



Mark Your Calendar!

- Monday, Oct. 3, 8:00 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah -
- Tuesday, Oct. 4
Rosh Hashanah
8:30 a.m. Family Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Service
Tashlich follows
- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.
Rosh Hashanah
- Sunday, Oct. 9
Confirmation class first day
- Wednesday, Oct. 12, 8:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre
- Thursday, Oct. 13,
9:30 a.m. Yom Kippur
3:30 p.m. Family Service
4:30 p.m. Neilah/Break the Fast
- Saturday, Oct 15
Torah Study, 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Oct 16
Pirke Avot, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
- Monday, Oct 17 - Board Mtg
- Friday, Oct. 21, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service - Oneg:
- Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:00 a.m.
B'nai Mitzvah
- Sunday, Oct. 23, 11:00 a.m.
Sukkot Consecration Family
Service
- Wed., Oct. 26, 6:00 p.m.
Simchat Torah
Family Dinner & Service.
Oneg -

Rabbi's Message

It seems like disasters always happen in September. I say "it seems like" because that actually isn't true. While Hurricane Katrina occurred in September, the tsunami occurred in December. The bombing in London happened in August. What is different in September is not the frequency of catastrophes but our own awareness of these disasters. Our awareness is heightened this time of year. The months of Elul and Tishri invite us to contemplate life and death. We think more about "who shall live and who shall die, who by fire and who by water," as the *unetanneh tokef* intones. This yearly self-reflection leads inevitably to the same conclusion: this is the only life you have and it is your choice how to live it. The following story offers a graphic illustration.

A foolish young student wanted to embarrass his rabbi by asking him an unsolvable riddle. With a hand hidden behind his back, he approached the rabbi during class time. He had devised a wicked scheme. "Rabbi," he said, "I am holding a dove in my hand. Can you tell me if it is alive or dead?"

The rabbi thought carefully. If he were to reply, "The bird is dead," then the student would simply bring out his hand to show everyone that the dove was alive. If the rabbi were to reply, "The bird is alive," however, then the student would close his hand around the dove and crush it. The student smiled as he thought to himself, "There is no way the rabbi can solve this puzzle."

The rabbi closed his eyes and, after a few moments, opened them and spoke. "My young friend," he said to the student, "You have presented us with a very difficult puzzle indeed. In your hand, you are holding a life. Choose well what you will do with it. The answer to your question lies in your hand alone." (Adapted from Steve Rosman, *Sidrah Stories*)

Like that young student, your choices lie in your hands. As this new year begins, I pray that you make good ones.

Shana tova.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

President's Message

NEVER AGAIN. How often do we use those words to describe the Holocaust? Do we remind ourselves that we must be diligent in searching out those who seek the destruction of a people? If we are ignorant of a situation and we hear of it, we must do our best to become informed. And once informed, we must act. There is a crisis in Darfur where people are being annihilated. As people of conscience, we need to educate ourselves and do what we can to help. Being a Jew is not to be passive, but to participate in "Tikkun Olam," the repair of the world.

I was very proud of the efforts of the congregation to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. A special thanks to Laverne Pollak, Iris Hirsch, Bonnie Kelly and the members of the NFTY group for making this happen.

My wish for you this year is that you enjoy good health, enjoy your family and friends and be able to find peace within yourself. It is my honor to serve you.

Shalom,
Howie

President's Message, cont.

First they came for the Jews

First they came for the Jews
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for the Communists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for me
and there was no one left
to speak out for me.

Pastor Martin Niemöller

High Holiday Reminders for the Sanctuary

This year we are asking the local police and the State Police to make continuous drive bys for our security and protection. We are also continuing practices instituted in previous years for security reasons:

1. The lobby area must be kept clear and quiet in consideration for guests in the rear classroom. *No one is to stand in the lobby area during the service except the ushers.*
2. Unless you have a personal emergency that requires you to leave the sanctuary, please do not move around when the congregation is standing and singing—e.g., during the Barchu, the Amidah, etc., when the cantor is singing (and the congregation may be seated), particularly during the *Unetanneh Tokef* or the *Kol Nidre*; during the rabbi's sermon; when the ark is open; during the aliyot; or during the reading of the Torah, whether by the rabbi or members.
3. If you leave the sanctuary, please inform the usher whether or not you will be returning.
4. Please do not walk into the rabbi's office if the door is closed.
5. Please arrive on time for services and fill the front rows of the sanctuary first. This enables the services to flow without interruption; when the ushers move visitors in from the classrooms, it is preferable to have available seating in the back, rather than in the front, of the sanctuary.

