



Mark Your Calendar!

SUMMER SHABBAT SCHEDULE

July 11 and August 1

Shabbat services led by Rabbi Lewis, starting at 7:45 p.m.

July 25 and August 15

Shabbat services conducted by a lay leader of the congregation, followed by a pot-luck supper, services starting at 6:30 p.m.

Any questions on the lay-led service, please contact the office.

Rabbi's Message

The last time I was in Sharm el Sheikh, it was still in Israel. Now it is Egypt. The city itself has not moved, of course, just its temporal landholders. I was there with the Israeli Nature Preservation Society (the Haganat Ha Teva) as we traveled throughout the Sinai peninsula. It was a remote outpost, difficult to reach, used primarily for military access. Now this city that has known different owners has appropriately become the site of the most recent Middle East peace talks.

We again look to the daily headlines to see if this most recently proposed road map to peace will reach its destination. These headlines were in my own head as I read the Haftarah for the week in which I write. Zechariah's words are read twice a year, once during the usual Torah reading cycle and once on the Shabbat of Chanukah. He reminds us to value spiritual might over military might: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, says the Lord of Hosts." The rabbis assigned the Haftarah to Chanukah as a reminder that, although we value the military victory of that small group of Maccabees, they could not have done it without God's help.

None of us would dispute Israel's right to defend itself militarily. I am reminded of the words of the late Abba Eban (as quoted by Rabbi Sidney Greenberg), an Israeli statesman who usually identified himself as a dove. He pointed out that military success facilitated the three most important events in modern Jewish history: the defeat of Hitler, the birth of the modern state of Israel, and Sadat's decision to sign a peace agreement with Israel. Abba

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President's Message

In assuming the President's job this month, it has forced me to take a hard look at myself, our temple and our congregation — what makes us who we are, and why do people want to be members of our congregation.

What we offer is the chance to matter. In a congregation of this size, each one of us is important. Each little thing that you can do for the congregation is vital to its survival. We are a volunteer congregation. Other than work on the building that we cannot do, we perform every task of a larger congregation, just on a smaller scale. There are opportunities for doing things here that you might not be able to do in a larger congregation. Our members read the entire Torah portion on the High Holidays. What an honor and a privilege this is. Could I do this in a larger temple? I don't know.

I have seen many people talk and write about how we need to get more people to volunteer. I am here to tell you that I love being a lay Torah reader. For others, it may be that you get to blow the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Whatever it is that you would like to do in this temple is possible. There is no huge bureaucracy stopping you, just a family that cares about each other.

My goals for the upcoming two years of my presidency are simple. I would like to see more community-oriented events. I will be proposing some events of my own over the coming months. I would love to hear from you about events that you would like to see in our community. The first will be lay-led Shabbat services. There will be two this summer

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Congratulations and Mazel Tov to our confirmands:

Carin Arvesen
Daniel Hall
Josh Jordan
Asa Knobelman
Renee Orenstein
Danielle Rosborough
Bryant Simmons
Brittany Sonzogni

Rabbi's Message, cont.

Eban pointed out that Sadat did not sign an agreement because he was convinced of Israel's moral right to exist but because he had accepted that Israel could not be defeated militarily.

Military might can have impact and be a deterrent but it alone will not guarantee freedom, as the years have shown us. What will make this road map succeed if it does will be an agreement on all sides to transcend military might and make a commitment to values that honor human dignity. Zechariah's words may be old but they resonate anew in our ears: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, says the Lord of Hosts." May those who meet now in Sinai be inspired by its hallowed history.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

Please note: Rabbi Lewis will be on vacation from August 2 to the end of the month.

President's Message, cont.

on July 25th and August 15th. These will be short services beginning at 6:30. After services, we are planning on having a potluck dairy dinner.

I want us to continue be a friendly community that cares about each other.

I will be proposing a few ideas that I have for making us a more caring community. I again ask you for your ideas.

For the next two years, I am at your service. Use me to make a difference for our congregation.

Howie Hirsch

JCNWJ June 1, 2003 -

General Membership Meeting Highlights:

