

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Rabbi Emeritus of Young Israel of Oceanside (Long Island, NY) and Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University, teaches that "The Hebrew word for *soul* is *neshamah*. Central to that word, the middle two letters, *shin* and *mem*, make the word *shem*, Hebrew for *name*. Your name," concludes Rabbi Blech, "is the key to your soul."

Of course, he's right. Names really do matter. I, for one, shudder with embarrassment every time someone – a "someone" whose name I can't remember – greets me by name. Nor can I say it feels any better when I greet someone else by name, only to hear back, "Hey there," "How you doing?" or "What's up?" I feel defeated that s/he doesn't know my name, and I feel even worse that I've put another human being in the awkward position of having to fudge the greeting.

If I learned nothing else from eleven years of "Cheers" I most certainly did learn that "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name." The only modification I'd make to that, when it comes to my own journey through life, is that **almost always** I want to go where people know my name.

As rabbi of this magnificent congregation, I have an obvious advantage. Most of you already do know my name. And those of you who don't yet, will soon. There is, after all only one of me. Plus, my name happens to be written with **BIG** letters in multiple places!

continued on next page

Mark Your Calendar

- Tuesday, September 8th
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- Sunday, September 13th
7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
- Monday, September 14th
9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Tashlich following Service
- Tuesday, September 15th
9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Luncheon following Service
- Sunday, September 20th
9:30 am First Day of Sunday School
11 am Brunch and Grow-A-Row
- Monday, September 21st
7 pm Book Club
- Tuesday, September 22nd
7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service
- Wednesday, September 23rd
9:30 am Yom Kippur Morning Service
3:15 pm Torah Study
4:30 pm Neilah Service
Break-the-fast following Services
- Sunday, September 27th
9:30 am Sukkah Set Up
2:30 pm Sunday School Sukkot
Celebration
2:30 pm Sisterhood Meeting

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

But this is hardly sufficient, because how can I be your rabbi if I don't know your name? How can we together build community if such a basic wall is permitted to stand?

It may be presumptuous of me to ask, but for anyone who's looking to give your rabbi the perfect JCNWJ welcoming gift, this is what I would appreciate more than anything else: Take a picture of yourself (or your family), identify every person in the photo, and e-mail it to me at rabbidubin@jcnwj.org. And for the cherry on top, with whatever energy you can still muster, include a short introduction. I have no specific format in mind; I just want to begin the process of getting to know you.

An apology in advance: It will unavoidably take me longer to learn some names than others. Please understand, however, that this has nothing to do with how much I care for you as individual people. Rather, this is nothing more than a quirk of how my brain works. What I can and do promise, however, is that I will make every conceivable effort to move as quickly as possible, because as your rabbi, there is nothing to which I look forward to more than earning the privilege of coming to know the soul of each and every member of this most beautiful, sacred community.

And so the ride begins. I, for one, can't wait to discover where the journey takes us!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

High Holiday Food Drive

We are once again holding our annual Yom Kippur Food Drive to benefit the local food pantries. Please fill a bag with non-perishable items (NO MATZAH PLEASE), and bring it to the JCNWJ between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Besides food items, the pantries are also in need of toiletries, paper goods, cleaning products, and pet food. In an effort to be greener, paper bags will not be provided this year.



Thank you in advance for your generous participation. If you have any questions, please contact Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net or 908-850-1030.



Rabbi Dubin: 10 Questions

- 1. Favorite TV Show:** I'm a news junkie with a short attention span. I jump from news station to news station.
- 2. Favorite Ice Cream Flavor:** Coffee
- 3. Favorite Book:** The Bible (because, in all honesty, it really is. I'm not saying this as some politician looking to please any particular demographic...)
- 4. Favorite Musical Artist/Band:** Pink Floyd (irrespective of the antisemitic vitriol that's been spewing out of Roger Waters the past few years)
- 5. Favorite App:** Waze
- 6. Favorite Hebrew Word:** Dubi (teddy bear) דובי
- 7. If I could switch places with anyone for a day, I'd be...** Ali Hosseini Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran. In one efficient day, I'd be able to bomb my own nuclear infrastructure to smithereens, destroy my stockpiles of all other serious weapons, and order the senior leadership of every terrorist organization that I sponsor to come visit me in Teheran, where I would have them arrested and surrendered to responsible authorities from other governments.
- 8. If I could go anywhere in the world, I'd go to...** an Israel that lives in full peace and harmony with all her neighbors, and enjoys the respect of all peoples.
- 9. If I had a superpower, it would be...** Supreme Peace Maker
- 10. A surprising fact about me is...** I ran competitive track all the way from 7th Grade through the end of college -- and then coached it for another ten years after that -- but have never in my entire life run more than 7.2 miles at any one time. Nor do I imagine I ever will!

