

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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

March 2014
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Rabbi's Message

When I was a young girl, I loved the non-alcoholic party drink made with ginger ale and a splash of grenadine, garnished with a maraschino cherry. Most of us know the drink as a “Shirley Temple,” but my father would urge me to say, “I would like an ‘Ambassador Shirley Temple Black.’” As a seven year old, I did not quite understand my father’s point, but now I certainly do. My father wanted me to see Shirley Temple and all other female role models as women with accomplishments deeper than their beauty. Before we point a finger at American society and object to its limited view of Shirley Temple, we need to consider our Jewish tradition’s treatment of Queen Esther. Just as we must fully consider Shirley Temple’s complete legacy, we must recognize Queen Esther for her powerful role in our Purim story.

While it is tempting to remember Shirley Temple only as the cherubic child with blue eyes and blonde, curly hair who lit up the Hollywood screens, we would only be seeing part of her life story. Being adorable and precocious were not her only talents; her life’s work did not end with her last film in 1950 when she reached the ripe age of 22. Her second act included getting married, having kids, and, oh yes, being an ambassador for the United States. Over her political career Shirley Temple Black served as a Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to Ghana and later Czechoslovakia (just as the Iron Curtain was falling down).

continued on next page

Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, March 2nd**
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)
- **Monday, March 3rd**
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- **Thursday, March 6th**
12 pm Adult Education
- **Friday, March 7th**
6 pm Shabbat Across America
7 pm Shabbat Music Preview
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Ostenfeld, Koch, Hirsch, and Baeck Families
- **Sunday, March 9th**
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Congregational Meeting
10:30 am PTO Meeting
10:30 am Confirmation
- **Sunday, March 16th**
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)
9:30 am Purim/Megillah Reading
12 pm Purim Carnival
- **Monday, March 17th**
7 pm Book Club
- **Friday, March 21st**
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Parilis, Kowski, Yanow and Schaffer J/K Families

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

She also was appointed first female Chief of Protocol of the United States. Among her adult achievements was speaking openly about her fight with breast cancer at a time when few talked publically about cancer, especially breast cancer. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black won universal praise for her astute statesmanship and careful diplomacy.

Just as it is important to remember Shirley Temple for more than her childhood screen persona, it is vital to remember Esther for more than winning a beauty contest and mindlessly following Mordechai's directions. When we teach the story of Purim, we often stereotype Vashti as the disobedient wife and Esther as the compliant beauty who deserves to be queen. While one could read the Book of Esther and come to these conclusions, there is a better way to view these brave women. A closer reading of the text and its commentaries shows us that Vashti resisted dancing naked in public, even though she surely understood the price of her insubordination. Forced into a harem and, later, royal marriage, Esther finds the strength first to hide and then, finally, to reveal her Jewish identity. While she may have initially resisted her role in saving her people, ultimately no one can deny her remarkable bravery. In addition, Esther's resistance may have reflected the traumatic circumstance in which she found herself.

It is tempting to stereotype both modern and historical figures into monolithic caricatures, but complex reality provides the best role models for us and our children. Both Shirley Temple and Queen Esther were certainly beautiful women, but both knew how and when to use their intellect and voices. As we enter into our Purim celebrations, let us carefully choose the way we remember our heroes.

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.

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Saturday, March 22nd
10:30 am Torah Study
- Sunday, March 23rd
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am Sisterhood
- Sunday, March 30th
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am PTO Meeting



If you haven't already done so, next time you're online visit the JCNWJ's Facebook page! This is the place to learn about events at the temple and beyond, see photos of recent events, find links to interesting articles, and more.

While the temple's website is still a great place to get information about upcoming events, download forms, find archived copies of the newsletters and past monthly messages from the Rabbi and President, our Facebook page expands our ability to communicate. You can send us a message about what you'd like to see on the page, or ask a question (the rabbi and others will see it) and get a response.

You can visit the page at www.facebook.com/jcnwj to see what it's all about! Hope you "Like" it!

Shabbat Music Preview!

Join our Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman on **Friday, March 7th 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.

