



Mark Your Calendar!

- Wednesday, April 2, 7:30pm
Passover Recipe Exchange
- Sat., April 5, 10:30am
Tot Shabbat, for families with children five years old and under (instead of March 29)
- Sunday, April 6
9:00am, Board Meeting
8:30am, Men's Club clean-up
9:30am, Men's Club breakfast
Sunday School Passover Craft
7:00pm, Confirmation Class
- Friday, April 11, 7:45pm
Shabbat
Oneg - Hirshberg, Knobelman, Ballenberg, Stahl Families
- Saturday, April 12,
10-11:30am, Torah Study
- Sunday, April 13,
Sunday School Model Seder
- Sunday, April 20,
No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 27, 11:00am
Yom Ha Shoa service
- Monday, April 28, 7:15pm
Board Meeting

Rabbi's Message

It is Thursday March 20, the morning after our first military strike against Iraq. For those of us on this side of the Atlantic, everything has changed while nothing has changed. In a small act of personal defiance, I refuse to alter my Thursday morning routine. I get into the car at the usual time and make an uneventful drive to Hoboken until I near the approach to the Holland Tunnel. The cars are backed up further than usual onto the Pulaski Skyway. Is it due to added security at the Tunnel, I wonder? As I edge closer, I see that the problem is a car stalled in the right lane under the covered roadway. I smile to think that not every delay is related to the war. The blessed PATH runs on schedule, as usual. During the short underground ride to 14th Street, I observe that people seem both a bit quieter and also a bit more alert – or does my imagination again work overtime? When I step out of the car, the conductor catches my eye; she smiles and wishes me a good day. I wish her a good day, too, and I add: a safe day.

The war maintains a silent presence here. A siren goes off nearby, a familiar occurrence but this time startling the other sidewalk pedestrians. I make my regular stop for coffee in the restaurant on the corner of Broadway and 13th Street and notice that people are already sitting at the bar watching CNN. It is only 7:30 a.m. Someone has spray-painted "This war is evil" on the side of the restaurant. The doorman in my building is at his usual post. My companions in the elevator seem subdued but friendlier than usual. I wonder if they fantasize as I do that, if the worst happens this very moment, we might be stuck together on this

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

This weekend, I ran the annual Goals Meeting attended by seventeen of your fellow congregants and Rabbi Lewis. We worked from the early morning to the mid afternoon discussing the feasibility of upgrading our building with handicap facilities, means in which to retain and gain members and ways in which to improve our religious school. Some of the conversation was a repeat of many ideas addressed at past meetings; while, some of the brainstorming was new and fresh. But, no matter what the dialogue covered, there was no doubt that this was a dedicated and caring group devoted to the future of their Jewish community at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. I can only hope that our entire congregation feels the same.

But, in order to carry this congregation into the future, we need active members organizing and running our programs. Our older members have done their part and are ready to pass responsibility onto the newer members. And, the newer and younger members need to step up to the plate and accept these responsibilities. If we want to see our Congregation continue to be the thriving place it has always been, we need you to take on a role. Non-Jewish spouses are welcome and encouraged to participate in a committee.

We need individuals to run our Sunday School, run our building, run our treasury. We need help with the religious and membership committees. Experience in the respective field would be beneficial but not necessary. We just need vibrant and excited people con-

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Rabbi's Message, cont.

elevator. When I walk into my office, I turn on the radio and hear that Wall Street plans to observe a two-minute silence before the markets open. My office is on the 16th floor. The most I ever hear is a police siren, even with the windows open. Today with the windows closed I hear the chanting of the anti-war protesters in Union Square.

I spoke yesterday with a rabbinic colleague who is organizing a panel discussion for the Central Conference of American Rabbis annual conference slated to be held in Washington, D.C. The panel, on which I am a participant, is to be presented on March 27. We wondered aloud together: What will the world be like on that day? Will we be at war? Will it impact our conference in any way? We concluded that war would not cause the cancellation of our conference (after all, this is a group that was brave enough to meet in Jerusalem one year ago at the height of the terrorist bombings) but it might cause us to institute a lock-down or at least tighter security. I had signed up for a meeting with Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz but suspect that meeting will not occur. The newspaper that same day prints a photograph of a four year-old Israeli girl struggling with her gas mask while wearing her Purim costume.

For a day or two this week, it seemed that Spring had arrived. The air held the promise of relief from this seemingly interminable winter. Today the rains seem a portent of war, proof that we breathed our sighs of relief too soon. What is there to do with this helpless feeling other than to turn as always to the words of our tradition, ever a source of wisdom and comfort in times of distress. "Great is peace," says Perek HaShalom (a minor tractate of the Talmud), "For even in time or war, one should begin by attempting to arrange peace." While we can't as individuals arrange peace in that ancient Fertile Crescent, home of civilization, we can attempt to arrange peace here in our own families and communities. Who is to say that our own small efforts toward peace on this earth below might not come to have impact on that place in the High Heavens that can inspire peace?

From Mishkan Tefilla, the new Reform prayerbook, we share a prayer for peace:

May we find peace with those we love
Growing together over time.

May we be at peace with ourselves,
And with the labors that fill our days.

May we render peace in our world,
With wisdom and gentle patience.

May we be at peace with the source;
Let understanding come our way.

Blessed are you, Eternal One, Source of Peace.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

President's Message, cont.

cerned with maintaining a place of worship and education for their children and those in our community. And, taking on a board position should not be looked at as too much for anyone! Just think of the alternative should no one take on these leadership positions.

So, I call out to everyone to pitch in. You joined our congregation knowing that this was a participatory place where everyone needed to lend a hand. We are the "staff" at the Center. Payment is zero but benefits are rich and abundant! Please call me now to enroll in the leadership of this wonderful institution.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 1. Mark the date!