- There were 34 members in attendance.
- For an 11-month fiscal year, we had a surplus of \$6700. This translates to approximately breaking even for the year, maybe a small operating loss.
- Dues increase: Family - from \$680.00 to \$795.00
Single - from \$390.00 to \$420.00
- Each family will be required to buy \$2000 worth of Shop-Rite/A&P scrip or donate an additional \$100 donation to the center. This was needed to balance our budget. This includes Sunday school and confirmation dues being fully funded by the entire congregation for one year. We are going under the premise that the education of our children is the responsibility of the entire congregation.
- Sunday School enrollment is down. Our expenses are up. Substitute teachers are needed. We continue to enrich the Sunday school program annually.
- Current membership is at: 65 families and 11 singles
During the year we had 38 inquiries with 2 joining
- Plans for the building for the upcoming next year include:
 - Improve lighting for bimah.
 - Install sound system for the hearing impaired (an anonymous donor has paid for the system).
 - Lighting and hearing system should both be installed by high holy days.
- We have received 2 pledges of \$12,000 over the next 3 years to be used for special purposes such as Education.
- Howie's comments -
My focus this year will be on the following:
 - Education of our children
 - Making the building handicapped accessible
 - More social events, such as potluck dinners, movie night, casino night
 - Building should be used - providing a sense of community 1 lay-led service/month
- On handicapped access: Paul May read letter from Alan Fischer of Washington Boro on changes to building and entranceways. 3-4 meetings with Medina Engineering plans for exterior access ramp.
- Elevator requires too much cost for maintenance and insurance. Age and level of building is also an issue. Gwen: we are not handicap accessible. This is a major liability and humiliating for members and guests who cannot get downstairs.
- We will hold a special general meeting in either December or February to review plans for updating building.
- Paul May's 3-Year Plan:
 - Education - Make Sunday School free for members
 - Rabbi - Offer Rabbi a package to commit for several years
 - Membership - Recruit 5 new families per year

Education Committee and PTO News

Sunday School registration has begun. If you have not received a packet of registration materials or know of any new families that might want to attend, please call the office. Confirmation Class will be held one Sunday per month at 10:30am. Schedules will be sent out in August.

Thank you

Thanks to all who directly and/or indirectly helped me in my "hours of need."

Eric Edelstein

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

The calendar/schedule for buying Shop Rite and A&P script will be published in the September newsletter. Throughout the summer months, call the office to place an order and arrange delivery.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Thanks to everyone for their generosity in supporting the North Hunterdon Relay for Life. Over \$175,000 was raised to support cancer research and to help find a cure for cancer. David Seidorf was honored at the Relay as the Youth that raised the most money!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer,
Sandy Seidorf

Donations

Paul and Judy May

In Honor of:

Edythe and Richard Herson in honor of Leah Nagorsky's bat mitzvah

Elaine and Leonard Hirsch in honor of the b'not mitzvah of granddaughters Caitlin and Allison, the middle-school graduation of grandson Sam, the conversion to Judaism of daughter-in-law Iris, and the new presidency of son Howie

Rhonda Jordan in honor of Josh Jordan's confirmation
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky in honor of the confirmands on
June 1, 2003

Memorial

Michael and Barbara Tozzo in loving memory of Ernest May
Cynthia Bloom, in memory of beloved husband Harold
Brian and Helene Friedlander in loving memory of Marilyn
Friedlander

Contributions to the **Rabbi's discretionary fund** were made by Robert and Janice Finkelstein in honor of Samantha's bat mitzvah and by Ed and Gwen Nagorsky in honor of Leah's bat mitzvah.

Robert and Janice Finkelstein have added a **simcha leaf** on the new tree (soon to be installed) in honor of Samantha's bat mitzvah.

Eric Edelstein and Ed and Roseann Weinstein have helped to ensure that the **sound system in honor of Rose Schneider** will be in place in time for the High Holiday services.

The congregation wishes a speedy recovery to:
Sally Eisenberg
Barbara Meltz
Mary Finkelstein

NEXT ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 2003

Board Meeting highlights - June 16

- 1) Present tokens of our appreciation to outgoing board members and to Gwen, our outgoing president.
- 2) The ritual calendar was approved.
- 3) It was decided that we would have 2 lay Shabbat services over the summer: July 25th and August 15th. Services will begin at 6:30 with a potluck dinner to follow.
- 4) Discussion on what time to hold confirmation services next year. Education committee to make final decision. Options discussed were 10:30, noon or 7 PM once a month on Sunday.
- 5) Mike Weiner volunteered to discuss police protection with Washington Township/Washington borough for the High Holidays. Sharon Herson will oversee the finances.
- 6) Plans for a senior luncheon were discussed. No plans were made.
- 7) The new Simcha tree, created by Ken Weiland, will be placed where the current bulletin board now exists.
- 8) Gwen Nagorsky agreed to lead the advertising for the Sunday school.
- 9) Suzanne Marr said that she would e-mail all prospects to the center to the board every two weeks. Howie will coordinate having a follow-up call made by a different member of the board.

- 10) We will be holding two board meetings over the summer, on July 14th and August 18th to focus on the upgrades we would like to make to our building.
- 11) Rabbi Lewis requested that the house committee install hooks near the rest rooms for people to hang their tallit while using the facilities and signs for the rest rooms telling people not to go into the restrooms with their tallit on. Laurie Hessels said it will be taken care of.



Allen Menkin, M.D., F.A.A.P Reform Mohel

Board Certified Pediatrician
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JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

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Journal

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