



Mark Your Calendar!

- Saturday, August 21, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study

Summer Service

- August 27,
Lay Service, 6:30 p.m.

High Holiday Service Schedule: Please see page 2

- Friday, Sept. 10, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Sunday, Sept 12, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School begins
All parents & students: Meet in
the sanctuary
- Saturday, Sept. 18, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study
- Sunday, Oct. 3, 11:00 a.m.
General Meeting

Rabbi's Message

This week, I opened up the paper and saw a photo I thought I would never see: Chris Noth ("Mr. Big" for those of you who didn't watch "Sex and the City") wearing a yarmulke and praying at the Western Wall. He was on a ten-day Israeli Ministry of Tourism-sponsored tour of Israel and said he wanted to show that Israel, like New York, is a safe place to visit despite the violence. Is it possible that true fans of Sex and the City will visit Israel because of Chris Noth's example? I suppose stranger things have happened.

That wall is all that is left of the outer walls that surrounded the second Temple. This part of the wall supported the sacred Temple Mount but, oddly enough to us, the rabbis of the rabbinic period that followed the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. never considered the wall to be sacred or to have any special status.

Not until the Byzantine period do we find a recorded example of an ancient traveler's being excited to be at the Western Wall. He inscribed on the wall a quotation from the end of Isaiah ("and you shall see and your heart shall rejoice."). "But that's it," claims a colleague of mine (I apologize for the lack of attribution but I can't remember which colleague): "No Jew in Jerusalem ever saw or thought of or valued or described the Wall for the next thousand years. (Some Muslim writers did.) Nahmanides, the Ramban, was in Jerusalem, as was Benjamin of Tudela, Meshullam of Volterra, and Estori Ha-Parhi. So was Ovadiah of Bartenura, important men all. Not a word from any of them about the Wall, although a reference in Benjamin of Tudela could refer to the Wall, or could not."

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President's Message

As we approach the High Holidays, I find this time of year to be a good one to reflect on how my life has been the last year and to see if it is going in a good direction. I have come through many ups and downs this year and I am looking forward to the upcoming year with much anticipation. Some things are working out very well, in terms of the Jewish Center and my family and my career, and other things concern me very much, such as my family, the Jewish Center and my career.

In the current economic environment, we must all be prepared for what may lay ahead. Some of us will face tougher security at our workplaces. I work 3 blocks from the Prudential building in Newark, a named terrorist target. Some of us have been out of work this year and some of us are not sure what the future holds for our chosen careers. Iris and I now have three teenagers in the house, with all that that implies. We certainly have our hands full, but look for ways to make our home life as happy as possible.

Probably my favorite part of the last year has been leading the lay services on our "off" weeks from services. It gives me a chance to really think about what prayer means to me, but more importantly what all of you mean to me. You are my second family and I treasure each and every one on you from the youngest to the oldest. You are the reason that I love being at this temple.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

And remember, if you need my help for anything, I am only a phone call away.

Shalom,

Howie Hirsch

L'SHANA TOVA TIKATEVU

ROSH HASHANAH 5765 /2004

Wed., Sept. 15, 8:00 p.m. Evening Service

Thurs., Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m. Family Service for Young Children (first grade and younger)

Thurs., Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m. Morning Service followed by Tashlich

Fri., Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m. Morning Service

YOM KIPPUR

Fri., Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Sat., Sept. 25 9:30 a.m. Morning service / Yiskor

The synagogue will be open for Torah study in the afternoon

3:30 p.m. Family Service for Young Children (first grade and younger)

4:30 p.m. Neilah / Havdalah

BREAK-THE-FAST following services

A sign-up sheet will be posted after Labor Day; please plan to contribute a kosher, non-meat food item to the shared meal.

Rabbi's Message, cont.