Shalom, Gwen

Passover Recipe Exchange

Back by popular demand, we're once again having our Passover Recipe Exchange on **Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30pm**. Bring your favorite Passover dish with the recipe and enjoy a fun evening of taste testing and being with good friends. Please RSVP as soon as possible to the Temple.

Education Committee and PTO News

Happy Passover! Our students will be creating their own plagues bags on **April 6** and have a Model Seder on **April 13**. We'd love parents to come and help. There will be no Sunday School on **April 20**.

Sunday School registration for the 2003-2004 year will begin in June. Please contact the Temple as soon as possible if you will be registering your child for the first time or know of new members with school age children.

We need substitute teachers. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required. Please let us know if you can volunteer for this essential role.

The Purim Carnival was a great success! Thanks go to Jeanne Berkowitz, who chaired the event and worked to make it so fabulous, and to all the parents who pitched in to set up, clean up, run games and serve food.

We'd like to thank the following companies who donated prizes: WRNJ Radio Station, Hackettstown; Land of Make Believe, Hope; Stewarts Root Beer, Washington; Washington One Stop; Burger King, Washington; McDonalds, Hackettstown; Hackettstown Trading Post; Blockbuster Video, Washington; Dairy Queen, Washington.

Trip to Yankee Stadium

We have 55 tickets and a luxury bus for **Sunday, May 25** to see the Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays at 1:05pm. The cost for the trip will be \$30-\$45 per person. The bus will leave the Center about 9:45am and return after the game.

Contact Howie Hirsch at the Temple for reservations. First come, first served.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to all who sent me get well wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. I especially enjoyed the tape full of get well greetings.

Michael Ganz

Thank you Ed Nagorsky for the use of your conference room and facilities for the annual Goals Meeting.

Thank you Sharon Herson and your committee for organizing the hilarious Purim skit. The evening was lots of fun!

Thank you Mercedes Weiland and your committee for organizing this year's Shabbat Across America. What a delightful and delicious event!

Library News

Now on our shelves:

That You May Live Long - Caring for Our Aging Parents, Caring for Ourselves (Jewish Perspectives on Caregiving)
edited by Richard F. Address and Hara E. Person

A Time to Prepare - A Practical Guide for Individuals and Families in Determining a Jewish Approach to Making Personal Arrangements, Establishing the Limits of Medical Care and Embracing Rituals at the End of Life
edited by Rabbi Richard F. Address

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

Certificates can be purchased at Sunday School on the following dates: April 13th & 17th, and at Confirmation on April 6th. Call the Temple with questions or to make arrangements to support this wonderful fundraiser for the Temple.

Berman Center Spring 2003 Programs

Shalom Paul, Professor of Bible at the Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, discusses "The Ever-Alive Dead Sea Scrolls," Monday, April 7, at 4:15pm in 480 Maginnes Hall at Lehigh Univ. Paul will emphasize areas of research that have been revolutionized by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

For information call the Berman Center for Jewish Studies at 610-758-3352 or visit www.lehigh.edu/~inber/programs.html. Lehigh Univ. is located at 9 West Packer Ave., Bethlehem, PA.

Attention College Students

Visit the website at www.RAC.ORG for a social action summer internship and study program at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, DC, — receive college credit while living in Washington as part of a unique community.

If you are interested in building a Jewish community, working with people, seeking a meaningful career, learning Jewish text and tradition, then consider enrolling in the UAHC Shadow Program. This is the Reform Movement's mentorship program for college students and recent college graduates interested in pursuing a career as a rabbi, cantor or Jewish educator. For more information, call 212-650-4070

Jewish LIFE Presents in April...

Jewish LIFE's final Rabbi's panel of the current season will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC on Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. The topic will be "Freedom for What?." Please RSVP to Laura Friedman at the JCC at 908-725-6994 x213 or e-mail LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

Share a touching and triumphant story of survival at the Jewish LIFE community-wide Yom Hashoah program featuring Sylvie Lednicer. The title of Ms. Lednicer's talk is "Hidden Child." This program is free to the community and will be held on Sunday, April 27 at 7 p.m. at Temple Sholom, North Bridge Street in Bridgewater. (Call 908-722-1339 for directions.)

Save the date for the Jewish LIFE grand finale featuring David Saperstein on Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m at the JCC.

Donations

Helen and John Mattson celebrating the birth of Henry Marocchi

Memorial

Stanley and Pearl Ehrlich in loving memory of Ben J. Ehrlich
Helen and John Mattson in memory of Harold Bloom
Helen and John Mattson in memory of Julian Katz
Helen and John Mattson in memory of Ann Knobelman
Stanley and Rona Schick in memory of Julian Katz
Stanley and Rona Schick in memory of Harold Bloom
Eric Edelstein in memory of Julian Katz
Eric Edelstein in memory of Harold Bloom
Eric Edelstein in memory of Ann Knobelman
Cheryl and Ed Orenstein in loving memory of Marian Orenstein,
father of Ed Orenstein
Joseph and Harriet Levy
Suzanne and Andrew Colby in loving memory of
Beatrice Schurman
Suzanne and Andrew Colby in memory of Julian Katz
Ralph Zemel in loving memory of Sally Zemel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Joan Chase

Rose Schneider Sound System

Gwen and Ed Nagorsky



Allen Menkin, M.D., F.A.A.P
Reform Mohel

Board Certified Pediatrician
245 Main Street, Chester, NJ 07930
(908) 879-3100



Happy Passover!
First Seder: Evening of April 16

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Name	_____	Email	_____
Address	_____	I/We would like to make a contribution of	_____
	_____	In honor of	_____
	_____	In memory of	_____
Phone	_____	Please contact me/us about membership	_____

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, and mail to JCNWJ