President's Message

“Back to the Future”

Here I go again, turn the page.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I begin my new/old role as President of the congregation. We are in another great time of change, similar to when Mo relieved me of my duties two years ago. We welcome Rabbi Andy Dubin to our pulpit. We also welcome the talented and experienced Cantor Ted Labow to our community. We have members filling positions on our board (Cindy Wilson will be replacing long-time Treasurer Paul May; Alison Shelofsky will be co-chairing Sisterhood with Rochelle Ostefeld; and Jeannie Berkowitz and Debbie Kahan will be leading our Membership Committee). But some old friends remain in their current roles (Iris Hirsch will continue to lead our Ritual Committee and Jeff Berkowitz will continue to run the House Committee and tend to our wonderful building).

My hope for all of you is to be active in our congregation, whether it be by singing in the choir, hosting an oneg, attending services, attending social events, or attending educational events, such as the Hebrew reading program that will begin this Fall. There are numerous activities and opportunities that will enable you to connect with your fellow congregants. I hope you will take advantage of them.

To me, the most important function of a congregation is its ability to form a community. In western New Jersey, our Jewish community is rather small, yet the eager participation of each one of our members keeps it alive and vibrant.

My wish for the new year is that it is a healthy one for you and your families.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Howie Hirsch

TRIVIA QUESTION:

What is Howie's relationship to the original "Back to the Future" movie?
Answer revealed on page 5

Please join us for the **Second Day of Rosh Hashanah Luncheon**, on **Tuesday, September 15** immediately following services.

Lunch will be provided by the JCNWJ. If you plan to attend the luncheon please contact Jeannie Berkowitz at 484-767-3744 or berkowitz18013@yahoo.com with the number of family members attending.

All JCNWJ members and guests are invited to our community **Break-the-Fast** following the Neilah Service on **Wednesday, September 23**. This is a coordinated pot-luck event, and the meal is all-dairy (that means no chicken, no meat, no bacon bits in salad). An email detailing the online sign-up process will follow.

High Holiday Services 2015

Rosh Hashanah

EVENING SERVICE

Sunday, September 13 at 7:30 pm

MORNING SERVICE

Monday, September 14 at 9:30 am
Tashlich following Service

MORNING SERVICE

Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30 am
Luncheon following Service

Yom Kippur

KOL NIDRE

Tuesday, September 22 at 7:30 pm

MORNING SERVICE/YISKOR

Wednesday, September 23 at 9:30 am

TORAH STUDY

Wednesday, September 23 at 3:15 pm

NEILAH

Wednesday, September 23 at 4:30 pm
Break-the-Fast following Services

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is looking forward to another active year at the Jewish Center. Please look for membership information in your home mailbox. Below is a list of some upcoming events, meeting dates for the year, and some ways in which you might become involved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 20th → *Grow-A-Row Mitzvah Day* in conjunction with the religious school. Come for lunch at **11:00 am** at the temple and travel to *Grow-A-Row* for volunteer work on the farm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the luncheon to shelofsky@comcast.net.

Sunday, September 27th → First Sisterhood Meeting **2:30 pm at the Temple**. Following which please plan to stay for the Sukkah service at 4 pm.

MEETINGS 2015-2016

All meetings will occur at the JCNWJ. Please mark your calendar now:

- 📅 November 22nd at 10:30 am
- 📅 January 31st at 10:30 am
- 📅 March 13th at 10:30 am
- 📅 May 22nd at 10:30 am

SUB-COMMITTEES

At each meeting, sub-committees will report and a light breakfast will be served. Please think about which sub-committee you would like to be part of:

Fundraising → Identification, selection, planning and running a fundraising event. Successful fundraisers in the past include Mishloach Minot (Purim Baskets) and the Rummage Sale. These efforts enabled Sisterhood to provide funds to the JCNWJ to purchase a new furnace, an automated defibrillator, and the shed for storage.

Social/Educational Events → Identification, selection, planning and running one or more social and/or educational events for the Sisterhood, entire JCNWJ, or the community. Fun social and educational Sisterhood sponsored events have included line dancing with instruction, an island themed party honoring Howie, a trip to Jewish sites in NYC, CPR and defibrillator training, a self-defense class for women, and a book club.

