

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-0762
www.jcnwj.org

September 2009
Vol. XXXVI, Issue 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Friday, Sept. 11, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Kunzman, Orenstein,
Knobelman, Yanow Families

*Sunday, Sept 13, 9:30 am
Sunday School Opening Day
(K/1)

*Sunday, Sept 20
No Sunday School - students
attend service

*Sunday, Sept 27
No Sunday School (Yom Kippur)

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

*Friday, Sept 18, 8:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Oneg: Seidorf, Goldberg,
Fesinstine, Herson/Fleckles
Families

*Saturday, Sept 19
Rosh Hashanah
8:30 am Family Service
9:30 am Adult Service

*Sunday, Sept 20, 9:30 am
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Service
Tashlikh follows service

*Sunday, Sept 27, 8:00 pm
Kol Nidre

*Monday, Sept 28, 9:30 am
Yom Kippur
3:15 pm Torah Study
3:30 pm Family Service
4:30 pm Neilah
Break-the-Fast follows service

Rabbi's Message

Last Shabbat, I paused to appreciate one of the little things that makes me happy. As I walked down the center sanctuary aisle on my way to the *bimah*, I saw the front row filled with students from my classes. No one tells them to sit there; they just decided on their own a few years back that that was where they belonged. Maybe that's why I am the worst person to ask how full the sanctuary is on any given Shabbat. I just look at the first row and feel inspired.

I asked one of them to help me with something. Then I teased the lone seventh grader among them that soon, once she becomes bat mitzvah, she won't be able to say no to me. The older kids laughed; they have heard that speech before. The truth is, it has nothing to do with my being the one to ask. Our tradition says that when you reach the age of 13, you assume both the privilege and the obligation to perform *mitzvot*. Depending on how you understand the meaning of the word *mitzvah*, the requirements may have to do with your relationship with God but certainly have to do with your relationship with the community.

We broaden that obligation in our congregation, as all of you know. There may be no mitzvah that says if the front garden is overgrown, don't wait for an invitation to weed, but that doesn't stop an occasional member from getting down on her knees on her way into the temple. There may be no mitzvah that says you should jiggle the handle of a running toilet or change a burnt out light bulb or mop up a wet floor, but there are those among you who take on that responsibility without thinking twice about it. I love it when I see our children absorbing that communal value and reporting to me when they see something awry in the building.

It is useful to be reminded occasionally about that sense of obligation lest anyone take our Center for granted. It is easy to lose that sense that your efforts not only matter but are necessary for the good of the whole. The Religious Practices Committee is spending untold hours this summer assigning honors for the high holy days. They spend time during the year assigning *bimah* honors for services, ushering duties and dates for hosting the *oneg shabbat* (for you Hebrew purists, the plural of *oneg shabbat* is *ongei-shabbat*). Say yes to them when they issue you an invitation to participate. They are just delivering the message of our tradition. And as I tell the kids over and over ("We know, rabbi, we know"), in Judaism you can't say no.

This coming year, despite its social and economic pressures, remains filled with promise. That promise can only be diminished if you aren't part of it. Enjoy what remains of summer. We will soon come together again in prayer and celebration as we welcome 5770.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Education/PTO

Hope you all had a great summer! Opening day of Hebrew School is just around the corner--September 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. We have an interesting opening day program planned (for parents and students) followed by our traditional opening day breakfast hosted by the PTO. Parents should plan to stay the first day with their children.

The second day of Hebrew School, September 20th, is also the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah. Since this is a Hebrew School day, we would love to see all of the children and their families attend this service which begins at 9:30 a.m. Walking to Tashlikh after the service is always enjoyable, too.

There is no Sunday School on September 27th (Kol Nidre). We will celebrate Sukkot on October 4th and Simchat Torah on October 11th. Confirmation meets for the first time on October 18th, and our first PTO meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2009.

We would like to welcome Jennifer Rosenblum who will be teaching the Hebrew portion of the 6th and 7th grade class. Also, welcome to Debbie Fesinstine who will be the PTO Chair this year, and co-teach our music program with Student Cantor Coyot. We are looking forward to a GREAT 2009-2010 school year!!

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

(Education Co-Chairs)

News About Our Members

Someone in your family receive an honor? Achieve some goal? Perform an outstanding mitzvah? If you'd like to let JCNWJ members know about it in the newsletter, please send the information in "ready to print" form to Howie Hirsch at jcnwjhowie@comcast.net.



