



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, Sept. 7, 7:45pm
Shabbat Service, Oneg:
Friedlander, Hall & Rosenblum
families
- Sunday, Sept. 9, 9:30am
Sunday School Opening Day
PTO meeting follows
- Monday, Sept. 10, 7:30pm
Board Meeting
- Wed., Sept. 12, 7:45pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service,
Oneg: Kowski, Meltz,
Braunstein, Seidorf families
- Thurs., Sept. 13,
Rosh Hashanah
8:30am Family service
(parents & young children)
9:30am Adult Service,
followed by Tashlich
- Friday, Sept. 14, 9:30am Rosh
Hashanah second day service
- Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30am
Sunday School
Men's Club Breakfast
- Friday, Sept. 21, 8:00pm
Shabbat/Kol Nidre Service
- Sat., Sept. 22
9:30am Shabbat/Yom Kippur
Service
3:00pm Torah Study
3:30pm Family Service
(parents & young children)
4:30pm Neilah, followed by
Break the Fast
- Sunday, Sept. 23
No Sunday School
- Sunday, Sept. 30
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Sukkot &
Consecration of new students

Rabbi's Message

Political cartoonists have been having a field day with the worsening airport delays this summer. Their cartoons depict families pointing at their photo albums and exclaiming, "That's when we were delayed at O'Hare in Chicago! That's when we were delayed in Newark!"

And yet we travel on. We are willing to tolerate the inconveniences of traveling for all kinds of reasons. Traveling offers us a change of scenery, relaxation, and time with family and friends. Traveling also reminds me of how circumscribed our daily lives can get. I look forward to the people I meet along the way, often people I would not otherwise encounter. Meeting them broadens my own understanding of the world. Sometimes it is about the journey.

On one short trip this summer, I met three such people. The first was a manicurist in Los Angeles. She asked me whether you could be a Jew and also believe in Jesus. When I asked why she asked, she told me the story. Although she was wearing a cross around her neck, she had just discovered that she could trace her ancestry to Marranos in Spain. Her family had been "hidden Jews" who had tried to avoid the Inquisition by converting to Catholicism on the surface but practicing Jewish rituals in secret. She was thrilled at the news but unsure how it fit into her current belief system.

Then there was the woman I sat next to on the flight. She was traveling with

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President's Message

My original thoughts at being honored with the presidency consisted of how can I take on all of the tasks necessary to see our spiritual home continue to grow and be successful. However, upon reflection, I realize what great shape we are in. Our temple has no debt, has wonderful volunteers heading all of the committees, and we are moving forward on many fronts. With this wonderful support, my initial fears were calmed. However, as Howie Hirsch has pointed out, we do need to seek out new members. If each of us can mention to Jewish friends what an inviting religious experience we provide, we can put this temporary issue behind us.

The Jewish Center has been our family's spiritual home for the last ten years. Our children, Sarah, Brandon, Carin and Ricki have each contributed in their own ways. I still amaze myself that attending services improves my developing Hebrew skills, as well as giving me a sense of well-being to face the new week.

Since becoming president, I have had the privilege of participating in a new member conversion service held at the mikvah in Teaneck, NJ, affiliated with Temple Emeth. It brought back warm memories of our family's mikvah experience some fifteen years ago. It is truly an awesome experience, and one in which all members of our congregations can participate. I was honored that Rabbi Lewis allowed me to officiate on behalf of our Temple in this event.

I look forward to meeting you at services on Friday night, September 7.

L'Shalom,

Jim Arvesen (arvesen@att.net)

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Rabbi's Message, cont.

four incredibly well-behaved small children with whom she spoke a mixture of Hebrew and English. It turned out that she was a caterer from the Tel Aviv area. Why was she able to travel in what would seem to be the height of the wedding catering season? It was during the three weeks before Tisha B'Av when traditional Jews don't get married. In Israel, that means no Jews get married since weddings are regulated by the state. Her family was taking advantage of the break, and in fact, was planning on spending the year in the States. We talked politics, religion and children. Her children all had wonderful Hebrew names which were completely unfamiliar to me since they are recently coined "modern" Hebrew names. I was reminded that it has been too long since I have been to Israel.

And then there was the young driver for the car service. He had come from – India, perhaps – to study computer engineering at Rutgers. After a year, his father had died suddenly and the money had run out. His family wants him to return to India but he still has hopes of continuing his education in this country. The problem is that he needs to work to earn money for school and a student visa won't allow you to work. I thought about the opportunities we take for granted in this country and how our immigrant ancestors made sure we would have those opportunities.

