



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, Sept. 5, 7:45pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Friedlander, Ballenberg,
Kunzman families
- Sunday, Sept. 7, 9:30am
Sunday School Opening Day
(K/1)
- Saturday, Sept. 13, 10:30am
Torah Study
- Sunday, Sept. 14,
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Adult Ed/Pirke Avot
- Friday, Sept. 19, 7:45pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Nagorsky, Goldner / Post,
Hall families
- Sunday, Sept. 21, 9:30am
Sunday School, Music (K/1)
PTO Meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 9:30am
Sunday School, Confirmation
9:30am-2:00pm Blood Drive

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Monday, Sept. 29, 8:00pm
Erev Rosh Hashana
Oneg: Seidorf, Kowski, Lettire,
Arvesen families
- Tuesday, Sept. 30
Rosh Hashana
8:30am Family Service
9:30am Adult Service
- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9:30am
Rosh Hashana 2nd Day Service
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 8:00pm
Kol Nidre
- Thursday, Oct. 9
9:30am Yom Kippur
3:15pm Torah Study
3:30pm Family Service
4:30pm Neilah
Break-the-Fast follows service

Rabbi's Message

I had thought I would wait and write this message when I returned from China but I was seized with a desire to write as I waited at Newark Airport for my flight to Shanghai via Tokyo. I left Newark Airport on July 31st and I think it is now August 1st here in Tokyo. I realize that I am looking forward to being a visible minority among Asians. It isn't that I haven't experienced being part of a minority group. I know what it is to be the only Jew. In the grammar school I attended in Westfield in the late 50's and early 60's, my sisters and I were the only Jewish students. I know what it is to be the only woman. I was once the only female among 40 other students in a chemistry lab in college (my name was the only one the teaching assistant could remember). And certainly I experienced being a minority as a female student attending rabbinical school in the mid-1970's. So I know what it is to be in a minority as a woman and as a Jew, but I have never experienced being part of a racial minority. I wonder: Will this be what my friend Shelia experienced as an African-American growing up in Westfield? Will this feel different?

The New York Times reports today that some of the greatest cyclists in the world are planning to arrive early in Beijing to test the air for their colleagues who will be joining them for the Olympics. I have been warned. I am arriving armed with an inhaler, just in case, although I have balked at the idea of wearing one of those white dust-cover face masks. People have asked if I am going to China for the Olympics. Why else would anyone go to visit Beijing in the hot smoggy summer when hotel rates have quadrupled and the streets will be filled with international tourists planning to attend the Games? I am not going to the Olympics, although I plan to be

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President's Message

On August 16, I was fortunate to be dining in Driggs, Idaho, with my wife Linda. In the middle of our repast, the full moon was rising to our east over the Tetons. It was an awesome experience. My first reaction was to add 42 days to the day, and calculate that erev Rosh Hashanah would be on September 27. I guess I could not be faulted if I made the estimate September 28, since that would be the DAY and not the EREV. I am looking for wiggle room here. As we know, erev Rosh Hashanah is September 29. This must be one of the reasons that we celebrate both September 29 and September 30 as Rosh Hashanah. Imagine no communication other than smoke signals. Somehow Jews managed to make it in the so-called olden days. Check our website at www.jcnwj.org for exact times.

At this time of year, as the summer winds down, many different emotions surface. Hope for a new year, renewal, rekindle old friendships, atonement for past mistakes, and the chance to start over again. Our shul is really special in allowing us to embrace all of these, and more, feelings at this time of year.

The best part of our embracing the New Year is our own Amateur Hour. For those too young to know this cultural event, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Original_Amateur_Hour. I have added this link to establish that there is nothing new under the sun. Major Bowes was the progenitor of American Idol. Yes, it was Frank Sinatra in the early days of this venue and

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in Beijing in the week prior. I am going to China now because this is the only time of year I can take three weeks of vacation to see how my son Micah has settled into his Shanghai abode. I travel with mezuzah in hand since I doubt that he thought to pack one in his move from San Francisco. He has laughed at my elaborate preparations for this journey. "Mom," he says, "You know they have shoes in Shanghai. And clothes. And food. And flush toilets." I do know, of course, and yet because China is so much farther east than I have ever traveled, I feel much more like Marco Polo than I have in previous forays out of the country. The initial flight to Tokyo's Narita airport was a surprisingly short 12 hours and 17 minutes because the flight plan took us the short way up over the Arctic Circle. I am spending this five-hour layover at an internet cafe in the Tokyo airport during what I calculate to be my usual sleeping hours. Then I take the final leg to Shanghai. Since I made the reservations using frequent flyer miles (120,000) accrued over the years of visiting my children when they lived in California, my return trip will be a horrifying Shanghai to Tokyo, Tokyo to Detroit, and finally Detroit to Newark. But for now, I am just at the beginning.