President's Message

I'm Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!!!

I am enthusiastic about starting my second stint as president of our Jewish Center. Over the past two years I have seen an increase in excitement in the center and its activities. We have been maintaining our old traditions while infusing new and creative ideas from old and new members alike. I really love this center because of all of you. You brighten up my day every time you walk into the temple and I see your face. Even when we come to the center a little down from the strain of work, school and life, we all seem to be able to walk out of the building feeling a little better. That is why I am a member of this congregation and I am proud to serve the congregation. As with any organization, this one simply will not run without your help. There are many tasks that need to be done, both large and small. I hope that I can count on your help to make our center run smoothly.

I also encourage your ideas. New members mean that you have ideas that we may have previously tried and not done in a while, or ideas that you may have seen work in other organizations. Whatever they may be, please feel free to share them with me or any other board member. My email address is jcnwjhowie@comcast.net. We may not be able to implement them all, but just the discussions are very beneficial to the health and vitality of our temple. Our board meetings are usually the first Monday of the month (see website for calendar) and are open to anyone in the organization. If you want to see a group of people running an organization and having fun while doing it, I welcome you to attend and lend your ideas to us that way as well. I encourage you to visit the website www.jcnwj.org for the latest news from the temple as well as the Ritual and Religious school calendar. May the year 5770 bring us health, happiness and a renewed sense of community. This temple is a VERY SPECIAL place and I hope you all realize what a remarkable organization to which we all belong.

Shanah Tovah

Howie

The Temple Email List

The JCNWJ maintains a list of member e-mail addresses. In addition to delivering the newsletter, the list is used to notify the congregation of upcoming events, school or service cancellations due to weather (or other factors), and news of importance to the members.

All messages need to be approved by the temple president. The following protocol should be followed:

- 1) Provide the "Subject" of the e-mail message
- 2) Provide the text exactly as you would want it to go out. Include the "who, what, where, when, and why" as necessary. Howie or another board member may edit it.
- 3) Attach any document(s) to be included. It will probably be converted to PDF format.
- 4) Send the message to Howie Hirsch at jcnwjhowie@comcast.net and CC Laura Tarlowe at lauratarlowe@comcast.net.

Laura is "the messenger" and keeper of the list. She does not send messages until approved. Please let her know if your e-mail address changes at lauratarlowe@comcast.net.

We hope you find the mailings you receive of interest and value.

A Message From Our New Cantor

Shalom JCNWJ!

My name is Tifani Coyot and I am your new Cantor! I am very excited about this upcoming year!

I wanted to share with you some information about myself.

I am a fifth year student at Hebrew Union College in NYC! In addition to becoming a cantor next year, I will also complete a second masters degree in Jewish education. Over the past four years, I have realized that education is the most important part of being a cantor. My various experiences as a student/camper and as a teacher have helped to reach this realization.

For the past two years I worked at Temple Ohav Shalom in Pittsburgh Pa. I spent most of my time working with the children at the synagogue. I conducted a youth choir, directed the Purim Spiel, and led various tot and family services. My favorite moment was at my last service, when the students sang to me!

I was married this past July in France and I live with my husband, Loic in Jersey City NJ. I have spent a great deal of time in France and work in Liberal congregations in Paris almost every summer. I love speaking French and practice with my new family.

In my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities including hiking and running. I also appreciate living near New York City. My favorite spot in NYC is Time Square because it is always exciting to see the lights and groups of tourists. Over the past four years I've seen many Broadway Shows!! Musical Theater is my favorite type of music except for Jewish music, of course! Most of my time in NYC is spent at HUC, but when I am not in class you will find me in a coffee shop, shopping, walking in Central Park, or trying a new restaurant.

I can't wait to meet all of you on Friday September, 11th!

B'shir (In song),

Tifani Coyot

Cantorial Intern 2009-2010

Calling All Shofar Blowers!

Novice to expert shofar blowers sought for upcoming High Holy Days Services. If interested in sharing your talent please contact Tracey Bauer at (908) 876-4451 or traceysbauer@comcast.net.



