

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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

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Rabbi's Message

Let Your Hearts Be Wide Open

As recorded in Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Elders), Yose ben Yochanan of Jerusalem used to teach: "Let your house be open wide." This has always been a favorite quote of mine. It recalls the type of hospitality, rooted in Middle Eastern culture, that Abraham modeled by waiting in the open flap of his tent.

We are told in Genesis 18 that Abraham was sitting in the open tent flap during the heat of the day when he saw three men approaching. In order to be welcoming, he sprung up and ran towards them. Then, he urged them to come in, have their feet washed, and rest. He alerted Sarah to get to work making a feast for the strangers. The rabbis ask why is it that Abraham was sitting looking out into the vast desert. The Midrash answers that Abraham was always in the habit of scanning the desert horizon for sojourners in order to welcome the strangers in to his home. In fact, throughout Jewish texts, Abraham and Sarah are upheld as exemplifiers of the value of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests.

Needless to say, in these modern times we are not required to go that far to help others; we do not need to expose our families to danger by inviting strangers in to our homes. However, I like the Pirkei Avot quote and the mitzvah it describes because of the spirit it demands.

continued on next page

Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, February 2nd
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation
12 pm Madrichim Training
- Friday, February 7th
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Shelofsky, Weinstein, Romanczyk,
and Torine families
- Sunday, February 9th
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)
9:30 am PTO Meeting
10:30 am Sisterhood
- Monday, February 10th
7:30 pm Adult Education
- Saturday, February 15th
10:30 am Torah Study
- Sunday, February 16th
No Sunday School
- Friday, February 21st
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Bauer family
- Saturday, February 22nd
10 am Andrew Bauer's Bar Mitzvah
- Sunday, February 23rd
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Being open to others' needs and treating them like they are part of your household or inner circle of friends is a valuable goal to strive towards. Too often we go through life putting up barricades; we seek to protect what we already have; we limit our interactions with others to include only the superficial. "Let your house be open wide" can be read as "let your heart be open wide." After all, when we open our hearts, the rest follows.

As I am settling into the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, many people have greeted me with open hearts. My family and I deeply appreciate the warm welcome. Please know that while I work with part-time hours, I strive to incorporate accessibility (especially of spirit) into my rabbinate. One of the ways I hope to connect is through the picnic Shabbat dinner. Before most Shabbat services, I have dinner in the community room with my family and/or Cantor Lilah. We have candles, wine/juice, and Challah. It is open to anyone who would like to join us. Feel free to bring your dairy dinner or just sit and keep us company. It is a wonderful way to connect and get to know one another better. Watch for the announcements of the picnic Shabbat dinners. Looking forward to connecting with open hearts.

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.

Lost and Found

- ❖ A red tallit and tallit bag with green frogs riding scooters
- ❖ A silver silk scarf

Please contact Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net or (908) 850-1030 to claim these items.

Like Us On 
facebook

The JCNWJ is now on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/jcnwj and give us a "like." We will keep you up to date on programming and other helpful information. Your feedback is welcome and encouraged. Send a message to our page and let us know what kind of content you would like to see on our virtual congregation.

Shabbat Music Preview!

Join our Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman on **Friday, February 21st at 7 pm**, for joyful singing, as she teaches some of the newer music from our Shabbat service. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our rich musical traditions.

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.

President's Message

When I was a kid, the only means to learn about Judaism were through your parents, by attending Shabbat services, and Hebrew School. I resisted having to spend 5 to 8 hours each week at temple. Books on the subject were not readily obtainable, not to mention they were lengthy and not particularly kid-friendly. There was no internet with endless information. I never took an interest in learning the numerous Torah stories nor the meanings of the prayers that we recite at a Friday service. I learned about a few holidays, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover, but not all of them. I did not want to spend what I then perceived would be a lot of time learning about Judaism. After all, I had sports to play with my friends.

With the advent of the internet and e-mail, I have found that learning Judaism is not onerous. I now am finding the stories to be interesting, not terribly lengthy, and meaningful and applicable to our daily lives. Why is my interest piqued now and not when I was a kid?

After becoming President of the JCNWJ, I began receiving e-mails from a multitude of Jewish organizations. The one e-mail that has grabbed my attention is from ReformJudaism.Org. I receive it every Friday morning at 5:15 am (no, I don't read it at that early hour). The e-mail takes but a few minutes to read. It includes a segment entitled "Ten Minutes of Torah". The weekly Torah parashah is concisely summarized and analyzed.