President's Message

The weekend of February 21, 2014 was a joyous one for my family and me with the bar mitzvah of my son, Andrew. The Saturday morning service was attended by over 100 people, including 50 or so of Andrew's middle and Sunday school classmates, camp friends, hockey teammates, and many young cousins. The table was set for potential mayhem and mischief to be delivered by the many 12 and 13 year olds, as well as younger children who I thought would never be able to sit patiently through a two hour service.


However, my belief could not have been more wrong nor my concerns more misplaced. Because our b'nai mitzvah students conduct nearly the entire service with limited assistance from the Rabbi and Cantor, the young attendees, the majority of whom were not Jewish, were captivated by their friend addressing them from the bima. As I looked at the kids, I saw many of them sharing prayer books and following along. I think I even saw many of them chant, or attempt to chant, some of the prayers. They were completely mesmerized by Andrew's command in leading the congregation from the Shamah, through the Torah readings, his haftarah and sermon, Rabbi Zamore's response to his difficult question of why bad things happen to good people, and through the conclusion.

It was a true joy to watch Andrew lead the service for the many members of our congregation who attended. I was approached by some congregants who had never attended a bar or bat mitzvah at our Jewish Center. They told me that they couldn't believe that our students were trained and capable of leading the entire service. I responded by telling them that it is a testament to our community's efforts, from the Hebrew School instructors to our Rabbi and Cantor to our music teacher and PTO members who create special memories on Sundays, to teach our children and prepare them for this important part of their Jewish lives.

Andrew made my family and me very proud. The fact that many shared their observation that becoming a bar mitzvah was evidently quite meaningful to Andrew, that he wasn't just going through the motions and following a script, brought an endless smile to my face. This milestone could not have been achieved without the dedication to our children by the JCNWJ family, preparing Andrew for this day. Thank you to those who were able to attend our congregational pre-Shabbat dinner and the Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Thank you JCNWJ.

Mo Bauer

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.

Shabbat Across America

March 7th at 6:00 pm

“Your Bubbe's Shabbat Dinner”

Bring back the memory of the old fashioned family Shabbat dinners. Join our congregation for a home-cooked meal, just like Bubbe used to make, and an evening of fellowship and blessings.

This is a kosher meat meal. No dairy in the main/side dishes please. Chicken can be roasted with seasonings and spices as well as vegetables. Remember, please use kosher chickens.

Please join us in making this a memorable JCNWJ family dinner. To sign up for a dinner item, please visit PerfectPotluck.com and locate the schedule by coordinator last name (Berkowitz) and password (shabbat).

See you at the dinner table.

Contributions

- ✧ In honor of the birthdays of Sharon Herson and Risa Smith
 - Helen and John Mattson
 - Edythe Herson
- ✧ In honor of Judy and Paul May's new grandson, Luka Isak May
 - Helen and John Mattson
 - Nancy and Bernie Robins
- ✧ In honor of Andrew Bauer's Bar Mitzvah
 - The Parson Family
 - Judy and Paul Pay
- ✧ Mishebeyrach for Jessa Mattson
 - Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Mike Weiner
 - Marsha Gross
- ✧ In memory of Edward Lewis, Lillian Jay, and Theodore Jay
 - Rabbi Ellen Lewis
- ✧ In memory of Ellis Golub
 - Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Marci Braunstein's brother, Ronald D. Selznick
 - Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of father Jules Katz and father-in-law Don Gross
 - Marsha Gross
- ✧ In memory of Arthur Tarlowe
 - Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- ✧ In memory of Rose Schutzbank
 - Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

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*

Contributions (cont.)

- ✧ In memory of Elaine Hirsch
 - Marsha Gross
 - Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
 - The Parson Family
 - Judy and Paul May
- ✧ In memory of Sadye L. Hertzmark
 - Nancy and Bernie Robins

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



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.

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 jcnwjprez@jcnwj.org.

Education/PTO

The education committee is very excited to launch into spring with our annual Purim Carnival. The carnival committee has been hard at work planning, what we hope to be, our best Purim celebration yet. There will be lots of new features and activities; you won't want to miss it!

Remember, we encourage students to bring their friends from outside of the congregation to share in the fun of this special fundraising event. So, grab a friend, throw on a costume, and join us for an afternoon of Purim fun!

