



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, Sept. 8, 7:45 p.m.  
Shabbat Service - Open House  
and Welcome the Cantor
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.  
First Day Sunday School
- Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 17 during Sunday  
School - Parent Book  
Discussion: *Blessings of a  
Skinned Knee*
- Friday, Sept. 22, 7:45 p.m.  
Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Saturday, Sept. 23,  
First Day Rosh Hashanah  
8:30 a.m. Family Service  
9:30 a.m. Adult Service
- Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m.  
Second Day Rosh Hashanah  
Sunday Students will attend
- Sunday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.  
Kol Nidre  
No Sunday School in the  
morning
- Monday, October 2  
Yom Kippur  
9:30 a.m. Service  
3:15 p.m. Torah Study  
3:30 p.m. Family Service  
4:30 p.m. Neilah  
Break-the-Fast following service

## Rabbi's Message

Twelve years ago this past month, I gave my first sermon at the Jewish Center. I wouldn't have remembered a word of it had I not accidentally come upon it in an old file this week. It began like this:

*Last week, I was taking a drive up to Massachusetts to brush up on high holy day music with one of my former cantors who runs a bed-and-breakfast up there. Dotted between the farms and the old empty mills were a series of quaint little towns lined with antique shops. One of them was called Stephenville; I remember because at the entrance to the town was a hand-lettered sign which said proudly, 'Stephenville – The only Stephenville in the world.' This is clearly a town which enjoys its uniqueness, I thought; perhaps its name is its only claim to fame. And it started me thinking about how we have that pride in common with Stephenville, for certainly uniqueness has always been a Jewish claim to fame...and yet there is something we don't have in common with Stephenville. And that is the price we have paid for our uniqueness.*

I had been thinking about Israel's uniqueness when I found this old sermon, so the words had a particular resonance. Israel is the only Israel in the world and we continue to pay a price for that uniqueness. Israel is our only homeland. Israel is a religious state which is also the only liberal democracy in the Middle East. Israel is the only place where the exiles are welcomed home. As the Israeli satirist Ephraim Kishon famously wrote, "It is a country where every human being is a soldier and every soldier a human being." And, during these last long weeks, for the first time I can remember, I felt like Israel's very survival was at stake.

I have never considered myself to be an alarmist when it comes to Israel. When I realized how frightened I was, I actually surprised myself. Then I read and understood the words of my colleague Rabbi David Forman, an American rabbi who made aliyah 35 years ago and

*continued on next page*

## President's Message

I want to use this space this month to talk to you about a statement I have heard many times and always wonder how best to apply it to my life. The statement is Think Globally, Act Locally. As we watch the news every day and see the war that is occurring in Israel, even though there is a fragile cease fire at the moment, how do we conduct our lives here, but either help Israel directly or indirectly. Some of us donate money to Israel and other reform organizations, which assist the soldiers and their families. Others pray for a day when terrorist organizations will not be plotting destruction of Israel, the US or any other target. Others pray with their hands. They understand that a strong local Jewish community is also vital to the state of Israel's survival. With this in mind, I have some giant thank yous for this month's column. First and foremost to Gwen Nagorsky, who with her vision, dedication, hard work, cajoling and enticing people has transformed the Jewish Center over the summer. You will all be very impressed as I am with what has been accomplished since the school year has ended. Helpers in this effort have included the entire Ostefeld family, Iris and Sam Hirsch, the entire Moyer family, Eric Edelstein, Leah Nagorsky, the Weiland family, the Weiner family, Esther Bakonyi, Cheryl Orenstein, and any others who showed up when I wasn't there. You have all pitched in and shown what we can accomplish with our own hands.

I want to thank the people who have taken over new jobs this year and want everyone to know that we are always looking for people to get involved in the temple and the Sunday school. There are many ways you can get involved and many committees where your help is

### ***Rabbi's Message, cont.***

was an assistant Dean at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem when I arrived in 1975. He is the founder of Rabbis for Human Rights. He himself will tell you that there are few more to the Left on the political spectrum than he. And yet he writes: "The Arab nations can and have lost many wars. We cannot lose one war. If there is any war that satisfies the halakhic injunction for an obligatory war (milhemet mitzvah), it is this one. Consequently, we liberals in Israel almost without exception understand that this could be the preliminary war for our ultimate survival. Faced with the practical and ideological commitment of Hizbullah, Hamas and Iran to rid the world of a Jewish state, we ask our liberal Jewish brothers and sisters in America to recognize that Jewish survival is no less an absolute moral value than is the protection of a Lebanese civilian population held hostage by our enemy."

And so that is what we must do, recognize that Jewish survival – Israeli survival, because I believe that the two are intertwined – is an absolute moral value that transcends political affiliations. Ephraim Kishon says that Israel is a country where nobody expects miracles but everybody takes them for granted. If we have been guilty of taking Israel for granted, we can't do so any longer.