Contributions

Wishing the Schicks well in their new home
-Eric Edelstein

Love and appreciation to Cantor Marcy Kadin
-Roseann, Sarah, and Edward Weinstein
-Marsha Gross
-Irene Marinich

In honor of Sally's bat mitzvah
-Diane Margolin and Michael Weiner

In memory of Rita A. Leiter
-Audrie Sonzogni

In memory of Eileen Dorman
-Jodi Dorman

In memory of Sylvia Janof
-The McNamara Family and Joan Gross

In memory of Marilyn Sheen, Abraham Schick, Frances Hoch, Jack Fleisher
-Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Irving Sirkis
-Pyllis and Arthur Sirkis

In memory of Sylvia and William Markowitz
Lorraine Kaplowitz

In memory of Beattie Felberbaum
-Iris and Howard Hirsch

In memory of Regina Simmons
-Ed Nagorsky

In memory of Theodore C. Jay
-Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Attention Hebrew School Moms!

Please join our Temple PTO and have a wonderful time helping to plan, set up and run activities for our kids during Hebrew School.

It is such a great feeling to be a part of our children's experience, and to be surrounded by such terrific moms!

Though our first official meeting will not be until October 25th, we will touch base on the first day of Hebrew School, and set up the help we need for the first 2 months.

Please sign up and see me on September 13th--you will not regret it!

Have a great rest of the summer,

Debbie Fesinstine,
PTO President
debfez@comcast.net

Information on Funeral Arrangements

In an effort to better serve our members, the Religious Practices Committee (Ritual Committee) has formulated a policy to help our congregants who are dealing with a death in the family. Below are suggestions to help you with your funeral arrangements.

If you are interested in having Rabbi Lewis officiate at the funeral, you should call her **first**. In the event that you cannot reach Rabbi Lewis, you should contact the President of the Jewish Center. If Rabbi Lewis is unavailable at the time you need or if you are unable to reach her within your time frame, we suggest that you consider the following **alternatives**:

1. Call another rabbi known to you or to a family member.
2. Call a Jewish funeral home which can provide a rabbi for their clients (these phone numbers have been checked and are valid as of August 2009).
 - a. Menorah Chapels, Union: (908) 964-1500
 - b. Bernheim Apter Kreitzman, Livingston: (973) 763-3505
 - c. Wien & Wien, Hackensack: (800) 322-0533
 - d. Goldstein Chapel, Edison: (732) 777-0032

OR call DeVoe Funeral Home,
Washington: (908) 689-0046
3. Call the URJ's (Union of Reform Judaism) District Rabbi for assistance in engaging a rabbi. The URJ serves as a resource to our District of reform congregations: (212) 870-2903

Rabbi Lewis is always available to console the family. Either the Rabbi or our congregation will organize *shiva* services for our members.

Religious Practices Committee
Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
Updated August 2009

Practical Notes to the Congregation regarding High Holy Day Observances 2009

The following reminders are in no particular order. All are important.

Observe the handicap parking set aside for members who need to be close to the building entrance. Earphones for the hearing impaired will be provided upon request. Kindly contact Tracey Bauer prior to the High Holy Days to arrange for same.

Additional parking is located in the lot adjacent to the building.

Arrive a few minutes before the scheduled start of the service. Proceed immediately into the sanctuary and do not congregate in the lobby.

TASHLIKH. We will be observing Tashlikh right after the end of second day Rosh Hashanah services on Sunday, September 20. Tashlikh is the symbolic "washing away of sins". We walk (or drive, for those who cannot walk the distance) as a group to a nearby stream, symbolically throw petals or breadcrumbs into the stream, recite appropriate prayers, and walk back to the JCNWJ. The Washington Police Department will provide safe crossing, going and returning. If you participate, be sure to walk with the group.

TORAH STUDY on Yom Kippur. In the afternoon and before Neilah, at about 3:00, whoever would like to engage in Torah study is welcome to participate. This hour and a half of group discussion and attention to text is separate from the monthly Torah study meetings. Text TBA.

BREAK-THE-FAST on Yom Kippur. Each year the Center holds a community break-the-fast following the end of Yom Kippur services, which usually end around 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm. This is a "coordinated potluck" event, which means that if you plan to come and eat, you must bring something. The meal is an ALL DAIRY MEAL (that means, no chicken, no meat, no bacon bits on salad). Please sign up on the sheets that will be provided starting at Rosh Hashanah or call Lois Goldberg before then to let her know what you will bring. You **MUST** sign up so that Lois and others setting up will know how many people to prepare for.

JCNWJ Fights Hunger

Join us in commencing the New Year by helping those less fortunate. The annual Yom Kippur Food Drive to benefit local food pantries will begin on September 11, 2009 with the distribution of bags donated by Shop Rite of Mansfield. Kindly return a bag filled with non-perishable food items (no matzah please) to the kitchen at the Jewish Center anytime from Rosh Hashanah (not Erev) until the week following Yom Kippur.



