

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-0762
www.jcnwj.org

May 2018
Vol. XLIII Issue 9



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, from June '09 until July '11, the Dubin family had the life-altering opportunity to live in the heart of Jerusalem. These twenty-five months were, without a doubt, the seminal defining experience for who we are as a family today.

With the JCNWJ's upcoming pilgrimage to Israel this summer, I have been reminiscing a great deal about my time in Israel (not only as a husband and father of four in '09-'10, but also as a student at Hebrew University in 1986-87, as well as my many opportunities to lead trips through the country during the intervening years). Unfortunately, some memories are more unambiguously positive and easy to comprehend than others. Case in point: *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day), which celebrates the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. This modern holiday, which holds enormous sway over the Jewish Nationalist population of Israel, is celebrated on 28th day of the month of Iyyar, which this year goes from sunset on May 12 until sunset on May 13.

Allow me to share a personal memory. And please understand that any criticisms I offer come from the heart of an unambiguous lover of Israel.

It was during the Spring of 2010, a few days before *Yom Yerushalayim*. I had just returned home after a long day when Shira and Liron and Noa and Ari confronted me with a challenge I had not foreseen. As I walked through the front door, my children could hardly control their excitement as they challenged me to guess what outrageously wonderful present they had purchased for our car. My first guess – a car wash – was flat wrong.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, May 18th**
7:00 pm – Shabbat Service: Graduate Shabbat & Consecration Service
Oneg – Berkowitz, Bauer, Nurenburg
- **Saturday, May 19th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, May 20th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
9:45 am – Adult Hebrew Class
10:45 am – Book of Judges Class
- **Friday, June 1st**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – May, Heller, McMullen
- **Sunday, June 3rd**
9:30 am – Sunday School
9:45 am – Adult Hebrew Class
10:45 am – Book of Judges Class
- **Monday, June 4th**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Mtg.
- **Sunday, June 10th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Congregational Meeting
- **Friday, June 15th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Herson, Smith, Simons
- **Saturday, June 16th**
10:30 am – Torah Study

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

After that, I couldn't think of much else, until, finally, they broke down and told me. On their way home from school that day they had stopped at a corner store to purchase two Israeli flags (the kind that attach at the top of a closed window) to show our family's support for Israel on *Yom Yerushalayim*. Having raised them with an Israeli flag hanging in our home and plastered to our car in the form of a bumper sticker in the U.S., I certainly had no difficulty understanding why they were so excited.

So why did I, an unequivocal Jewish supporter of the State of Israel, have such a visceral distaste for the idea of flying the flag that I love from our car in Jerusalem? Why was I eager to display the flag on my car in North Carolina, but so hesitant to do the same in Jerusalem itself? Even more importantly, how was I supposed to explain it to my young children?

After giving it a great deal of thought, and talking it over with Nancy, I came to the conclusion that it was precisely *because* I am an unequivocal Jewish supporter of Israel that I could be simultaneously proud to display the flag on my car in the States, but so uneasy doing the same thing on my car in Israel. The answer lies in context.

There is no comparison between waving the Israeli flag in North Carolina and waving the flag in Jerusalem. Though I maintain unequivocally that I have the right to do so in either city, neither do I doubt that the message received by the different populations who are most likely to see the display in the two cities could be so entirely different.

Regardless of intention, public displays of the Israeli flag on cars in the manner that our kids had in mind, are received by so many of the non-Jewish citizens of Jerusalem as a statement of belligerence and antagonism.

To be clear, I am not prepared to give up my right to wave the flag wherever and whenever I choose. Moreover, I have absolutely no intention of conceding my right to live as a free Jew in a secure Israel. But at the same time, I also believe it is counterproductive and antithetical to my understanding of Jewish values to go out of my way to antagonize our non-Jewish neighbors for an action that is nothing more than symbolic in nature.

I do not accept a litmus test which suggests that waving my Israeli flag makes me a good Zionist. Zionism is more complex than that. It demands so much more than putting a couple 5 Shekel flags on my car. To me, Zionism demands that I support the right of Jews to live securely in our ancestral homeland in a manner that respects and protects the well-being – physical, financial, spiritual, and emotional – of all the country's inhabitants, Jewish or not. It is precisely because I maintain such deep love for Israel, a state that I make no apologies for supporting, that I am driven to resist simplistic forms of nationalism that sometimes fail to recognize and value the sanctity of others.

(continued on next page)

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

After thinking about it in great detail, Nancy and I chose to keep the two 5 shekel flags on our car for a couple days. Our children had purchased them as a present with innocent intentions. At the same time, we also chose to take them down prior to *Yom Yerushalayim*, because we also wanted to teach a lesson about building bridges and waging peace with others. Our job as Zionist parents was to help them find that fine line between guarding our Jewish rights and trampling the rights of others. The challenge, of course, is that this line can be so difficult to find at times.

I readily accept that Nancy's and my parental conclusions about how best to address the complexities of Israel need not be shared by others in order for us to be equally committed Zionists. That said, as I look forward to having the sacred privilege this summer of sharing the Israel that I love so deeply with our JCNWJ Pilgrimage participants, I do so with abundant excitement that each of us, myself included, will develop new connections and understandings and perspectives on the fuller reality of Israel – both the unambiguously wonderful and the significantly more complex – and then report back to the rest of our congregational family with stories, new perspectives of understanding, and *plenty* of pictures.

Stay tuned to follow our progress over the web from afar from June 24 through July 6. Instructions on how to do so will follow.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

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.