And yet there Chris Noth prays, at a wall that has become a symbol of Israel to the world (we Jews do not use the term "wailing wall," by the way, since that bestowed upon us by strangers who thought that Jewish chanting sounded like wailing). For some, the wall represents the hope of actually rebuilding a third Temple on that spot; for others, it is a symbol of the modern state of Israel; for yet others, it is a symbol of the enduring nature of the Jewish people; and for still others, most notably an Israeli feminist group called Women at the Wall, the Western Wall represents a fortress in whose shadow they are not allowed to read Torah.

Despite the controversy I would much rather write about this wall than the security wall presently being erected between Israel and the Palestinians. That wall, intended to bring comfort to Israelis, also brings a large share of discomfort to Jews everywhere, no matter our politics. We live in a time where we believe that walls, like the Berlin wall, should be torn down. We know what it is to be walled in and walled out. We wish to cause no suffering to others and yet, if we ourselves don't defend Israel's right to exist in safety, who will? When Robert Frost wrote, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall..." and continued, "Good fences make good neighbors," he was using irony at its best. He knew that walls were not the ideal way to live in peace with neighbors.

In these weeks after Tisha B'Av, the anniversary of the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem, we read haftarat of consolation for our loss. Those prophetic words always end on a note of hope that some day, we will live in a world free of fear and destruction, a world free of walls, where we will all come to live in peace and to worship the one God of the universe. Who knows? Maybe Chris Noth will start the beginning of that new age.

With prayers for a good summer and a fall filled with rejuvenation and inspiration.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

Supper-in-the-Sukkah-at-Sukkot

Supper-in-the-Sukkah-at-Sukkot. Sign up for lunch or dinner in our outdoor Sukkah (graciously donated by the Bauch family), any date between September 29 and October 8. One, two, or three families—depending on family size—can eat together. Food can be home-cooked or fast food. Meat is okay (hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. do not have to be kosher), but no pork products or shellfish, please. No food, leftovers, or garbage should be brought inside the Center; everything you bring must leave with you. A sign-up sheet with details will be posted after Labor Day.

General Meeting, October 3

Please join us at the Temple's General Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 11:00 a.m. At that time we will be discussing the proposed upgrade to our building. We will vote on whether or not to spend the money to do this project at that meeting, so it is important that you attend.

Upcoming Adult Education Programs

Torah Study will continue during August. Next date is Shabbat morning, August 21 at 10:30. Our first fall date will be September 18 at 10:30 a.m. Questions? Call Sharon at the Temple

A Message from our New Cantor!

I am going into my 4th year of a 5-year program of cantorial study at Hebrew Union College in New York City. We study alongside with rabbinical students, and on graduation hope to earn full investiture as a Cantor in the Reform movement of Judaism and a Master's degree in Sacred Music. I spent the first year of the program in Jerusalem with my fellow cantorial and rabbinical students.

I grew up in Levittown, Pennsylvania, and lived in the city of Philadelphia for many years. I have two bachelor's degrees,

one in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania and one in Voice Performance from Temple University.

I had very little formal religious training as a youngster, but the little I did have stuck with me throughout the years and kept me interested enough to continue reading and attending services here and there. On those occasions, I was always fascinated by the role of the cantor. When I finally decided to become Bat Mitzvah as an adult a few years ago, everything began to fall into place. The feeling of chanting Hebrew from the ancient scroll just as countless ancestors had done before me was profound. Members of the tiny congregation in Philadelphia that I belonged to, Leyv Ha-Ir (Hebrew for "Heart of the City"), encouraged me to learn liturgical music to help out on Shabbat and the High Holidays. Singing Kol Nidre on the eve of Yom Kippur was, and still is, for me, a more meaningful experience for a myriad of reasons than any of the professional singing I have done previously.

Education Committee and PTO News

We have an exciting year coming up! **The first day of Religious School is Sunday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m.** All parents and students are to meet in the sanctuary for a special program, followed by brunch for the parents.