CONGREGATIONAL NEW YEARS GREETINGS

Marsha Torine

L'shanah Tova to all the congregation

Eric Edelstein

Best wishes to the entire Congregation

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

A good, happy, healthy New Year to everyone

Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, and Edythe Herson

Shanah Tova to all the congregation, and to the hard-working Board and volunteers

Shanah Tova to Rabbi Lewis, who continues to inspire us

Shanah Tova to our new student cantor, Tifani Coyot

The Marinich Family

Greetings to the entire JCNWJ congregation

The Tarlowe Family

L'shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ congregation

The Jordan Family

L'shanah Tova to the JCNWJ Family

Leslie and Murray Heller

Happy new year to all

Helen and John Mattson

Best wishes to the Jewish Center congregation and their families

Jan Romanczyk

L'shanah Tova to one and all

The Weinstein Family

L'shana Tova

The Orenstein Family

Best wishes to all the members of our congregation

The Hirsch Family

Greetings to all our friends at the Jewish Center

The Arvesen/Albin Family

New Years Greetings

The Weiner/Margolin Family

Happy New Year

Adult Education and Torah Study

Adult Education, Rabbi's Class, 2009–2010

Subjects of discussion are under consideration as of this writing. Rabbi Lewis teaches this always lively class, which involves participation from attendees.

Classes are held on Sunday morning, from 10:45 to noon, concurrent with Sunday School, in order to encourage parents with children in school, as well as other members, to participate.

Dates as follows: October 25, November 15, December 20, January 17, March 7, April 11 (time TBA), May 2

Adult Hebrew will be starting its third year on Tuesday, September 8 at 7 pm. If you want to brush up on your Hebrew reading skills, please come and join us. Prerequisite for the course is to know your letters and vowels. If you are close, we will help you catch up. Classes will be most Tuesdays at 7 pm.

Torah Study, 2009–2010

This monthly study group, which began in the fall of 1998, is lay-led. It is an informal discussion of the traditional Torah text, using a variety of translations, including Plaut (the book in the pews) and Hirsh (the book that used to be in the pews). No homework is required, nor is knowledge of Hebrew necessary. There are a few people in the group who have excellent knowledge of Hebrew and some with none. Since its inception, the group has made a thorough study of Genesis, to which we constantly return, and in October, we will resume almost midway in Exodus. The September study session, on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, will be a special portion, to be announced on that day.

Dates as follows: September 28 (Yom Kippur afternoon), October 17, November 14, December 12, January 16, February 13, March 13, April 24, May 22, June 12 or 19 (to be decided by the group).

Marsha Gross & Family

To Rabbi Lewis and the entire JCNWJ congregation

Blanche and Marvin Davidson

L'shana Tova

The Goldner Family

To the Rabbi and congregation
L'shana Tova

Decorum In The Sanctuary

Dear Friends,

Setting an example for our children as they attend services with us, as they learn to be part of our Jewish community, is one of our most important responsibilities as members. It is up to *all* of us—those who have young children and those who do not—to help integrate and guide our children as they participate in worship and other activities at the Center. In order to be role models, we need to remind ourselves that the synagogue, as a place of worship, is separate from, different from, other places—just as Shabbat is separate from the rest of the week. We ask that you follow the recommendations below so that we as a community can achieve the focus and quiet needed to fully experience the respite and renewal of Shabbat and holiday services.

PARENTS, please supervise your children closely. Safety of the children and awareness of congregational worship are the most important factors to consider.

1. Please make sure that your child[ren] will not be roaming around the building (going into the kitchen or the classrooms, or outside) while services are being conducted. They should be sitting with you, unless they are able to follow the service on their own; in that case, they should be nearby.
2. During Kiddush, please accompany your young child[ren] onto the bima to protect him/her/them from the lit Shabbat candles, and to keep him/her/them from falling or disrupting the other children.
3. Please be sensitive in choosing your seats in case you find it necessary to take your child[ren] out of the sanctuary during the service. It is appropriate to remove crying or noisy children during the Rabbi's sermon, during the recitation of Kaddish, and during any solemn, quiet portion of a service where child noises would be distracting.
4. During the Oneg Shabbat, please supervise your child[ren], who should be within your view—they should not be running up and down the stairs, eating in the classrooms, or playing in the sanctuary or the bathrooms.