By the time you read this, I will have returned to New Jersey and readjusted to normal life. We will be at yet another beginning, this one of our school year and our (blessedly "late" this year) high holy days. This will be the fifteenth year I have welcomed the new year with you, my friends at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. For the first time, I will have been with you more years than my two previous positions combined. It hardly seems like it has been that long. I can't think of a place I'd rather be to welcome this new year, or people with whom I would rather spend this time. May it be filled with blessing and may we all go from strength to strength.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Blood Drive

To all Temple members, we will be running another blood drive on Sunday morning September 28, from 9:30 am until 2 pm.

Please call Howie for a reservation time at 850-1030. Early time slot preferences will be given to Sunday School parents. As a reminder, if you plan on donating at our blood drive, the last day you could donate whole blood was Sunday August 3. Let's have another superb blood drive like the one we did last winter.

Welcome New Member

Please welcome our newest member:
Bette Silber, Flemington

now it is Carrie Underwood, Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard, Taylor Hicks, and Clay Aiken. La plus ca change, la plus c'est la meme chose, or something like that. Back to our Amateur Hour. Our "amateurs" may not be as great as Rabbi Lewis or our student Cantor Kadin, but Rabbi and Cantor taught us well. You have to come to services to see our new CAST for this New Year, 5769.

As we know, we are enriched by the volunteers in our shul. It would not happen without you. A few thanks to those who have embraced this ethos. I have greatly benefited from Charlotte Fels teaching me Hebrew and adding awesome color to the words and paper, whether they be in English or Hebrew. Howie Hirsch adds his special schtick, and the course is to be recommended to all who want to take their Hebrew studies to the next level. A special thanks to our lay Torah study group ensemble, they will finish the Torah in my lifetime. Other activities have had great to low response by our members. One thing Hillary got right is that "It Takes a Village." We are our own village.

Please contact me at arvesen@att.net or by phone at 917-941-4332 for any questions or comments.

Shalom,
Jim Arvesen

Religious School/PTO Events

Opening day of Hebrew School is just around the corner – September 7 at 9:30 a.m. We have an interesting opening day program planned for the parents and kids followed by our traditional opening day breakfast hosted by the PTO.

Then, after school on September 7, join us for our Second Annual Back-to-Hebrew-School/Confirmation Pool Party at the Ostenfeld's house. All Hebrew School families and teachers are invited. For more information, please contact either Marsha or Karen.

Our first PTO meeting is scheduled for September 21. Confirmation meets for the first time on September 28.

We are looking forward to a GREAT 2008-2009 school year!

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein
(Education co-chairs)

Adult Education

Rabbi Lewis's Adult Education class, studying *Pirke Avot*, will meet Sunday mornings from 10:45 to noon on the following dates: Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, March 22, and April 26. The class is open to all members. This is your opportunity to exchange ideas with other congregants under the leadership of a superb teacher. You don't have to have been in the class last year to join now. Contact Rabbi Lewis before the first class if you would like to come.

Torah Study

Torah study meets monthly on Saturday mornings for about two hours, starting at 10:30. We are a lay-led group. Discussion is always lively. Everyone is welcome.

Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 14, April 25, May 16, June 20.

Donations

Sue Goulden, in honor of Brett Kestecher's Bar Mitzvah

Marjorie and John Meyer, in memory of Rhonda Jordan's father, Harry Siegel

Lois and Stuart Goldberg, in memory of Anna Goldberg, Harry Zaret, and Barnet Zaret

Audrie and Ken Sonzogni, in memory of Audrie's mother, Rita A. Leiter

Rona and Stan Schick, in memory of Mervin Fleisher, Abraham Schick, and Frances Hoch, and in memory of Robert Kennedy and the soldiers who died on D-Day

Cheryl and Edward Orenstein, in memory of Harold Dorfman and Ludmila Orenstein

Lorraine Kaplowitz, in memory of Sylvia Markowitz
Rabbi Ellen Lewis, in memory of Theodore Columbus Jay

Gift to the Building Fund

Lynn and Barry Kestecher in honor of Brett's Bar Mitzvah

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lynn and Barry Kestecher in honor of Brett's Bar Mitzvah

Laura and Paul Tarlowe in honor of Ezra's Bar Mitzvah

A world of thanks....

Thank you to the members of the Congregation, confirmation class and Sunday school teachers and students who attended the Confirmation celebration on June 8. We really appreciate the love and support from everyone at the Temple. – AJ & the Seidorf Family

Thank you to the following families for your generous donations to my Eagle Scout project: Arvesen, Bronson, Friedlander, Goldner/Post, May, Herson/Fleckles, Hirsch, Mattson, Melon, Nagorsky, Orenstein, Weiner/Margolin. – AJ Seidorf

The 2008 Confirmation Class wishes to thank Shop Rite of Hunterdon County for their generous donation of the delicious sheet cake, fruit platters and cheese platter for the Confirmation Brunch.