Service → Identification, selection, planning and running one or more service projects for the Hebrew School, Sisterhood and/or JCNWJ. Previous service projects include Mitzvah Day (volunteering at Grow-A-Row), singing at a senior citizen residence, and a supplies drive for Family Promise of Warren County.

New for 2015: We will be offering a [Hebrew Reading Crash Course](#) by [National Jewish Outreach Program](#). Please contact marci_braunstein@yahoo.com if interested.

See you in September!

Contributions

- ✧ In honor of the recent confirmands: Heather Gross, Grace Marr, Jonathan Rosenblum, and Alex Parson
- Marsha Gross
- ✧ In memory of nephew Jack Zachary Leonard
- Marsha Gross
- ✧ In memory of my father, Arthur Hertzmark
- Nancy Hertzmark Robins
- ✧ In honor of Sharon Herson, Woman of the Year
- The Bauer Family
- The Parson Family
- ✧ In memory of Jack Leonard, nephew of Marsha Gross
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Angelo Pentimone and Sylvia Pentimone, parents of Sandy Seidorf, grandparents of David and AJ Seidorf
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Gene England, brother of Teri Stanton
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Philip Weinstein, father of Ed Weinstein, grandfather of Sarah Weinstein
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Mike Weiner
- Ezra Tarlowe

TRIVIA ANSWER

In the original “Back to the Future” movie, the date that the professor goes back to is November 5th 1955, the day Howie was born.



Get to Know Cantor Labow

Favorite Book: The Torah! (of course!)

Favorite Hebrew Word: Ahava (“love”)

If I could switch places with anyone for a day, I’d be... Myself five minutes previous so I could know what will happen.

If I could go anywhere in the world, I’d go to... Right now, India is on the wish list.

If I had a superpower, it would be... To prevent humans from causing suffering.

A surprising fact about me is... I’ve lived in Africa.

Blood Drive

We will be holding our annual blood drive on **Sunday, October 18th** from 9:30 am until 2 pm.

If you are a regular blood donor and wish to donate at the temple, the last date that you can donate and be eligible for the JCNWJ Blood Drive is August 23rd. Saving a life is one of the purest mitzvahs you can perform, and donating a pint of blood can save up to three lives. Please contact Howie Hirsch to sign up for a time at

howheee@comcast.net.

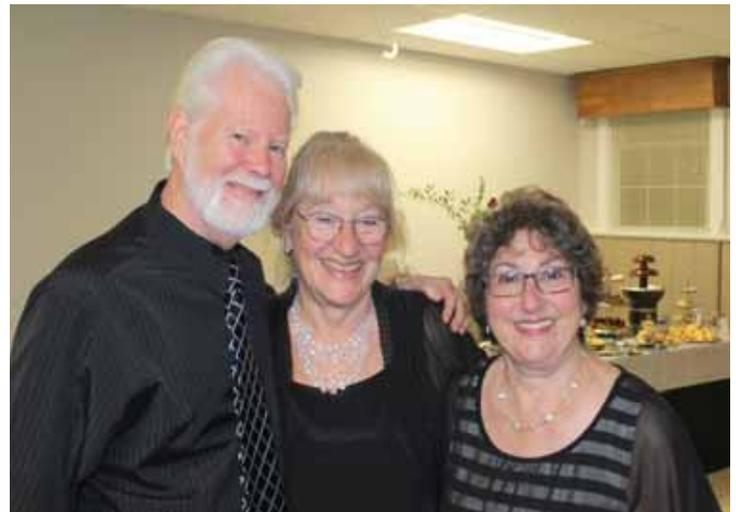


WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Sharon Herson

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey bestowed upon dedicated leader and congregant Sharon Herson the prestigious “Woman of the Year” honor. Her contributions to our Jewish community, while there are too many to list, were formally recognized in a celebration at the temple on Saturday, August 29, 2015. Special musical performances by the talented mother-daughter duo, Chelsea and Helene Friedlander, as well as by Cantor Ted Labow, entertained all guests and made for a memorable evening.

Congratulations to Sharon on this well-deserved award!





EDUCATION

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, and Madrichim,
On behalf of the Education Committee, I would like to welcome Rabbi Dubin.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer! We are looking forward to a new year that will bring exciting changes to our school. As always, our door is always open if you need us. The Education Committee members this year are Deb Kalisher, Iris Hirsch, Marci Braunstein, Rhonda Jordan, and Stephanie Perfetti.

Looking forward to a great year!

