashes household goods, tears clothes, demolishes a building, stops up a spring, or destroys food on purpose violates the command: You must not destroy – *bal tashchit*." Avoiding wasteful destruction goes hand-in-hand with being thoughtful guardians of our environment. Of course, it is easy to talk about these important values; it is harder to live them.

Now that our beautiful kitchen is completely finished, our congregation is living its ritual and ethical food values, and our conversations have shifted from the ideological to the practical. Being a volunteer based community, the Jewish Center needs to listen carefully when our members struggle to work with the new kitchen and food policy.

continued on next page

Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, January 4th
No Sunday School
- Monday, January 5th
7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Friday, January 9th
7:30 pm Shabbat Service and New Member Consecration
Oneg: Berkowitz (J/R), Fesinstine, May, and McMullen Families
- Saturday, January, 10th
10:30 am Torah Study
- Sunday, January 11th
9:30 am Sunday School and PTO Tu B'shvat Seder
9:30 am Confirmation Class
- Thursday, January 15th
7 pm Girls' Night Out at Andrea's Dining Room
- Sunday, January 18th
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Sisterhood Meeting at the Washington Diner
10:30 am Adult Education
- Monday, January 19th
7 pm Book Club

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Much of the discussion has centered on our new restaurant-grade dishwasher. One of the goals of our food policy was to reduce the disposable items used at communal meals. Therefore, we have purchased new dishes, table clothes, and the dishwasher. However, it has been clear that there is a learning curve to make this work at 10 pm on a Friday night when folks are ready to clean up and go home after oneg (and a long work week). Therefore, we need to help each other learn how to use the kitchen, especially the dishwasher. While the machine is not extremely challenging, we all need to learn how to use the machine, load its racks, and take into account the time needed to dry the dishes. During this transition to a new system, we can all pitch in and help at the end of oneg and other meals.

When logistical problems arise, we all need to think together to find solutions which work for our real lives and our community. Most of all, we need to have the patience to work through this period of change and transition which can feel awkward at times. Rather than getting frustrated and reverting to our former practice of only using disposables for food service, we can have open discussions about the challenges of the new system and seek out practical solutions together. Whenever I falter in my commitment to reusables, I ask myself these two questions: 1) Where does this disposable product go after I use it and what impact does that have on the environment? and 2) What kind of guardian do I want to be for our earth? The answers usually help me find my motivation again.

In honor of the holiday of Tu B'shavat, I hope we can dedicate ourselves to daily practices which will have a positive impact on our environment. And let's start in our temple kitchen by supporting each other.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Mary Zamore

If you, a family member or temple friend is ill or facing a life challenge, please know that Rabbi Zamore is here to help.

Please contact in confidence Rabbi Zamore at zamorem@comcast.net or call her at (908) 317-0417.

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Friday, January 23rd
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Goldberg, Torine, Romanczyk, and Hudis Families
- Sunday, January 25th
9:30 am Sunday School

JCNWJ Choir

We look forward to singing and praying with the choir at our Shabbat Service on **Friday, January 9**. Please contact Student Cantor Lilah if you would like to join our growing choir at lilahsugarman@gmail.com.



Confirmation Class

Due to a very busy month, our next confirmation class will be **Sunday, January 11** from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Feel free to stay after for Tu B'Shavat seder and activities. On **Sunday, February 1** we will be heading to NYC for a day of Jewish adventures!

It is never too later to join confirmation.

Adult Education – Sunday, January 18 at 10:30 am

Bible to Buber:
God in Jewish
Thought

Join the monthly Sunday morning study group led by Rabbi Zamore to

learn more about and to discuss "the Jewish God." How has the idea/meaning of God in Judaism changed from Biblical times to today? Come and explore together. Come to one class or come to all. Open to adults and teens.

Future Classes: February 8, March 15



Contributions

- ✧ In honor of the Kowski Family
- Edward Skoller
- ✧ In memory of Rita Hecht
- Rona Schick
- ✧ In memory of Shelley Herson and Richard Herson
- Edythe and Sharon Herson
- ✧ In memory of Jean Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan
- ✧ In memory of Anna Wartel and Judith Blohm
- Laretta and Bill Koch
- ✧ In memory of Laurette Pinn
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Jack Zemel
- Ralph Zemel
- ✧ In memory of Jessica Hirsch
- Iris and Howard Hirsch

A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee

Please let us know when someone has passed away, is ill or otherwise in need of a little sunshine so that the Jewish Center may be there to support and assist as best we can. Please contact Ruth Schutzbank at (908) 329-6036 or Howie.ruth@hotmail.com.

New Member Consecration

Join us at our Shabbat Service on January 9 to formally welcome and celebrate our new members.

WANTED: A member who knows the game of Mahjong well enough to teach a group who would love to learn the game in a session or series of sessions at the Jewish Center this Spring. It is our hope to start monthly or bimonthly Mahjong for interested members. If you possess the know-how and are up to the task, please contact Tracey Bauer at traceysbauer@comcast.net.



Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



It went so well the first time, we thought we'd plan this social event again. We hope that those who could not attend the girls' get together this past Fall can join the fun this go-around.

Where: Andrea's Dining Room
1 Fairmount Road, Long Valley

When: Thursday, January 15th at 7 pm

~ Unlimited Brick-Oven Bar Pies & Drink Specials ~

Please RSVP to the Membership Committee (Tracey Bauer at traceysbauer@comcast.net) so that sufficient seating is reserved for our group.

The JCNWJ Cemetery Committee wishes to remind the congregation that there are graves available in our portion of the Easton Cemetery in Easton, PA. Information about the cemetery can be accessed by clicking on "Cemetery" on the temple's website (www.jcnwj.org). Please contact Bernard Robins at 908-534-7989 for further information or with questions.



Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple Ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz (berk721@aol.com) or Ruth Schutzbank (Howie.ruth@hotmail.com). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.

February Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the February Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **January 19, 2015**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.



Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Upcoming Special Events. We are pleased to announce that two guest speakers are returning to Jewish LIFE this winter: Fraidy Reiss and Iris Krasnow. Fraidy Reiss, Founder and Executive Director of *Unchained at Last*, will appear on **Tuesday, January 13, 12 Noon** with a Program and luncheon hosted at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18 in advance or \$22 day of event). Join Jewish LIFE on **Wednesday, February 4 at 12 Noon** for the return engagement of author **Iris Krasnow**, discussing her new book, *Sex After...Women Share How Intimacy Changes as Life Changes*. Program and luncheon hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18 in advance or \$22 day of event). **Also coming up in February...**Jewish LIFE will be showing the film, *Little White Lie*, **Wednesday, February 11 at 7pm.** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. The film will be followed by a discussion with **Lacey Schwartz**, the subject of the film. (Fee: \$5/person.) *This program is sponsored by Wendy and Stephen Offen.* Congregation Or Chadash will host the **Irma Horowitz Film Series** featuring **Falafel & Films on Friday, February 20 at 6:30pm.** Films shown will be *Jeptah's Daughter*, *Cornerstone* and *Mika*. (Fee: \$12/person in advance or \$15 day of.) **The Liberation of Auschwitz: 70th Anniversary, An Event to Commemorate Those Who Perished and to Honor Survivors** will be hosted at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater on **Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30pm.** Guest speaker, **Tovah Friedman**, LCSW. *This program is sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties.* (Fee: \$10/adult and free to students.) For more information, please contact JFS at 908-725-7799. To register for all programs, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 or register on line at www.ssbjcc.org



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Source: Genworth 2002 Cost of Care Survey

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