We pray for Israel,  
Both the mystic ideal of our [ancestors'] dreams,  
And the living miracle, here and now,  
Built of heart, muscle, and steel.  
May she endure and guard her soul,  
Surviving the relentless, age-old hatreds,  
The cynical concealment of diplomatic deceit,  
And the rumblings that warn of war.  
May Israel continue to be the temple that magnetizes  
The loving eyes of Jews in all corners:  
The Jew in a land of affluence and relative peace,  
Who forgets the glory and pain of his being,  
And the Jew in a land of oppression whose blooded fist  
Beats in anguish and pride  
Against the cage of his enslavement.  
May Israel yet embrace her homeless, her own,  
And bind the ingathered into one people.  
May those who yearn for a society built on human concern  
Find the vision of the prophets realized in her.  
May her readiness to defend  
Never diminish her search for peace.  
May we always dare to hope  
That in our day the antagonisms will end,  
That all the displaced, Arab and Jew, will be rooted again,  
That within Israel and across her borders  
All God's children will touch hands in peace.

(Nahum Waldman, *Likrat Shabbat: Worship, Study, and Song*, The Prayer Book Press of Media Judaica, 1981)

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

### ***President's Message, cont.***

vital to the continuation of our Jewish community in rural Warren County. I want to remind you that being a Jew does come with a price. In our area, the price is not as steep as it is in Israel, where lives are at risk every day and people go about their business, with the threat in the background. For us, the threats are not as imminent in our everyday thinking. So when you go to bed at night, thank the Lord that there is peace in our land and that our children are growing up in a peaceful land, and do what you can to make our community stronger and the world a better place. I love you all and I am excited about the upcoming year.

Shalom.  
Howie

### ***Welcome Our New Cantor***

On Friday, September 8, the Jewish Center will officially welcome student cantor Marcy Kadin to our congregation. In addition, we will hold an Open House to welcome any guests or newcomers in the area.

### ***Adult Programs***

Adult Education classes taught by Rabbi Ellen Lewis will continue to discuss the wisdom found in *Pirke Avot*. All adult congregants are welcome to attend and participate. There is no "homework" and you don't need to have come last year. Give it a try. It's intellectually stimulating and the discussions may challenge even some of your most cherished beliefs. Classes meet Sunday mornings from 10:45 to noon: October 22, November 19, December 10, January 7, February 11, March 18, and May 6.

Torah study: The first Torah study of the new year will be on the afternoon of Yom Kippur (October 2). The Saturday morning Torah study group will resume on October 21. Monthly discussions are held from 10:30 to 12:30 or so. New participants are welcome. The group studies at its own pace, not following the schedule of the weekly portion, and will be studying the Book of Exodus during 2006-2007. The following Saturday mornings are the expected dates: October 21, November 11, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 14, May 12, June 16.

### ***Education Committee and PTO News***

The Education Committee and PTO welcome all our religious school families back! We hope you've all had a great summer and are eager for the new year. The first day of school is **Sunday, September 10**. We have a special opening day program and invite all parents to attend.

Parents, don't miss our book discussion, *Blessings of a Skinned Knee*, on **Sunday, September 17**. It's a wonderful book. Plan on joining even if you haven't read the book.

**Sunday September 24** is the second day of Rosh Hashanah. All students are required to attend. There will be no school on **Sunday, October 1.**

### ***From the Ritual Committee***

Ritual thanks all those who have helped with the planning for the High Holidays: Rabbi Lewis, Student Cantor Marcy Kadin, Sharon Herson, Judy May, Debra Knobelman, Robin Hall, Danna Sulvinski, Eric Edelstein, and Ron Seidorf. Each and every one of these members helped in some way to make our holidays run smoothly.

Please patronize manufacturers of kosher products when buying for your Oneg Shabbat. Look for the Ou, Union of Orthodox label on grape juice and other prepared products so all of our members can enjoy the food at the Oneg. Thank you.

Helen Mattson, Ritual

### ***Sunshine/Outreach Program***

I am currently making a list of all members' college-bound children. I will be sending out care packages three times during the school year to your child from the Jewish Center.

I will also be sending out cards. If you want one sent out from the Jewish Center, please call the Temple with all the information and I will send it out as soon as I get your request.

Susan McNamara

### ***Thanks***

*Thank you* to the JCNWJ and its congregants for their kind expressions of sympathy they extended to me on the passing of my brother Mervin Fleisher.

Rona Schick

*More thanks* for clean up at the Center on July 13th: The Festinstine family, Esther Bakonyi, Cheryl Orenstein, Mike & Margie Weiner, the Moyer family, the Ostenfeld family

### ***Jewish Center Talent Show***

The "Second Ever Jewish Center Talent Show" will take place on Saturday, March 31, 2007, where it will actually be April 1st somewhere in the world. Start thinking about what you are going to do in the show. Save the date!

