



Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, April 2, 12:00 p.m.
Stamp Out Hate Conference for Confirmation & NFTY group
- Monday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting
- Friday, April 7, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service - Oneg
- Saturday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah
- Sunday, April 9
Sunday School Model Seder
- Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Second Seder at the Temple
- Saturday, April 15
10:30 a.m. Torah Study
- Sunday, April 16
No School - Happy Pesach!
NFTY meeting with Dr. Elinor Levy, folklorist, 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 21, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service honoring graduating seniors (Cantor) - Oneg
- Saturday, April 22, 10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah
- Sunday, April 23
8:30 a.m. Men's Club road clean-up and meeting
10:30 a.m. Yom HaShoa service
- Sunday, April 30, 10:45 a.m.
Pirke Avot

Rabbi's Message

I have taught 6th and 7th grade for so many years that I can at times predict their responses. When I say, "Go home and look it up in the Bible," they inevitably say, "We don't have a Bible at home." I have learned that they're not just trying to get out of doing the assignment; they truly don't know that they have a Bible at home.

You can find a Bible in most if not all homes in our congregation. But what does it say that our kids don't know that fact? If the Bible is gathering dust on the shelf or, worse, if it still has a ribbon around it or gift-wrapping on it, then that Bible is an artifact and not a living book. That doesn't mean it has no value, but often the value is sentimental ("I got that at my bar mitzvah," or "That belonged to my grandfather"). The kids don't experience that Bible as a living witness to our history or as a source for study or storytelling.

One of my professors in rabbinical school, the late Rabbi Jacob Rader Marcus, used to say that American Jews were the most literate educated Jews in the world. His evidence? That every Jewish home had at least one Jewish book on the bookshelf, usually a history book, and that the family members had actually read the book. He contrasted this experience with earlier generations of Jews in which the elite were educated but the average Jew was not.

The world knows us as the People of the Book. It is a title we have carried with honor. Is it a title we still deserve? Step back and take a look at your home libraries. Are there

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President's Message

Passover

When my mind turns to Passover celebrations, a number of memories flood my mind. Going to the Seder on Long Island with my great aunts, cousins and my grandparents. Being SO PROUD when I was able to ask the four questions, being upset when my younger brother learned them and I wasn't "needed" anymore. Sitting on the Belt Parkway for what seemed like forever, asking my Mom, are we there yet? I remember the silver dollars my grandfather used to get us for finding the Afikoman, whether we actually found it or not. I wonder what happened to those silver dollars? I don't think I ever got to keep them. Nowadays, it is my turn to hide the Afikoman, and have the *kiderlach* wonder how I got it out of the room with no one able to figure out how I did it. None of my memories of Passover involve the synagogue; it was always family time, until last year.

Last year we had a wonderful and special Seder at the synagogue on the second night of Passover. We had such a wonderful time, we have decided to do this again. This time, we are opening it up to the public; as it says in the Haggadah, all who are hungry, come and share the Passover with us. If you would like to bring your family or friends to this celebration, please contact Esther Bakonyi, who is coordinating the event. Please let her know by April 6th, so we can make sure all of the essentials are taken care of.

Over the last few years of being your president, I have become much more aware how fragile everything is, and how we all need to be a family to make this congregation stay alive and vital. You are all very special to me and I hope you will join us on Thursday April 13th at 6:30 for a very special Passover celebration.

Howie

Rabbi's Message, cont.

books of Jewish interest? And, more importantly, are these books you read, consult, discuss and enjoy? What books should a good Jewish library contain, anyway (what a good topic for a future Adult Education program!)? Despite the competition of the internet, Jewish publishing has flourished.

So pick up a good Jewish book. See what you can learn. And talk about it. You never know, it just might be catching.

May the Haggadah you hold in your hands this Pesach be stained with red wine and filled with the love of the ages.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

The First Seder begins Wednesday Evening, April 12

Happy Pesach!

Passover Second Seder

Join your friends at the Jewish Center for the second Seder on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Please RVSP to Esther Bakonyi at the Temple by April 6 and she will let you know what to bring. Bring your friends and relatives!

