

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

February 2018
Vol. XLIII Issue 6



Rabbi's Message

Mark Your Calendar

Dear Friends,

It probably comes naturally to most of us to say "*Shanah Tovah*" ("Happy New Year") to one another at Rosh Hashanah, but did you know that our Jewish calendar actually marks **four different and distinct New Years?**

"There are four New Years: The 1st of Nisan is the New Year for Kings . . . The 1st of Elul is the New Year for the tithing of cattle; . . . The 1st of Tishrei is the New Year for years . . . The 15th of Shevat is the New Year for trees according to the School of Hillel."

-- Mishnah Rosh HaShanah 1:1 (2nd Century C.E.)

It may seem odd to have four different New Years, but really, this just reflects real life. Jewish or not, we all have multiple New Years. To name just a few, there are January 1, January 20 (the term-year of our President), and April 15 (the Tax Year). September through June is the School Year, and each of us, of course has our own birthday. Many of us have wedding anniversaries, too. So, having multiple New Years in the Jewish calendar as well should probably be expected.

(continued on next page)

- **Friday, February 2nd**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Hall, Friedlander, Shelofsky
- **Sunday, February 4th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, February 5th**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Sunday, February 11th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Friday, February 16th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Baeck, Arvesen, Romanczyk
- **Saturday, February 24th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, February 25th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Sisterhood
- **Friday, March 2nd**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Knobelman, Orenstein, Tarlowe
- **Sunday, March 4th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
11:00 am – Purim Spiel

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

This past week, from sundown on Tuesday, January 30 until sundown on Wednesday, January 31, Jews around the world gathered to celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat (the 15th day of the month of Shevat), the New Year for Trees, just as our Sunday School students did on January 28 when we participated in our annual Tu B'Shevat seder. Together we drank four cups of progressively redder grape juice:

- The first cup was entirely white.
- The second was mostly white with some red mixed in.
- The third was mostly red with some white mixed in.
- The fourth was entirely red with an imperceptible drop or two of white.

Each cup represented a different season, so by the time we finished all four, we had experienced an entire year.

In addition, the first three cups of juice were coupled with specific kinds of fruit, and the fourth came with the sweet smell of spices. The reasons for each pairing carry great meaning.

- With the first cup of juice (representing the cold of winter) we ate a fruit that is soft on the inside with a thick skin on the outside, in order to remind ourselves of times we have sought protection from the harshness of the world. When eating this fruit, we concentrated on thanking God for keeping us safe from the elements. As well, we saw that although seemingly inedible from the outside, when peeled, oranges hold gifts that transcend their outward appearance.
- With the second cup of juice (representing the rebirth of spring) we ate a fruit that had no outer protection but did have an inner pit. By paying close attention to the seemingly worthless inner pits, we reminded ourselves that even though they tend to be discarded without thought, life itself cannot be reborn without them. As such, we discussed how these pits represent how important it is to nurture the hidden potential that each of us houses within.
- With the third cup of juice (representing the fullness of summer) we turned to eat fruit that is eaten whole, reminding us of the importance that nothing should be wasted.
- With the fourth cup (representing the vibrancy of autumn), we focused on the seemingly imperceptible drops of white juice embedded within the red, thus leading us to consider those things that truly matter yet cannot be seen. Therefore, rather than eating another fruit, we enjoyed the sweet smell of spices.

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Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Our time together of learning and celebration could not have happened without the support of all the parents who brought and prepared the necessary foods, set up the *seder* table, served the children, and cleaned up afterwards. For that, we are, as always, grateful. But there is one person who went above and beyond even that. To **Suzi Marr**, I'd like to offer extra special thanks.

One important tradition associated with Tu B'Shevat is that we eat the "Seven Species of Israel" as listed in Deuteronomy 8 ("⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hill; ⁸ a land of **wheat** and **barley**, of **vines**, **figs**, and **pomegranates**, a land of **olive** trees and **honey**; ⁹ a land where you may eat food without stint, where you will lack nothing.") To fulfill this Tu B'Shevat expectation, Suzi led our students in a most wonderful "Seven Species Bread Baking" activity. She spent significant time and care beforehand finding and preparing the ingredients, and then baking with us that morning. For anyone who would like to try this on your own, we used the recipe from <http://jteach.org/project/seven-species-bread/>. It's not necessarily the simplest bread to make, but it is well worth it!

Happy Tu B'Shevat to All,

Rabbi Dubin

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

Shalom everyone, my father found this and passed it on to me and I thought that it sums up one aspect of my personality.

Love, Howie

HUGGING
HUGGING IS HEALTHY.
IT HELPS THE BODYS IMMUNE SYSTEM.
IT KEEPS YOU HEALTHIER.
IT CURES DEPRESSION.
IT REDUCED STRESS.
IT INDUCES SLEEP.
IT'S INVIGORATING.
IT'S REJUVENATING.
IT HAS NO UNPLEASANT SIDE EFFECTS,
AND HUGGING IS NOTHING LESS THAN A
MIRACLE DRUG.

HUGGING IS ALL NATURAL.

