



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.
Shabbat Across America
- Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah
- Sunday, May 6
Lag B'Omer celebration
10:45 a.m. Adult Ed. Pirke Avot
- Saturday, May 12
9:30 a.m. Torah study
- Sunday, May 13
No Religious School
Happy Mother's Day!
- Friday, May 18, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Sunday, May 20
10:30 a.m. Confirmation Service
- Sunday, May 27
No Religious School
Memorial Day weekend
- Friday, June 1, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah
- June 3 morning,
Religious School closing day
ceremony
Congregational meeting and
elections
- June 10, 3 p.m. JCNWJ 60th
anniversary picnic,
a family event
- Saturday, June 16
9:30 a.m. Torah study
Summer dates TBA

Rabbi's Message

"April is the cruelest month," writes T.S. Eliot in "The Waste Land." There were moments when it seemed that way as we watched the events unfold at Virginia Tech. And who could not appreciate the painful irony of the death of Professor Liviu Librescu, an Israeli Holocaust survivor, who sacrificed his life for his students on Yom HaShoa. Rabbi Marvin Hier, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, was quoted as saying, "Here's a Holocaust survivor who lived through the period when so many stood by silently and did nothing. When evil stopped at his door and he saw this murderer was going after his students, he decided that he would not be a bystander. It's quite remarkable." These words of Asael Arad, an Israeli student at Virginia Tech, say it all: "...all the students lived - because of him."

April isn't usually the time of year when we Jews indulge in introspection and self-reflection, but it is hard not to think about the power of Librescu's legacy and wonder about the legacy that will survive each of us. His untimely death reinforces the rabbinic advice, "Repent one day before your death." Live the life you want to be remembered for and live it every day because you don't know how much time you have left.

That rabbinic adage is meant for us all. It isn't only the rich and famous who do or should worry about their legacy; we all consider what others will say about us after we are gone. On his deathbed, even Johnny Sack of "Sopranos" fame worries about the name he is leaving behind. Worrying itself is a waste, of course, if it doesn't lead to reevaluating and doing.

Most of us don't have a moment when we know we are making history, when we know what our legacy will be. Jackie Robinson was one of the few who knew his actions would make history. On the 15th of this same month, Major League Baseball marked the 60th anniversary of the day Jackie Robinson became the first African-American player to don a major league uniform in a regular-season game. He changed the face of baseball forever but

continued on next page

President's Message

All this year we are celebrating our 60th anniversary. During the year, I hope you all take a few minutes to pause and think about the gift that the founders of our temple have given us, and that is a building with no mortgage. It is one of the reasons that we have the second lowest dues in the state of New Jersey. Still, this does not mean we can take this for granted and we still need money to maintain and improve our building and programs.

In the spring in our shul, it is now Bat Mitzvah time, and we will see five of our young ladies take the Bimah with love and pride for our temple. On June 10th, we will be having a picnic at the home of Mike Weiner and Diane Margolin. This is truly going to be a special day and I hope that you can all attend and share the simcha of this remarkable feat with us. If you have other obligations at some point during the day, please join us before or after. We are a small but tightly knit community and it takes each and every one of us to make this temple a home. Let's make this the biggest celebration this temple has ever seen.

L'Shalom
Howie

Rabbi's Message, cont.

wasn't satisfied that he had done enough. He went on to influence the creation of the American Civil Rights movement. His words bear remembering:

- "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."
- "I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me. All I ask is that you respect me as a human being."
- "Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life."