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

Shop Rite Script and A&P Gift Cards are available at the Temple on the following dates:

The calendar for the 2004 - 2005 year is:
 September 19 February 13, 27
 October 10, 24 March 13
 November 14 April 10
 December 12 May 1, 15
 January 9, 23

Please contact Sandy Seidorf at the Temple for any questions or special delivery.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Jewish LIFE is pleased to enter its fifth season! Mark your calendar now for the first two programs:

Joyce Antler, Professor of American Jewish History and Culture at Brandeis University, will discuss "Too Jewish for Prime Time: Changing Images of Jewish Women on Television," on Sunday, October 10 at 10 a.m. On Sunday, October 31 at 10 a.m., Jewish LIFE is pleased to present Rabbi David Ellison, President of Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Ellison will discuss "The History of Modern Jewish Religious Movements & Denominations." Both programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. A complete Jewish LIFE brochure will be mailed in late summer.

Donations

Wishes for a speedy recovery of Maureen Baeck Rona and Stan Schick in memory of the yahrzeit of

Francis Hock

Eric Edelstein in memory of the yahrzeit of his parents Gwen and Ed Nagorsky in memory of Ed's grandmother,

Regina Simmons

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter will be September 18.

All committee members: Please send updates to your programs to Wain Schroeder for Web posting.

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ I/We would like to make a contribution of _____
 _____ In honor of _____
 _____ In memory of _____
 Phone _____ Please contact me/us about membership _____

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey and mail to:
 JCNWJ, c/o Paul May, at the Temple.

High Holy Day Greetings (as of August 2)

To the entire Congregation from the Sulvinski Family
To the Congregation of the JCNWJ from the Jordan Family
To the Congregation from the Goldner Family
To all our friends at the Jewish Center from the Bauch Family
All our temple friends from Leslie and Murraray Heller
To the Rabbi and family and friends from the Romaczyk Family
To the JCNWJ Congregation from the family of Paul Leitner
To the Jewish Center members and their families from the Mattson Family
A very happy New Year to all the congregation from Cynthia Bloom and Family
To the Congregation of the JCNWJ from the Riley Family
L'shanah tovah to all the congregation from Edythe and Richard Herson
May the New Year bring peace to all, in our hearts and in all the world from Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
A special greeting for the New Year to our Saturday morning study partners from Sharon and Daniel
Happy New Year to the Congregation form Richard, Sally and Allison Eisenberg
To all our friends at the JCNWJ from the Weiland Family
To my friends at the Jewish Center from Marsha Koppenhaver
To the JCNWJ congregation a healthy and happy New Year from Rona and Stanley Schick
To the entire congregation: May you all be blessed with good health and happiness! From the Nagorsky Family
To the Congregation of the JCNWJ
Happy Hoidays to the entire congregation from the Schroeders
Best wishes to the Congregation for a happy and healthy New Year from Stan and Pearl Ehrlich
Wishing you all a L'Shanah Tovah from Marsha Gross and Family

Thank you to the following people for their contributions to our Flower Fund for the High Holidays:

The Bauch Family
Eric Edelstein
Pearl and Stan Ehrlich
The Robert Finkelstein Family
Shelley, Karen and Hannah Finkelstein
The Goldner Family
Richard, Sally and Allison Eisenberg
Leslie and Murray Heller
The Herson and Feckles families,
Richard & Edythe and Sharon & Daniel
Rhonda Jordan and Family
Marsha Koppenhaver
The Family of Paul S. Leitner
The Marinich Family
The Mattson Family
Judy and Paul May
The Nagorsky Family
Laverne H. Pollack
Terry and Bob Resker
The Riley Family
The Romancyk's
Rona and Stanley Schick
Arthur and Phyllis Sirkis
The Sulvinski Family
Joe and Gail Trachtenberg
Ken and Mercedes Weiland and Family
Michael Weiner and Family
Ed, Roseann and, Sarah Weinstein

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM
New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Council

*Regional
Biennial*

OCTOBER 22-23, 2004

Erev Shabbat through Havdalah

Parsippany Hilton Hotel ~ Parsippany, New Jersey

You may call the Regional Office at

201.722.9090

or

Print a copy of the registration form by going to

www.urj.org/njwhvc

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES
BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21!**



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM
והתאחדות היהודים הרפורמים
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

REGISTER NOW!