Gerrí Klein
Education Chair

A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee

Please let us know when someone has passed away, is ill or otherwise in need of a little sunshine so that the Jewish Center may be there to support and assist as best we can. Please contact Ruth Schutzbank at (908) 329-6036 or Howie.ruth@hotmail.com.

October Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the October Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **September 19, 2015**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple Ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz (berk721@aol.com) or Ruth Schutzbank (Howie.ruth@hotmail.com). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.



Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) is pleased to begin its new season of Jewish learning for our community. The year is filled with a wide variety of programs, classes taught by our area Rabbis and Professionals, and special events. There is truly something for everyone! We are pleased that due to popular demand, The Melton School of Adult Learning and iEngage are both returning to Jewish LIFE. This year The Melton School is offering both the Core Class Curriculum (begins October 20) and Melton Graduate School (begins October 13) – both taking place at the Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. The Core Curriculum will be taught by Rabbi Dan and Karen Selsberg and the Graduate School will be taught by Rabbi Richard Fagan. iEngage, a video and lecture series from the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, kicks off on November 15 at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough with Rabbi Arnie Gluck. This year's curriculum is Engaging Israel: The Tribes of Israel: A Shared Homeland For a Divided People.

Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center will be in our community for a Scholar-in-Residence Weekend Friday, September 4 at 6pm (Shabbat Dinner and Services) and Saturday, September 5 at 7:30pm (Program and Selichot Services) at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. The Jewish Film Series hosted by Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough begins Saturday, September 19 with the showing of *Green Chariot*. We are pleased to bring back the popular Irma Horowitz Film Series. The first of three series events is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 at 10am when we screen the film *Havana Curveball* at the JCC. Q & A and discussion with the film makers will follow the film (via Skype). There are special events including: Jewish New York: A History and Guide to Neighborhoods, Synagogues and Eateries with Paul M. Kaplan on Thursday, October 1 at 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater; and Then Came Life: Living with Courage, Spirit and Gratitude After Breast Cancer with GERALYN Lucas, Tuesday, October 20, 7pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. The Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Division presents their annual Imagine event Tuesday, October 27, 9am at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Stephen M. Silverman leads a discussion on The Catskills, Its History and How it Changed America on Thursday, October 29, 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Elissa Altman will discuss, Poor Man's Feast – A Love Story of Comfort, Desire and the Art of Simple Cooking, Sunday, November 15, 10:30am at Or Chadash, Flemington. AIPAC's Jeremy Papas will present America & Israel: Worry, Relax or Both? at the Dr. Michael Fink Memorial Lecture, Tuesday, November 17, 8pm at Temple Beth El, Somerset. Bobby Wonderful: An Imperfect Son Buries His Parents with Robert Morris takes place Thursday, December 3, 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater; Chanukah "Dish" with *Chopped* Champion Chef Rachel Rubin takes place on Thursday, December 3, 6pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. The Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) Musical Ensemble will be in concert for Chanukah on Tuesday, December 8 at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Time and additional details to come on this event for all ages!) The Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel and Films takes place on Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater with short Israeli films from the Ma' Aleh School of Television and the Arts in Jerusalem. The Jewish Film Series presents *DeliMan: A Freshly Made Documentary* by Eric Greenberg Anjou at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough on Saturday, December 12 at 7pm. Discussion and Q & A with film maker Eric Greenberg Anjou will follow the screening. Jewish LIFE rounds out 2015 with a return engagement with incomparable Judith Viorst who will discuss her latest book, Wait for Me and Other Poems About the Irritations and Consolations of a Long Marriage, on Wednesday, December 16, 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (program includes luncheon).

The Jewish LIFE 2015-2016 program guide will be available at the JCC and on the JCC website: ssbjcc.org. Please go through this extensive catalogue ...there is truly something for everyone! We look forward to another successful year of Jewish learning and thank everyone for supporting this wonderful and enriching program. Jewish LIFE is made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties. Jewish LIFE needs your support, and Patron and Benefactor opportunities are available. Please contact Laura Friedman, JCC Executive Director at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@ssbjcc.org. If you have any questions regarding Jewish LIFE, and to register for special events, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201. To register for synagogue-hosted classes, please register directly through the host synagogue. We look forward to learning together!

MAKE COMMUNITY MATTER

You can gather with your community to take pride in and celebrate being Jewish. Through Federation, there is a wide choice of cultural programs and activities. Bake challahs for our food pantries, attend a Jewish film, celebrate Israel, explore Jewish history, and more.



Volunteer. Give. Do Good Today.



Joel A. Kobert

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