Critics of T.S. Eliot are not sure whether to understand "The Waste Land" as a poem of despair or of salvation. April seems to offer us both possibilities. We see the death of winter and the rebirth of spring. We are reminded of the cycle of life and we are reminded, too, that ultimately we can't control how we are remembered. That is the choice of those who come after us. We can only control how we live.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Invite a Potential New Member to Shabbat Across America, Friday, May 4

Shabbat Across America is scheduled for Shabbat Friday, May 4th. At 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Lewis will conduct a short Kabbalat Shabbat service which will be followed by a covered dish dairy or vegetarian meal. This has been an annual national event inviting anyone who wishes to join a temple or synagogue in celebrating Shabbat. This year, Debbie Fesinstine is our chairperson for this event. Our Oneg hosts for that evening are Paul and Laura Tarlowe who are honoring their daughter, who will become bat mitzvah the following day. Plan to come and enjoy the fellowship of other families in a Shabbat dinner and support the Tarlowes in celebrating their simcha.

Education Committee and PTO News

The end of the Hebrew School year is rapidly approaching. **May 6th** we will celebrate Lag B'Omer. **May 20th** is our Confirmation service and all of the Sunday School students will participate. There is no school on **May 13th** (Mother's Day) or **May 27th** (Memorial Day). Our closing assembly will be **June 3rd**, followed by the Congregational Meeting.

It has been a WONDERFUL year. THANK YOU to the teachers, parents and students who made it that way!

Marsha

Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the JCNWJ
Date: Sunday, June 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Watch your mail for the invitation to celebrate the Temple's 60th anniversary: **June 10, 3 p.m.** and on into the evening. Invitations have been sent out (date inadvertently omitted); all other information is on the invitation. Directions to Mike and Diane's will be sent once checks are received.

An All Member Project!

Be sure to send any digital photos of events at the center to Dan Hirshberg for publicity. Include: names of those in the photo, from left to right, towns in which they live, date and occasion. Remember, photos showing a little "Jewishness" in the background with close ups of smiling faces work the best!

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
JEWISH LIFE

Jewish LIFE thanks everyone in the community who attended the programs and events offered this season. The Jewish LIFE committee is currently planning the new season. The brochure for the 2007-2008 season will be published in the Fall.

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ I/We would like to make a contribution of _____

_____ In honor of _____

Phone _____ In memory of _____

Please contact me/us about membership _____

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey and mail to:
JCNWJ, c/o Paul May at the Temple

TIKVAH JEWISH HEALING CENTER

Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 for more information or to register, www.ohrtikvahjhc.org

Coping with Loss

Bereavement Support Group with Rabbi Robin Nafshi and Lillian Swickle, ACSW. Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM – May 1, 15, 29, and June 12, Jewish Family Service, 150 ., High St. Somerville, NJ . \$ 40.00 (\$10.00 per session) Rabbi Nafshi and Lillian Swickle are creating a safe and supportive space for individuals who have experienced a recent or not-so-recent loss to talk, to listen to others, and to learn practical and spiritual tips to cope and gain strength and healing. Please call Ohr Tikvah to register to ensure a minimum of eight participants in the group.

Navigating the Uncharted Road of Parenting

Sunday, May 20, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, JCC, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, \$10 donation welcomed. Rabbi Shira Stern will explore the special challenges faced today by single parents, dual working parents and parents taking care of their own elderly parents, drawing references from biblical scenarios on how parents from each of these groups can help themselves and their children thrive, and offering new perspectives to age-old and brand new relational questions. Following her presentation, participants will divide into small groups and have the opportunity to talk with others in similar life situations about their own challenges and learn about strategies that can be helpful to thrive.

*****Join by June 1st*****

**Receive 1 year Temple Membership for the Family
Religious School for the children
and
4 weeks (2nd session)
at the NJ YM-YWHA Camp in PA
(Cedar Lake/Nah-Jee-Wah)
for 1 child**

**Total price \$1,800
(A \$4,200 value!)**

Call for details at 908.689.0762

Healing Worship Service

Wednesday, May 30, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, Temple Beth-El, 67 Route 206 South, Hillsborough, no charge. Rabbi Arnie Gluck, spiritual leader of Temple Beth-El and Cantor Ted Labow will lead an uplifting and reflective service with prayers, meditations and music that promote a sense of wholeness and well-being. The entire community is invited to attend.