

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

# Journal

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(908) 689-0762  
www.jcnwj.org

February 2015  
Vol. XXXX Issue 6



## Rabbi's Message

### Je Suis...

Friends,

As I write this, we are still processing the horror of what has just happened in France. Twelve murdered as terrorists seek to punish the journalists at *Charlie Hebdo*. Je suis Charlie, the signs proclaim. A Muslim police officer killed as he lies helplessly on the ground, wounded already. Je suis Ahmed. A police woman killed while guarding a Jewish school. Finally, at a kosher grocery store, four Jews assassinated and many others held waiting to see if they would live or die. Je suis Juif.

Je suis . . . . Who am I in all of this? I am sickened and pained. I believe that Democracy must guarantee and protect freedom of the press, even when I personally find the products of such a free press offensive. I believe that a pluralistic society must recognize the sacrifices and contributions of every citizen. I believe that such society, whether here or abroad, must never criminalize an entire people or religion, because of the violent and misled actions of radicals. I believe that every Democratic nation must be honest about the rise of Anti-Semitism and not fool ourselves that each ugly event stands on its own, an isolated anomaly.

continued on next page

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**  
8 am Confirmation Retreat in NYC  
9:30 am Sunday School
- **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Hall, Arvesen, Friedlander, and Berk Families
- **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30 am Torah Study  
10:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Sisterhood Meeting  
10:30 am Adult Education
- **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
No Sunday School
- **Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Knobelman, Tarlowe, and Orenstein Families
- **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am PTO Meeting

## Rabbi's Message (cont.)

I acknowledge that the Jews of France and of Europe are facing very difficult times. I am grateful for the existence of Israel, the safe haven of all Jews, but we cannot let the escalating Anti-Semitism go unchecked.

Je suis Charlie, Ahmed, Juif. Je suis . . . aware, engaged and caring. I will not let these events fade into the background as the news cycle moves onto the next story. I join with all who stand against hate.

May peace increase in our world.

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](mailto:zamorem@comcast.net) or call her at (908) 317-0417.

## SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

Join the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

For a "Pitch Perfect" Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner Like  
Bubbe Used to Make

Friday, March 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Featuring the Muhlenberg Chaimonics  
(Muhlenberg Colleges's Jewish A Capella Group)

All are welcome. RSVP details will follow.



### JCNWJ Choir

The Jewish Center's Choir will be participating in Shabbat services on **Friday, February 6.**

Choir rehearsal will be held on Saturday morning, **February 7.** All congregants B'nai Mitzvah and older are welcome to join. Please contact Student Cantor Lilah for details at [lilahsugarman@gmail.com](mailto:lilahsugarman@gmail.com).



Save the Date -**Saturday, March 7** from 5 pm to 9 pm. There will be a special social event for grades 8 through 12. Join Student Cantor Lilah and your friends at Jewish Center for Havdallah and a special event. Details to follow.

### Adult Education – Sunday, February 8th at 10:30 am

Bible to Buber and Beyond: 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.



Next Class: March 15

### Attention All Torah Readers

If anyone is interested in reading a Torah portion at Friday night Shabbat services, please contact Rabbi Zamore at [rabbizamorem@comcast.net](mailto:rabbizamorem@comcast.net).

## President's Message

Every two years, our Board forms a committee to solicit congregants to participate in lay leadership. This Nominating Committee is in the process of being formed, with Sharon Herson serving as its chair. The Nominating Committee is looking for congregants to serve as chairs or co-chairs of the various committees, as officers of the temple or at-large members to the Board.

The lay leadership of our temple is comprised of 15 Board members and chairpersons or co-chairpersons of each of the temple committees. The temple committees include Ritual (which is the backbone of our temple, working closely with the Rabbi in preparing the High Holidays and Shabbat services, and other ritual related items), Membership, Media (web page, facebook, advertising and newsletter), Education, Sisterhood, Finance, House, and Cemetery. A detailed description of each of the committees can be found at our website.

Each committee chairperson serves on the Board, as does our officers, immediate past president and 3 at-large members. Temple issues are addressed and decisions are made at the committee level with recommendations being made to the Board for resolution. By following this process, the committee participants have a say in the day-to-day function of our temple as well as its future.

