



Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, Oct. 5, 8:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre - no Sunday School
- Monday, Oct. 6
9:30 a.m. - Yom Kippur
The synagogue will be open for Torah study in the afternoon
3:30 p.m - Family Service for Young Children
4:30 p.m. - Neilah/Havdalah, Break the Fast
Please call the office to RSVP for Breaking the Fast
- Saturday, Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study
- Sunday, Oct. 12, 11:00 a.m.
Sukkot Service/Sunday School
- Friday, Oct. 17, 7:45 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service
Simchat Torah
Oneg - Nagorsky, Orenstein, Sulvinski & Spallone families
- Sunday, Oct. 19
9:30 a.m. - Men's Club meeting
10:30 a.m. - Confirmation class
- Friday, Oct. 24, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat
Oneg - Marinich family
- Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:00 a.m.
Bar Mitzvah - Rory Marinich
- Sunday, Oct. 26, 10:45 a.m.
Adult Ed - Pirke Avot

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Check out the What's New section for latest updates!

Rabbi's Message

"If you can look at the stars and yawn, I created you in vain, says God" – Aaron Zeitlin, Yiddish poet.

There I was at midnight, standing in line next to total strangers who were also waiting to glimpse Mars through some kind of mega telescope. It felt like a replay of Close Encounters; first I wove around dark roads, feeling like I was the only human being for miles, then suddenly I drove around a bend and into a clearing where hundreds of people stood patiently waiting their turn. What drew us all to this place was the unusual circumstance of Mars being so close to us that we could see it with the naked eye.

We were just there to look, but how powerful it is to look. I was reminded of an account given by Rabbi Jack Riemer about a conversation between his friend Rabbi Arnold Turetsky and the rabbi's son as they were walking home from shul. It was fall; Rabbi Turetsky looked at the ground, hoping to pick up some beautiful fall leaves, and said to his son: "I guess there are no nice leaves today." His son said: "Yes, there are. You're looking in the wrong place. Look up instead of down and you'll see them." Sure enough, there were lots of nice leaves – still on the trees. He had to look up in order to see them.

At this time of year, we are reminded to look in the places we don't always look. There is so much to see. We look within ourselves, we look up at the heavens, we look into the faces of loved ones. The Hungarian poet Hannah Senesh once looked up at the heavens and was inspired to look both back and forward in time; "There are stars whose light reaches the earth only after they themselves have disintegrated. And there are individuals whose memory lights the world after they have passed from it. These lights shine in the darkest night and illumine for us the path..."

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President's Message

As I sit in my home tonight and listen to the winds of Isabel, I am reflecting on what the upcoming High Holy days mean to me. My earliest recollections of the holidays are that it was a time that my grandparents would come out from New York and spend time in synagogue with my parents, my brother and me. It was all about family and spirituality. From my mother's parents, who were much more religious than our family, I received an education in how to treat religion seriously. From my father's parents, I received a gift of how to enjoy life. And from my parents, I learned how to mix the two together. Who am I this holiday season? I am a grandson, a son, a husband, a father and a temple president. This season finds me at a place in my life where I am comfortable with whom I have become as an adult. I owe what I am to my wife, my family, my friends and the members of this congregation.

I am both humble and proud to represent this congregation. My spiritual home and my spiritual family is right here in the heart of Washington. May we share much joy and little sorrow with each other this coming year. You are all truly my second family. My wish for you all this year is that is be a healthy, sweet, happy, spiritually rewarding and prosperous year.

L'Shanah Tovah.

Howie Hirsch

Rabbi's Message, cont.

And we must also look at the misery in the world around us, lest we be blinded to the needs of others. Again in the words of Aaron Zeitlin:

“If you look at the stars and yawn, says God,
If you see suffering and don't cry out,
If you don't praise and don't revile,
Then I created you in vain, says God.”

May the introspection of these holidays lead us to light the world with our love and illumine the path with our deeds.

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

In my preparation for these high holy days, I was touched by a prayer from New Prayers for the High Holidays. I include it here so you can use it during the holy days and ask that you let me know whether you found it to be meaningful.

A PRAYER THE FAMILY CAN SAY TOGETHER AT HOME ON EREV YOM KIPPUR

Let us now make the confession that we so often feel, and so seldom say. We have done our share of evil along with the good that we do. Let us admit it, and may this admission prepare our hearts for the fast, just as this meal prepares our bodies.

We did not mean to do evil, but too often our failure to listen, to respond when we are called, to appreciate and to say thanks, caused more harm than any deliberate wrong could have done.

Frequently we acted in haste, wrongly, and to our sorrow. Many times our judgment was needlessly rash and harsh. We resorted to excuses many times, and we blamed others instead of ourselves.

We hurt most the ones we love the most. Therefore let us admit it, and let us say we are sorry. More than that, let us promise each other that we will try our best not to repeat our mistakes.

Let us now make up with each other, and resolve to love each other more than in the new year.

May God forgive us as we forgive each other, and may this be a good new year. Amen.

Yom Kippur Food Drive

We are having our annual Yom Kippur food drive. Please bring fresh non-perishable items to the temple before Yom Kippur to be donated to NORWESCAP, the local community food bank.

