

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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Rabbi's Message

On Saturday evening, January 9, Howie Hirsch and I arrived in Chicago for the "URJ Shallat Rabbinic Transition Program and Retreat." In total, 14 pairs of newly engaged rabbis and their presidents arrived from every corner of the nation to learn, brainstorm, and support each other through our shared processes of rabbinic transition.

For two days we were immersed in a most wonderful seminar on transition theory and practice. We learned about creating sacred partnerships, clarifying mission and vision, engaging in mutual and ongoing review, implementing purposeful planning, and utilizing helpful resources from the URJ.

Throughout the conference we kept returning time and again to the critical importance of creating sacred partnership. It's difficult to put into words just how good it made me and Howie feel when we came to realize that so much of what our instructors were describing as sacred partnership matched what is already second nature at JCNWJ!

Continued on the next page

Mark Your Calendar

- **Monday, February 1st**
7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Friday, February 5th**
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Knobelman, Tarlowe, and Orenstein Families
- **Saturday, February 6th**
10:30 am Tunes and Texts with Cantor Labow
- **Sunday, February 7th**
9:30 am Sunday School
11 am Interfaith Service at Washington AME Church
- **Saturday, February 13th**
10:30 am Torah Study
- **Sunday, February 14th**
No Sunday School
- **Friday, February 19th**
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Herson, Smith, and Zaret Families
- **Sunday, February 21st**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation Class
- **Monday, February 22nd**
7 pm Book Club

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Sunday, February 28th
9:30 am Sunday School

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Sacred partnership is formed not just between the President and Rabbi. Far from it. Creating sacred partnership is something in which our entire JCNWJ community is engaged. We already know that it takes work and intention, thought and focus, concentration and awareness, and commitment. Our *kehilat kedusha*, our holy community, already knows what it means to create and nurture a *b'rit kodesh*, a sacred covenant of partnership with one another. And, from my perspective, the best part of it is that this awareness existed well before I ever came on the scene.

One of the factors that made the Jewish Center so attractive to me during the interview process last spring was the clear and obvious commitment that I saw from the congregation to the concept of sacred partnership. From the children in the Sunday School, to the members who rarely set foot inside our building, yet continue to support Jewish life in Warren County, to our remarkably active Board of Trustees, the aura of love and commitment to JCNWJ is nothing short of inspired (and inspiring!). And, of course, this does not happen by accident.

Even as we all participate and benefit from the sacred nature of what we do, there are certain individuals who deserve special mention for having played extraordinary roles in the process of making this the expected norm. In particular, I would like to thank my two immediate predecessors (Rabbis Zamore and Lewis), the crop of fantastic teachers of our Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning, our current Board of Trustees and committee members, our past presidents, and most definitely our current president (who also happens to be one of our past presidents!). The sacred work you are doing today is merely a continuation of the sacred work you had already been doing well before Cantor Labow and I arrived over the summer.

With less than five months since Rosh Hashannah, we are, of course, still in a state of transition, which I expect will continue for some time to come. All the same, I can't imagine a more supportive, eager, and sacred community than the one that I have inherited at the JCNWJ. And for this, I am truly grateful.

Todah Rabah,

Rabbi Dubin

FOOD DRIVE

Sisterhood will be continuing their community service project of donating to local food pantries each month. Please bring **soup, pasta, and/or cereal** to the JCNWJ in the month of February.



Education Update

The Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning welcomes two new students, Faye Fletcher and Laura Rosen! Both our Hanukkah Party in December and our Tu B'shevat Seder in January were fun and educational for everyone! On January 10, Cantor Labow treated the Hebrew School families to a wonderful program filled with music honoring Tu B'shevat and Shabbat. Our annual Purim Party will be held on March 20.

Sing and study with Cantor Labow during a Saturday morning session of **"Tunes and Texts."** Always fascinating and fun!

This month:
Saturday, February 6 at 10:30 am



President's Message

This past month, Rabbi Dubin and I were privileged to attend the Shallat Retreat sponsored by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) for temples with new rabbis. We spent two days getting to know each other better and to develop our vision for the future of our temple. One of the exercises that we performed was to determine the things that we do as a congregation and then classify them. As we performed this exercise, I was amazed at how many things that we do as a small congregation. The following list was compiled in 10 minutes, so there are certainly things that you do that may not have made this list.

If you do something, large or small, and it is not on this list, please send me a note so I can update the list. I want to have this to remind ourselves of how much we are able to do. Many times, we discuss what else we want to do as a congregation, but sometimes it is just as important to reflect on what we do.

