



Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.
Kol Nidre
No Sunday School in the morning
- Monday, October 2
Yom Kippur
9:30 a.m. Service
3:15 p.m. Torah Study
3:30 p.m. Family Service
4:30 p.m. Neilah
Break-the-Fast following service
- Friday, October 6, 7:45 p.m.
Erev Sukkot Shabbat Service
- Sunday, October 8, 9:30 a.m.
Men's Club meeting
- Sunday, October 15, 9:30 a.m.
Simchat Torah Service
Consecration of new students
- Friday, October 20, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, October 21
10:30 a.m. Torah Study
- Sunday, October 22
10:45 a.m. Pirke Avot

Rabbi's Message

We are a hopeful people. How else would we have survived all that has happened to us? And yet, when you look around you, it is hard to feel hopeful. We live in a world torn apart by war, AIDS, natural disaster, and global warming. How do we maintain hope in an age of hopelessness?

The prophet Jeremiah asked the same question. He lived in the time of the first Temple in Jerusalem, a time when Jerusalem was besieged by Babylonia. He always hoped that if he preached God's message, God's voice would be heard despite the political and social conflict of his time. But this hope, too, was taken away from him when God told him: You must tell the people the truth, but you also should know that you will fail. No matter what you say, they will be deaf to your words.

Jeremiah ended up in prison for his message. Although his fellow Jews were escaping to Egypt and he himself was to be taken there as a captive, he did something that seemed inexplicable at the time. His uncle offered to sell him a piece of land in Anatot, his home city. As a relative, Jeremiah had the redemption-right to buy the land and keep it in the family. Despite the impending destruction of the Temple and exile of the Jewish people, Jeremiah bought the land. He knew that he would never live on it, but his act was a symbol of hope in a time of despair. It said: We still have hope of returning to our land, although we don't know when.

Even when he felt hopeless, Jeremiah acted as if he had hope. Sometimes hope grows

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President's Message

I have just settled in after the Rosh Hashanah holiday. The services were extremely warm this year. Our turnout was wonderful, especially on the second day as we marched across route 31 to cast away our sins in the river. Our new student cantor, Marcy Kadin, was simply marvelous and I always get a lump in my throat watching the lay Torah readers. Of all the things that we do as a congregation, that is the one that always gets me. It is such an honor to read from the Torah, that no matter how many times I do it, I still get nervous. My turn is not until next week, but I got to watch the Rosh Hashanah readers show reverence and respect for the Torah, and it truly is awe inspiring.

As we begin the new year, it is a time of reflection to look back and also look ahead. I feel pretty proud of what this congregation has been able to accomplish in the past few years. We are on our third year of having a part time cantor, we have a wonderful religious school. Our building is almost completely handicapped accessible (the Bimah is still not handicapped accessible and we need to rectify that situation very soon). Our restroom is handicapped accessible, and if you had a few moments to look around the building, we have made numerous changes under the design of Gwen Nagorsky, who is in the process of transforming our little shul into a warmer and more welcoming place in which to worship and study.

My wish for the New Year is that you become involve in our community. I have found out over the past years of being your president that the more you put of yourself into this organization, the more you get out of it.

L'Shanah Tovah

Howie

Rabbi's Message, cont.

out of our actions. We are a people who believe in miracles but we also believe: Pray as if everything depended upon God, act as if everything depended upon you.

May we live with hope in this coming new year.

May our despair not prevent us from acting as if everything depended upon us.

May our faith support us in times that look bleak.

May Jeremiah's action remind us that there is always the possibility of redemption in the world and in our lives.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

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. These are incorporated in the reminders below.

1. The lobby area must be kept clear and quiet. 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 is important because it enables the services to flow without interruption: when the ushers move visitors in from the classroom, it is preferable to have available seating in the back, rather than in the front, of the sanctuary.

Break-the-Fast

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. Teri Stanton will be fielding the food donations to be sure that there are a variety of dishes to satisfy the "fasters." If you can also help with setting up, please check that box.

Sukkah & Simchat Torah

After other successful years we are again putting up the Sukkah on Sunday October 1 to get ready for Sukkot on Friday, October 6. The Oneg may take place in the Sukkah, weather permitting. You and your family may plan to eat a meal with another family or two in the Sukkah until October 15. You will

have to bring everything you need with you. It's a great experience. It will be decorated by the children on Sunday, October 8.

Sunday October 15 at 9:30am we will be celebrating Simchat Torah with singing, dancing, klezmer music, and also the consecration of new students.