Also, we have many upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvahs throughout the spring and we hope our students will all come out to support one another at their services. Please take the time to celebrate the accomplishments of your classmates as they embrace these rites of passage!

~ Joon and Gerri
Education Co-Chairs

A message from Ruth and Ira Melon, long-time members of our temple who recently moved to Ocean County and are leaving the JCNWJ:

2013 has been a year of great change for us with the sale of our home in Hackettstown and moving to Jackson, NJ... We have wonderful memories of life in Warren and Morris counties and the important people there who supported us in projects, celebrated life events with us, and prayed with us at JCNWJ... After careful thought we recognize that the physical distance to JCNWJ would make our continued participation in membership difficult; thus we will not renew. The sights, sounds and spirit of the community are etched upon our hearts and will not be forgotten. We hope we can take a little journey north from time to time to visit. JCNWJ is, indeed, a very unique and vibrant congregation. We are certain others will find its special fellowship as we have these 18 years.



Adult Education – Thursday, March 6th at 12 pm

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. This month we will focus on the history of kashrut in the Reform movement. Come to one session or come to all! Please RSVP to Rabbi Zamore (RabbiZamore@comcast.net) if you plan on attending. Feel free to bring a bagged dairy lunch.



The JCNWJ's first annual Great Menorah Pasta Box Build was a huge success! Over 100 boxes of pasta were donated to local food banks.

WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN YOU MAKE?

ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

The difference for Adam and Clare? A profound connection to their Jewish identities, courtesy of a free Birthright Israel trip.

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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

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 class is March 9th at 10:30 am.
It is never too late to join confirmation!

April Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the April Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **March 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

"A Taste of Jewish Spain" with special guest Gerard Edery, Master Guitarist, Storyteller and Bard, **Saturday, March 29, 6 p.m. at Temple Beth-El**, 67 Route 206, Hillsborough. Learn about the heritage and cultural lifestyle of Spanish Jewry. 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 a 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. This program is co-sponsored by the Cultural Arts Committee of Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough.

"Second Annual A Night to Celebrate Israel – Our Community's Support of Israel and Bond Event", **Thursday, April 3 at 6:30pm**. Distinguished Guest Speaker, Israel Ambassador Ido Aharoni. Invited Guest US Senator Corey Booker. Honoring Elaine Dunst, Past President of Jewish Federation; and Jacob Binstein, Rutgers Hillel Student. Event will be held at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Fee: \$50/Adult; \$18/Student.

The Irma Horowitz Film Series, featuring Falafel and Short Israeli films, **Thursday, April 10, 6:30pm** at the Birnbaum JCC. Films include First Night, New Year's Resolution, I'm Ready, and Alone. Fee: 10/person in advance or \$15/person at the door.

Save the Date for the annual Jewish LIFE **Yom Hashoah Program, Sunday, April 27, 7pm**. Hosted at Temple Shalom, Bridgewater. Free to the community. 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.



**Shimon and Sara Birnbaum
Jewish Community Center**
775 Talamini Rd
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Debbie Golden
Special Projects Director
Marketing Director
(908)725-6994 x210
dgolden@ssbjcc.org

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Come and Join us for the
JCNWJ Annual Purim Carnival



March 16, 2014 at 12:00 pm

Special Offer to New Families - We are offering **FREE Membership and Sunday School** for the remainder of the school year*



Kids Wear a Costume

Costume Parade  **Costume Contest**

(Bring a Friend and you both get a special prize)

Games and Activities!

Raffles with Great Prizes!

Refreshments Include: Pizza, chips, snacks, and delicious baked goods, including hamantashen.

*Space permitted and offer expires April 1, 2014

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

REGISTER NOW!

2nd Annual

A Night to Celebrate Israel

Our Community's Support of Israel and Bond Event



Thursday, April 3 at 6:30pm

Raritan Valley Country Club

Bridgewater, New Jersey

Educate & Celebrate! Dinner

Distinguished Guest Speaker

Israel Ambassador Ido Aharoni

Invited Guest, US Senator Cory Booker

*Honoring Elaine Dunst, Past President of The Jewish Federation
and*

Jacob Binstein, Rutgers Hillel Student

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