

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
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www.jcnwj.org

June 2017
Vol. XLII Issue 10



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

This time of year is indeed exciting to those of us who put so much time and effort into the students of our Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning. Not only are we about to wrap up another wonderful year, but, in connection with Shavuot, this is also when we celebrate our rising 11th Graders by giving them the public opportunity to confirm their personal and communal commitments to continued Jewish life.

It is no accident that Confirmation takes place at the time of Shavuot, because this is the holiday when we thank God for having entered us into our national covenant by way of the Ten Commandments.

About the giving of the Commandments, Rabbi Mordechai Katz, Rosh Yeshiva of the Telshe Yeshiva in Cleveland during the middle part of the last century asks the question: Why, of all places, did God choose the wilderness as the setting for this miraculous gift? Answering his own question, Rabbi Katz writes, "Just as the desert contains nothing but layers of sand, so, too, the human body is composed of nothing but dust. But, just as the desert was transformed into a holy place by the appearance of the Divine Presence, so, too, with human beings." The same, I would say, goes for us, the sacred community of the JCNWJ.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, June 2nd**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Parson, Heller, Bauer
- **Sunday, June 4th**
9:30am – Sunday School
- **Monday, June 5th**
7:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Saturday, June 10th**
10:30am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, June 11th**
9:30am – Last Day of Sunday School
9:30am – Breakfast and Annual
Congregational Meeting
- **Tuesday, June 13th**
7:00pm – Mah Jongg
- **Friday, June 16th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Smith, Herson
- **Tuesday, June 27th**
7:00pm – Mah Jongg

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

We may be surrounded, as it were, by a “desert” of Jewish life in Warren County, but when we come together as a community, we too are transformed by the Divine Presence. And that is exactly what has been happening Sunday after Sunday at 115 Youmans Avenue. We may be small, but so too are we mighty. As the 5777 school-year comes to a close, I'm honored for the opportunity to offer public thanks to those who have made it possible to have such great learning week after week.

First, to our wonderful teachers:

- To Debbie Fesenstein – we thank you for corralling the voices of angels so beautifully and with such enthusiasm.
- To Adam Tucker – we thank you for sharing your professional expertise and passion for learning with our older students.
- To Suzi Marr – we thank you not only for caring so much about our younger students as they enter the study of Hebrew, but also for bringing your whole creative self to so many all-school crafts and cooking projects.
- To Marsha Gross and Teri Stanton – we thank you for stepping in as needed from time to time to help in any way we ask.
- To all our fabulous *madrichim* (teaching assistants) – we thank you for carving time from your busy school schedules in order to give back to the community that nurtured you in so many ways for so many years.

And to our wonderful volunteer leaders:

- To Deb Kalisher – we thank you for making sure we were able to keep the process moving forward over the course of the year by organizing the community day in and day out, even when sometimes you were unable to be with us physically to enjoy the fruits of your efforts.
- To Marci Braunstein – we thank you for being the master of all details, ensuring that the school always had everything (and everybody) that we needed to bring success to our learning. We thank you also for taking the lead in organizing our Confirmation activities.
- To all our Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning Parents (including *madrichim* parents) – We thank you for bringing your children each week and for staying with us for the first hour of all-school learning. Your presence has had enormously positive effects on the learning experience of your children. We thank you also for always providing food for communal seders and parties, and for setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Our school couldn't succeed without you.

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Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Because of the work of each and every one of these spectacularly dedicated individuals, we have been able at the JCNWJ to keep our children focused on fulfilling their primary job on earth – which is to create and maintain space in which we are ready to welcome the Divine Presence, no matter how we choose to define what that means. In doing so, we have succeeded in transforming our own little spot within the Jewish “desert” of Warren County into a true home of Jewish life.

Todah l'Kulam (Sincere Thanks to Everyone),

Rabbi Dubin

BARK MITZVAH – MAY 19, 2017

Thank you to everyone who participated in this unique event.



President's Message

For those of you who have been around the Temple lately, you have not seen much of me the past few months. I am keeping up with temple affairs via the emails and phone calls, but I have been out of town for an extended period of time. I look forward to the events coming up during the summer, so please look in the newsletter for items as well as keeping your eye on emails for some events that may crop up in between newsletters.

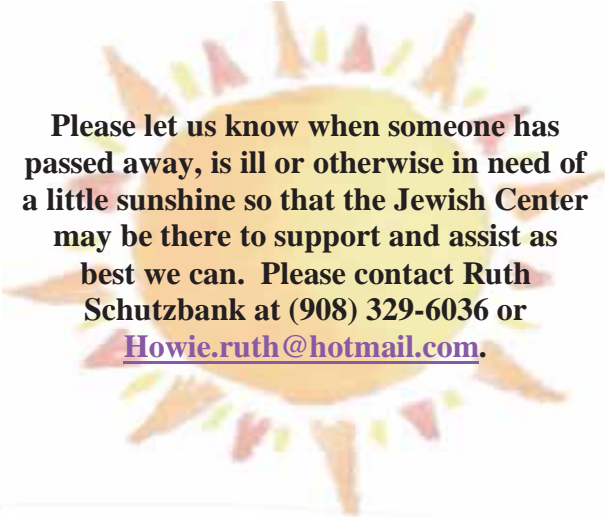
I am finishing up my 10th year as president and my most proud accomplishment is that even through the diminishing of religious institutions as prominent places to go in our society, we have been able to keep our temple alive and flourishing. But this would not happen without the commitment of all of the members of the congregation. I have stated many times that it is essential for the families who have had their families attend Sunday School for free pay it forward and help to educate the next generation of Jewish students.

When the board passed the idea of no tuition School, probably 15 or more years ago, the thought was that the education of our youth should not financially rest upon solely the parents, but on the entire community. This also applies to the rest of the congregation. We need you to continue your membership, so when you see your bill come in the mail, please either pay it in full or make arrangements with our treasurer. If you have a financial hardship in paying your dues, we understand and want you to remain part of our family. I look forward to seeing all of you either over the summer or in the fall.

Have a wonderful summer.

Love, 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.

Updates & Events

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

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

June 2, 7:30pm: Join us for our Confirmation and Sunday School Services. Mazel Tov to our Confirmands Tyler Braunstein and Andrew Bauer!!

June 2: Sunday School. Remember to bring Tzedakah.

June 11: Last day of Sunday School. Have a great summer!!

DONATIONS

In Memory of Marvin Leiter
-Ken & Audrie Sonzogni

In Memory of Saul Schutzbank
-Ruth Schutzbank

In Memory of Michael Lewis
-Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In Memory of Arthur Herzmark
-Bernard & Nancy Robins

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

TO OUR GRADUATES

The Jewish Center would like to wish very special congratulations to anyone graduating from High School, College, or Graduate School. Thank you to all of the families who have helped them reach their achievements.

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!

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Andrew Bauer and Tyler Braunstein on their Confirmation, held on June 2, 2017:



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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