

## Mark Your Calendar!

- May 1-May 4  
National Small Congregations Conference
- Friday, May 2  
7:45 p.m. Shabbat  
Oneg - Hirsch Family
- Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.  
B'nai Mitzvah -  
Caitlin & Allison Hirsch
- Sunday, May 4  
9:30 a.m., Men's Club breakfast  
Sunday School Israel  
Celebration Breakfast  
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Class
- Saturday, May 10,  
10:00-11:30 a.m., Torah Study
- Sunday, May 11  
No Sunday School  
Happy Mother's Day!
- Monday, May 12, 7:15 p.m.  
Board Meeting
- Friday, May 16  
7:45 p.m. Shabbat  
Oneg - Nagorsky Family
- Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.  
Bat Mitzvah - Leah Nagorsky
- Sunday, May 25  
Yankees Trip  
No Sunday School
- Friday, May 30  
7:45 p.m. Shabbat  
Oneg - Finkelstein Family
- Saturday, May 31, 10:00 a.m.  
Bat Mitzvah -  
Samantha Finkelstein
- Sunday, June 1, 9:30 a.m.  
Annual Meeting
- Sunday morning, June 8,  
Confirmation

## Rabbi's Message

It isn't too often that we get to witness history being made but that was what I experienced last month at the annual conference of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. We gathered in Washington, D.C., this year, but what made this conference historic could have happened anywhere: and that was the installation of Rabbi Janet Marder as the first female president of the CCAR. Rabbi Marder was ordained a year before me (she in 1979, I in 1980, she in New York, I in Cincinnati) at a time when we were not even sure anyone would ever hire a female rabbi. We certainly never dreamed that one of us might ascend so quickly to the presidency of the CCAR. Rabbi Marder's installation also coincided with the 30th anniversary of the ordination of Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman to be ordained by the Reform Movement in this country. We, the women, were all called to the Torah to share an aliyah in honor of the doubly-momentous occasion.

I don't always get to go to these conferences these days unless I am invited to be on the program. There are always compelling reasons not to go, which is what had kept me away for the last four years. Yet this was one conference I just couldn't miss. I do not know Rabbi Janet Marder in other than a casual collegial way (in those days, we all knew each other), but I know how hard she must have worked to reach this moment. As we all stood at the Torah together, we celebrated both Rabbi Marder's personal achievements and also the success of women rabbis as a group. We all felt inspired, proud and not a little emotional as the memories washed over us.

*continued on next page*

## President's Message

The months of April and May are very busy for the Board and committee members. Budgets for next year are being prepared by all and then reviewed and revised by the Finance Committee. The finance members also must audit our books. New officers are being recruited by the Nominating Committee. Rabbi Lewis, along with the Education Committee, are meeting to find teachers, preparing registration forms, and discussing books and curriculum for September. Paul May and Jim Arvesen, researching ideas for updating our building, are finalizing their work. The House Committee is evaluating building and grounds areas that need this year's attention.

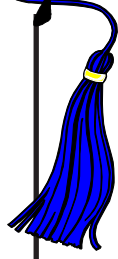
All of this attention to so many details must be completed by the beginning of May in order to assemble a packet to be mailed to your home that includes year-end reports and budget, financial and dues information. The information you receive will be discussed and voted on, where required, at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 1 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

I urge everyone to show your appreciation and gratitude to these hard-working individuals by attending this meeting. Come... show your commitment and support for the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. Come... show your concern for the future of your Jewish community. Come... have a bagel and schmooze with a great group of friends! See you there.

Shalom, Gwen

P.S. Please remember to bring the information packets that you will receive in the mail by May 20.

# Graduation



## Mazel Tov!

Congratulations  
to this year's graduates:

### High School

Sasha Knobelman  
Nat Ballenberg  
Marc Sulvinski  
Michael Ganz  
Nate Hirshberg  
Emily Finkelstein  
Matthew Koppenhaver  
Erika Sonzogni

### College

Michele Stahl  
Jorel Knobelman  
David Melon  
Amber Stanton  
Tara Romanczyk

### Graduate School

Michael Dwyer (M.A.)

I thank all the parents and students who came to the service and Oneg honoring our graduates. We are very proud of our "extended family" of young adults and wish them great success in their future endeavors. We hope that they remember that our door is always open to them for whenever they return.

Helen Matttson,  
Ritual



## Rabbi's Message, cont.

We are living in a difficult time, a time of war abroad and economic hardship at home. It is the occasional moments of love, optimism and hope that get us through the harder times. I was privileged to witness one such moment. It has to make us wonder: If a small moment of redemption can occur in our time, why not a larger one?

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Be sure to attend the annual Congregational Meeting on **June 1 at 9:30 a.m.** Election of officers for the next two years tops the agenda. The conversation continues on the future of our building with a presentation from the ad hoc committee regarding a proposal for an entrance ramp and revisions to the existing staircase area. Much research has been done by this committee and the costs involved will be presented. Also, the 2003-2004 budget and dues will be presented along with a financial and operating plan to carry us into the future.

