

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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April 2013
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Rabbi's message

Every year before Passover, I pull out my haggadah and go through it page by page in anticipation of the seder. I like to add new readings every year. As a result, my haggadah is bursting at the seams. After I add in the yearly readings, I take all the other haggadot and mark the insertions with new page numbers. Needless to say, it is confusing when I announce we are turning to page 20B because that was the only way I could insert the page without having to change all the page numbers that followed.

I could retype the whole thing and make sure the page numbers are clear and in sequence, but if I did that, I would miss the names that are written in my haggadah. The names of family and friends are penciled in by particular readings I assigned them over the years. Many of those people are gone now, but every year on Pesach, they live again when I open my haggadah. We all laugh as we remember how my father always assigned my Uncle Marty the role of the simple child. We recall the year when my nephew was finally old enough to explain the items on the seder plate. We remember friends who used to come to seder because their names are still in my book.

The haggadah tells us: In every generation, we are required to see ourselves as if we personally had gone out of Egypt. We don't know if the Red Sea ever parted or if the Jewish people ever really left Egypt en masse, but it doesn't matter. What might be considered a historical myth is still our spiritual reality. I read somewhere recently that a myth is not something that never happened but something that happens over and over again. There is a spiritual truth in this holiday and that truth never gets old. That is why Passover is a holiday that is both new and old every year. It carries memories of the past but also holds hope for the future. It is a story of moving from *avdut* (slavery) to *herut* (freedom). That message remains one that resonates with us every year.

Passover comes during the month of Nissan, which is considered the first month of the Hebrew calendar (even though it is what we consider the new year, the holiday Rosh Hashanah comes in the seventh month). It offers us an opportunity to begin a "new year" again and to try once again to live with the hope inspired by our ancestors.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis



President's message

Spring always brings hope for me. The hope that our garden will thrive. The feeling that I get when I realize I don't have to shovel my driveway and have the snow from the snow thrower fly into my face. Waiting for the mud in my yard to turn hard and be able to walk on it without having to have boots on when I walk the dog. Hope that when I take the winter cover off the pool that it won't be dark green and have much work to make it swimmable.

It also makes me think of the wonderful world we live in and how some things just are. At the temple a couple of weeks ago, I was walking to my car and saw my first crocus of the year. That is always a special feeling for me, because it affirms my belief that some things never change.

In this last year, when I know that many things will change in our temple, it is good to remember that life will continue. No matter which direction the temple goes in, we will survive as a family. The friends we have made at this temple do not go away because other things change. The old expression goes something like this, those who can't embrace change will get rolled over by it.

As we continue to make changes in the temple, I hope that you will give your support to all of the new faces that will be around next year.

Love, Howie



"And remember, if you need anything I'm available 24/6."

Mark your Calendar

Friday, April 5	7:00 p.m.	Special Hebrew School Shabbat Service with Cantor Goldmann Oneg: Kowski, Parson, Perfetti, Needleman families
Saturday, April 6	10:30 a.m.	Morning Shabbat Service led by Cantor Goldmann
Sunday, April 7	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Sunday School Yom HaShoah program Led by Cantor Goldmann
Monday, April 8	7:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Saturday, April 13	10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Torah Study Talent Show
Sunday, April 14	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Sisterhood Rummage Sale
Friday, April 19	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services Oneg: Onweller family
Saturday, April 20	10:00 a.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Onweller
Sunday, April 21	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Confirmation class
Friday, April 26 Saturday, April 27		Sisterhood Retreat
Sunday, April 28	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School Adult Education
Friday, May 3	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services Oneg: Wilson family
Saturday, May 4	10:00 a.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Jill Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

It's not too late to join the **Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey's Intergenerational Choir** under the direction of Cantor Goldmann. **Please join Cantor Goldmann for choir rehearsal on Friday, May 17th at 6:45 pm and Friday, June 21st 6:45 pm (immediately preceding Shabbat Services)**

The Intergenerational Choir will be performing at the last shabbat service before Summer on June 28th, a special service in Honor of Rabbi Lewis. **Save the date!**

Next September, we will welcome a new cantor, Lilah Sugarman, who is currently a first-year cantorial student studying at HUC-JIR. The search committee interviewed her and two other candidates via Skype since students spend their first year studying in Jerusalem. The cantor in charge of placement at HUC-JIR does a "match" based on preferences from both the students and the congregations. We are very pleased that Lilah will be joining us, and we look forward to meeting her, possibly in the summer. More on this when we know details.