Yom Kippur Reminders/Break-the-Fast

We will once again be collecting food to donate to those less fortunate. Please bring non-perishable foods when you attend services for Kol Nidre or Yom Kippur.

It has become our custom in recent years to hold a community pot-luck Break-the-Fast. We will do so again this year following the Nielah service on Yom Kippur. All are welcome. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Simcha room during the Oneg following Erev Rosh Hashanah services, Monday, October 3rd or any time on the first or second days of Rosh Hashanah. If you can help with setting up or if you have questions, call Helen Mattson at the Temple.

Construction Update

As of September 20, the shaft for the lift has passed the building inspection and sheetrocking began on the 21st. The delivery date of the lift will change due to some delays with the building inspector. By the time you read this, the roof over the porch will hopefully be complete with the new railings installed. The front steps have been rebuilt and are beautiful. The front classroom has been made smaller to accommodate the lift and is complete.

Howie

Sukkot Service

Once again we will be setting up the Sukkah for the full week of Sukkot. Come celebrate the holiday by enjoying a meal with your friends and family in the Sukkah one afternoon or evening (don't forget candles/flashlights!). A sign-up sheet will be available during the High Holidays to reserve a time. Set-up will be **Sunday morning, October 16**, and any help will be appreciated. The service is Sunday, October 23 at 11:00am.

Simchat Torah Celebration

Reminder to all to sign up for the Simchat Torah buffet dinner on **Wednesday, October 26**. Please call Laura Tarlowe at the Temple to tell her what you are bringing. Plan to arrive at 5:45 p.m. with your dish ready to serve. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the service following at 7:00 p.m. An Oneg will follow the conclusion of the service. This is a fun evening, great for children - not much sitting but a lot of singing and marching in the aisles with flags and the Torahs.

Shabbat Kristallnacht

Join us **Friday, November 4 at 7:45 p.m.** as we remember Kristallnacht. Jackie Sutton, Educational Consultant at Drew University, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will be our guest speaker. Ms. Sutton is currently completing her Doctor of Letters program at Drew, with a certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Education. Her awards include: New Jersey Governor's Teacher Award, Axelrod Award (from NJ Commission on Holocaust Education and the Anti Defamation League), and Lavin-Keats Social Justice Award.

A Taste of Judaism - for Your Unaffiliated Friends and Family

There's still time to tell your family and friends to register for *A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?* This program, sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community, will be taught by Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis at our Center. The course is FREE and is open to unaffiliated Jews, as well as to interfaith couples in our own congregation. Please take advantage of this opportunity to reach out to your extended family members, future in-laws, neighbors and friends, and offer them a "Taste" of what makes Judaism so special right here in our own community. Each two-hour ses-

sion explores a different aspect of Judaism: the spiritual, the ethical, and the communal. Please ask interested persons to contact Sharon Herson, who is acting as coordinator for the Taste of Judaism program. Classes will meet on Sundays at 12:30, on November 20, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11. Although there is no charge for the series, registration is necessary. Deadline for registration is November 7. Light lunch will be served.

Other Adult Programs

Torah Study: This continuing Shabbat morning study group assembles monthly to wrestle, as Jacob did, with the meaning of Torah. Newcomers are welcome; the only requirement is participation (no homework). The text of Exodus will be the topic for discussion during 2005–2006. Meeting dates (check with Sharon Herson [sharonherson@comcast.net] if you are coming for the first time or if you missed the last meeting): Saturday mornings—Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 15, May 13, June–Aug. TBA. Starting time is 10:30 a.m., ending time is usually 12:30-1:00 p.m.