President's Message

Spring is finally here. The trees are budding. The flowers are blooming. The plant world is coming alive again in Northwest New Jersey. This is one of my favorite times of the year, even though it means lots of work. I finally got into my garden and started planting vegetables. I will start my flowers hopefully after the B'Not Mitzvah of Molly and Emma Kahan, two students who I have been tutoring for the past year.

It is so exciting to see these two young girls get ready for their big day. I really enjoy teaching Hebrew to students of this age. While they study hard, they also need to have fun and not make this process life or death. Both Molly and Emma have done a wonderful job of learning the service as well as enjoying our time together. I am grateful to Debbie and Sandy for trusting me to be their tutor. I have known these girls since they were around two years old, and we have had a special relationship for a long time. They both like to see how far they can push my physical limitations with jumping on me and having me carry them around the temple and other places. I love this, and hope that my back will hold up well enough to do to this for a while longer.

This leads me to another point. The title of the Rolling Stones song "The Last Time" is appropriate for this part of my article. One of the things that happens as you grow older is that things change imperceptibly sometimes and other times they change with great rapidity. As I lift Molly and Emma in the air, I start to wonder, "Will this be the last time?" Will my body hold up? Will they get too big physically to do this anymore? Will they get to the point where they are embarrassed or just too old to play that way anymore?

What this means to me is to cherish every interaction with those who you love. You never know when something will be the "Last Time". When will be the last time I get to tell my father how much I love him and how much I admire who he is and how he has affected my life? I don't know, but what I do know is to cherish every time I get to visit him and spend time with him. I try to do that with everyone in the congregation as I cherish every one of you as my family.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a leader here. I want you all to know how precious you are to me.

Shalom,

Howie

SISTERHOOD

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sisterhood enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun and fundraising at The Accessories Fundraiser on April 28 (See photos below). We traded accessories, earned a small sum of money for the Temple, and our leftover accessories will go to the Wardrobe of Hope (DASACC).

Our next event is a Sisterhood Tea on May 19. Please email Alison Shelofsky shelofsky@comcast.net if you need an evite to this event.

Please note that our May 6th meeting is cancelled.



Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Dates:

May 20th
June 3rd
June 10th

No Sunday School on May 13th or May 27th

FOOD DRIVE

Our local food pantries are in dire need of supplies. Donations are down and the need for food is greater than ever. The Jewish Center is collecting non-perishable items such as canned soup, pasta, and cereal on an ongoing basis to help out those in need.

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

DONATIONS

In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Braunstein
- Adam Tucker

In Memory of Ellen Field
- Alison and Andrew Shelofsky

In Memory of Norma and Herbert Shifrin
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe

On the Yahrzeit of Betty Berkowitz
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

On the Yahrzeit of Estelle Shelofsky
- Alison and Andrew Shelofsky

On the Yahrzeit of Manuli Leiter
- Audrie and Kenneth Sonzogni

On the Yahrzeit of Saul Schutzbank
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

Towards the Scholarship Fund
- Anonymous

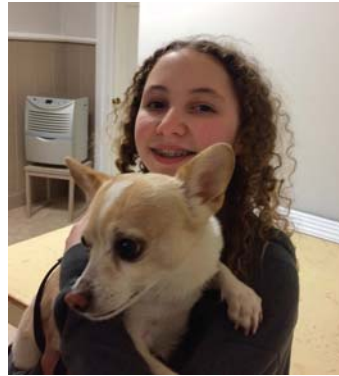
Towards the Scholarship Fund
- Anonymous

MAH JONGG


Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

Updates & Events

BARK MITZVAH PHOTOS




Updates & Events



**IF YOU
CAN'T
READ
THIS,
YOU
NEED
CLASSES!**

Adult Hebrew Crash Course
a course for *EVERYONE* (especially travellers)

Taught by Shira Dubin 

Seven Sundays: 9:45 - 10:45 at JCNWJ

March 25, April 8 & 22 -- Reading the Aleph Bet
April 29, May 6 & 20, June 3 -- Basic Hebrew Conversation

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.



Hand Rolled ♦ Baked Fresh Daily
The Finest Bagels Around
*We also carry homemade Muffins, Pastries, Rolls &
Cookies.*

Authentic Bagels and Great Food

908-689-6100 (P)
908-689-6101 (F)

Open 7 days:
Monday – Saturday (4 am-5 pm)
Sunday (6 am-5 pm)

Free Local Delivery: \$15.00 Minimum
**29 Route 31 South
Washington, NJ 07882**

Commercial & Civil Litigation ♦ Zoning,
Planning, and Land Use ♦ Real Estate ♦ Local
Government Corporate Law ♦ Municipal Law ♦
Personal Injury Tax, Trusts & Estates ♦
Education Law ♦ Labor & Employment ♦ Real
Estate Tax Appeals Transportation & Logistics

WITH OFFICES LOCATED AT

1001 Route 517
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
(908) 852-2600
Fax (908) 852-8225

23 Cattano Ave
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 285-1281
Fax (973) 285-0271

Please visit our website at www.lsaclaw.com.

The logo for Fliegauf Jewelers, featuring the name 'Fliegauf' in a cursive script font with 'JEWELERS' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it, all enclosed in an oval shape. The logo is set against a yellow background.

Gregory A. Fliegauf
OWNER
17 E. Washington Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689.0352 phone . (908) 689.7614 fax
www.fliegaufjewelers.com