Upcoming Events

Men's Club will be on **October 8 at 9:30 am**. Please contact Howie if you will be coming so we can plan the correct amount of food.

On **November 3**, we will have a VERY SPECIAL guest speaker, Margit Feldman. Margit is a Holocaust survivor, author, and eloquent speaker. Margit is a tireless worker on behalf of spreading the story of the Holocaust. She is a survivor of both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. She is the author of "Margit: A Teenagers Journey through the Holocaust and Beyond." By an uncanny coincidence, Margit was born on the same day and in the same year as Anne Frank and was very likely in Bergen-Belsen when Anne died there. She feels, in a real sense, a special connection to Anne Frank, but she also feels linked to many others who did not live to tell their own stories. Her life's work is to speak for those who did not survive.

On **October 11 at 7pm** will be Mr. Ludwig Knapp, author of *Growing Up Under Hitler: I Was There*, at 7 p.m. at the Long Valley Public Library on Springtown Road.

Dear Friends,

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 child 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 very 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, or eating in the classrooms, or playing in 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.

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.

The Board of Directors of the JCNWJ

Adult Programs

Adult Education classes taught by Rabbi Ellen Lewis will continue to discuss the wisdom found in *Pirke Avot*. All adult congregants are welcome to attend and participate. There is no "homework" and you don't need to have come last year.

Classes meet Sunday mornings from 10:45 to noon: October 22, November 19, December 10, January 7, February 11, March 18, and May 6.

Torah study: The first Torah study of the new year will be on the afternoon of Yom Kippur (October 2). The Saturday

morning Torah study group will resume on October 21.

Monthly discussions are held from 10:30 to 12:30 or so. New participants are welcome. The group studies at its own pace, not following the schedule of the weekly portion, and will be studying the Book of Exodus during 2006-2007. The following Saturday mornings are the expected dates: October 21, November 11, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 14, May 12, June 16.

Education Committee and PTO News

There will be no school on **Sunday, October 1** (Kol Nidre). On **October 8**, join us in the Sukkah as the children decorate and celebrate! Our next PTO meeting will also be on that date. We will be celebrating Simchat Torah on **October 15** at with singing, dancing, klezmer music, and also the consecration of new students.

From Rabbi Lewis:

1. Many thanks for giving a presentation on the history of the present conflict in Israel. They presented it to the school on opening day with parents and children both present. Also, thank you to the Weiner/Margolin family for donating the cords to hook up a laptop to the TV. We now have the capacity for future such presentations.

2. Also, many thanks for coming to talk to the school on opening day. Steve discussed the trip he and Hannah took to Israel this summer. They were there at the height of Israel's fighting with Hezbollah. He put a personal face on otherwise abstract facts and statistics.

3. The Temple looks sparkling clean because Gwen organized a massive effort this summer. Everything has been organized, trash has been disposed of, old furniture has been repurposed (the desk in the front classroom was the old table from our kitchen before it was refinished by Gwen's father), new bookshelves and cabinets have appeared, pictures have been hung poke around and be impressed. We can't thank Gwen enough.

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

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Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey and mail to:
JCNWJ, c/o Paul May, 57 Philhower Road, Lebanon 08833.

Thanks

A world of thanks to all the members of the congregation who sent their expression of sympathy on the passing of Sandy's sister. We are comforted by the wonderful memories, and grateful to all of you for your kindness and friendship.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Jewish LIFE is pleased to welcome New York Yankee Ron Blomberg, author of *Designated Hebrew*, on Sunday, October 22 at 7 p.m. In addition to being the first designated hitter in the history of Major League Baseball, he was also the first significant Jewish player for the NY Yankees. (Book signing to follow discussion.) Abigail Pogrebin, author of *The Stars of David, Prominent Jews Talk*, will be the featured speaker on October 26 at 7:30 p.m. Natalie Portman, Steven Spielberg, Mike Wallace, Neil Simon and Congressman Barney Frank are among dozens of newsmakers who spoke frankly with Ms. Pogrebin about being Jewish.

The Jewish LIFE brochure is available at Jewish LIFE synagogues and the JCC, and is on line at www.ssbjcc.org/Jlife.htm. For further information, call 908-725-6994 x201.

Friday, October 27, 2006

Regional Biennial, Parsippany Hilton Hotel

Pre-Biennial Program - 9:00-1:30pm

(open to synagogue professionals and lay leaders)

2:00-4:30pm Biennial Symposium on Hunger