

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As defined by Garrett Ward Sheldon in the Encyclopedia of Political Thought, "Political Zionism stressed the importance of political action and deemed the attainment of political rights in Palestine a prerequisite for the fulfillment of the Zionist enterprise. Political Zionism is linked to the name of Theodor Herzl, who considered the Jewish problem a political one that should be solved by overt action in the international arena. His aim was to obtain a charter, recognized by the world leadership, granting the Jews sovereignty in a Jewish owned territory."

As we wish a **Happy 69th Birthday to the State of Israel** this week, I'd like to offer a bit of background to help you understand Herzl's passion for creating a Jewish Homeland.

Born into a wealthy and acculturated Budapest Jewish family, Herzl had moved at a young age to Vienna, where he grew up with a relatively firm sense of Jewish security, subtle as it was. Young Theodor grew up in a household that faced new challenges of emancipation head-on; while not prepared to abandon their Jewishness completely, neither were they prepared to let their Jewishness hinder opportunities for newly feasible upward social mobility. Yes, they were Jewish, but they were happy to hold those cards close to the chest.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, May 5th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Berkowitz, Bauer
- **Tuesday, May 9th**
7:00pm – Mah Jongg
- **Saturday, May 13th**
10:30am – Torah Study
1:00pm – Sisterhood Tea – See Pg. 5
- **Monday, May 15th**
7:30pm – Book Club
- **Friday, May 19th**
7:00pm – Shabbat Service
Bark Mitzvah – see Pg. 6
Oneg – May, Mattson, McGraw
- **Saturday, May 20th**
Shabbaton – see Pg. 6
- **Sunday, May 21st**
10:30am – Sisterhood Meeting
- **Tuesday, May 23rd**
7:00pm – Mah Jongg
- **Friday, June 2nd**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Confirmation
Oneg – Parson, Heller, Bauer

Sunday School:

May 7 & 21 @ 9:30am

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Who they really wanted to be, and who they seem to have succeeded in becoming, was a successful European family, in the model of any other successful European family. And to protect this position, even if they weren't able to shake the last vestiges of Jewishness (and it's not clear they wanted to, anyway), they certainly were not eager to have their Jewish identity trump their Austrian/European identity in the eyes of society at large. Theodor was raised to capitalize on every opportunity European society had to offer. It is thanks to this that he would grow up with the opportunity to pursue law school and become a lawyer, an opportunity all but unimaginable just a few generations earlier for Jewish boys. More important is the fact that thanks to this same worldly upbringing, Herzl was able to develop into one of the most prominent (and highly paid) international journalists of his time. As a result, he was assigned to cover the 1894 trial of French military officer Captain Dreyfus for the *Neue Rreire Presse*. It was during this trial that the Zionist fire was lit. Upon witnessing the obviously anti-Semitic miscarriage of justice, Herzl's sense of security in his Jewish identity was dashed. He was forever changed.

At first Herzl surmised that mass assimilation would be the answer, but then he came to believe, quite quickly, that the only way for Jews to enjoy real safety would be in mass emigration from those countries in which they lacked control over their own destiny. In order for Jews to live in security, he concluded, they must first have the political authority to do so. Taking his cue from political developments across Europe at the time, Herzl advocated an approach of acculturated nationalism. Again, he strove not only for emancipation, but also, in the tradition of Leon Pinsker, *auto*-emancipation, since real emancipation (real security) is not something that could be bestowed. Rather, Herzl believed, real national security must be created by the Jews reclaiming their right to a "normal" political existence.

To achieve his goals, Herzl recognized he would need two principal tools: money and diplomacy. Money would be necessary not only to make sure that his message would reach massive numbers of Jews, but also to secure land for the Jewish Nation. And, of course, diplomacy would be necessary since his movement would have to overcome almost two thousand years of homelessness and political disenfranchisement. For money, he turned to wealthy Jews, most notably, the French Baron Edmond de Rothschild. On the diplomatic front, he solicited leaders in the four most important countries of the time in relation to the Jewish question: The Sultan of Turkey, Chamberlain of England, The Kaiser of Germany, and the Czar of Russia.

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Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Herzl was convinced with all his soul that if only he could procure opportunity, he would be able to present the case for the Jews with sufficient passion and skill so as to earn the granting of sovereignty, in his words, "over a portion of the globe large enough to satisfy the requirements of the nation." Though he would have preferred Palestine, Herzl was prepared to accept any piece of land, so long as it was large enough to accommodate the world's Jews and provide opportunity for the Jewish nation to create a home in which the Jews would control the mechanisms of society. The key, though, was that Herzl advocated a form of Zionism that understood political means to be the most effective driving force in his pursuit of a National homeland for the Jews.