Adult Education Programs Fall 2003 and Early Winter 2004

Rabbi Lewis teaches Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Elders) Sunday mornings 10:45 sharp till noon: Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 23, Dec. 7. The ancient rabbis had lots to teach. Our modern rabbi has lots to teach us about them. Come and study. Call Sharon Herson if you plan to be in this class; call Rabbi Lewis if you have questions about it.

In January, three sessions on the Shabbat liturgy are planned (January 4, 18, and 25). Same Sunday morning time as above. Learn more about our Friday night and Saturday morning liturgy, why we say what we do and where the prayers come from.

Torah study is led by all the group members together. It works. As we begin our sixth year, going at our own pace, we are nearing the end of Genesis. We meet monthly on Saturday morning, from 10:30 to 12:30 or so. Anyone interested in lively text-based (Torah) discussion (without “homework”) is welcome to attend. At the October session, we will probably be finishing the story of Joseph. Meeting dates through January: October 11, November 15, December 13, January 17.

Mitzvah Project: We Need Your Help!

Three of our Bar Mitzvah boys are volunteering at the Morristown food kitchen for their Bar Mitzvah social action project. They are looking to collect winter coats for the needy. Please contact the office to donate.

Families of College Students

Your son/daughter attending college away from home can receive a little "sunshine" from The Jewish Center. Our Sunshine/Outreach Program will send out L'Shanah Tovah cards and Hanukkah and Purim care packages. Please contact the office with your child's current college address.

AT&T Cares Grant

Are you a current or former AT&T employee? If you are, any time that you volunteer to the temple can be used for a team grant from AT&T. Please contact the office if you qualify. We can earn up to \$5,000 a year.

Education Committee and PTO News

On **Sunday, October 12**, we will be celebrating Sukkot and honoring our new students at a consecration ceremony.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer for our fundraiser. Once again we're offering the award-winning pie mixes from Taste of Gourmet. What a delicious way to support the school! Orders are due by October 26.

Next meeting will be **Sunday, October 26**. Don't miss it - our meetings are a real social event!

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who contributed their time and energy for the planning and execution of our High Holiday services. Thank you, participants, especially the Torah readers, for enriching our services. You help create a very special and spiritual enhancement for our congregants and guests.

Special thanks to Debra Knobelman for sending the holiday invitations and the participation slips and fielding the changes that had to be made.

Thanks to Ron Seidorf for taking the responsibility of assigning ushers for each of the services for the holidays. Thanks to Sharon Herson for her participation in the general planning of the holiday services.

Thanks to Eric Edelstein for his ritual knowledge and expertise.

Thanks to Judy May for updating the yahrzeit list for the year.

Thanks to Robin Hall for assigning Oneg hosts and hostesses for Shabbat and especially Erev Rosh Hashanah.

And, thank you, Rabbi Lewis, for your spiritual leadership of our Shabbat and high holiday services.

The Ritual Committee

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

ShopRite and A&P script can be purchased at Sunday School/Confirmation Class on the following dates:

October 5, 19	February 1, 22
November 2, 16	March 7, 21
December 7	April 4, 18
January 4, 18	May 2, 16

Alternatively, please call Sandy Seidorf at 908-730-9769 to make arrangements to purchase.

High Holy Day Greetings

To our Temple Friends, from Leslie and Murray Heller
To the congregation: Wishing everyone a sweet 5764, filled with good health and peace, The Ballenberg Family

Flower Fund

Leslie and Murray Heller, The Resker Family

If you have not sent in your names for Yiskor, please call the office.

JEWISH LIFE

Sunday, October 26 at 10am, Ruth Patt of the Jewish Historical Society of Central New Jersey will discuss "Jewish Women Breaking Barriers." Join us for Ruth's presentation and brunch. \$10/ Jewish LIFE members, \$15/non-members and includes bagel breakfast; guests are always welcome.

On Sunday, November 2 at 7pm Yossi Klein Halevi will present, "Is the Palestinian Problem Solvable?" Join Mr. Halevi who has been active in Mid-East reconciliation efforts, as he explores this compelling issue. Yossi Klein Halevi is contributing editor and Israel correspondent of the New Republic and a columnist for the Jerusalem Post. Sponsorship opportunities for this event are available for \$100 that include two tickets to the program and admission to a wine and cheese reception with Mr. Halevi prior to his presentation. \$18/Jewish LIFE members /\$36/non-members.

Jewish LIFE and the Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey present David Greene on Thursday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m: "Musicians, Jews and Anti-Semitism." \$7/Jewish LIFE members/\$10/non-members.

Programs are at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater unless otherwise noted. To register or for further information, contact Laura Friedman, Assistant Executive Director, at 908-725-6994 x213 or e-mail LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

Donations

Simchas:

Brian and Helene Friedlander, simcha leaf in honor of Chelsea's bat mitzvah

Yahrzeits and Memorials

Linda and Jim Arvesen, donation in memory of Zelda Marcovitch, mother of Edythe Herson

Allen and Dona Schneider, donation to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Matty Schneider

Ron and Sandy Seidorf: Yahrzeit of Herbert Seidorf

Ed and Cheryl Orenstein: Yahrzeit Harold Dorfman

Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles: in memory of Paul Leitner

The congregation mourns the passing of member Paul Leitner.

The congregation extends its condolences to:

Colson Hall, on the loss of his mother, Mari Hall

Cindy Rosborough, on the loss of her mother

The deadline for October's issue will be October 18.

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

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Email _____

Address _____

I/We would like to make a contribution of _____

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