



Mark Your Calendar!

- Sunday, Oct. 5,
9:30am Sunday School, Music
10:45am Adult Ed/Pirke Avot
- Sunday, Oct. 12, 9:30am
Sunday School (K/1)
Sukkot Service
- Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:30am
Torah Study
- Sunday, Oct. 19, 9:30am
Sunday School, (K/1)
Simchat Torah, Consecration
- Friday, Oct. 24, 7:45pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Webb family
- Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:00am
Bat Mitzvah of Autumn Webb
- Sunday, Oct. 26,
9:30am Sunday School,
Confirmation, Music
Noon, New member lunch with
the Board

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Monday, Sept. 29, 8:00pm
Erev Rosh Hashana
Oneg: Seidorf, Kowski, Lettore,
Arvesen families
- Tuesday, Sept. 30
Rosh Hashana
8:30am Family Service
9:30am Adult Service
- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9:30am
Rosh Hashana 2nd Day Service
- Wednesday, Oct. 8, 8:00pm
Kol Nidre
- Thursday, Oct. 9
9:30am Yom Kippur
3:15pm Torah Study
3:30pm Family Service
4:30pm Neilah
Break-the-Fast follows service

Rabbi's Message

On September 11, 2001, I was not in my usual Tuesday location in my Greenwich Village office. I would have been there but I had stayed home to write High Holiday sermons. My sister called me and said, "Turn on the TV." Along with countless others, I watched the events unfold in "real" time.

I am writing as I sit on my usual train heading into Penn Station, NY. There is nothing notable about this day except that it is September 11, seven years later. I left my house before the New York Times was thrown onto my driveway, so I haven't seen the headlines yet. Is it my imagination, or is the train quieter than usual? One of my New York patients canceled her appointment today because she didn't want to ride the subway on 9/11. Another didn't schedule an appointment for her daughter because she felt "superstitious" about 9/11. Logically there is nothing that can happen today that couldn't have happened yesterday or might not happen tomorrow. But when things feel out of control, we try to protect ourselves in ways that often seem illogical. We skirt ladders on the sidewalk and avoid walking behind a black cat. We construct our lives as a defense against chaos.

The truth is hard to accept, that the world is a dangerous place. Yes, there are things we can do to make the world safer, but no one and nothing can protect us from living in that precarious space between life and death. These holidays remind us every year that unpredictable events will befall us. "Who shall live and who shall

continued on next page

President's Message

The cover of The New Union Prayer Book indicates "For the Days of Awe." When the text inside contains passages such as "who shall live and who shall die," we certainly understand the implications of the writing on the cover. Does this contradict our general belief, and hope, that we have free will that we can exercise? No, because in the ten days from Rosh Hashana until Yom Kippur we have time and free will to celebrate the birth and rebirth of the world. We can actively participate with REPENTANCE, PRAYER and CHARITY (teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah).

So where does that leave us? Well, I thought you would never ask! Look at what some of our members have done this year with real-life activities that IMHO constitute an awesome example of free will for the good of our Center, *teshuvah*, *tefilah* and *tzedakah*. AJ Seidorf and his Boy Scout colleagues helped paint most of the first floor of our Temple. Not only was labor involved, but the organization of many hours of volunteer time. Maureen O'Leary visited and reported on the Paper Clip Museum in Whitwell, TN

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper_Clips_Project). It is wonderful that a new member makes such a memorable journey and memorable presentation.

Our members perform similar acts in the course of their daily lives, most of which goes unrecognized. Our Board members go above the call of duty to sustain our Center. Bringing *teshuvah*, *tefilah* and *tzedakah* to our everyday lives is not that difficult. Just look around and say hello to your neighbor in the sanctuary, and you will most likely find an appropriate role model.

Shalom,
Jim Arvesen

die?” asks the *Unetaneh tokef*, “Who by fire and who by water?” The headlines every year seem to anticipate this prayer. This week, we see hurricanes in Texas. Next week, it will be something else. Our prayers also tell us: Repent one day before your death. You ask: How do I know when it is one day before my death? And the answer is, you don’t. And so you are told by inference to live each day as if it were your last on earth. Live fully and love fully, because this day is the only day you have.

As I write, the man across the aisle has begun talking on his cell phone. Normally, I would feel annoyed. Today on 9/11/08, I find it oddly comforting to see that he is conducting business as usual. And as I leave the train, the conductor makes one brief announcement: “Remember, today is 9/11,” he says: “Have a nice day.” That is the right thing to say, I muse; remember and go on.

As we enter 5769 together, we pray for renewed strength to face what the year will bring and renewed inspiration to live life to its fullest. May you all be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Tzedakah

Before lighting my Shabbat candles, I reach to put money into my JNF (Jewish National Fund) Blue Box. Then, the memory of my grandmother’s tin *tzedakah* boxes flood my memory. I think of those boxes that clung to the pantry wall in her kitchen. They were tiny boxes, the size of present-day spice boxes you would get at the grocery store. Can you imagine what paltry sum they could hold? Yet, it wasn’t the quantity of the money inside, but the quality of the donation that really counted. And, here I am thinking about the two pennies she handed me to put in the boxes. It wasn’t the quantity of the donation but the quality of the deed. My grandmother died over fifty years ago and this memory is indelible.

What story do you have? What *tzedalah* memory are you fostering in your family, with your children? How do we even know what to give and when it’s appropriate to give *tzedakah*?

We usually think of *tzedakah* in response to a request for a donation. Currently, Americans are donating to the URJ Disaster Relief or the American Red Cross in response to the destruction in the wake of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. After being given “the envelope” on Yom Kippur, members of the Jewish Center respond by making our High Holiday pledge to the temple. Many of us have the stalwart JNF Blue Box adorning a shelf somewhere in our homes. But when or what is appropriate? How much? How often?