Past e-mails have included blurbs on "Food & Cooking" (recipes), Teaching Kids about Tzedakah and "Ask A Rabbi", which provides a Q&A opportunity. One of the recent questions asked was, "Why is it traditional to have two Challot on Shabbat?" Yes, we at the JCNWJ do have two Challot at our onegs.

If you are really hungry to learn, you can peruse the website www.reformjudaism.org. Its structure offers a drop down menu for Jewish Holidays, Jewish Life (arts, culture, interfaith, parenting, family activities), Practice (rituals, prayers and blessings), Learning (including a Jewish glossary), Social Justice (Jewish views on political topics) and Israel.

Today, there is information provided from one e-mail and one website all at your fingertips (this is not a paid plug). I learned about the festive holiday of "Lag BaOmer", the origin of Mandelbrot, which means "almond bread" in Yiddish (you can make it with chocolate chips) and that the two challot are used as a remembrance of the double portion of manna (cakes or wafer-like) that fell in the desert so that no Jew should have to gather food on Shabbat (Exodus 16:22-32).

As I did, I hope each of you can find something that piques your interest and fulfills your life-long Jewish learning. And that what you learn you share with your children, our congregants, and our community.

Mo Bauer

Contributions

- ✧ In honor of Paul May's Birthday
 - Melinda and Jon Weber
 - Neimah and Paul Tractenberg
 - Nola Safro
 - Harriet Weitzman and Les Wolf
 - Herb Weiland

- ✧ A gift to the Teacher's Education Fund in memory of Mike Weiner
 - Klaire Katz and Family

- ✧ In memory of Mike Weiner
 - Teri Stanton

- ✧ In memory of Sidney Goldstein
 - Iris and Howie Hirsch

- ✧ In memory of Gertrude Post and Steven Goldner
 - Laurie Post and Steven Goldner

- ✧ In memory of Elaine and Art Levine
 - Teri Stanton

THINK TALENT

The Spring Talent Show will be on **April 26, 2014 at 7 pm**. We are very excited to have Brett Schaffer as our M/C. If you are interested in participating, work on your talent: singing, playing an instrument, dancing, poetry reading, etc. Children and adults, you are welcomed to

strut your stuff. After the show we will all celebrate with ice cream sundaes. Auditions will be held during the Purim Carnival.



Sisterhood's Mishloach Manot Fundraiser

The JCNWJ Sisterhood is once again sponsoring the wonderful Mishloach Manot fundraiser for Purim (March 15, 2014). This is a great occasion to give sweets and gifts to your friends, family and co-workers.

Every Temple family participating will receive one small bag of hamantaschen. In each hamantaschen bag is a card identifying the family or families that contributed to your gift with special acknowledgement to you. Like last year, each Temple family will be mailed the forms to purchase a hamantaschen bag to send to other Temple members or to purchase extra hamantaschen bags for family and friends.

Although each Temple family will receive only one hamantaschen bag, you may make your purchases for as many families as you wish.

Remember that all contributions benefit our Temple! This year your generous contributions will go directly toward the purchase and installation of an outdoor shed. This shed will store our Sukkah as well as other materials for our Temple and Sunday School. You should have already received your Mishloach Manot fundraising information in the mail.

Please contact Alison Shelofsky at shelofsky@comcast.net if you did not receive the order form or have any additional questions. Extra forms are also available on the Sisterhood page of the Temple website (www.jcnwj.org). Mishloach Manot bags will be available for pickup at the Purim Celebration at the Temple on March 16, 2014 or will be delivered to your home shortly thereafter. Thank you for your participation.

~ Sisterhood

Education/PTO

The Education Committee would like to thank the PTO and the many volunteers who helped put together a lovely Tu B'shevat seder. The students truly benefited from the collective efforts of our volunteers.

Also, we'd like to remind all Hebrew school parents and students to attend Shabbat services as often as possible. It is important to remember that the attendance of services is part of the curriculum for every grade level in our school and is of genuine importance for those in 4th grade and up. Additionally, we hope all students will make it a point to attend Bar/Bat Mitzvah services to support their peers. Consistent attendance will help our students learn, grow, and develop the confidence they need to prepare for their own rites of passage.

~ Joon and Gerri
Education Co-Chairs

News About Our Members

Someone in your family receive an honor? Achieve some goal? Perform an outstanding mitzvah? If you'd like to let JCNWJ members know about it in the newsletter, please send the information in "ready to print" form to Mo Bauer at jcnwjpres@jcnwj.org.

