



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, Sept 9, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service with Cantor Neff -
- Saturday, Sept. 10
Torah Study, 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 11
Sunday School opening day,
9:30 a.m.
Lecture at JCC Bridgewater,
7 p.m. (see Adult Programs)
- Monday, Sept. 12
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14
Film Divan at JCC Allentown
(see Adult Programs)
- Friday, Sept 23, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service -
- Saturday, Sept 24, 10:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Message

Lest you be in doubt, the world is watching. On any given morning at 10 a.m., the TV at the local nail salon is tuned to those denizens of morning talk shows, either "Ellen" or "Tony Danza." Today was different. The TV was set on MSNBC so the clientele could watch the Israeli disengagement from Gaza. The world is indeed watching.

The show has been riveting, engaging, if you will. It has been both horrifying and uplifting, painful and oddly reassuring. I found myself thinking that I have never felt so proud as I did watching the restraint of the unarmed Israeli army as they approached their fellow-citizens. And I felt the same way about most of the settlers who were most certainly entitled to passive protest under the laws of the only democratic state in the Middle East. Late today, there was a report that acid had been thrown on the soldiers in Kfar Darom. The residents claim it was "only" diesel fuel. Whatever it was, and whether that was the act of the illegal infiltrators or residents of the settlement, it was unconscionable. The army shared the tears of the settlers. It is not over yet, although we hope the worst is over. Until it is done, we will hold our collective breath. We know this feeling, those of us who love Israel, for we have done this before.

I am one who believes that this had to be done, but I, of course, don't live there. I always feel myself hesitant to speak about Israel's politics because I know that I don't have to live with the consequences the way Israelis do. Then I read a statement by a colleague, a Reform Rabbi who is the Executive Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel,

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President's Message

Shalom,

Shalom is how I always begin my newsletter message. PEACE, our most precious gift.

This time of year always represents change. For parents of school age children, it means the relaxing pace of summer is replaced by the school year. For parents of college age kids, it may mean saying goodbye to your children as they go off to school. For others it may be that the change of seasons is upon us. For us in New Jersey, the seasons changing let us know that the song does not remain the same for very long.

Personally, I am excited that the temple renovation work has started. There will be some bumps in the road, but I am confident that the congregation and Sunday School will be able to cope with anything necessary. We have been discussing this for years and we hope to have the lift installed by the High Holidays. Hopefully sooner.

With all this change going on, it is nothing compared to what we see in the land of Israel. Scenes of pioneering Jewish settlers leaving their homes to try and contribute to a peace movement. As most of us watch the developments, we wonder what will happen? Will the Palestinians stop the homicide bombings? Do they think this is the first step in eradicating Israel? I have always been an optimist and I am praying that this is the beginning of a safer time in Israel's history. Prime Minister Sharon's government has taken a bold stand in a war for peace. I will support this effort because they are taking a chance in the hope of peace. The one sure thing we know is that if we do nothing, nothing will improve. I will continue to be optimistic and pray for the safety of the all of the citizens in the land of Israel.

Shalom,

Howie Hirsch (908-850-1030,

cell 908-295-0073 or email at jcnwjhowie@comcast.net)

Rabbi's Message, cont.

who has made his life in Israel. I thought, he can say what I can't. Here is Rabbi Ronald Kronish in his own words:

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY-FOR BBC RADIO -
AUG. 17.05 - RABBI DR. RON KRONISH

Good morning.

Today is a difficult day in the history of Israel. We are sacrificing some land — some parts of the land of Israel, which is holy to the Jewish People-for the sake of peace, or at least a movement in the direction of peace.

Is this worth the price? My answer is YES.

But the problem is more complex than this. We — the citizens of Israel, the Jewish majority and the non-Jewish Arab minority-have voted for disengagement. This is the policy of the democratically elected government of Israel. Yet, we do this with much anxiety and many questions: will the Palestinians see this as an act of peace or as an act of surrender; i.e. an act of war? Will Gaza turn into a “terror state,” as some of our politicians on the right suggest? Will this lead to peace agreements - between the two peoples-rather than unilateral measures? Or will this lead to more terror and more violence on the part of the Palestinians as a way to achieve political ends?

As a religious Jew, I am committed to the importance of living in the land of Israel. This is why I chose to “go up” (to make aliyah) to live in this land, with my family, over 26 years ago. This land has been special-holy-for our people since the beginning of our history. It is a sacred land. And the state of Israel is the “beginning of the flowering of our redemption,” i.e., it is a vital political framework for the achievement of our national aspirations as a Jewish people.

