

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

# Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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## Rabbi's Message

### A Historic Moment in Philadelphia for LGBT Progress

In late March I had the pleasure of attending the Central Conference of American Rabbi's Convention in Philadelphia. I enjoyed over four days of intense learning, prayer, and collegial connection. The highlight, however, was being present at the installation and celebration of my colleague Rabbi Denise Edger as president of the CCAR. I had the pleasure of sitting on the CCAR Board of Trustees with Rabbi Edger and personally know her as a strong leader, caring soul, passionate voice for justice, and astute thinker. Awed by her talents, I am excited to have her lead my professional organization which is a leading voice in the international Jewish and non-Jewish communities. However, her appointment is historic, as she is the first openly homosexual rabbi to serve as the President of our rabbinical organization.

The joy of Rabbi Edger's presidency is heightened by the coincidence that this convention marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CCAR's Resolution on Homosexuality and the Rabbinate which paved the way for openly gay and lesbian rabbis to have a welcomed place in our Conference. The installation of Rabbi Edger was a proud moment for her, her family, her congregation, and all the Reform rabbis present.

continued on next page

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
No Sunday School
- **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Baeck, Webb, and Koch Families
- **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
No Sunday School
- **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Fenton Family
- **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
10 am Derek Fenton's Bar Mitzvah
- **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
9:30 am Confirmation  
9:30 am Sisterhood Meeting  
11 am Yom HaShoah Observance
- **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
7 pm Book Club
- **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
7 pm Mah Jongg

## Rabbi's Message (cont.)

In her installation address, Rabbi Edger raised many important issues to our community that she hopes to focus on during her presidency. As a community, we were inspired to renew our efforts to affect change in our world. However, it was her reflection on her historic appointment that touched my heart. Later in the conference, Rabbi Yoel Kahn spoke of his journey from hiding his sexual orientation and living in fear during rabbinical school to finally being able to come out as a rabbi who is gay. While I am proud of how far my Reform Jewish community, and America in general, has come, I was pained to witness the hurt and discrimination my colleagues have had to endure. I also know that many still live with these wrongs every day in our Jewish community, in America, and certainly throughout the world.

At Passover, my family always includes on our seder plate an orange, Dr. Susannah Heschel's symbol of inclusion of gays and lesbians and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. (To learn more: [http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish\\_Holidays/Passover/The\\_Seder/Seder\\_Plate\\_and\\_Table/Orange.shtml](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/The_Seder/Seder_Plate_and_Table/Orange.shtml)) As we mark Passover this year, I will celebrate the progress made, as embodied by Rabbi Edger's CCAR appointment, and rededicate myself to the work still unfinished to protect LGBT rights everywhere.

Wishing you and your family a very sweet Passover!

L'Shalom,

*Rabbi Mary Zamore*

(I also celebrated my 18<sup>th</sup> year in the rabbinate at the convention!)

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](mailto:zamorem@comcast.net) or call her at (908) 317-0417.

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Welcomes New Members **Norrie and Efrem Zaret.**

## Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 am Sunday School  
PTO Israel/Yom Ha'atzmaut Program  
9:30 am Adult Education

### Adult Education – Sunday, April 26 at 9:30 am (Note: Special Time!)

#### Bible to Buber and Beyond: God in Jewish Thought

Join the monthly Sunday morning study group led by Rabbi Zamore to learn more about and to discuss "the Jewish God." How has the idea/meaning of God in Judaism changed from Biblical times to today? Come and explore together. Come to one class or come to all. Open to adults and teens.



Next Class: May 3 at 10:30 am

### Confirmation Class

**Sun. April 19:** Please come at 9:30 am for class and stay for the Yom HaShoah presentation.

**Sun. May 17:** We will be having a full rehearsal from 9:30 am – 12 pm. Bring your shoes.

**Sun. May 31:** Confirmation!

### The Choir

Please contact Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman at [lilahsugarman@gmail.com](mailto:lilahsugarman@gmail.com) if you would like to join our growing choir.



# Contributions

- ✧ In memory of Harry Siegel  
- Rhonda Jordan
- ✧ In memory of Arthur Tarlowe  
- Paul Tarlowe
- ✧ In memory of Grandma Fannie Garfunkel  
- Jan Romanczyk
- ✧ In memory of Esther Herson Schwartz  
- Edythe Herson, Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles
- ✧ In memory of Helen and Henry Steinhart  
- Larry Steinhart
- ✧ In memory of Betty Berkowitz  
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- ✧ In memory of Sadye Hertzmark  
- Nancy and Bernard Robins
- ✧ In memory of Lillian Jay  
- Ellen Jay Lewis
- ✧ In memory of Marvin Leiter  
- Audrie Sonzogni

## 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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).

## Yom HaShoah Program and Commemoration

**Sunday, April 19 at 11 am**

Meg Wiviott, author of *Benno and the Night of Broken Glass* and *Paper Hearts* (forthcoming), will talk about her Holocaust-themed writing and the challenges of introducing children to this difficult topic. Our own JCNWJ member Esther Bakonyi will also reflect on her vision of teaching the next generation of this dark part of our modern history.

