



Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, Feb. 2:
9:30am Men's Club breakfast
- Friday, Feb. 7, 7:45pm
Scout Shabbat
Oneg - Ganz, J&J Berkowitz,
Marr, Koppenhaver Families
- Sunday, Feb. 9:
Tallit Making class
9:30am Men's Club breakfast
- Saturday, Feb. 15, 10-11:30am
Torah Study
- Sunday, Feb. 16:
No Sunday School
- Friday, Feb. 21, 7:45pm
Shabbat/Lay Service
Oneg - Ostenfeld, Seldow,
Herson, Bauch Families
- Sunday, Feb 23:
9:30am PTO meeting

Please note that the new copy machine is to be used with extreme care! It is not for heavy usage and should only be used for making one copy at a time. Be sure to ask for assistance from a qualified adult before you use the machine.

We're on the Web!

www.jcnwj.org

Rabbi's Message

As I read about the first Israeli astronaut's being launched into space, all I could think of was the verse from Deuteronomy that reminds us that the Torah is not in the heavens ("lo bashamayim he"). The intent of that verse is to teach us that the Torah is in our hearts and on our lips, that the Torah is within us wherever we are. And so the truth is that the Torah is in the heavens at the moment because that is where Ilan Ramon is.

There have been American Jewish astronauts before but what differs here is Ramon's sense of representing "all Jews and all Israelis." Although in his own life he does not observe kashrut, he felt it was important to do so in space on behalf of klal Yisrael. NASA is providing kosher food for him. Then another question was raised: How does one observe Shabbat in space? Since the shuttle orbits the earth every 90 minutes, each orbit would seem to constitute a day because the sun has risen and set in that period of time. That frequency of observance is impractical. At least one Jerusalem rabbi said there was no obligation to keep Shabbat since the astronaut will not be experiencing earth time, but other rabbis have ruled that you should observe Shabbat according to the last place of residence before leaving earth, i.e., Cape Canaveral. As always, we look back for Jewish precedent in deciding what to do. In this case, the story is told of a Chassidic rebbe who traveled to Leningrad one summer. At that time of year, there was no visible sunset in Leningrad. The Rebbe kept Shabbat according to the times for Shabbat in Petersburg, the city where he had previously lived.

continued on next page

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I thought that a day beginning with a dead car battery, an afternoon filled with the Newark Airport parking and security aggravations, and then the usual runway delays which caused us to arrive at the hotel in Boca Raton at 1:30 am the next morning, would be enough excitement in my family's journey to my cousin's wedding. But much to my surprise, at 4:00 am, we were awakened by electronically generated sirens and voice alerts informing us that an emergency was reported and to quickly evacuate the building!

While Ed dressed, he grabbed his wallet, our passports and the keys to the car. I put on a pair of pants and shoes and found my purse. Since we lived through a hotel evacuation while once visiting Boston, my girls were ready for us at the door. They were dressed in mismatched sandals, shorts and tank tops...the typical attire for Florida. However, we must have brought New Jersey weather with us; as we exited to the parking lot, we faced a temperature of 30 degrees!

As Leah and I huddled and cuddled each other in an outside corner of the building, a spot that seemed to protect us from the blustering cold winds, I watched the hotel guests exit. Barefooted children in skimpy, summery pajamas, women in bathrobes, slippers and hair nets, men in undershirts and shorts and the old and feeble seniors attached to walkers and wheelchairs all displayed the same fear and confusion...a sight that set my mind in motion.

Thoughts of refugees across the globe facing the turmoil of war and the aftermath of survival filled my head. Lack of food, clothing and basic living needs gave me chills that I

continued on next page



Rabbi's Message, cont.

Ramon does not plan to observe Shabbat by not working because he feels it would jeopardize his fellow astronauts. He does plan to recite kiddush, however, using a straw in a closed bottle of wine (an open kiddush cup would spill all over in zero-gravity). He has brought with him a piece of artwork done by a child in a concentration camp. He himself is a child of Holocaust survivors.

