

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

May 2016
Vol. XXXXI Issue 9



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As those of you who follow what our children have been learning in Sunday School already know, we have spent the year exploring the many ways our country (and, indeed, the entire world) has been blessed by the indispensable contributions of Jewish Americans. From Fashion to Film, Technology to Law, Medicine to Music, and Literature to Philanthropy (just to name a few), we have seen that an America without her Jews would be a far less wonderful place. And so we have found good reason on a regular basis to show pride in our people's accomplishments.

This pattern of pride and delight was picked up by the members of our Confirmation class recently, as we enjoyed a trip to Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation. We began with a fascinating tour of Independence Hall (where we stood in the very room where our Founding Fathers debated and eventually came to agreement on the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and then as they debated and eventually came to agreement again eleven years later on the United States Constitution in 1787). After Independence Hall, we continued down the path of experiencing American history up close and personal as we stood face to face with none other than the Liberty Bell itself, crack and all.

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Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, May 1st**
9:30 am Sunday School (Yom HaShoah Program)
- **Monday, May 2nd**
7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Saturday, May 7th**
2 pm Sisterhood Tea Party
- **Sunday, May 8th**
No Sunday School
- **Friday, May 13th**
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Kalisher, Goldberg, and Weinstein Families
- **Saturday, May 14th**
10:30 am Cantor's Class: *In Search of Ancient Israel*
- **Sunday, May 15th**
9:30 am Sunday School (Israeli Independence Day Family Event)
11 am Rabbi's Class: *Israeli Civil Religion*
- **Monday, May 16th**
7 pm Book Club
- **Friday, May 20th**
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Klein, Seidorf, Arveson, and Ostenfeld Families

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Without a doubt, having front row seats to the founding of our country was invigorating and inspiring. But it didn't hold a candle to what we experienced next. Following the Liberty Bell, we took a three minute walk over to the nearby National Museum of American Jewish History. In three floors of exhibits, we followed the trajectory of American History through a Jewish lens from Colonial days to the present day. It is a remarkable museum, one that I recommend to our entire congregation, especially our school children who would find a number of exhibits on topics that we examined this year. And to the adults who studied the Case of Leo Frank with me, there is a nice exhibit on that as well. As I walked through and saw the evolving natures of how we Jewish Americans have had to fight for our right to be treated with dignity over the years, I couldn't help but think about where we stand in the political election cycle right now.

The fact that millions of Americans have thrown their support behind a candidate for the highest office in the Land who happens to be Jewish this year certainly has not gone unnoticed. Whether or not you plan to vote for Senator Sanders (or already did...) is not the issue. Nor, for that matter, is what you feel about Senator Sanders' form of Jewish expression. What is the issue here is the mere fact that a Jewish candidate has garnered so much support from so many Americans. That in and of itself is indeed remarkable. But what is even more remarkable is the fact that, to huge numbers of Americans, both supporters and detractors of the Senator, his Jewishness is, for all intents and purposes, a non-issue. It neither helps nor hurts his chances. It just is. Not too many people outside the Jewish community care. Now *that* is remarkable!

As the Confirmation students who toured the National Museum of American Jewish History with me learned, it was not easy for the first Jews of the New World to lead full lives of dignity. Politicians like Peter Stuyvesant had no intention of affording our Jewish forbearers the same rights and privileges as he did the Protestants of his day. At first, Jews could own neither businesses nor land. And while Protestant residents were required to serve their community through guard duty, Jews were not only prohibited from doing so, they were even charged a special tax in order to make up for the fact that they were not serving guard duty!