All of these positions are volunteer positions. And I know that it is easy to sit back and not actively participate in committees or take on leadership roles, to take advantage of our programs and perhaps even question decisions that have been made. However, this was not what we agreed to do when we joined our temple. Our dues are set low in exchange for participation. We operate cooperatively, expecting all to lend a hand. Admittedly, after joining the Jewish Center it took me nearly 3 years to become actively involved in our temple community. Whether you have been a member for many years but have not been involved for some time or if you never really got involved before, it's not too late for you.

I understand that we all have busy lives, with work and family obligations in the forefront. Although the payoff received by participating in temple committee work or while contributing at the Board level may not be financially lucrative in nature, it is rewarding in so many other ways. Beyond developing personal relationships and friendships, individual involvement enables this special Jewish community in a remote rural area of New Jersey to exist. Our temple's continued success depends upon your participation. If you are interested in becoming a board member, an officer or committee chair, please reach out to Sharon Herson or me by the end of February. If you are interested in joining a committee, please attend a committee meeting. Your participation counts and is needed. On behalf of the Jewish Center, thank you for getting involved.

*Mo Bauer*

### Interested in learning prayer-book Hebrew?

Would you like to learn to read the Hebrew in our prayer book? We are forming a beginners or 'brush up' course in learning prayer-book Hebrew. A class of at least 4-5 dedicated people will meet at a mutually convenient time (most likely evenings). This would be a great way to help your pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah children in the upcoming years AND to deepen your connection with our liturgy. If interested, please contact Sharon at [sharonherson@comcast.net](mailto:sharonherson@comcast.net). Along with your expression of interest, please include time(s) when you would be available for class.

# MAZEL TOV

From the JCNWJ to Rene  
Marinich on her new  
home.



# Contributions

- ✧ In honor of the birthdays of Sharon Herson and Risa Smith  
- Rhonda Jordan and Judy May
- ✧ In memory of Max Weil  
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank
- ✧ In memory of William Robins  
- Bernie Robins
- ✧ In memory of Ellen Field  
- Alison Shelofsky
- ✧ In memory of Sid Goldstein  
- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- ✧ In memory of Tillie Ratzman  
- Steven Ratzman

## 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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).

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](http://www.jcnwj.org)). Please contact Bernard Robins at 908-534-7989 for further information or with questions.

## Education/PTO

Last month, we had a very successful Tu B'shavat seder along with several new activities. Students made a beautiful tree from recycled materials with pledges to help the environment. Parsley was planted in anticipation of Pesach to be used at the seder.

On another note, thanks to the efforts of Sue Santillo and Pam Fitzsimmons, the Chaunukah Store collected almost \$300 this year!

March brings Hamantashan baking and our Purim Celebration. We hope that you bring your friends to celebrate Purim with us on **March 8th**. More details to follow.

We are in need of someone to run or co-chair the PTO for the 2015-2016 school year. Please let me know if you are interested.

Gerri Klein  
Religious School Chair

## From the Membership Committee

Know of a Jewish neighbor, friend or colleague who is unaffiliated with any synagogue? Please invite them to join us as members through June **at no cost** as part of the Jewish Center's Purim Membership Special. Children are welcome to attend our Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning **tuition-free** through the end of our Sunday School year (space provided). Simply print out the invitation form included within this edition of the Journal and present it to any individual or family whom you believe might enjoy all that the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey has to offer. The Purim Membership Special expires April 15th, so please don't delay in sharing news of this offer.

## WANTED: MAH JONG PLAYERS

Interested in learning how to play Mah Jong?  
Already know how to play Mah Jong and interested in playing with your friends at the Jewish Center?  
We are looking for Mah Jong players, whether you play with a group regularly or if you've never played at all. Instruction will be provided.  
If you would like participate, please  
(1) contact Tracey Bauer at [traceysbauer@comcast.net](mailto:traceysbauer@comcast.net) and let her know what days and times work best for you; and  
(2) purchase a Mah Jong card in advance. This can be done online at [www.nationalmahjongleague.org](http://www.nationalmahjongleague.org), by writing to the National Mah Jongg League, Inc., 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10107 or by calling (212) 246-4117. The new cards come out in April and cost \$8 or \$9 depending on the card size.