This program promises to engage both our religious school children and adult congregants. We will end with a brief commemoration for the six million lost.

Please note that Sunday School starts 9:30 am as usual.

## Passover Food Drive

Our local food pantry is in dire need of food to fill their empty shelves to help serve the over 70 people in need. Please fill a bag (or two) with non-perishable items (**please, no matzah**), and bring it to the next service (after Passover) which will be on **April 17**. Below is the website which indicates what items are needed. If you would like to contribute but can't make it to services that night, please contact Iris Hirsch at 908-850-1030 and she will try to arrange to pick up items.



Thank you in advance for your generosity!

<http://patch.com/new-jersey/longvalley/long-valley-food-pantry-shelves-nearly-bare-spring-holidays-approach>

## Education/PTO

The Education Committee and the PTO are vital to the success of our Sunday School and rely on parent participation. We are in need of parent volunteers for the upcoming school year. The PTO can be run by co-chairs, and the Education Committee is always in need of new members. We encourage current parents or JCNWJ members who have expertise in the area of education to get involved. Your input is valuable!

If you are interested in being a substitute for our Sunday School, we can always add to our current list. Please let me know if you have an interest!

Gerri Klein  
Religious School Chair

## MAZEL TOV

From the JCNWJ to the Fenton Family on Derek's Upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

### May Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the May Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **April 19, 2015**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer, at [abbybauer@comcast.net](mailto:abbybauer@comcast.net).

# Passover Recipes

## Pineapple Farfel

### Ingredients

- 3 Cups of Matzah Farfel
- 1 Cup of Sugar
- 2 Cans of Crushed Pineapple (drained)
- 1 Stick of Margarine
- 8 Eggs

### Instructions

Melt margarine. Add eggs, one at a time, and sugar. Beat well. Soak matzah in hot water for 3 minutes. Drain well and add to mixture. Add pineapple.

Pour into 12" x 7" pyrex dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake 40-50 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven.



## Chocolate Mousse Cake

### Ingredients

- 5 Eggs
- 6 oz. Package of Bittersweet Chocolate Chips
- ¼ Cup of Margarine (half a stick)
- 1 Cup of Sugar

### Instructions

Melt margarine and chocolate together. Stir until smooth. Cool mixture. Beat egg yolks and sugar together. Beat egg whites separately. Add cooled chocolate mixture to egg yolks and sugar. Fold in beaten egg whites. Pour into 8" or 9" spring form pan.



Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes. Serve with whipped cream, as cake is very rich.



The Jewish Film Series presents ***No Place on Earth*, Monday, April 13 at 7pm.** This film tells the harrowing story of a group of families during World War II who seek asylum underground to evade being caught by pursuing Nazis. The film will be followed by a discussion led by Chris Nicola, the explorer who discovered the caves featured in the film. Hosted by the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$5/person.) The Jewish Film Series presents ***Restoration* (Boker Tov Adon Fidelman) Saturday, April 18, 7pm.** Hosted by Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. (To register contact Temple Beth-El or e-mail bakerec@comcast.net.) Everyone is encouraged to attend the community wide **Yom Hashoah Remembrance Day Observance on Sunday, April 19 at 10am** hosted by the Flemington Jewish Community Center (5 Sergeantsville Road, Flemington). The morning will feature a presentation by Valerie Thayer, Ph. D entitled, *Never Forget: How Do American Jews Remember the Shoah.* This program is free to the community. **On Monday, April 20 at 7pm,** a screening of *The Other* will be shown at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. This film features Tova Friedman -- one of the youngest children to survive Auschwitz -- who discovers that her daughter, Taya (also featured in the film) has hired (Stephanie) a nanny from Germany. The film also features Taya, Stephanie and Reinhold, a staff member at Raritan Valley Community College, whose father was an SS officer during the Holocaust. This film challenges the participants to confront difficult questions about co-existence. This program is co-sponsored by the Raritan Valley Community College Institute of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties. This program is free to the community. **The Irma Horowitz Film Series on Thursday, April 30, 6:30pm** at the Birnbaum JCC. The evening features a Falafel Dinner, and Israeli Short Films presented by the Ma' Aleh School of Television Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. Films shown include: *And Thou Shalt Love, Fair Fight, A Woman Laughed* and *Memory Game.* Hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee: \$12/person in advance or \$15/person day of event). **Coming up in May...Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City, Sunday, May 31.** A bus will be taking spectators into New York for the annual Celebrate Israel Parade on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City. Show your support of Israel... The bus will leave from two locations: Flemington Jewish Community Center, 5 Sergeantsville Road, Flemington and the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater. [More details to come on timing and the bus fee.] Thank you to the Jewish Federation for sponsoring the bus. To register for programs unless otherwise noted, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 or register on line at [www.ssbjcc.org](http://www.ssbjcc.org).

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