If you read Deuteronomy as we are this month, you see how we have been trained to think that the goal of our journey is to reach the Promised Land. While focusing on a goal is a good thing, there are times we have to remember that there is value to simply being on the journey. Our ancestors learned a great deal in their 40 years of wandering before reaching their destination. Those lessons helped them once they got there. As I write on Rosh Hodesh Elul, I am reminded that these summer journeys will soon come to an end. When we gather to welcome the new year together again in the Fall, I look forward to hearing about what you have learned on your journeys this summer.

Sometimes it is about the journey.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our newest members to the Jewish Center Family:

Jeff, Liz & Danny Bronson, Succasunna

Zach Simms, Glen Gardner

Andrew, Alison, Josh & Kelsey Shelofsky, Annandale
Maureen O'Leary, Mount Arlington

We hope to welcome other new members in our next newsletter.

The Jewish Center mourns the loss of one of our founding members Sallye Klein. We also mourn the loss of Betty Schwartz. They will be missed.

Yom Kippur Food Drive

The Jewish Center has been sponsoring food drives at Yom Kippur and at Passover for many years. The collection of food for others, in this case the NOR-WESCAP food bank in Phillipsburg, at these times in the annual cycle is particularly meaningful to us because on Yom Kippur we don't eat but we fast with intention, and on Pesach we eat special foods. So with the food drives we are symbolically donating what we might have/would have eaten on those days plus a little more.

Bags will be distributed in the lobby after Rosh Hashanah services (both days), and we hope you will bring them back, filled, on Yom Kippur.

Please fill your bags with canned and dry food items that are healthy: e.g., vegetables, fruits, tomato sauce, pasta, cereals (without sugar coatings), soups, etc., and perhaps some treats, like boxed cookies. Please do NOT include fresh produce or anything that has been opened or anything that could spoil! And please, NO matzah (no matter how much you may like it, food banks don't like to receive it)!

The confirmation class, under the guidance of board member and room parent Lynne Kowski, will be implementing this project. Thanks in advance for whatever you can do to make this a successful endeavor.

Oneg Shabbat List

Enclosed is the Oneg Shabbat list for 2007-2008. The first family listed for each date will serve as the lead host/hostess and will be responsible for contacting the other families listed for that date and coordinating set-up, refreshments, etc. Please refer to the Oneg Guidelines, which were mailed out in June, for more specifics. If you are unable to participate on your assigned date, it is your responsibility to find another family to switch. It is everyone's responsibility to host one Oneg Shabbat during the year. The ritual committee thanks all members for providing this service to our congregation. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Rosenblum.

Sunday School & PTO News

Welcome back! We hope you all had a great summer and are all ready for an exciting year at the Jewish Center Sunday School. We are looking forward to seeing everyone on the first day of school, Sunday, September 9 at 9:30am. We invite all families to join us for the opening program at that time. Immediately following will be our first PTO meeting. We welcome all parents to the PTO meeting. Come, make new friends and enjoy having an active part of your child's Jewish education.

Beginning Hebrew Class for Adult Learners

Have you wanted to follow the service in Hebrew but did not know where to begin to learn to read Hebrew? Join Charlotte and Howie as they take you through the basics. Our text will be *Aleph Isn't Tough* and will be taught as a ten-week course. This book is the first step in a program of Hebrew learning for adults. By carefully introducing the letters and vowels of the Hebrew alphabet, the instructors work toward goals of developing the reader's ability to decode written Hebrew words and of grounding Hebrew language study in the broader sense of its use in Jewish life, ritual, and tradition. Each chapter introduces several Hebrew letters; through instructional drills and exercises, the reader progressively becomes familiar with key Hebrew vocabulary and its role in Jewish tradition, text, and prayer.

TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7-9 p.m.

Oct. 9, 16, 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18

Fee: \$54 plus materials; check payable to JCNWJ at first class session; contact Howie by October 1.

Pirke Avot

The Wisdom of the Fathers, taught by Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis. Lively group discussion always.

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 10:45 a.m.-noon

Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 2, April 6, May 18 (noon) *If you are new to the class, contact Rabbi Lewis by Oct. 1.*

Torah Study

The group will be studying Exodus during this year. Another stimulating group discussion, Torah-based, with occasional digressions into contemporary events and politics. Coordinated by Sharon Herson

SATURDAY MORNINGS, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 22, April 26, May 10, June 21

Members can come and participate in any and all sessions.