*A Night to Celebrate Israel's* distinguished guest speaker will be Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel. The evening will honor Rabbi Ron Isaacs, spiritual leader of Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, and Aviv Alter, a Rutgers Hillel Student, for their dedication to their communities and the state of Israel. The event chair is Peter Horowitz. Admission fee is \$50 per adult, \$18 per student and will include a full buffet dinner and a cash bar; dietary laws observed. The RSVP date for the event is March 19. For further information or to register, call the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center (JCC), in Bridgewater, at 908-725-6994 x201 or register on line at [www.ssbjcc.org](http://www.ssbjcc.org). For additional information, please email [LFriedman@ssbjcc.org](mailto:LFriedman@ssbjcc.org).

Ambassador Ido Aharoni is Consul General of Israel in New York, representing the State of Israel to communities from throughout the tri-state areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. He has been a member of Israel's Foreign Service since the summer of 1991. Ido held two overseas positions, in Los Angeles and New York, during his tenure in Israel's diplomatic corps. While serving as Consul for Media and Public Affairs in New York, he became familiar with nation-branding methods which he later introduced to his superiors in Jerusalem. His efforts in this area, which continue until today, have brought about a paradigm shift in Israel's public image by Israeli officials in Israel and the United States.

Rabbi Ron Isaacs has served Temple Sholom in Bridgewater as its spiritual leader since 1975 and is retiring in June. Rabbi Isaacs has a doctorate in educational technology from Columbia University's Teachers College. An adjunct lecturer at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, he is the author of 120 books, including *Ascending Jacob's Ladder*, *Ask the Rabbi: The Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of Being Jewish* and *Kosher Living: It's More than Just the Food*. He is the first rabbi in New Jersey to receive the United Synagogue's Keter Torah award for outstanding lifetime achievement and rabbinical excellence.

## March Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the March Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **February 19, 2015**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at [abbybauer@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:berk721@aol.com)) or Ruth Schutzbank ([Howie.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

The Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties



**Jewish LIFE**

Invite You to Attend the 3rd Annual  
*A Night to Celebrate Israel*

**Thursday, March 26, 2015**

**6:30 pm**

**Raritan Valley Country Club  
747 Route 28, Bridgewater, New Jersey**

Distinguished Guest Speaker  
Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel



To Benefit  
Our Community's Support of Israel Bonds and The State of Israel

Honoring  
For Their Dedication to Their Communities and the State of Israel  
Rabbi Ron Isaacs  
Aviv Alter, Rutgers Hillel Student

RSVP  
March 19, 2015

Full Buffet Dinner  
Cash Bar Available  
Dietary Laws Observed

\$50/Adult \$18/Student  
Couvert:  
(Not Tax Deductible)

To register call 908-725-6994 x201 or online at [www.ssbjcc.org](http://www.ssbjcc.org).

# A Gift for You



## The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Purim Special

**You are cordially invited join the  
Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey  
As a Guest Member with Free Tuition at our  
Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning  
through June 2015\***

**To:**

**From (member):**

If interested, please complete and return this form.  
A membership committee member will contact you.

**Membership Committee**

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

P.O. Box 2

Washington, New Jersey 07882

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail address:**

Purim Celebration is March 8th at noon ~ All are welcome

[www.jcnwj.org](http://www.jcnwj.org)

\*Free membership and School tuition (space permitting) offer expires April 15, 2015

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Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER METROWEST NJ



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## What's Your Long Term Care Plan?

**Main Street**  
Long Term Care Insurance

## Over a lifetime, you face the following risks:

Being in a car accident ... **1 in 57**<sup>1</sup>

Having a residential fire ... **1 in 860**<sup>2</sup>

Being admitted to a critical care unit ... **1 in 141**<sup>3</sup>

**7 out of 10** people will need long term care after age 65 ... so what's your plan?

As the cost of health care continues to rise, the costs associated with long term care are also increasing.

The cost of long term care services could quickly wipe out assets that you have worked long and hard to accumulate.

Take a look at the average annual costs for three types of long term care services.

Home Health Aide	\$43,472
Assisted Living Facility	\$39,600
Nursing Home (Private Room)	\$81,030

Source: Genworth 2012 Cost of Care Survey

**How long would your savings last?**

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## What's your plan?

What will happen if you or your loved one becomes one of the 70% who will need long term care services?