Honoring Family Members and Friends

If you would like to honor a loved one, whether family member or friend, living or deceased, there are a number of ways to do so within the tradition of tzedakah to the synagogue. You may purchase a memorial plaque for the memorial board (\$325), a pew plaque (\$250), a leaf on the simcha tree (\$180), a prayer book dedication (\$36), or a donation card (for any occasion, \$5 and up).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention! Attention! Attention!

Come one, Come all to

The Eighth Annual Jewish Center Talent Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 7 o'clock pm.

Please contact Mrs. Mattson with the information on what your talent is and the title of any songs you will be performing so that the Program will have all this information listed correctly.

**It is not too late to be in the show. Email Mrs. Mattson today:
hpmattson@gmail.com**

If you have a professional activity that you want the congregation to know about, please let us know in time to make the newsletter deadline for that month.

Education/PTO

Happy Spring! Hope you all had a Happy Passover. We will observe Yom HaShoah on **April 7th**. And the Hebrew School students will celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut with an Israeli Breakfast on **April 21st**. Confirmation class also meets on **April 21st** at 10:30 a.m.

Marsha Gross, Education Chair

Sisterhood News

Eat * Pray * Love



Sisterhood Retreat

Join your sisters on April 26th & 27th
At Beautiful Lake Wallenpaupack
31 Lakeview Drive
Lakeville, Pa.

RSVP: Jeannie at Berkowitz18013@yahoo.com Cell 484-767-3744

JCNWJ Sisterhood Rummage Sale
Sunday April 14, 2013- 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(Rain date Sunday April 28th)

Our last rummage sale was a great success thanks to you! We would like to raise even more money for our Temple this time and with your support we will do it!

We need your help in the following areas:

Concession Stand – to work at the concession stand or donate water, hot dogs, rolls or condiments
Contact Rene Marinich at 908.229.0364, or e-mail: rene0808@gmail.com

Baking for Bake Sale – contact Andrew Bauer at traceysbauer@comcast.net. All proceeds of the bake sale will be donated to Join the Voices Against Brain Cancer, in honor of Mike Weiner.

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Post Sale Signs - contact Marci Braunstein at marci_braunstein@yahoo.com

Set up/Clean up - volunteers including men needed to help carry heavy items

~ set up 7:00 – 8:30 am

~ clean up 1:00– 2:30 pm

Contact Jeannie Berkowitz at berkowitz18013@yahoo.com

Sales People – choose 2 hour shift(s)

8:00 – 10:00

10:00 – 12:00

12:00 – 2:00

To volunteer contact Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net with your shift preference

Items Needed:

Clothing Racks

Hangers

Plastic Grocery Bags

Rummage Sale Items Include:

Clothing –men’s, boys, girls & women – on hangers or folded neatly - separated by size and gender

Toys/games

Books/DVDs

Soft Household Items, curtains, towels, etc.

No Electronics, furniture or large items!

Drop Off Dates:

Friday, April 5 – 7:00-7:30 - before Shabbat Service

Sunday, April 7 – 9:30 – 12:00 - during Sunday School

Saturday, April 13 – 6:30 – 7:00 – before Talent Show

If you have any questions please contact:

Iris Hirsch: Cell:908.239.2585, Home: 908.850.1030, email: irishirsch@comcast.net



Contributions



In honor of this year's b'nai mitzvah
Mikaela Bauer, Jill Fesinstine, Alex McMullen, Lauren Onweller,
Rachel Parilis, and Jill Wilson
The Bauer Family

In memory of Harry Siegel
Rhonda Jordan

In memory of Sadye L. Hertzmark
Nancy & Bernard Robins

In memory of Arthur Tarlowe
Laura & Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Pauline Schick
Rona & Stanley Schick