Continued on the next page

- Saturday, May 21st
10:30 am Torah Study
- Sunday, May 22nd
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation Class
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting
- Sunday, May 29th
No Sunday School

Looking Ahead: June Events

- Friday, June 3rd
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Berkowitz (J/J), Baeck, and Berk Families
- Sunday, June 5th
7 am Israeli Walk in NYC
- Monday, June 6th
7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- Friday, June 10th
7:30 pm Shabbat Services Honoring High School Graduates & Confirmation Service
Oneg: Bauer, Parson, and Perfetti Families
- Saturday, June 11th
10:30 am Cantor's Class: *Who Were the Great American Songbook's Jewish Composers?*
- Sunday, June 12th
9:30 am Last Day of Sunday School
- Friday, June 24th
7:30 pm Shabbat Services
Oneg: Shelofsky, Feinstein/Epstein, Koch, and Nathanson Families
- Saturday, June 25th
10:30 am Torah Study
- Summer Torah Study (Tentative Dates)
Saturday, July 23rd at 10:30 am
Saturday, August 20th at 10:30 am

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

As we all know, anti-Semitism held Jews back in countless ways since Colonial times. I also don't pretend that anti-Semitism has yet disappeared from our national landscape. Certainly the level of one-sided vitriol hurled at the State of Israel on an increasing basis bears witness to the fact that we have yet a way to go. But as the story told through the exhibits of the National Museum of American Jewish History makes clear, not only has Jewish America played a vital role in the successes of America, with each succeeding year, we as a people within a people, have continued to move ever more closely to the day when being Jewish can be both the most important thing in the world to us and simultaneously irrelevant to the opportunities we have for being able to partake in the American Dream.

~ *Rabbi Dubin*

FOOD DRIVE

Sisterhood will be continuing their community service project of donating to local food pantries each month. Please bring **soup, pasta, and/or cereal** to the JCNWJ in the month of May.



Confirmation Students: Jill Fesinstine, Mikaela Bauer, Andrew Bauer, and Tyler Braunstein.

On May 1, Rabbi Dubin showed the Sunday School and Confirmation classes the film "The Paperclip Project." He then took the Confirmation Class on a trip to Philadelphia, where they explored the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Liberty Bell, and many other historic sites.



President's Message

Israel, a country, a promise, a dream, the HOPE, Hatikva. As American Jews it is our moral responsibility to support the land of Israel. What can we do to support Israel? Let's make it a priority in our charitable giving to make sure there is at least one Israeli charity on our list, if not more. If you are looking for good Israeli causes, AIPAC is a good one, as well as The Friends of Mogen David, which supplies ambulances to aid the wounded.

The second thing you can do is vote with your feet. On Sunday, June 5th, a group of JCNWJ members will be attending the Israeli Day Parade in New York City. We would love to have a great turnout from the congregation. Please contact Gerri Klein if you are interested in joining us, as we are arranging car pools to Secaucus, and then taking the train together into Manhattan.

The third thing you can do, if you are financially able, is join a temple trip to Israel. We are in the early planning stages of this trip, so if you have any interest in traveling to Israel, please contact Rabbi Dubin or myself. We are hoping to get sufficient numbers of JCNWJ members in order to make this trip possible in the near future.

Howie Hirsch

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.

CLASSES

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

With Cantor Labow

Saturday, May 14th at 10:30 am

The Ancient Temple periods are well-known in Jewish history, but the search for Israel in more ancient times is more challenging. We will look at opinions and texts that relate to Ancient Israel.

ISRAELI CIVIL RELIGION

With Rabbi Dubin

Sunday, May 15th at 11 am

Join us as we experience what many consider to be the single most intense period of time in the annual Israeli calendar: the rollercoaster ride that is the two-week three-Israeli civil religious holiday cycle of Yom HaShoah → Yom HaZikaron → Yom HaAtzmaut (Holocaust Day → Memorial Day → Independence Day)

Who Were the Great American Songbook's Jewish Composers?

With Cantor Labow

Saturday, June 11th at 10:30 am

Learn about some composers you know well and others that are not so well known. Sing along to some of their tunes.

Summer Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the Summer Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **May 19, 2016**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

EDUCATION

On April 17th, The Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning celebrated Passover with a Seder. Rabbi Dubin led parents and students in prayer and song, accompanied by Debbie Fesinstine on guitar. Rabbi Dubin shared an informative power point presentation and helped the Sunday School students bake Matzah, while the parents prepared the traditional food.