There were -- and continue to be -- other critical forms of Zionism, but it is my opinion that without the tireless work of Theodor Herzl and his advocacy for Political Zionism, the modern State of Israel may never have come to fruition. And for this, we are forever grateful.

Yom Holedet Sameach, Israel! Happy Birthday!!!

Rabbi Dubin



KNOW YOUR ISRAELI HOLIDAYS

Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – April 24
Yom Hazikaron – Israeli Memorial Day – May 1
Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israeli Independence Day – May 2
Yom Yerushalayim – Jerusalem Reunification Day – May 24

President's Message

Shalom from the air, where I spend a good deal of my time these days. I have not been dragged off any planes, and other than occasional delays, I find air travel in the US OK.

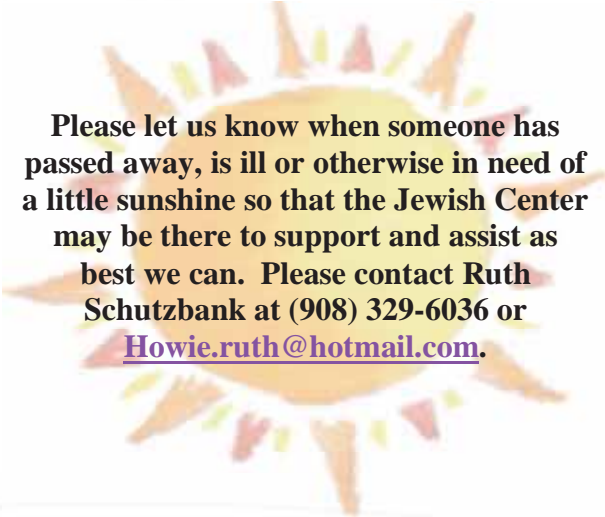
As I travel around the country and interact with lots of people from lots of walks of life, there are many things that I see. People are generally very nice to each other. The number of people that I see in reality being unkind to others at airports is less than what I see on the news. When we get delayed, most people realize that the airlines are trying to get us from one place to another safely and as fast as they can. The people in other parts of the country seem to me to be less fast-paced than we are in the New York area.

It gives me time to pause and reflect on how much stress a person can handle. My attitude is simply to live by the Serenity Prayer from Alcoholics Anonymous: Lord grant me the patience to accept the things that I cannot change, the ability to change the things that I can change and the wisdom to know the difference. Living by this adage means a lot to me, because it seems to lessen the stress in my life.

In regard to changing the things that you can, please think about volunteering some of your time at the temple. We need new board members as well as committee members to make this temple run smoothly. If you are interested, please contact me.

Love to you all,
Howie

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.

SISTERHOOD

RECENT EVENTS

Jewelry Swap : Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. It was a fun and successful way to raise funds for the Temple (\$225 in total) as well as mingle with our Sisterhood friends! Everyone went home with a new jewel, happily!!! And, we donated the remaining items to DASACC of Warren County for their Career Closet for women in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sisterhood Tea: This event was a great success last year and is shaping up to be again this year. All women of the Temple are invited on May 13 at Nicole Rosen's house at 1pm . Please email Alison Shelofsky if you are interested shelofsky@comcast.net.

Last Sisterhood Meeting of the Year: May 21, 2017 at 10:30 at the Temple. Breakfast will be served.



TORAH STUDY

Upcoming dates for Torah study are the following Saturday mornings, promptly at 10:30: **May 13, and June 10**. The "regulars" always welcome new participants. We will study the passages relating to the recapitulation of the wanderings in the desert and the boundaries of Canaan (Num. 33:1–34:29). After that, the cities of refuge (Num. 35:1–34); and, finally, the daughters of Zelophehad (Num. 36:1–13). That means we should finish Numbers by June, if not earlier. For those who haven't been to a Torah study session, some explanation may be in order. The group moves at its own pace; therefore, we don't know exactly how far we will get in any given two-hour session. (We are not reading the portion of the week—maybe next time around)

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg at the Temple on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month continues. We start at 7:00pm. No experience needed! Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

Updates & Events

DONATIONS

In Memory of my beloved father, Harry Siegel
-Rhonda Jordan

In Honor of Betty Berkowitz
-Rita Berkowitz

In Memory of Max Weil
-Ruth Schutzbank

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

- May 7th
- May 21st
- June 4th

Confirmation on May 7th

ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 11, 2017** for our JCNWJ Congregational Meeting.

9:30-10:00 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 General Meeting

BARK MITZVAH

Bring your well-behaved pets to our Shabbat service on Friday, May 19th at 7pm.

SHABBATON

The next Shabbaton led by Cantor Labow will be held on May 20th. Details will be forthcoming via e-mail.

MISSING

We are missing dish drying cloths, tablecloths and aprons from the kitchen.

If you were kind enough to bring them home to wash them, we SO appreciate it!

Please bring them back at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!
Iris

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.

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