In memory of H. Wayne Bardy
Laverne Bardy

In memory of Fannie Garfunkel
Jan Romanczyk

In memory of Jules Katz
In memory of Don Gross
Marsha Gross

In memory of Marvin Leiter
Audrie & Ken Sonzogni

Hello Everyone,

Recently Jim Aversen and I paid a visit to the office of Jewish Family Services of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties in Somerville, N.J. Our objective was to learn about this agency and its services. Although our Temple is within the area which the JFS serves, few are aware of the services they provide and/or how to access them. We are hoping to create an awareness of the JFS and to promote what it has to offer to our Temple members.

Did you know ?

Jewish Family Services offers Career Counseling Services

Jewish Family Services offers Family & Child Services

Jewish Family Services offers Emergency Assistance

Jewish Family Services offers Senior Support

Jewish Family Services provides Information and Referral Services

Jewish Family Services provides Family Life Education and Support

Jewish Family Services offers volunteer opportunities

Other possibilities include speakers on topics of interest for both Sunday School and Adult Education.

Both Jim and I are hoping to initiate a relationship with JFS to bring their services to the Warren County area and our Temple.

If you would like information on any of these topics, you can contact the JFS directly; see number and e-mail address below. You can also contact me with any questions you may have. If I don't have the answer I will find it for you. Should anyone need transportation to the Somerville office, please contact me. (Jeannie Berkowitz, 484-767-3744, or berkowitz18013@yahoo.com.) Pamphlets will be placed in the entrance of the Temple.

Jeannie Berkowitz
Jim Aversen



*JFS is a non-profit, non-sectarian social service agency whose mission
is to preserve and strengthen the quality of individual,
Family and community life based on Jewish values.*

Betty and Arthur Roswell
Mental Health Counseling Center
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Refugee Assistance
Special Needs Programs Family Mentoring
Senior Support Services Family Life Education
Information and Referral Emergency Assistance
AmeriCorps Ohr Tikvah Career Services

For more information contact:

Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties
150-A West High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

908-725-7799 Admin@JewishFamilySvc.Org www.JewishFamilySvc.Org

Upcoming Jewish LIFE Special Events include:

Step Up For Israel Film Series: Israel Inside, Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 pm at Or Chadash, Flemington or Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Experience Israel's dynamic, innovative and humanitarian society. Free to all. To register, please call program location: Or Chadash at 908-806-2122 or the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

Community-Wide Yom HaShoah Program, Sunday, April 7, 7pm at Congregation Kneseth Israel, Bound Brook.

Program details to be announced soon. Free to the community.

Doni Zasloff Thomas, Get Cooking! A Jewish American Family Cookbook, Thursday, April 11, 6pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Fee: \$8/person in advance or \$10 at the door.

Save the Date...Coming in May:

A Night to Celebrate Israel & Bond Event, Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 pm at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Israeli Dancing & Music, Activities, Guest Speaker & more! Honoring Rabbi Evan Jaffe, Flemington JCC and Raffi Mark, Rutgers Hillel Student President. Couvert: \$50/adult and \$18/teen. Dietary Laws Observed.



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Debbie Golden

Special Projects Director
Marketing Director

(908)725-6994 x210

dgolden@ssbjcc.org

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April Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements and photos to be included in the May issue is April 19, 2013. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Barbara Simons at bjbs@comcast.net



**What's Jewish About Breast Cancer
What You Need To Know
Become Informed
for Yourself & for Your Family**



Informational Material Provided by
The Cancer Support Community Central New Jersey
and Sharsharet

For more information about JFS Services and Programs
Call: 908 725-7799 Email: Admin@JewishFamilySvc.Org



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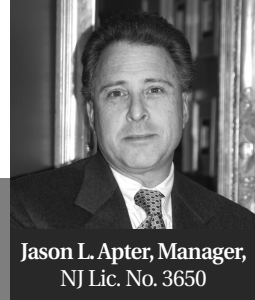
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