If Ilan Ramon would go to such trouble in a difficult stressful situation in space to represent all Jews and all Israelis, it has to make us ask what we are willing to do to be Jewish in the comfort of home. Shouldn't we ourselves think about what it means to represent all Israel in the way we behave in our daily lives? What does it mean for the Torah to be on our lips and in our hearts when we are here on earth? The flight of Ilan Ramon reminds us in a tangible way that for us at least, the Torah should not be in the heavens.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

President's Message, cont.

would love to forget. But as my fellow evacuees' became more irritated and impatient from this inconvenience and their fears turned to anger, the Boca refugees began to pull out their cell phones to call management and complain about such awful accommodations and wishing to know what "comps" they would receive. I had a gut feeling that very few of these individuals had ever experienced the perils of survival, and so my thoughts wondered again. How would we Americans fare should we be forced to live in a state of war? In the threats of war that lie ahead, are we tough enough physically and emotionally to withstand the luxuries that could become scarce?

While I worry about my own family's coping skills, I do feel comforted to know that my temple life at the Center has helped me to grow stronger and wiser. Relationships with Rabbi Lewis, congregants and G-d have built a strength that I will rely on to help myself endure. And as the possibility of war gets closer, I pray that you find the same strengths from the same sources.

Shalom, Gwen

Men's Club To Host Talk By Mike Weiner

Mike Weiner, member of our congregation, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the next Men's Club meeting on **Sunday, February 2, 9:30 am**. Mike, who is the Associate General Counsel to the Major League Baseball Players Association, will talk about his role in this key position. The Men's Club meeting includes a great breakfast prepared by our stable of gourmet chefs.

Scout Shabbat

On **Friday, February 7**, all Scouts are invited to services, dressed in uniform, so the congregation may honor Scouts who have achieved religious achievements this year. If you are a Scout and are receiving a badge, award or other recognition from your troupe for an achievement related to Judaism, contact Helen Mattson so you can be included in this service. Be sure to invite your troop for this occasion!

Lay Service

Sunday school students will be participating in the Shabbat Lay Service on **Friday, February 21 at 7:45 pm**. We are hoping to read Torah again this year on this night. We had such wonderful participation of students last year that we want to repeat it again this year. Parents, please bring your children, they cannot drive themselves. It will be a great evening when we can all kvell over our children. See you then!

Helen Mattson and Sharon Herson, Ritual

Adult Ed. to Continue in March

The Sunday morning adult education class taught by Rabbi Lewis will continue studying Pirke Avot. Meetings will be held in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. till noon on **March 2, March 9, March 16, & March 23**. If you would like to join the class and did not attend the first segment in December-January, please call Sharon Herson re: book to purchase.

Education Committee and PTO News

The Sunday School will be celebrating its Tu B'Shevat Sedar on **Sunday, February 2**. Parents are welcome to join in the celebration, and are needed to help set up/clean up.

The next PTO meeting will be **Sunday, February 23**, at 9:30 am. Join us!

On **Sunday, March 9**, don't miss the fun when the students will be baking hamentashen. We'd love to have parents help out and share the morning with their children. And don't forget the Purim Carnival on **Sunday, March 23!** Volunteers are needed to help out with the games and food, and we are asking all parents to bring a baked good (non-dairy) for our bake sale.

A Special Thank You

Dear Friends at the JCNWJ,

The weather was vile but many braved it on the evening of Dec. 7, 2002.

Thank you Ed and Cheryl Orenstein for providing your lovely home for the celebration in my honor as a founding member of our organization.

The flowers were fragrant! The food delish! The gifts uncommonly generous!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Rose Schneider

The handwritten version of this thank-you note is posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the JCNWJ.

Camp Scholarship

Once again this year, the Center is offering a camp scholarship program; and, applications are now available! A total of one thousand dollars has been budgeted to assist our children in attending a Jewish-based camp. This is a one-time per child offer and will be divided between deserving young members under the age of 23 who are full-time students. Applications are available through Gwen and are due back to her by February 28.

Thank You from the Board

The Board wishes to thank Judy and Paul May for the donation of a new copy machine in honor of their new grandson. We will think of your happy family with every copy made!