Yom HaShoa Service

We will be showing the film PAPER CLIPS (DVD), starting at 10:30 a.m. on Yom HaShoah, Sunday, April 23. Congregation is invited and encouraged to come. Some information on the film:

“Whitwell, TN, is a small, rural community of less than 2,000 people nestled in the mountains of Tennessee. Its citizens are almost exclusively white and Christian. In 1998, the children of Whitwell Middle School took on an inspiring project, launched out of their principal's desire to help her students open their eyes to the diversity of the world beyond their insulated valley. What happened would change the students, their teachers, their families and the entire town forever... and eventually open hearts and minds around the world.

PAPER CLIPS is the moving and inspiring documentary film that captures how these students responded to lessons about the Holocaust — with a promise to honor every lost soul by collecting one paper clip for each individual exterminated by the Nazis. Despite the fact that they had previously been unaware of and unfamiliar with the Holocaust, their dedication was absolute. Their plan was simple but profound. The amazing result, a memorial railcar filled with 11 million paper clips (representing 6 million Jews and 5 million gypsies, homosexuals and other victims of the Holocaust) which stands permanently in their schoolyard, is an unforgettable lesson of how a committed group of children and educators can change the world one classroom at a time.”

Temple Youth Group Upcoming Events!

Sun., April 2, Noon

Stamp Out Hate Coalition Teen Conference
Gather at the Jewish Center for trip to NJPAC

Sun., April 16, 4-5:30 pm

Meeting with Dr. Elinor Levy, folklorist

Questions? Call Bonnie Kelly at the Temple

Attention Graduating Seniors:

We are hosting an Oneg Shabbat in your honor on Friday, April 21. You will be receiving a letter in the mail inviting you and your families to attend services in your honor.

Education Committee and PTO News

Here are some dates for PTO activities:

April 9 - Model Seder and PTO Meeting

May 7 - Yom HaAtzmaut, Israeli Independence Day

May 21 - End Of Year Party for Hebrew School at Oakwood Lanes, more info to follow

There will be no school on April 16 because of Pesach

Adult Programs

Torah Study: Meeting dates: Saturday mornings — April 15, May 13, June–Aug. TBA. Starting time is 10:30 a.m., ending time about 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Pirke Avot: This collection of very short texts, The Sayings of the Elders, provides an endless source of both wisdom and controversy. Upcoming date: April 30. Let Rabbi Lewis know if you plan to attend.

Support the Jewish Center with Scrip

Lynne Kowski is available every Sunday at the Temple that Sunday School meets at 11:45 a.m.

Save Darfur Rally April 30

Join the Reform Jewish Movement at the Save Darfur: Rally to Stop Genocide in Washington, DC April 30.

A humanitarian crisis is taking place in Darfur, Sudan. At the hands of government-backed militias as many as 400,000 have been killed, and nearly 2 million innocent civilians have been displaced from their homes in the region. The world has thus far remained shamefully silent in the face of these atrocities. It is now time for moral voices to be heard!

The Reform Jewish Movement will join with thousands of people from around the country for the Save Darfur: Rally to Stop Genocide in Washington, DC to raise awareness about the situation and demand that stronger action be taken to end the genocide. The rally will take place on Sunday, April 30 on the National Mall. The Reform Jewish Movement is a co-sponsor of the rally and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism will be coordinating the Movement's participation.

The rally will feature a broad spectrum of prominent political figures, faith leaders, human rights activists, entertainers,

journalists and thousands of others who support a stronger multi-national force to protect the civilians of Darfur.

There will be a Havdalah Service, the night before the Rally, on Saturday, April 29 and lobby visits on Capitol Hill on Monday morning, May 1.