EVERYONE, please remember that it is a mitzvah to integrate our children into our worship.

1. Recognize that we are fortunate to have a wonderful group of young parents and their children who are part of our community. Appreciate the little ones for the beauty and delight they bring.
2. Please be patient when a parent needs to exit with a noisy child.
3. Offer to hold someone's child for a few minutes so that the parent can have a moment of quiet prayer.

ELSEWHERE IN THE BUILDING, it is important that everyone treat furniture and other objects with respect. This means being careful when using the rest rooms, and being attentive to detail when cleaning up in the kitchen and the simcha room after an Oneg Shabbat or other special function, and in the classrooms after Sunday School—and reminding the children about these things. Kindly refrain from placing your feet upon the pews in the sanctuary.

Just as Shabbat is set off ritually from the rest of the week, the way we dress when we enter the sanctuary should be different from our ordinary work or school attire. Men and boys should wear nice khakis or other dress pants and a shirt; a dress shirt, jacket, and tie, while not required, are also appropriate. Women and girls should wear clothing that keeps knees, midriff, and shoulders covered (no shorts). All men over the age of thirteen, including non-Jewish guests, should wear a *kippah* (*yarmulke*, or head covering). Adult members, men and women, may wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl); guests who are not Jewish do not wear a *tallit*. Anyone who comes to the bima for an honor should wear a *kippah* and a *tallit*.

PLEASE REMEMBER: No smoking inside or near the building. No photographs are permitted during any service. Please turn off your cell phone before entering the sanctuary. Emergency paging devices should be set on SILENT.

As part of our security procedures, an usher is at the door during every service; the usher will remind anyone who needs a reminder about proper decorum. We have smoke detectors and an alarm system to protect you, our building, and its valuable contents. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in all these matters.

The Board of Trustees of the JCNWJ

October Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the October Issue is **September 19, 2009**. Please email articles, ideas, or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Reaching Hundreds of Readers each month in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, and Warren Counties in New Jersey as well as those residing parts of eastern Pennsylvania, advertising in the Journal is effective and affordable. Tell your friends and contacts at local businesses whom you patronize about the opportunity to market themselves through sponsoring an advertisement in the online newsletter. For more information on placing an ad see the Journal Advertising form (on the temple website) or contact Tracey Bauer.

2009-2010 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 @ 908-835-9229 or jrxthree@yahoo.com.

Sept. 11 th	Shabbat	Kunzman	Orenstein	Knobelman	Yanow
Sept. 18 th	Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 PM	Seidorf	Goldberg	Fesinstine	Herson / Fleckles
Oct. 09 th	Shabbat	Ballenberg	Jordan	Lettire	Braunstein
Oct. 23 rd	Shabbat	Berkowitz (Jeff)	Berkowitz (Jerry)	Parsons	Graham
Nov. 06 th	Kristallnacht	Goldner / Post	Margolis	Melon	Arvesen
Nov. 20 th	Shabbat	Bauer	Weinstein	Alper	Webb
Dec. 11 th	Chanukah	Tarlowe	Marinich	Baeck	Landau
Dec. 18 th	New Member – Chanukah	Heller (Murray)	Kowski	Heller (Erik)	Mattson
Jan 8, 2010	Shabbat	May	Robins	Kaplowitz	Gutkin
Jan 22 nd	Shabbat	Hall	Freidlander	Nagorsky	Schaffer
Feb. 05 th	Shabbat	Dorman/Cafaro	Hirshberg	Sonzogni	Hirsch
Feb. 19 th	Sunday School Led 7:00 PM	Gross	Marr	Stanton	Bloch
March 05 th	Shabbat	Ostenfeld	Torine	Romanczyk	Leifer
March 19 th	Shabbat Across America 6:00 P.M.	Bauch	Smith	Finkelstein	Longenecker
April 02 nd	Pesach	Rosenblum	Weiner / Margolin	Bakyoni	Peckman/ Greenwald
April 16 th	Bar Mitzvah Craig Kestecher				
April 30 th	Bat Mitzvah Kelsey Shelofsky				
May 14 th	Bar Mitzvah Jake McNamara				
June 04 th	Shabbat	O'Leary	Simons	Siedelhofer	Berkowitz (Joel)
June 18 th	Shabbat	Koch	Trachtenberg	Onweller	

****ALL SERVICES START AT 7:30 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED****

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