SISTERHOOD



On April 17th, the JCNWJ Sisterhood sponsored a Chrysalis Body Movement class. It was a gentle hour-long yoga-style relaxation class for the women of the JCNWJ.

JCNWJ Sisterhood cordially invites
you to a

Tea Party



Saturday, May 7 at 2 pm

Please click on the evite below for details
and to RSVP.

<http://evite.me/jNEb9Kedzu>

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple Ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz (berk721@aol.com) or Ruth Schutzbank (Howie.ruth@hotmail.com). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.

Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Meal for Family Promise – May 2nd

Sisterhood members are providing another meal for Family Promise. If you are interested in helping out with meals in the future, please contact Alison Shelofsky at shelofsky@comcast.net.

Next Sisterhood Meeting – May 22nd at 10:30 am

Sisterhood members will be packing children's activity kits for the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter. Reminder: If you signed up for items, please bring them to the meeting. A box has been set up in the lobby to drop off items beforehand if you cannot attend the meeting.

Contributions

- ✧ In memory of Arthur Tarlowe
- Paul & Laura Tarlowe
- ✧ In honor of Marvin Davidson on his 90th birthday
- Barbara & Herbert Margolis
- Phyllis & Steve Gottdiener
- ✧ In memory of my loving father, Harry Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan
- ✧ In memory of Sadye L. Hertzmark
- Bernard & Nancy Robins
- ✧ In memory of Betty Berkowitz
- Rita Berkowitz
- ✧ In memory of Wayne Bardy
- Laverne Bardy
- ✧ In memory of Rona Schick
- Edward & Roseanne Weinstein
- ✧ In memory of Herbert & Norma Shifrin
- Laura & Paul Tarlowe



The Jewish Federation
OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES

Israel Mission Trip

October 29 - November 7, 2016

Join us for an informational meeting on

May 12th

At the SSBICC | 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

7:00 PM

A Community-Wide Adult Mission to Israel with Access to People & Places Only
Available Through Federation.

Mission Co-Chairs
Laura Boretz & Eric Yorke



The Jewish LIFE **Yom Hashoah Community-Wide Observance and Service** will be held **7pm on Thursday, May 5** at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. The evening will feature a premiere screening of *Margit – Not A23029*, a new film by Harry Hillard. A memorial service, and conversation with Margit Feldman -- a long-time Somerset County resident -- will follow the film. This program is free and open to the entire community. Please RSVP to the JCC at 908-75-6994 or to Temple Beth-El at [908-722-0674](tel:908-722-0674).

Join Jewish LIFE for a **Kosher Food Excursion in Brooklyn with Arthur Schwartz, Thursday, May 2**. Nobody knows kosher cooking and shopping like Arthur Schwartz, and we are very fortunate to have him for our guide for the day! We start the morning with breakfast at Arthur's home with Leah Koenig, author of *Hadassah Everyday Cooking*. Tour Crown Heights, a Kosher supermarket, Artisan Bakehouse and more. Register early...this very special trip is limited to 12 participants. (Fee: \$150/person) Call the Birnbaum JCC at [908-725-6994](tel:908-725-6994) x201.

Eddie Shapiro presents **Nothing Like a Dame: Conversations with the Great Women of Musical Theatre, Thursday, May 19, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$5/person)

The **Jewish Film Series at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough** will be showing the film *Three Mothers*, **Saturday, May 21 at 7pm**. Suggested donation \$5/person. Call Temple Beth-El to register at [908-722-0674](tel:908-722-0674).

AWAKEN JEWISH IDENTITY

Through Federation you can transform the lives of Jewish children, teens, and young adults by providing a wide range of experiences to ignite their Jewish identities. You can help them develop as our future leaders with Jewish camps, Jewish day schools, Birthright Israel, the Diller Teen program, and more.



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