But land is not more important than life. Nor is land more important than peace. Rather, peace — and the attempts to reach peace with all of our neighbors — is our most important value.

In our Midrash, our literature of tales and traditions, we find this statement about the importance of peace:

If there is no peace, there is nothing at all, for Scripture goes on to say in the Psalms, ‘And I will give Peace in the Land’ which indicates that peace equals all else. Indeed, we say (in the morning prayers), ‘When He made peace, He created everything.’

The search for peace is not simple. It will not end with this disengagement from Gaza and a few settlements in Northern Samaria. But this is a good beginning, an important step along the bumpy road to peace.

This is a good beginning as the world watches. All we can do is watch, wait and pray that the forces for peace prevail, and that we will all enter the year 5766 with renewed hope, motivation and inspiration.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

High Holiday Notes

High holiday invitations will be mailed to members just after Labor Day. Many of you will be invited to participate in the service, so look carefully in the envelope to see if there is a small sheet of paper that gives you details of what you are being asked to do and for which service. If your participation requires Hebrew or English reading, please practice in advance. If you are unable to participate as requested, please follow the instructions on the slip enclosed with your invitation. Thanks to all for your cooperation in making our High Holiday services run smoothly.

Watch for a sign-up for a congregational break-the-fast after Neilah services at the close of Yom Kippur.

Calendars for the new year will be available at the High Holidays.

The Jewish Center is equipped to assist the hearing impaired with our sound system. We have special earphones that hook up to our system to enable members to listen to the service with ease. Please let us know if you would like to use these earphones.

Simchat Torah Celebration

New this year! There will be a Simchat Torah supper on **Wednesday, Oct. 26**. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by services. Come and enjoy this festive night when we celebrate through dance and song the end of the reading of one Torah and the beginning of the other. Children don't have to stay in their seats — they can march around the sanctuary with their own mini Torahs. Don't miss this special event!

High Holiday Donations

The following New Year greetings have been sent:

Greetings to the JCNWJ Congregation - from the Jordan Family
To the Congregation – Happy New Year! -

from Richard, Sally and Allison Eisenberg

To Rabbi Lewis and the Congregation - from the Goldner Family

To my new Hebrew School second and third grade class - Happy
New Year - from Mrs. Stanton

A joyous and healthy New Year to the Congregation -
from Rona and Stanley Schick

L'Shana tova to all members, new and old -
from the Herson and Fleckles Families

To all my friends at the JCNWJ – L'Shana Tova! –
from Dr. Joan B. Chase

Happy New Year to all our friends at the Center –
from the Nagorsky Family

To the Congregation: Have a healthy and happy New Year – from
Pearl and Stan Ehrlich

To the Congregation of the JCNWJ – from the Tarlowe Family
To my friends at the Jewish Center – from Marsha Koppenhaver

L'Shana Tova to all our family and friends at the Jewish Center -
from Jeff, Gina, Julia and Jeana Berkowitz

To the Congregation – from the Weilands

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu to everyone – from Helen and John Mattson
Best wishes for the New Year! – from the Weinsten family

Happy New Year to the Congregation – from Ira and Ruth Melon

To the Congregants of the JCNWJ - from the Edelstein Family
To the entire Congregation – Happy New Year –
from the Schroeders
To our Congregation family – from Leslie and Murray Heller
Happy New Year to the Congregation of the JCNWJ –
from the Sulvinski Family

Thank you for your donations to our flower fund:

Rhonda Jordan
Richard, Sally and Allison Eisenberg
The Marinich Family
The Goldner Family
Rona and Stanley Schick
The Ballenberg Family
Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, Edythe Herson & Richard Herson
The Nagorsky Family
Pearl and Stan Ehrlich
The Tarlowe Family
Judy and Paul May
Marsha Koppenhaver
Gina and Jeff Berkowitz
The Weilands
Dan Hirshberg
Helen and John Mattson
Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein
Ira and Ruth Melon
Eric Edelstein
Wain and Judy Schroeder
Leslie and Murray Heller
Danna and Bob Sulvinski

A Note of Thanks from Cantor Neff:

Jeremy and I would like to thank all of you at JCNWJ for the heartfelt congratulations we've received concerning our wedding; by the way, it was wonderful. We would also like to thank you for your gift, a lovely Challah plate. We will remember you all fondly when we use it for Shabbat dinner at home. I am looking forward to serving JCNWJ this year again as your Student Cantor. See you soon!