Memorial Plaques

Anyone interested in purchasing a permanent bronze memorial plaque to honor a loved one in your family, please contact Lois Goldberg at DewieandLouie7@verizon.net.



Great Jewish Books Summer Program
A week-long exploration of literature & culture for high school students
August 3-10, 2014

Great Jewish Books Summer Program brings together rising high school juniors and seniors to read, discuss, argue about, and fall in love with powerful and enduring works of modern Jewish literature. Participants study with professors, meet prominent contemporary authors, and connect with other teens from across the country.

Apply by March 15!

"Being able to spend time with other people my age who care about literature and Jewish identity was an amazing experience." —2012 Student
"Our daughter's experience was off-the-charts wonderful!" —2013 Parent

LEARN MORE
yiddishbookcenter.org/great-jewish-books

Adult Education

Join Rabbi Zamore as we continue the exploration of food, food production and Judaism. Rabbi Zamore's book on this topic [The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic](#) was a National Jewish Book Award Finalist. Come to one session or come to all!

Mondays, 7:30pm: **Feb. 10**, March 10, April 7, May 12, June 9

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



Everyone had a fun time at the annual JCNWJ Tu Bishvat seder. There was singing and lots of eating, as the kids and teachers enjoyed trying a variety of fruits and nuts. New to the fruit offerings this year were cherries and papaya.



The teens of the JCNWJ enjoyed socializing and bowling together.

Money for Summer Camp 2014

<http://www.onehappycampernj.org/>

Teens, College Students, Parents: Work at Camp!

Not just a good summer job for teens and 20 year olds! Also, an affordable way to have your kids enjoy camp!

www.jewishcamp.org/camp-jobs

Confirmation Reminder

**Next Confirmation classes are February 2nd and March 9th at 10:30 am.
It is never too late to join confirmation!**

March Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the March Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **February 19, 2014**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

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.

Jewish Life

Ryan Murray will discuss “**Anti-Semitism in the 21st Century: An Ongoing Threat,**” on **Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m.** at the Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. Many incidents of anti-Semitism receive limited media attention, and yet it is only through recognition and education that the threat of anti-Semitism can effectively be countered. Mr. Murray teaches a widely popular course titled “Holocaust & Genocide” at Watching Hills Regional High School in Warren, NJ. In 2012, Mr. Murray was awarded the Jack Zaifman Humanitarian Award for his work in Holocaust education. The program will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. The event fee is \$8/person in advance and \$10/person at the door.

“**A Taste of Jewish Spain**” with Gerard Edery, Master Guitarist, Storyteller and Bard, **Saturday, March 29, 6 p.m.** at Temple Beth-El, 67 Route 206, Hillsborough. Enjoy dinner featuring Sephardic food and wine; share Sephardic items and bring stories of your ancestors from Spain; all guests are asked to bring a Sephardic appetizer; learn Sephardic folkdances and enjoy songs performed by Gerard Edery. Participate in Havdallah service. Fee: \$18/person when paid by March 27; \$25 after March 27. Questions, and to receive a Sephardic appetizer recipe, contact Simona: bakers@comcast.net.

Save the Date...Thursday, April 3 for the Second Annual A Night to Celebrate Israel, Our Community's Support of Israel and Bond event. Distinguished Guest Speaker, Israel Ambassador Ida Aharano. Honoring Elaine Dunst, Past President of Jewish Federation; and a Rutgers Hillel Student. Event will be held at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Fee: \$50/Adult; \$18/Student. More details to come!

To register for Jewish LIFE Programs, please call the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201, or register on line at www.ssbjcc.org.



**JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST
JERSEY**

**115 YOUMANS AVE.
WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY**

www.jcnwj.org



JCNWJ Annual Purim Carnival



March 16, 2014 14 Adar II 5774

12:00-2:00pm (begins after Hebrew School)

Wear a Costume

Costume Contest 🎭 **Costume Parade**

Bring a Friend



Purim Fun For Everyone!



Games and Activities!

**Raffles with Great
Prizes!**

Pizza, Chips, Esther's Candy
Bar, Homemade Baked Goods,
Hamantashen and more...

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Purim Special *A Gift For You*

You are cordially invited join the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

As a Guest Member with Free Sunday School through June 2014*

To:

From (member):

If interested, please complete and return this form.

A membership committee member will contact you.

The JCNWJ Membership

P.O. Box 2

Washington, New Jersey 07882

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Purim Carnival is March 16th at noon ~ All are welcome

www.jcnwj.org

*Free membership and Sunday School (space permitting) offer expires April 1, 2014



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PHONE: 908.689.4100
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