High Holiday Greetings

To the Congregation, L'Shanah Tovah - The Nagorsky Family

To the Rabbi and the Congregation, L'Shanah Tovah - The Romanczyk Family

L'Shana Tovah - The Sonzogni Family

To Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Kadin, L'Shana Tovah and Thank You! - Karl, Marsha, Max, and Heather Gross

To my friends at the Jewish Center, I love you - Happy New Year! - Marsha Gross

To the Entire JCNWJ Congregation, L'Shana Tovah - Karl, Marsha, Max, and Heather Gross

To the RoCho's, L'Shana Tovah. Let's keep the flame burning. - Sharon

To the Congregation, L'Shana Tovah to all. May the new year bring peace. - Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles, Edythe and Richard Herson

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all the members of the Jewish Center and their extended families from John and Helen Mattson

To the Congregation - The Eric Edelstein Family

To the Congregation of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey - Rabbi Ellen Lewis

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All - Leslie and Murray Heller

Wishing the Congregation of JCNWJ Peace, health, and happiness in the New Year - The Tarlowe Family

To the Jewish Community - The Jordan Family

To my friends at the Jewish Center - Marsha Koppenhaver

L'Shana Tovah from the Weinstein Family!

To the Rabbi and the Congregation, L'Shana Tovah - the Goldner/Post Family

To all the members of the Jewish Center, Healthy and Happy New Year - Rona and Stanley Schick

To the Congregation, have a healthy, happy, peaceful New Year - The Orenstein Family

To All the Congregation, L'Shanah Tovah - Blanche and Marvin Davidson

High Holiday Flower Fund

Linda and James Arvesen

The Nagorsky Family

The Romanczyk Family

The Sonzogni Family

The Gross Family - Karl, Marsha, Max, and Heather

The Herson and Fleckles Family

The Mattson Family

Eric Edelstein

The Bauch Family

The Marinich Family

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Leslie and Murray Heller

The Tarlowe Family

Marsha Koppenhaver

Goldner/Post Family

Ed and Roseann and Sarah Weinstein

Rona and Stanley Schick

The Jordan Family

Cheryl and Ed Orenstein

Blanche and Marvin Davidson

The McNamara Family

The Weiner/Margolin Family

The Webb Family.

Donations

Gifts to the 60th Anniversary Fund in honor of Rona and Stan Schick - Joan Chase; Lorraine, Marc, Russell and Melissa Orlick; Carla Schick and Diana Curiel; Amy Schick, Robbie and Emily Goldstein

Gifts to the Rabbi's Honorarium in honor of the confirmands - Lynne and William Kowski; Laurie Post and Steve Goldner, Teri and Kevin Stanton

In gratitude for making Whitney's bat mitzvah a memorable experience - Lynne & William Kowski

In honor of and with thanks to Lisa Braunstein - Laurie Post and Steve Goldner

In honor of Robin Hall for helping Whitney achieve success in becoming a bat mitzvah - Lynne & William Kowski

In honor of the bat mitzvah of Whitney Kowski - Rabbi Barry and Irene Friedman

Mishebeyrach for the speedy recovery of Esther Bakonyi - Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Mervin Fleisher, Scott Scher, Jack Fleisher, Fran Hock, and Abraham Schick - Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of H. Wayne Bardy - Laverne Bardy

In memory of his parents, Mina and Abraham Edelstein - Eric Edelstein

In memory of Hyman Gorelick - Helene Friedlander

In memory of Theodore C. Jay - Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Harold Dorfman and Ludmila Orenstein - Cheryl and Ed Orenstein

Community Programs

JEWISH LIFE

The new season of Jewish LIFE kicks off on September 18! Join us at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC when Janet Ruth Falon presents a Jewish Journaling Writing Workshop. No writing experience is necessary and non-writers are welcome! 7-9 p.m. \$10/Jewish LIFE member, \$15/guest.

Jewish LIFE is pleased to bring to our community, our headliner event, Alan Dershowitz, on Sunday, September 30 at 7 p.m. The author of *Blasphemy: How the Religious Right is Hijacking our Declaration of Independence*, He has been called one of its "most distinguished defenders of individual rights." Dershowitz contends that not only has the religious right been misinterpreting the Declaration of Independence, they've been willfully manipulating its message and context in their efforts to Christianize America. This program will be held at Raritan Valley Community College, and is sponsored in part by Friends' Health Connection and Raritan Valley Community College. \$25/pre-registration, \$35 at the door. To register, call 1-800-483-7436.

The Jewish LIFE brochure detailing all special events and area course listings will be available in the synagogue office and on line at www.ssbjcc.org (click on the Jewish LIFE page).

Save the Date...

...for a luncheon event honoring Betty Roswell on October 11 at the Fox Hollow Golf Club in Branchburg. It is a benefit for the Israel Association for Child Protection. In addition to the luncheon, there will be Boutique Shopping/Premier Baskets. The event will feature "Jewish American Princess Show" comedienne, Sherry Davey. The sponsoring arm of the Federation is Women's Philanthropy Division. More info to follow.