### ***High Holiday Donations***

#### **Flower Fund**

Dan Hirshberg  
The Michael Weiner Family  
The Bauch Family  
Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, and Edythe & Richard Herson  
Michael Alper  
Marsha Koppenhaver  
The Marinich Family  
Eric Edelstein  
Arthur and Phyllis Sirkis  
The Sonzogni Family  
Rona and Stanley Schick  
The Melon Family  
The Ballenberg Family  
The Goldner Family  
The Tarlowe Family  
The Romanczyk Family  
The Mattson Family  
Ed and Cheryl Orenstein  
The Eisenberg Family  
Ed, Roseann and Sarah Weinstein  
Gwen Nagorsky  
The Sulvinski Family  
The Jordan Family  
Marsha Gross and Family

#### **New Year Greetings**

To everyone at the JCNWJ – Shanah Tovah  
Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles  
To everyone at the JCNWJ – Shanah Tovah  
Edythe and Richard Herson  
To all Members of the Congregation  
Michael F. Alper  
To My Friends at the Jewish Center  
Marsha, Jonathan and Matthew Koppenhaver  
To All  
Eric Edelstein  
A Happy New Year to All  
The Sonzogni Family  
A joyous and healthy New Year to the Members of the Center  
Rona and Stanley Schick

#### **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:  
the Temple

Happy New Year to the Membership  
Ira and Ruth Melon  
To the Rabbi and the Congregation  
The Goldner Family  
Wishing the Congregation of the JCNWJ peace, health and happiness in the New Year  
The Tarlowe Family  
To the Rabbi and Congregants  
The Romanczyk  
Wishing all of you a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year  
John and Helen Mattson  
Happy New Year to the Congregation  
The Eisenberg Family  
To the Congregation – Happy New Year!  
The Nagorsky Family  
A happy and healthy New Year to everyone at the JCNWJ  
The Sulvinski Family  
Greetings to the Congregation  
Jordan Family  
L'Shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ Congregation  
Karl, Marsha, Max and Heather Gross  
L'Shanah Tovah with love to Rabbi Lewis  
Karl, Marsha, Max and Heather Gross

#### **Donations**

6th and 7th Grade Tzedakah, to help make our sanctuary handicapped-accessible  
Jan and Lee Romanczyk, in memory of Rona Schick's brother, Mervin Fleisher  
Joan Gross in memory of Sylvia Janof  
Helen and John Mattson, in memory of Rona Schick's brother, Mervin Fleisher  
Helen and John Mattson, in memory of Sandy Seidorf's sister, Rochelle St. Gelais, Mishebeyrach for family members  
Helen and John Mattson, Mishebeyrach for Radke and Mattson families  
Helen and John Mattson, in memory of Arthur Marcovitch, brother of Edythe Herson, uncle of Sharon  
Rona and Stan Schick, Bookplate in memory of Mervin David Fleisher  
Rona and Stan Schick, in memory of Jack Fleisher, Abraham Schick, and Fran Hoch  
R. Eileen Wolf, in honor of marriage of Sarah Melissa Jordan and Michael Franklin Wolf

#### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Jewish LIFE begins the new season with renowned author Rabbi Harold Kushner on Wednesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. (Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough). Rabbi Kushner is the author of *Overcoming Life's Disappointments* and *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. This program is offered in partnership and with the support of the Friends' Health Connection. (To register for Rabbi Kushner's presentation, please call 800-483-7436 or visit [www.friendshealthconnection.org](http://www.friendshealthconnection.org).) We look forward to hosting NY Yankee Ron Blomberg, author of *Designated*

*Hebrew*, on Sunday, October 22 at 7 p.m.; Abigail Pogrebin, author of "The Stars of David" on Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m.; and Ruth Messinger, President & Executive Director of American Jewish World Services, on Sunday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Messinger will speak on "Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World." (Unless otherwise designated, all programs will be held at the JCC.)

#### **OHR TIKVAH JEWISH HEALING CENTER**

*Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater. Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 for more information or to register, [www.ohrtikvahjhc.org](http://www.ohrtikvahjhc.org)*

**Support Bereavement Group** Ohr Tikvah will be sponsoring a bereavement support group beginning in September. The group will meet Thursday Sept. 7 and 21, October 5 and 19, November 2 and 16. We will meet at Jewish Family Services in Somerville from 7-8:30 PM. The fee is \$60 for 6 sessions.

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Friday, October 27, 2006**

**Regional Biennial**

**Parsippany Hilton Hotel**

#### **Pre-Biennial Program**

**9:00-1:30pm Talking Sex: Jewish Lifesaving Conversations that Belong in our Synagogues**

(open to synagogue professionals and lay leaders)

**2:00-4:30pm Biennial Symposium on Hunger – MANNA: We Share Our Portion**

For information on registration: <http://urj.org/njwhvc/biennial/>

#### **Torah Study, Online & Interactive**

After two successful years of "10 Minutes of Torah," the Union for Reform Judaism has added a new dimension to its e-mail Jewish study programs: *Eilu V'eilu*, the Union's new point/counterpoint Torah study model. *Eilu V'eilu* involves a dialogue between two scholars and provide for your active participation. Intellectual debate of this kind is at the center of our tradition. The term *eilu v'eilu* (these and those) comes from a Talmudic text about disagreement and scholarly debate of issues of the day. *Eilu V'Eilu* will follow in the tradition of learning by debate by stimulating month-long dialogue between scholars on topics of ritual, social justice and general Jewish interest. Sign up today at [www.urj.org/torah/ten/eilu](http://www.urj.org/torah/ten/eilu).