Donations Requested

Danielle Rosborough is collecting for her trip to Russia, where she and several other students will be going. They will be donating 65 pounds each of medical goods at the Moscow Children's Hospital.

Thank you to the Nagorsky family for the generous donation. The Russian people are in desperate need of medical supplies. The Moscow Children's Hospital will use virtually anything. However, they specifically need: antibiotics, antiseptics, bandages, splints, crutches, medical tape, medical tools, gauze, OTC drugs, aspirin, cold medicines, thermometers, stethoscopes and virtually any medical or personal hygiene supplies.

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

Shop Rite and A&P Scrip will be available on Feb 9th and 23rd. They will also be available prior to the next confirmation class on March 2nd.

Expanding the Conversation

As part of the UAHC's Seeking Peace, Pursuing Justice program (the Reform Movement's campaign to educate and encourage North American Jewry to support peace efforts and social justice causes in Israel), the fourth issue of *Expanding the Conversation* by Joseph Alpher has now been published and will be placed in our lobby. This publication is done in the hope to broaden the way we think about Israel, the Palestinians and the future for peace in the Middle East. Please be sure to return it to the lobby once you have finished reading it.

Attention Future College Students

The current Keshet directory, a list of colleges that have Reform Jewish students willing to discuss Jewish life on campus, is now available in the front lobby. For more information on names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of students available to speak with high school students, visit www.keshetnet.com.

Attention College Students

This March 20-23 Reform students from across the continent will gather in New York City for a weekend of networking sessions, learning, and social action. Plan to attend the 2003 Keshet Convention at HUC-JIR campus in New York's Greenwich Village for prayer, song, great speakers and a social action project.

Jewish Federation Super Sunday - Feb 2

Federation allocates the contributions it receives to improve the quality of life of Jewish people locally, in Israel and in 60 countries around the world. Please be generous when a volunteer calls. **In a year of crisis, Federation provides hope. It starts with you!**

Jewish LIFE Events

Back by popular demand, Rabbi Jonathan Rietti on Sunday, February 9 at 10am. Rabbi Rietti's topic will be "Who is Responsible for My Happiness?"

The second in our three-part Rabbi's Panel, "Great Jewish Questions," will take place on Thursday, February 27 at 7:30pm. Our area Rabbis will answer: "Do You Have to Believe in G-d to Be a Good Jew?"

Sunday, March 9, at 10am., Rabbi Seymour Rossell discusses "Dreams."

All programs are at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Sponsorship opportunities are available for individual Jewish LIFE programs for \$100. Please call Laura Friedman.

Donations

Yahrtzeit

Brenda & Michael Goldblatt in loving memory of Sally Zemel
Elizabeth & Raymond Falk in loving memory of Sally Zemel
Mary & Paul Yeazell in loving memory of Sally Zemel
Iris & Howard Hirsch in loving memory of their daughter Jessica
Judy & Wain Schroeder in loving memory of Bill Brugmann
Rona & Stanley Schick in loving memory of Rita Hecht
Laurie Post & Steven Goldner in loving memory of Adolph
Goldner
Laurie Post & Steven Goldner in loving memory of Gertrude
Post

Tallasim

Cheryl and Edward Orenstein

Rose Schneider Sound System

Janis & Leo Romanczyk, Iris & Howard Hirsch
David Simms, Helen & John Mattson

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Joanne and David Weiss
Audrie and Kenneth Sonzogni

General Contributions

Eric Edelstein

Cancellations Due to Winter Weather

If services need to be canceled on a Friday evening, a message will be left on the Center's answering machine by 5:30 pm. If Sunday School needs to be canceled, a message will be left on the Center's answering machine by Sunday, 7:30am. We will also attempt the snow chain again this year.

WRNJ radio station will broadcast any cancellations. However, be sure to call the Center's phone number for full details and updates left on the answering machine.

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ I/We would like to make a contribution of _____
_____ In honor of _____
_____ In memory of _____
Phone _____ Please contact me/us about membership _____

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, and mail to JCNWJ, c/o Andrew Colby