IT IS ORGANIC,
NATURALLY SWEET,
NO PESTICIDES,
NO PRESERVATIVES,
NO ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS,
AND 100% WHOLESOME.

HUGGING IS PRACTICALLY PERFECT.

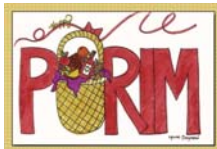
THERE ARE NO MOVABLE PARTS,
NO BATTERIES TO WEAR OUT,
NO PERIOD CHECK-UPS,
LOW ENERGY CONSUMPTION,
HIGH ENERGY YIELD,
INFLATION PROOF,
NON-FATTENING,
NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS,
NO INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS,
THEFT PROOF,
NONTAXABLE
NONPOLLUTING, AND OF COURSE,
FULLY REFUNDABLE

(ATTRIBUTED TO DEAR ABBY)

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Calendar

- February 25 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- March 11 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- May 6 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple



Mishloach Manot

You should now have received your invitation to participate. We hope that everyone will donate to this mitzvah!! (please email [Alison Shelofsky shelofsky@comcast.net](mailto:shelofsky@comcast.net) immediately if you did not receive your invitation to participate)

PURIM — A TIME FOR GIFT GIVING! The JCNWJ Sisterhood is once again sponsoring the wonderful MISHLOACH MANOT fund-raiser for Purim (February 28–March 1, 2018). This is a great occasion to give sweets and gifts to your friends, family, and co-workers.

Sisterhood is coordinating this fund-raiser to have a Purim treat sent to each Temple family. *Every Temple family will receive one gift bag on or around Purim.*

To support this, we are asking each family to make a donation of at least \$18.00 to cover the cost of the Purim gift bags. As in the past, however, families are encouraged to give up to \$180.00.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the JCNWJ general fund. Bags will be distributed at the Purim Spiel on March 4, 2018, or to your home if you are unable to attend the Spiel.

All Sisterhood members are needed to pack bags for Mishloach Manot on February 25 at 10:30 at the Temple and to help distribute bags following the Purim Spiel on March 4. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

Updates & Events

BLOOD DRIVE

We are holding a blood drive!

Our friend Gil Braunstein has been fighting cancer for the past few months. Gil informed me today that the cancer is gone from his body. Gil has been a long-time blood donor. Over the past few months, Gil has been fighting, he has received over 20 pints of blood and platelets. Let's replenish what Gil has used and donate more.

Sunday, 3/11/2018 (9:30 am - 2:00 pm)
at the temple.

Schedule your appointment at:

<https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedule/s/drive%20schedule/40890>

Thank you for supporting our blood drive and your community. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Howie Hirsch
Volunteer Drive Coordinator

DONATIONS

In Honor of Rabbi Andy Dubin
- Irene and Neil Rosen

In Honor of the Kowski Family
- Edward Skoller

In Memory of Esther Newman Lewis
- Rabbi Emeritus Ellen Lewis

In Memory of Jean Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan

In Memory of Joseph Berkowitz
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In Memory of Klaire Katz
- Adam Tucker
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- Sherry and Allen Onweller

In Memory of Stanley Shelofsky
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

On the Yahrzeit of Jack Zemel
- Shelly and Ralph Zemel

On the Yahrzeit of Sally Zemel
- Shelly and Ralph Zemel

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

Please save the date for Shabbat Across America - **March 16th, 2018.**

If you plan to come, please RSVP to Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net or call 908-239-4585 so we can make plans based on how many people are planning to attend.

Updates & Events

ISRAEL TRIP

Congregational trip to Israel!

June 24 – July 6, 2018

Relive the history of our people in the place where it all happened!

Join us for a life changing, life enriching experience in Israel - the heartland of the Bible. Visit the places you have been hearing about, enjoy exciting and adventurous hiking and water experiences, all while visiting historic landmarks and sites of interest.

Visit the trip website at <http://www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx> to view:

- Promotional flyer (accenting the trip highlights) to share with extended friends and family you wish to invite.
- Detailed day-by-day trip itinerary.
- Registration process “how-to” document outlining important details as well as screen shots of what to expect and how to do each step of the process.

Looking forward to sharing this incredible opportunity with my synagogue family!

Sincerely, Lynne Kowski & Roy Loomis

P.S. if you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to email both Lynne (Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu) and Roy (rloomis@cherrybrook.com)

FOOD DRIVE

Our local food pantries are in dire need of supplies. Donations are down and the need for food is greater than ever. The Jewish Center is collecting non-perishable items such as canned soup, pasta, and cereal on an ongoing basis to help out those in need.

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.

Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Dates:

February 4th
February 11th
February 25th

There will be no Sunday school on February 18th.

Looking ahead, the Purim Service and Spiel will be held on Sunday, March 4th.

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study continues in the Book of Deuteronomy. Please join us at any or all of the following upcoming meetings at 10:30am in the Simcha Room:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| February 24 th | May 12 th |
| March 24 th | June 9 th |
| April 14 th | |

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!



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The logo for Fliegauf Jewelers. It features the name 'Fliegauf' in a cursive script font, with 'JEWELERS' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The logo is set within a yellow oval shape.

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