A Taste of Judaism - for Your Unaffiliated Friends and Family

Ever wondered how you could invite your friends and family to experience a "Taste of Judaism" at our temple without undue pressure? Now there's an answer! A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious? will be offered in our congregation this fall. The class is being taught by Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis and is sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community. This FREE, three-session program is open to unaffiliated Jews, as well as to inter-faith couples in our own congregation.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to reach out to your extended family members, future in-laws, neighbors and friends, and offer them a "Taste" of what makes Judaism so special right here in our own community.

Each two-hour session explores a different aspect of

Judaism: the spiritual, the ethical, and the communal. If there is anyone that you think may benefit from A Taste of Judaism, please have them contact Sharon Herson, who is acting as coordinator for the Taste of Judaism program. Classes will meet on Sundays at 12:30, on November 20, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11. Although there is no charge for the series, registration is necessary. Deadline for registration is November 7. Light lunch will be served to participants.

Education Committee and PTO News

We hope everyone had a great summer! Sunday School will begin this year on Sunday, September 11. Parents, please join us for an opening day breakfast. You'll meet your children's teachers and learn what's happening this school year.

Note to our B'nai Mitzvah Students:

You have a very exciting and momentous event coming up! A few reminders: please post the calendar of when your child will sit on the bima and discuss what the appropriate attire is for that; when planning your party, plan on inviting all the children in your child's Hebrew class; you may wish to help another family usher or clean up from your Oneg and have someone do it for you; make sure you have paid the b'nai mitzvah fee.

Please direct any questions to Rabbi Lewis first. If she cannot help you then she will tell you whom to ask. Your simcha is very special to you and your family. It is equally important to us that it is a wonderful experience for your child(ren).

To Parents of College Students

Do you want your son or daughter in college to receive a little "Sunshine" throughout the year from the JCNWJ? Please send current school addresses to Marsha Gross.

Updates to the Membership List

Welcome to new members
Laura and Paul Tarlowe & Family, Hackettstown

Talent Show

A talent show is planned for this year! Begin thinking about what you would like to do, demonstrate, perform, display, etc. Kids, ask your music teachers for some Jewish music to practice so you can be in the show. I promise, no one will be hitting the gong or throwing tomatoes! I am very excited about this venture. You'll hear more about it, but start planning now!

Helen Mattson

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Networking Breakfast

The Jewish Federation's Business & Professional Division presents: "Extending Networking – Networking Begins at the Event...But Then What?" Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:30am, at HealthQuest, 310 Highway 31 North, Flemington 908-782-4009. \$25 in advance - \$35 at the door. Guest Speaker: Dan

Shanok, Sandler Sales. Make new business and professional contacts. For information, call 908-725-6994, extension 204, or Business & Professional Division Chairperson: Andy Tupler, 908-203-8811; David Weber, 732-968-0940 x221

Jewish Federation Save The Dates:

Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Division: Women & Wealth Seminar, September 21 & Pacesetters Gala, October 30
Please call the Federation office for details 908-725-6994 x:204

Donations

Rabbi Ellen Lewis in memory of Michael Lewis & Theodore Jay
Rabbi Ellen Lewis in memory of Theodore Jay
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky in memory of Norma Shifrin, mother of Laura Tarlowe
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky in memory of Mercedes Weiland's mother, Marina Feliz
Rona and Stanley Schick in memory of Janet Goldstein
Rona and Stanley Schick in memory of Frances Hock and Abraham Schick
Laverne Pollak in memory of her mother, Evelyn Bardy
The Goldner Family in honor of the graduating Confirmation students: Genna Goldner, Brett Wyckoff, Brian Sulvinski, Sam Hirsch, Stefanie Weiland
Barbara Tozzo in memory of Ernest May
Ira, Ruth, David & Jennifer Sage Melon in honor of Rebecca's graduation with her MSW from Bryn Mawr College
Ira Melon in honor of Ruth's retirement from teaching - a 36-year career

Ira, Ruth, and Rebecca Melon in honor of Jennifer and David's marriage on June 18th

Lorraine Kaplowitz in honor of Rabbi's Shabbaton

*The Jewish Center mourns the passing of:
Ann Alper, mother of Michael Alper*

If you would like to honor a loved one with a memorial plaque, please contact Helen Mattson.

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the October newsletter will be September 18. .

If you would like to announce the engagement of your child or a friend, please contact someone or the editor to put it in the newsletter. I know there are members out there who are kvelling about either their child or themselves. Let's hear from you so we can all kvell together.

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