

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-0762
www.jcnwj.org

February 2010
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- *Monday, Feb. 1, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting
- *Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Friday, Feb. 5, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Services
Oneg: Dorman/Cafaro, Hirshberg,
Sonzogni, and Hirsch families
- *Sunday, Feb. 7
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)
(Music), Men's Club, and Sisterhood
10:30 am Confirmation Class
12:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah Brunch
- *Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Sunday, Feb. 14
No Sunday School
- *Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Friday, Feb. 19, 7:00 pm
Lay Lead Shabbat Service
Oneg: Gross, Marr, Stanton, and
Bloch families
- *Sunday, Feb. 21, 9:30 am
Sunday School
10:00 am Purim Spiel Rehearsal
- *Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Saturday, Feb. 27, 3:00 pm
Purim Spiel Dress Rehearsal
- *Sunday, Feb. 28
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)
10:30 am Megillah Reading
12:00 pm Purim Carnival and Talent
Show Auditions

Rabbi's Message

As I watched the earthquake disaster unfold in Haiti, I felt like I had been handed the answer to the question I posed here last month: What is the function of our new *tzedakah* box? Is there any way for us to hear of that devastation and not feel compelled to give what we can? The numbers of dead defy comprehension. The numbers of the orphaned, the injured, and the gravely ill are likely to grow. It is our religious obligation to give whatever we have.

It is hard not to feel helpless in the face of this and every tragedy, but helplessness can lead us to look for hasty answers. The news has reported them all. Haiti is so corrupt, this is why it happened; its leaders don't care about the people, this is why it happened. Evangelist Pat Robertson was quoted as saying that the country has been "cursed by one thing after another" since they "swore a pact to the devil." We feel tempted to lay blame as a way of comforting ourselves and rationalizing our own fears.

Jewish tradition, however, teaches that this isn't the moment to ask why. When lives are at stake, we act first and ask later. The JTA wire service reported:

The Israel Defense Forces was the first major Israeli team to arrive. Team members reached Haiti last Friday on a flight loaded with military and civilian medical personnel from all over Israel, rescue teams, search dogs and supplies. While Port-au-Prince's hospitals were rendered mostly useless by the quake, the IDF team set up a field hospital near a soccer stadium to treat survivors. It was one of the only places Haitians could receive advanced medical treatment in the city. "The Israeli field hospital is phenomenal," [reported] Dr. Richard Besser of ABC News "Good Morning America." "They were up and running on Saturday morning, way ahead of the United States hospital."

Another reporter said the Israeli field hospital is the "Rolls Royce of medical care." One grateful Haitian mother, whose baby was delivered at the field hospital, has decided to give her baby the name Israel. You may have read about ZAKA, an Israeli volunteer rescue team that immediately deployed to Haiti as they had to New Orleans after Katrina. ZAKA's workers consist of traditional Jews who would not customarily work on Shabbat. In this case, they kept working as Shabbat began: "There was not really a Shabbat, but on Friday night we said Kiddush with delegations from Mexico, England, and Scotland," commander of the ZAKA mission to Haiti, Mati Goldstein, told Ynet. "With all the hell going on outside, even when things get bad Judaism says we must take a deep breath and go on to save more people." Our tradition teaches that the saving of a life supersedes Shabbat.

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PHOTO ALBUM



Kindergarteners celebrate Tu'Bishvat, singing and dancing at the seder.



PTO members prepare Tu'Bishvat fruit platters for the annual Tu'Bishvat seder.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following families to our congregation:

~Martha & Jack Needleman and their son Drew who will be joining the confirmation class

~Pamela and Mark Fitzsimmons and their daughter Nina who will be joining Teri Stanton's class and their two year old son David

~Susan and Michael Santillo and their son Matthew who will be joining Terri Stanton's class

Join us for our Annual Purim Carnival



Fun Games and Activities! Raffles with Great Prizes!!

*****Kids can come in Costume and Bring a Friend*****

February 28, 2010 14 Adar 5770

Begins 12:00 noon (after Hebrew School)

A Message from the JCNWJ Sisterhood

The JCNWJ Sisterhood has proven to be a thoughtful, passionate and energetic group of women. At the January 17th sisterhood meeting many of the tools needed to govern this vibrant group were put into place. Sisterhood Board Officers were elected, by-laws were adopted and an outreach committee was born. The officers are – President, Rochelle Ostenfeld – Vice President, unknown – Treasurer, Marci Braunstein – Co-Secretaries, Sherry Oweller and Gerri Klein. A formal installation of officers will take place at a later date.

Mishloach Manot, our Purim program for giving, is well under way. The generosity of our congregation is apparent. Keep those gift basket contributions coming! Lauretta Koch has kindly offered to chair the Outreach Committee and is currently researching opportunities in the community to assist those in need. Any ideas for outreach should be emailed to Lauretta. Sisterhood is planning a social outing for the spring, details to follow. The next sisterhood meeting will be **February 7, 2010 at 9:30**. See you there!

Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE is pleased to present these programs...we hope you can attend!

***Michael Rosen**, author of *What Else but Home: Seven Boys and an American Journey between the Projects and Penthouse*, **Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m.** (Sponsored by the JCC Festival of Books & Culture)

***Professor Leonard Saxe**, author of *Ten Days Birthright Israel*, **Sunday, March 21 at 10 a.m.**

***Clara Kramer**, author of *Clara's War*. Community-wide Holocaust Observance, **Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m.** at Temple Beth El, 1489 Hamilton Street, Somerset; 732-873-2325. (Sponsored by the JCC Festival of Books & Culture)

***Jeffrey Zaslow**, author of *The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty Year Friendship*, **Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m.** (Sponsored by the JCC Festival of Books and Culture and Somerset Hadassah)

All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater, with the exception of the Holocaust Observance with Clara Kramer, which will be held at Temple Beth El in Somerset. For program fees and additional details, please go to www.ssbjcc.org. (The Clara Kramer program is free to the community. Please call Temple Beth El directly at 732-873-2325 to register.)



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Our Temple needs a new furnace. The Sisterhood is looking for your help. The Purim tradition of giving is called Mishloach Manot. Give whatever you can by contributing to the creation of our Purim Gift Bags.

Having trouble Deciding who to give a bag to? Pick...
~A committee member with whom you worked this year

- ~A temple member that helped you
- ~Someone you don't see that often
- ~Someone in need of cheer

Every temple member will receive a bag.

Don't forget your Mishloach Manot participation form needs to be in by February 10, 2010.

The JCNWJ Proudly Presents...

The 5th Annual Talent Show

April 10th, 2010
7 o' clock

Star on our Mainstage

Auditions: Sunday, February 28th
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Acting • Vocals • Instrumental • Jokes • Dance



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