Howie Hirsch

Interfaith Service at Washington AME Church – Sunday, February 7 at 11 am

We will worship with the congregation of the Mount Pisgah AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church at 169 North Lincoln Ave. in Washington, helping to meet our goal of becoming more involved in our community outside of the temple. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to join our neighbors in worship.

SAVE THE DATE

Purim Shpiel Performance Followed By Rock N' Roll Dance Party
March 19, 7 pm

Purim Shpiel Performance
March 20, During Sunday School

1. Shabbat services
2. Maintain our building
3. Tzedakah
4. Biker Cholim (visiting the sick)
5. Cantor's Adult Education
6. Rabbi's Adult Education
7. Adult Hebrew Reading programs
8. Sukkah dinner
9. M&M dispenser
10. Madrichim program
11. Confirmation class
12. Temple Picnic
13. Evenings of Honor for distinguished members
14. Lay led Torah Study
15. Book Club
16. Mah Jongg
17. B'Nai Mitzvah training
18. Shabbat Across America
19. Hanukkah Celebration
20. Children's Service
21. Lay Torah readers at High Holidays
22. Active Sisterhood
23. Girls' Night out
24. Domestic Abuse Training
25. Board Meetings
26. Committee Meetings
27. Food Drive
28. Grow-a-Row
29. Blood Drive
30. Purim Spiel
31. Israeli Day Parade
32. E-mail blasts
33. Library
34. Torah writing session
35. Teen social events
36. Sunday School
37. Speakers
38. Elevator
39. New kitchen – environmentally focused
40. New Kashrut policy for in temple events
41. Recycling program
42. Newsletter
43. Interfaith connections
44. Communal beginning of Sunday School
45. Website
46. Membership training
47. Shabbat dinners at temple
48. Summer camp seminar
49. Fund raising
50. PTO
51. Shofar training
52. Camp tuition
53. Scholarship
54. Cemetery

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

On **March 4, 2016**, tens of thousands of Jews across America will come together to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate, and celebrate at the 20th Annual Shabbat Across America.

Join the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey in Washington, New Jersey as it takes part in a historical Jewish event to celebrate that which unifies Jews ~ Shabbat! Everyone is invited – singles, couples, families, all ages – to bring your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers – and let's celebrate together.

March 4th at 6:30 pm ~ Candle Lighting and Pot Luck Dinner

For more information or to RSVP, please contact jcnwjmembership@gmail.com or (908) 689-0761 Ext. 1.



March Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the March Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **February 19, 2016**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a Second Day Seder on April 23, 2016 at approximately 6 pm.

More details to follow!



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.



Exhibition Opening: By Dawn's Early Light

Date: Sunday, February 14, 2016

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Princeton University, McCosh 10

Panel Discussion: 1:30-2:45 pm, McCosh Hall

Lecture: 4-5 pm, McCosh Hall

Reception to follow at the Art Museum

Join us for an afternoon of programming in conjunction with the exhibition *By Dawn's Early Light: Jewish Contributions to American Culture from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*. A panel discussion features Jonathan Sarna, Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History and Chair of the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, Brandeis University; Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, Congregation Shearith Israel, New York; and Esther Schor, professor of English, Princeton University, and is moderated by Adam Mendelsohn, director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. A lecture by Sean Wilentz, George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History, Princeton University, and a reception in the Art Museum will follow.



Please join Jewish LIFE for these upcoming programs in February:

Chaya Deitsch will lead a discussion on *Here and There: Leaving Chasidim, Keeping My Family* **Thursday, February 4 at 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. On **Friday, February 5**, Chabad of Hunterdon County is hosting a Shabbat Dinner with guest speaker, **Rabbi Professor Eli Silberstein**. **Jay Michaelson** will discuss *The Gate of Tears: Sadness and the Spiritual Path*, **Thursday, February 25, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (This program is co-sponsored by JFS.)

Looking ahead...

The Jewish Film Series at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough will be showing the film *Epilogue*, **Saturday March 5 at 7pm**. **Steven Ray Gimbel** will discuss *Einstein, His Space and Times* on **Sunday, March 6**, 10:30am hosted by Or Chadash Flemington.

Join us for *The Irma Horowitz Film Series featuring Falafel and Films* **Thursday, March 10, 6:30pm** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Three Israeli short films will be screened, with discussion to follow after each film.

Save the Date... Tuesday, April 12 for our **4th Annual Celebrate Israel** event at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater. Our honorees this year will be Marjorie & Jonathan Slass, and a Rutgers Hillel Student. The event's distinguished guest speaker is Malcolm Hoenline, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The evening will include a special remembrance of Rabbi Evan Jaffe. More details to come.

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