Howie will be attending the rally. Please contact him if you are interested in going. To learn more about the Rally, please visit www.rac.org/rallyfordarfur

Donations

Mishebayrach to the Baskin, Mattson and Radke families - Helen and John Mattson

In memory of Arthur Marcovitch, uncle of Sharon Herson, brother of Edythe Herson - Eric Edelstein, Iris and Howie Hirsch

In memory of Sidney Goldstein, father of Iris Hirsch - Helen and John Mattson, Iris and Howie Hirsch

In honor of David Seidorf's receiving an Eagle Scout Award - Helen and John Mattson

In memory of Ellen Nagorsky - Ed and Gwen Nagorsky

In memory of Jean Siegel - Rhonda Jordan

In memory of Mildred Sobine and Walter Sobine - Leslie and Murray Heller

Donation to the Center by Lawrence Steinhardt

In memory of Lillian Jay - Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Marian Orenstein - Cheryl and Ed Orenstein

In memory of Bill Brugmann - Judy and Wain Schroeder

In memory of Benjamin Ehrlich - Pearl and Stanley Ehrlich

In memory of Michael Tozzo - Iris and Howie Hirsch, Joan Chase

In memory of Jessica Hirsch - Iris and Howie Hirsch

In memory of Edythe Herson's brother Arthur - Joan Chase

Thank you to the Center from Erica Sonzogni for the Chanukah package: "It was nice to know that the temple was thinking of me!"

The Jewish Center mourns the loss of Mike Weiner's father. Thanks to everyone who participated in the first ever Jewish Center Talent Show.

SAVE THE DATE

WELCOME ABOARD: SHABBAT NOACH
Friday, October 27 - Saturday, October 28, 2006
NJWHVC - REGIONAL BIENNIAL
Parsippany Hilton Hotel, Parsippany, NJ

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

OHRTIKVAH JEWISH HEALING CENTER

Replenishing Miriam's Well: Drinking Anew from the Well with Rabbi Shira Stern - Rabbi Shira Stern will talk about adjusting long-term relationships as we change as individuals and as our life situations change, and learning to trust our instincts to live fuller, more creative lives. Rabbi Stern also will engage participants in a discussion. Sunday, April 23, at 10 am. Temple Beth-El, 61 Route 206 South, Hillsborough. Donations welcomed.

Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center is an agency of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 for more information or to register for programs. www.ohrtikvahjhc.org

BERMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

www.lehigh.edu/~inber/programs.html or call 610-758-3352

Reading by Prize-Winning Poet Ilya Kaminsky

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 pm 480 Maginnes Hall. Born in the former Soviet Union in 1977, Ilya Kaminsky is the author of *Dancing in Odessa*, which has won many poetry prizes including Best Poetry Book of 2004 from *ForeWord Magazine*.

Special Appearance by Renowned Storyteller

Diane Wolkstein - Monday, April 17, 4:15 pm, 102 Maginnes Hall. Diane Wolkstein will retell some stories that are traditionally read on Passover, while offering a modern perspective by highlighting the role of female characters.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP DANCE

The Union for Reform Judaism-West Hudson Valley Council invites you to a regional Junior Youth Group Dance, hosted by Temple Emanu-El of Westfield. Saturday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. Dance will end promptly at 10:00 p.m. Join together with fellow 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from our region for a brief havdalah service followed by music and dancing. \$6.00. Bring a non-perishable food item for a local soup kitchen and pay only \$4.00! (A portion of the proceeds from this event will go towards tzedakah) For information contact Scott Roland at SRoland@tewnj.org, 908-232-6772, or via AIM at TEWSrael.

Study With the Scholars! Eilu V'Eilu

After two successful years of Ten Minutes of Torah, the Union for Reform Judaism has expanded its e-mail study program to provide you the opportunity to join in discussion with leading scholars. Each month a new topic is introduced, and readers are

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

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Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey and mail to:
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encouraged to submit their questions and comments. To sign up for Eilu V'Eilu, go to www.urj.org/torah/ten/eilu. And while you are online, please check out the other Torah study that is available on the Web or by e-mail subscription.

Pesach: A Season for Justice

To help you bring to your Seder table modern social justice issues, including hunger, homelessness, immigration and refugee concerns and modern-day slavery, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism has produced a special Passover guide. It includes readings and rituals as well as project ideas, links to websites and creative Haggadot and background information on various social action themes. To view the guide, go to: <http://rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/passover2/>.

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter will be the 18th of the month.