Pirke Avot: This collection of very short texts, The Sayings of the Elders, provides an endless source of both wisdom and controversy. Join in the text-based discussion that bears on everyday life and decision-making in the modern world. Take full advantage of our gifted teacher, Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis, who will guide us in understanding these rabbinic aphorisms and help us decide how/if they apply to our own lives. The course, for adult members of the congregation, requires simply a desire to study and participate in lively discussion. No homework is required, though if you are willing to read a little outside of class, you will receive benefits without measure. Upcoming dates: Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 5, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 19, April 30. Let Rabbi Lewis know if you plan to attend.

Education Committee and PTO News

School is off to a great start! Our children have come eager to learn and are busy studying the High Holidays. We will be celebrating Sukkot on **Sunday, October 23**, and need help putting up the Sukkah on **Sunday, October 16**.

Our first PTO meeting will be **Sunday, October 2** at 9:30am. Come and relax, enjoy coffee and snacks, while we plan for the upcoming year.

Please note the time correction for the Sunday School Lay service on Feb. 24. It will be at 7:00 p.m.

Back by Popular Supply

While cleaning out the Temple for the renovation, we came across the world-famous Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Cookbook! If you haven't purchased one yet, here's your chance. Try wonderful recipes from your fellow members and friends here at the Jewish Center (Ed. note: the Rabbi's cous cous salad is delicious!). The cookbooks cost \$5 each and are available when Sunday School is in session or by calling Lisa Bauch.

Donations

Thank you for your donations to our High Holiday flower fund: Howie & Iris Hirsch

Mazel Tov to the Kunzman family on the upcoming B'nai Mitzvah of Julie & Sam.

Updates to the Membership List

Welcome to new members:

Allen & Sherry Onweller and family, Hackettstown
Sue & William McNamara and family, Long Valley
Lynne & Bill Kowski, Washington

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Introduction to Judaism

Introduction to Judaism is a hands-on course that introduces beginners to the basics of Jewish thought and practice. The class runs 16-26 weeks (depending on location) and presents a mix of study, discussion and practical experiences designed for all interested in exploring a Jewish life for themselves — inter-faith couples, non-Jews considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level basics. Topics include Jewish holidays and life cycle events, theology and prayer, Israel, history and Hebrew. For more information, visit urj.org/njwhvc/outreach or call 201-722-9090.

Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE presents two programs in November. Rabbi Moshe Herson will be the guest speaker on



Sunday, November 13 at 7 p.m. Rabbi Herson's topic will be "The Hassidic Journey: From the Baal Shem Tov to the Lubavitch." The fee is \$10/Jewish LIFE Member and \$15/Guest. Rabbi Ron Isaacs presents "Judaism Magic and Superstition" on Wednesday, November 30 at 1 p.m. This program is free to Jewish LIFE Members and \$5/Guest.

Both November programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater. RSVP to JCC Assistant Executive Director Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

Birthright Israel

The Winter 2005-06 Taglit Birthright Israel trip called KESHER Israel Connection has opened its registration. The trip is a free 10 day trip to Israel for people between the ages of 18 and 26 who have never been to Israel on a peer-organized trip before (USY, NFTY, etc).

The KESHER trip tours Israel within the context of Reform/Progressive Judaism. Register now! Visit the website at www.keshernet.com/birthright/registration.

Berman Center

The Berman Center is bringing two award-winning Jewish authors, one American and the other Israeli, to Lehigh University in November.

On Wednesday, November 2, at 4:15 p.m. in 480

Maginnes, Janice Eidus will read from her work and discuss what it means to be a Jewish American woman writer. She is the author of four highly acclaimed novels and short-story collections. Her new novel, *The War of the Rosens*, about an eccentric Jewish family in the Bronx, will be published in 2006. For more information, call the Berman Center at 610 758-3352 or visit www.lehigh.edu/~inber/programs.html.

On Monday, November 14, also at 4:15 p.m. in 480 Maginnes, Israeli writer Savyon Liebrecht will read from and discuss her works including her newest book, *A Good Place for the Night*. She will speak about being the child of survivors,

which is one of the main issues in her books, and how it has affected her writing. Haaretz has called her "a kind of signpost of modern Hebrew prose."

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the November newsletter will be October 18. .

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