

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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

September 2017
Vol. XLIII Issue 1



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

In a time that seems to become increasingly uncertain day by day, whether we're talking about politics, the weather, or so many other things, it becomes all the more important to maintain areas of certainty and grounding in order to keep us moving forward. For me, one of those constants always has and always will be my ongoing commitment to the Jewish People and the State of Israel. While it goes without saying that there will always be moments when I disagree with particular policies of one Israeli government or another, all the same, no matter how angry or disappointed I may become from time to time, my fundamental allegiance to the democratic Jewish State in the land of Israel has never wavered.

Among the topics I will be addressing from the bima during High Holidays this year is Zionism, which I believe is a word that has become much aligned within various pockets of society over the recent past. I look forward to having the opportunity to stand proud and speak from my heart about the covenantal relationship I believe all Jews share wherever they live, whatever languages they speak, and no matter their connection (or disconnection) with God.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, September 8th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
- **Sunday, September 10th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Saturday, September 16th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, September 17th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Sisterhood
- **Wednesday, September 20th**
7:30 pm – Erev Rosh Hashanah
- **Thursday, September 21st**
9:30 am – Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Tashlich following service
- **Friday, September 22nd**
9:30 am – Rosh Hashanah Day 2
Lunch following service (Please RSVP*)
- **Friday, September 29th**
7:30 pm – Kol Nidre
- **Saturday, September 30th**
9:30 am – Yom Kippur Morning & Yiskor
4:00 pm – Torah Study
5:15 pm – Neilah
Break-the-Fast following service (Please RSVP*)

*RSVP to berkowitz55@yahoo.com

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

As well, I will be talking some about the upcoming congregational trip to Israel (June 24, 2018-July 6, 2018) that we, under the leadership of co-chairs Lynne Kowski and Roy Loomis, are in the process of planning. More information will be coming soon, but I do want to let you know that **registration is now open**. Much work has gone into this exciting community opportunity over the past half-year or so, and we can't wait to be in Israel together next summer. I should add that while this is obviously a JCNWJ trip, temple members are welcome to extend invitations to family and friends, too.

If you would like to see the itinerary as it stands now (which, although already fabulous, still remains open to tweaking, if necessary), or if you would like to register for the trip, you can do both at <http://www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx>. You can also speak directly with Lynne, Roy, or me.

Wishing you a Happy and Sweet New Year,

Rabbi Dubin

Adult Education A Close Reading of the Book of Judges

As the political climate of our world continues to confuse, anger, delight, and excite (depending on the day and your perspective), we Jews know that such highs and lows are nothing new to the world of national leadership. Please join us as Rabbi Dubin leads us through a close reading of *Sefer Shoftim* (The Book of Judges), one of the most fascinating treatises ever written about the benefits and pitfalls of living under the political rule of other human beings. There are no prerequisites for this class, other than to please bring with you a Bible of your choice. All members – as young as post-b'nei mitzvah teenagers and as old as the vacuum cleaner (invented, 1901) – are encouraged to join us.

This series will meet at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey from **10:30-11:55** for three Sundays:

Sunday, October 22

Sunday, October 29

Sunday, November 5

President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone in the congregation. This month we begin the preparations for the High Holidays. I always look forward to the holidays, as I get to see almost every one of you at some point during Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. This is also a time of great introspection. The question I always ask myself at this time of year comes from Rabbi Zusya in the 17th century. He says, "When I get to the heavenly court, God will not ask me, 'Why weren't you Moses?' Rather he will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

I love this line. To me it means simply "to thine own self be true". But the next question is the harder one, have you been the best person that you can be this year. What have you done to make the world better? Have you spoken out against injustice? Have you fed the poor and clothed the naked? When you fast at Yom Kippur, will it be a meaningful fast? One that will inspire you to action for social causes? Or will you simply be hungry and get a headache and not appreciate the fast.

I wish you all a healthy year in 5778 and hope that you take the opportunity that the holidays present to all of us to take a good hard look at our lives and vow to do at least one thing better this year than last and not slip backwards.