Community Events

NEW JEWISH LIFE SEASON BEGINS SEPTEMBER 9

The new season of Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) begins Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. with Rabbi Donniel Hartman. Rabbi Hartman's topic will be Israel and the Challenges of Jewish Identity: The New Tribes of Israel. Barry Schrage will discuss The Future of the Jewish Community, on Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. Nov. 12 at 1 p.m., Rabbi Ron Isaacs' topic will be Talking to G-d, the Art of Prayer. Save the date for food critic and author Arthur Schwartz, who will present Jewish Food in America on Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m. All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater. The Jewish LIFE brochure detailing all special events and synagogue courses will be available in the synagogue office and will be posted at www.ssbjcc.org. Please contact JCC Associate Executive Director Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213 if you would like to become a Patron or Benefactor of Jewish LIFE. To register for programs, call the JCC office at 908-725-6994 x201.

A Time for Reflection for the New Year

Sunday, Sept. 14, 3:00-4:30 pm

Labrynth Garden, North Lane, Warren, No fee

Ohr Tikvah invites you to join us for a walk through a beautiful garden labyrinth in Warren, as Rabbi Robin Nafshi leads us in prayers, reflection and song. We will take a gentle walk through this lovely flower-strewn maze, moving around in a circle to the center and then returning back to where we began.

Please call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 to receive directions to the labyrinth, or to let us know if you'd like to meet us at JCC for a shared van ride to the labyrinth. The van will leave the JCC at 2:30 pm. Please call to reserve a place on the van, or visit www.ohrtikvahjhc.org.

Volunteer Opportunity: Helping the Elderly

Jewish Family Services of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties and Ohr Tikvah Healing Center both focus on healing of the mind and spirit through a variety of programs and services for people of all ages.

L'Chaim: Nourishing the Mind and Soul of the Elderly is a new Volunteer Visiting Program that matches volunteers with older persons living in the community or in a senior residence to provide emotional and spiritual connection to enhance the quality of their lives.

Volunteer involvement can consist of friendly home visits to older persons living in the community or facilitating small groups of residents in senior living around topics of Jewish interest, including Kabbalat Shabbat or celebration of holidays

Orientation and training for volunteers interested in working in this program should contact Ruth Edelman, LCSW, Program Coordinator, at 908-725-7799.

2008-2009 Oneg List

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the lead family for your Oneg. If you are the lead family and you have questions, please call Jennifer Rosenblum.

Sept. 5 th	Shabbat	Friedlander 980-852-2760	Ballenberg 908-879-5001	Kunzman 908-832-6154	
Sept. 19 th	Shabbat	Nagorsky 908-852-5421	Goldner / Post 908-876-5256	Hall 908-850-6594	
Sept. 29 th	Erev Rosh Hashana (Monday)	Seidorf 908-730-9769	Kowski 908-689-6106	Lettire 908-387-1986	Arvesen 908-236-8739
Oct. 24 th	Shabbat Bat Mitzvah	Autumn Webb 908-876-4393			
Nov. 7 th	Kristallnacht / Bat Mitzvah	Jamie Rosenblum 908-835-9229			
Nov. 21 st	Shabbat Bar Mitzvah	Scott Marinich 908-852-2794			
Dec. 5 th	Shabbat	Kestecher 908-730-6922	Parson 908-537-29-47	Shelofsky 908-752-8500	
Dec. 19 th	Pre-Chanukah / New Member	Ostenfeld 908-537-2339	Fesinstine 908-876-8735	Yanow 908-689-3608	
Jan. 9, 2009	Shabbat	Onweller 908-850-1430	Kaplowitz 908-689-5848	Dorman / Cafaro 908-534-7694	Sonzogni 908-876-3997
Jan 23 rd	Shabbat	Heller 973-770-8518	Berkowitz (Jeff) 610-588-3255	Nathanson 908-852-1632	
Feb. 6 th	Shabbat	Weinstein 908-638-8841	Smith 908-835-0834	Hirsch 908-850-1030	Hessels 908-876-5286
Feb. 20 th Time change	Shabbat Lay Led Service 7:00 P.M.	Trachtenberg 908-852-7178	Romanczyk 908-852-6527	Koppenhaver 908-475-5024	Stanton 908-638-8580
March 6 th	Shabbat	Knobelman 908-852-5762	Goldberg 973-713-7588	Orenstein 908-876-1422	Tarlowe 908-850-1007
March 20 th Time change	Shabbat Across America 6:00 P.M.	Simons 908-453-3038	Landau 908-689-8036	Alper 908-684-3108	Margolis 908-689-3789
April 3 rd	Shabbat	Finkelstein 908-835-8888	Bauch 908-832-0503	Longenecker 908-238-1185	
April 17 th	Shabbat	May 908-832-6341	Robins 908-534-7989	Berkowitz (Joel) 973-300-0678	
May 1 st	Shabbat	Moyer 908-689-4059	McNamara 610-351-6003	Gross 908-689-8347	Hirshberg 908-850-4732
May 15 th	Shabbat	Weiss 908-876-3841	Herson 908-537-4378	O'Leary 973-398-5418	Bauer 908-876-4451
May 29 th	Shabbat Bar Mitzvah	Cameron Baeck 908-835-9454			
June 12 th	Shabbat	Bronson 862-219-5344	Berkowitz (Jerry) 908-637-4536	Jordan 908-832-7731	Gruber
June 26 th	Shabbat Bat Mitzvah	Sally Weiner 908-637-6028			

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