

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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September 2012
Vol. XXXVII Issue 19

Rabbi's message

Elul is a month for spiritual reflection. During these 30 days prior to the Yamim Noraim, we are to turn inward and search our souls. When Rosh Hashanah at last arrives, we are ready to meet our God.

Reflection isn't restricted to the month of Elul, of course. Many of you have emailed me and said you imagine that my decision to retire from the Center is a result of much personal reflection. You are right. Many of you have said you know this decision can't be an easy one for me. You are also right. And many of you have said that you assume I think it is time. You, too, are right. I thank you for your loving responses to the news. I appreciate that, regardless of whatever mixed feelings, you have also congratulated me and wished me well.

But let me remind you, as Stephen Sondheim's music says so eloquently, "I'm still here." We have a year in which we can reflect together on what has gone before and consider what we want the future to look like. For 18 years, we have grieved and celebrated together and that will continue as you embark on a search for my successor.

Howie is right about that roller coaster the Center has been on this year. Because of our size – but perhaps not just because of our size – we know and value every member. When Charlotte Fels isn't there to read and translate Maftir Yonah on Yom Kippur, her absence will be felt. When Eric Edelstein doesn't ascend the bimah to blow the shofar, his absence will be felt.

And as Mike Weiner fights his battle with a brain tumor, we will step in and substitute for him (as if anyone can really substitute for Mr. Weiner) until he is ready to return. As Howie says in his message this month, that is what a community is and does. The shofar is blown every day from the first of Elul to the day before Rosh Hashanah. Its purpose is to awaken our spirits and inspire us to begin this soul-searching. Jewish tradition knows this kind of work can be lonely, so we are also instructed to recite Psalm 27 each day:

"The Lord is my light and my rescue

Whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's stronghold.

Of whom should I be afraid?"

The work is easier if we have faith that we are not alone, faith that God's light will illumine our search, and faith that the divine light within us will help us strengthen each other.

May this new year be for us a shana tova umetukah, a good and sweet one.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

President's message

Life certainly has been a roller coaster for our Jewish Center this year. The year started on a very sad note with the passing of two of our elder and more stalwart congregants, Charlotte Fels and then Eric Edelstein. Then in the spring, we were able to celebrate a few very joyous B'Not Mitzvahs, followed by a jubilant celebration of our Rabbi's 18th anniversary as our Rabbi and the presentation to the congregation of a light-weight Torah, which should be of great use to the congregation in the years to come. We gave out the first Jewish Center scholarship to Hannah Finkelstein and prepared for a joyous summer. We have had too many people fighting diseases this spring, including the Seidorf, Needleman, and Parson families, to name a few.

The summer's peace was filled with some happy/sad news that Rabbi Lewis will be retiring from the pulpit at the end of June. While we are very happy for the Rabbi and will do everything we can to wish her well, it does mean that things will change in the congregation. A search committee has been formed, chaired by Mo Bauer, and we will begin looking for a successor to Rabbi Lewis.

Then in the last few weeks, we have found out that our beloved teacher and friend, Mike Weiner, is battling a brain tumor. All of our prayers are with Mike as he fights this terrible disease. If positive thinking and a great attitude can help beat a disease, then the disease has no chance against Mike.

In the fall, we will have an event where each of us will have the ability to assist in the "completion" of writing the Torah under the supervision of Rabbi Isaac Winer. Watch for more information on this.

What these events go to show is that life goes on for our people as well as for the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. We laugh and celebrate together when times are good, and we cry and console each other when times are tougher. The best thing about being part of a community like ours is that we are so small, that there is no one who doesn't matter. We need each and every one of us to shoulder a bit of the burden of not only sustaining the Jewish center for our mutual benefit, but it also is incumbent upon us to be able to leave the families that are yet to join us with a loving place to raise their families with a Jewish heritage.

May you all be inscribed in the book of life for the coming year, and may we enjoy the coming year in good health and peace.

Shalom, Howie

Greetings to all of my new friends!