I will end with a simple quote from my father, when discussing almost anything, but specifically about grades, the quote was "No Reversions". However well I did in the past, that becomes your baseline, and the idea is to improve upon the baseline without slipping. Thanks Dad, I love you for always pushing me to be my best.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Howie

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.

SISTERHOOD

Please join the JCNWJ Sisterhood!

Please consider joining the JCNWJ Sisterhood. Members should receive an invitation in the mail this month to join the Sisterhood. We meet once every other month at the Temple and enjoy events like Mitzvah Day, a Hanukkah Party, Fundraisers, Service, Social, and Educational Events at other times throughout the year.

Our first meeting will be at the Temple on September 17th. We will socialize, enjoy breakfast, and talk about plans for the year. Please come for some conversation and social time.

Meetings (*tentative*) for the year are as follows:

- September 17 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- October 15th – Mitzvah Day at Grow A Row - Meet at Temple for Brunch at 11:30, Mitzvah Day from 12-3 (location of farm TBD)
- November 19 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- January 7 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- March 11 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- May 6 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the 17th of September!

Alison Shelofsky

FROM THE TREASURER

Please note the new address to send payments or requests for reimbursements (especially if you pay through on-line banking): Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, c/o Andrew Shelofsky, 23 John Drive, Annandale, NJ 08801

TORAH STUDY

We are currently reading Deuteronomy. New participants are always welcome.

Our next meeting will be held on September 16th at 10:30am.

Updates & Events

DONATIONS

Towards the Edythe Herson Film Project

- Helen and John Mattson
- Rene Marinich
- Teri Stanton

In Honor and Memory of Maxwell Gross

- Martin and Susan Katz
- Klaire Katz and Family

In Loving Memory of Stan Waxman

- Debbie Kahan

On the Yahrzeit of David Tarlowe

- Laura and Paul Tarlowe

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Dates:

- September 10th
- September 17th

There will be NO Sunday School on
September 24th or October 1st

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20th

7:30 pm – Evening Service

Thursday, September 21st

9:30 am – Morning Service (Day 1)

Tashlich following service

Friday, September 22nd

9:30 am – Morning Service (Day 2)

Luncheon following service (Please RSVP to

Jeannie Berkowitz at berkowitz55@yahoo.com)

Yom Kippur

Friday, September 29th

7:30 pm – Kol Nidre Service

Saturday, September 30th

9:30 am – Morning Service & Yiskor

4:00 pm – Torah Study

5:15 pm – Neilah Service

Break-the-Fast following service (Please RSVP to

Jeannie Berkowitz at berkowitz55@yahoo.com)

HURRICANE RELIEF AID

In searching temples in Houston as a recipient of my donation to the recovery efforts, I found the Jewish Federation and a large Jewish community of not only 32 affiliates, but that number included synagogues, temples, yeshiva and other educational facilities that need help. Every little bit will help.

In the event that our members would like to bypass other organizations and choose a Jewish one, they can contribute to

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
5603 South Boulevard
Houston, TX 77096

and check out their website: www.houstonjewish.com

Updates & Events

ISRAEL TRIP

Congregational trip to Israel!

June 24 – July 6, 2018

Relive the history of our people in the place where it all happened!

Join us for a life changing, life enriching experience in Israel - the heartland of the Bible. Visit the places you have been hearing about, enjoy exciting and adventurous hiking and water experiences, all while visiting historic landmarks and sites of interest.

Visit the trip website at <http://www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx> to view:

- Promotional flyer (accenting the trip highlights) to share with extended friends and family you wish to invite.
- Detailed day-by-day trip itinerary.
- Registration process “how-to” document outlining important details as well as screen shots of what to expect and how to do each step of the process.

Looking forward to sharing this incredible opportunity with my synagogue family!

Sincerely, Lynne Kowski & Roy Loomis

P.S. if you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to email both Lynne (Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu) and Roy (rloomis@cherrybrook.com)

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will resume in October. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

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.



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Tues – Wed 9:30-5:15, Thurs – Fri 9:30-7:00, Sat
9:30-4:00 (9:30-2:00 During Summer)