## Local Historian Frank Dale To Speak at Men's Club Meeting

Frank Dale, the leading authority on the history of Warren County, will be the guest speaker at the **Sunday May 4** Men's Club meeting. The breakfast meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

Dale's second book, *Bridges over the Delaware River*, was recently published by Rutgers University Press, and stories about him and his book were printed in *The Star-Ledger* and *Express-Times*, among others, in the past month. He previously wrote *Delaware Diaries: Episodes in the Life of a River*. He has also written a host of historical booklets that are sold throughout Warren and Sussex County. Frank will have copies of his book available for sale that day.

This is the last Men's Club meeting of the spring. It is open to all members and anyone else who would be interested in hearing Frank's talk. There is no charge. If you plan on attending, please contact the office so that we can be sure to have plenty of eggs, bagels and other goodies for everyone.

## Donation Options

The fund to purchase an audio system with headsets for the hearing impaired is off to a great start; but more dollars are still needed. If you can help support this wonderful project, please send your contributions to Andrew Colby. The Board hopes to have the system installed by the High Holidays in September.

## Education Committee and PTO News

Sunday School registration for the 2003-2004 year will begin in June. Please contact the office 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 Laurie know if you can volunteer for this essential role.

## **Trip to Yankee Stadium**

We still have a few tickets left to see the Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays at 1:05 p.m. **Sunday, May 25**. The cost for the trip will be \$30-\$45 per person. The luxury coach bus will leave the Center about 9:45 a.m. and return after the game. Contact the office for reservations.

## **Many Thanks!**

The Knobelman family wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy.

## **Shoprite/A&P Vouchers**

Certificates can be purchased at Sunday School on the following dates: May 4th & 18th, and at Confirmation class on May 4th. Call the office with questions or to make arrangements to support this wonderful fundraiser for the Temple.

## **Introduction to Judaism Class**

A 16-session course designed to give participants a basic understanding of Jewish belief and practice will be offered in Morristown. The class is open to all individuals who are considering conversion to Judaism; interfaith couples; Jews by birth and non-Jews who wish to obtain a basic adult-level knowledge of Judaism.

The course will approach Jewish tradition - faith, people, customs - through a study of the holiday and life cycles of Judaism. A basic reading knowledge of Hebrew will also be included.

Classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays for eight weeks, 7:45-9:45 p.m., May 5-June 30. A single registration fee of \$275, or \$225 for UAHC congregation members, includes tuition and one set of books and materials for an individual or a couple.

Introduction to Judaism is sponsored by the Outreach and Synagogue Community Department of the New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and its 54 member congregations. To enroll or for further information please contact Jane Young, Registrar, Introduction to Judaism, 201-722-9090 ext. 210, e-mail: [jyoung@uahc.org](mailto:jyoung@uahc.org).

## **Jewish Life Final Event of the Season**

Save the date for the final event of the current Jewish LIFE season: Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m. (at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC): Rabbi David Saperstein, "Being the Hands of G-D: Jewish Social Justice." The fee is \$18/Jewish LIFE members and \$36/non-members. A Wine & Cheese Reception will be held before the program for Benefactors & Sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please call Laura Friedman at the JCC at 908-725-6994 x213; [LFriedman@ssbjcc.org](mailto:LFriedman@ssbjcc.org) for more information and to register.

## **Donations**

### **Memorial**

Dona & Allen Schneider in memory of Faye Schneider  
Marcy Brandt-Coben & Larry Coben in memory of Ann Knobelman, mother of Glenn Knobelman  
Gwen & Ed Nagorsky in memory of Jules Katz, father of Marsha Gross  
Gwen & Ed Nagorsky in memory of Harold Bloom  
Gwen & Ed Nagorsky in memory of Ann Knobelman  
Janis & Leo Romanczyk in memory of Fannie Garfunkel  
Laverne Pollak in memory of H. Wayne Bardy

### **In Honor of:**

Helen & John Mattson in honor of the Jewish Scouting Award awarded to:  
Andrew Seidorf  
David Seidorf  
Eric Weiland  
Stefanie Weiland

Ruth & Ira Melon in honor of David Melon's graduation from the University of Virginia and his acceptance into medical school

Ruth & Ira Melon in honor of Rebecca Melon's continued success in her graduate studies at Bryn Mawr  
Laurie Hessels mishaberach for Cara Hessels

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Vicki Schorr-Coben & Daniel Coben in memory of Ann Knobelman, mother of Glenn Knobelman

## **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE**

*The Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, those who face cancer will be supported and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.*

*Teams will walk on the North Hunterdon High School track from 6 p.m., June 6, until 10 a.m., June 7.*

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### **Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me/us about membership \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, and mail to the Office.