It's hard to believe that I haven't met any of you yet because you've embraced me so warmly from the moment I was chosen to be your new cantor. Congregants have reached out to house me, invite my family to services, join my choir, invite me to events, and help me plan my time at JCNWJ. And, of course, Rabbi Lewis has been endlessly gracious guiding me through the ways of JCNWJ. What a pleasure it will be to finally meet you in just a few days- at shabbat services on the 7th, at the selichot program on the 8th and/or at school on the 9th. And perhaps you'll grant me the honor of your participation in my very first inter-generational choir (see my choir invitation, attached). May it be a Shanah Tova U'm'tukah for all of us. A year filled with moments of goodness and sweetness- for ourselves and our community.

yours truly,
Cantor Goldmann



Mark your Calendar

Friday, Sept. 7	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service Oneg: Berkowitz, Seidorf, Ostenfeld, Jordan
Saturday, Sept. 8	10:30 a.m.	Torah study--meet at the Herson-Fleckles home. RSVP for lunch by Sept. 5
	4:00 p.m.	Intergenerational choir
	5:00 p.m.	Selichot with Cantor Goldman and Rabbi Lewis
	6:00 p.m.	Havdalah and potluck dinner
Sunday, Sept. 9	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School / K1 Opening day program
Monday, Sept. 10	7:30 p.m.	Board meeting
Sunday, Sept. 16		No Sunday School
	7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Oneg: Herson/Fleckles, Finkelstein, Klein, Goldberg, Hirsch
Monday, Sept 17	9:30 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah
	12:00 p.m.	Tashlikh
Tuesday, Sept 18	9:30 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, Sept. 23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School- Music
	9:30 a.m.	Sisterhood meeting
	10:45 a.m.	Adult education
Tuesday, Sept. 25	7:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Wednesday, Sept. 26	9:30 a.m.	Yom Kippur
	3:15 p.m.	Torah study
	4:30 p.m.	N'eilah Break-the-Fast following services
Sunday, Sept. 30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/K1 (Sukkot Service)
Monday, Oct. 1	7:30 p.m.	Board meeting
Friday, Oct. 5	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service (Simchat Torah) Oneg: Shelofoky, Baeck, Arvesen, Melon



Do you like to sing?
Have you ever sung in a choir?
Have you never sung in a choir?
Are you between 6 and 96 years old?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then PLEASE join me on Saturday, September 8th from 4:00 to 5:00 and Sunday, September, 9th from 12:00 to 12:30 for the inaugural rehearsals of JCNWJ's all new and bound-to-be-fun inter-generational choir!! We will be preparing a couple of simple pieces for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

I hope to see many of you there. It will be a great way to get to know each other!

Looking forward,

Cantor Goldmann

Ushering In The Days of Awe

SELICHOT*

Please join

Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Goldmann

as we prepare for the High Holy Days,

musically and spiritually,

on Saturday, September 8, 2012

4:00 pm Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal

5:00 pm Teaching Program in preparation for the High Holy Days

6:00 pm Havdallah Service

followed by POT-LUCK SUPPER

rspv to Gerri Klein

gerriruthklein@gmail.com

(908)455-1285

Hebrew Classes Starting

If anyone is interested in becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah before Rabbi Lewis leaves in June, please contact Howie. We have one person who is prepared to go forward with this and is looking for anyone else who might be interested.

If you would like to learn to read Hebrew (no pressure for B'Nai Mitzvah), please contact Howie as well.

This is a very useful skill when trying to assist your child with his or her Hebrew lessons.

And if they are ahead of you, they can help teach you, which will reinforce their learning even better.

ROSH HASHANAH

EVENING SERVICE	Sunday, September 16	7:30 pm
MORNING SERVICE	Monday, September 17	9:30 am
	Tashlich following Services	
MORNING SERVICE	Tuesday, September 18	9:30 am
	Luncheon following services	

YOM KIPPUR

KOL NIDRE	Tuesday, September 25	7:30 pm
MORNING SERVICE & YISKOR	Wednesday, September 26	9:30 am
TORAH STUDY	Wednesday, September 26	3:15 pm
NEILAH	Wednesday, September 26	4:30 pm
	Break-the-fast following Services	

Flower Fund for the High Holy Days and throughout the year

Tracey and Mo Bauer
Jerry and Rita Berkowitz
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Lois and Stuart Goldberg
Gross Family
Robin and Colson Hall
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and Edythe Herson
Hendler Family
Hirsch Family
Jordan Family
June and Ira Kapp
Gerri and Sabrina Klein
Rabbi Ellen Lewis
Bob Margolis
Rene Marinich
Helen and John Mattson
McMullen Family
Martha and Jack Needleman
Nancy and Bernie Robins
Ruth and Howie Schutzbank
Tarlowe Family
Marsha Torine
Webb Family
Margolin and Weiner Family
Roseann, Sarah, and Ed Weinstein





NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

L'shana tova to the Congregation and Rabbi Lewis ★ The Ballenberg Family

L'shana tova to all ★ The Bauer Family

L'shana tova to all the Congregation ★ Blanche and Marvin Davidson

Best wishes to Rabbi Lewis and the JCNWJ Congregation ★ The Gross Family

The Goldmann Family wishes the congregation a sweet 5773

Happy New Year to all my Temple Friends ★ Marsha Gross

wishing us all a Happy & Healthy 5773 ★ Karl, Marsha Max & Heather Gross

L'shana tova to the Congregation ★ Robin and Colson Hall

L'shana tova to all and shalom! ★ Edythe, Sharon, and Daniel

L'shana to our entire Temple family ★ The Hirsch Family

L'shana tova to all ★ The Jordan Family

L'shana tova with love to our JCNWJ family ★ Gerri & Sabrina

L'shana tova to the Congregation ★ Rabbi Ellen Lewis

L'shana tova to all members and their families ★ Helen and John Mattson

L'shana tova to Suzie and Grace ★ from Rene and Scott

L'shana tova to our JCNWJ Family ★ The Needleman Family

Happy New Year to all Temple members ★ Ruth and Howie Schutzbank

L'shana tova to our JCNWJ Family ★ The Tarlowe Family

L'shana tova to the Congregation ★ Marsha Torine

L'shana tova to all ★ The Margolin/Weiner Family

L'shana tova ★ The Weinstein Family

A world of wishes for good health, good news, good times and meaningful days in the coming year.

I always think of the JCNWJ family with great affection and nostalgia. L'shana Tova!
Joan Chase

New torah with new ornaments



Education/PTO

Welcome back ... Hope you all had a great summer! Opening day of Hebrew School is September 9th, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. We ask that parents stay with their children on the first day and participate in the Opening Day Program, which will be followed by breakfast sponsored by our PTO.

I would like to welcome our two new students, Jacob and Rebekah Lazarek.

There will be no Hebrew School on September 16th as it is Erev Rosh Hashanah. September 30th is our Sukkot and Consecration service and parents are invited to stay and enjoy the service. We will celebrate Simchat Torah on Friday night, October 5th, and we expect all Hebrew School children, and their families, to attend this service.

Our first PTO meeting is scheduled for October 14th, and Confirmation class meets for the first time on October 21st.

Practical Notes to the Congregation regarding High Holy Day Observances 2012

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.

TASHLICH. We will be observing Tashlich right after the end of first day Rosh Hashanah services on Monday, September 17. Tashlich 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.

FOOD DRIVE. Every year the Center sponsors a food drive at Yom Kippur. The food goes to a local Food Bank. Please bring a bag of suitable non-spoilable food items (no matzah, please) to the Center and leave it in the kitchen. You may bring items starting on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and until the week after Yom Kippur (please do not bring food bags Erev Rosh Hashanah).

LUNCHEON following services on second day of Rosh Hashanah. Each year the Center sponsors a luncheon immediately following services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. Please contact Iris Hirsch if you plan to attend so we know how many people to prepare for.

TORAH STUDY on Yom Kippur. In the afternoon and before Neilah, at about 3:15 pm, 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 Jeannie Berkowitz before then to let her know what you will bring. You MUST sign up so that Jeannie and others setting up will know how many people to prepare for.

DECORUM IN THE SANCTUARY

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.

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 2012).
 - a. J.L. Apter Memorial Chapels, Newton: (973) 383-3333
 - b. Menorah Chapels, Union: (908) 964-1500
 - c. Bernheim Apter Kreitzman, Livingston: (973) 763-3505
 - d. Wien & Wien, Hackensack: (800) 322-0533
 - e. 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.

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 2012

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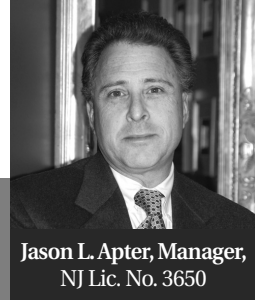
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