Think of it this way: If something wonderful happens to you or to someone in your family, put \$ 5.00 (more or less) in the box. If you say a public or secret prayer that someone in your family recovers from an illness, send *Chai*, \$ 18.00 (or multiples), to the Jewish Center. Like

chicken soup, it can’t hurt. If your child makes the honor roll, stars in a play, makes the sports team he/she is longing to join, put another \$ 5.00 in the *tzedakah* box. When you are preparing for Shabbat or Yom Tov and it’s time to light the candles, give *tzedakah*. When you receive a notice of a *yahrzeit* for a beloved family member, Kaddish will be said by Rabbi Lewis and the congregation whether you are there to do it yourself or not. Send *Chai* to the Jewish Center. Other occasions are birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions—and the list goes on. Any time you make a silent prayer to God, it is always a good time to follow up with an act of charity. Jews throughout the years have always had little tin boxes, like the JNF ones you know and have, and like my grandmother had in her pantry doorway, to put in the coins that followed a prayer to God. Won’t you please continue this time-honored tradition and teach it to your children to pass on to their children.

Where would we be without tradition, chicken soup and *tzedakah*?

Helen Mattson

New Members—Save the Date: Oct. 26

What: Lunch with the board of the JCNWJ. Meet the board, ask questions, schmooze, eat good food. The whole family is invited.

When: Sunday, Oct. 26, noon (right after Sunday School)

Where: simcha room, JCNWJ

Welcome New Members

Tracey and Mo Bauer

Rita Berkowitz (wife of Jerrold)

Wendy Gutkin

Juniper and Scott Leifer

Susannah and Brett Schaffer

Nancy and Chris Siedelhofer

Religious School/PTO Events

Hebrew School got off to a Great Start - thank you to everyone who helped make things run smoothly. A BIG welcome to our new Hebrew School families and students -- Bauer, Leifer, Siedelhofer, Schaffer and Koch.

On October 12 we will celebrate Sukkot - the PTO will decorate our Sukkah and the kids will cut down lots of goodies after the service. October 19th is our Simchat Torah/Consecration service. Confirmation class meets on October 26.

Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for November 2.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

Guest Speaker for Kristallnacht Commemoration, November 7

Our annual commemoration of Kristallnacht will be part of the Shabbat evening service on November 7. Our guest, Dr. Susan Lederman, Professor of Public Administration at Kean University, will speak on the topic "Broken Glass and a Broken World: Reflections of a Hidden Child on the Holocaust." Dr. Lederman has served as Director of Kean's Master of Public Administration Program and as the founding Executive Director of the Gateway Institute for Regional Development. She has been on the faculty at the University since 1977. Dr. Lederman is also a past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (1990–92) and served as the president of the New Jersey League of Women Voters. She holds leadership positions in various civic organizations and is serving or has served on several state commissions. She is a past president of Temple Sinai (1993–94). Susan Lederman holds an A.B. degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University. Born in Bratislava, Slovakia, she survived the Holocaust as a hidden child and immigrated with her parents to the United States in 1948. She and her husband reside in New Providence, New Jersey.

Oneg Shabbat Procedural Update

This is to inform you of a new procedure in the notification process for your upcoming Oneg Shabbat. In the past, as you all know, every family received written notice about their upcoming Oneg. Now, only the lead family (the first one on the chart) will receive the information. The lead family will then call the other two or three families involved and give them their aliyah assignments as well as what needs to be brought for the Oneg dessert. The Religious Practices Committee is making the change in an attempt to conserve resources (paper, stamps, time, etc.).

Note that the Yahrzeit list for the full year will be found on the long table on the bima. Pull the correct date and place it on the podium for the Rabbi. Be sure to turn on the memorial light for anyone who has a plaque. If someone has a plaque, there will be a number next to the name; L, M, and R indicate the left, right, and middle memorial boards, respectively.

Remember that if you are unable to meet your Oneg Shabbat obligation on the date assigned, it is your responsibility both to find a substitute and to inform the lead person in your group and me. If there is sufficient time, I will inform the newsletter editor of the change.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Jennifer Rosenblum
Religious Practices Committee

Adult Education

Rabbi Lewis's Adult Education class, studying *Pirke Avot*, will meet Sunday mornings from 10:45 to noon on the following dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, March 22, and April 26. The class is open to all members. This is your opportunity to exchange ideas with other congregants under the leadership of a superb teacher. You don't have to have been in the class last year to join now. Contact Rabbi Lewis before the first class if you would like to come.

Torah Study

Torah study meets monthly on Saturday mornings for about two hours, starting at 10:30. We are a lay-led group. Discussion is always lively. Everyone is welcome.
Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 14, April 25, May 16, June 20.

Congregational Greetings

Blanche and Marvin Davidson - L'shanah tovah to all JCNWJ members

Eric Edelstein - Best wishes to the entire Congregation

Charlotte Fels - A good, happy, healthy New Year to everyone

The Goldner/Post Family - To the Rabbi and Congregation, l'shanah tovah

Karl, Marsha, Max, and Heather Gross - Greetings to the entire JCNWJ congregation

Marsha Gross - To my friends at the Jewish Center (you know who you are):

L'shanah tovah – you mean so much to me!

To Rabbi Lewis, Cantor Kadin, the Board of Trustees, and the Education Committee:

L'shanah tovah – you're the BEST!

Leslie and Murray Heller - Happy New Year to all Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, and Edythe Herson - Shanah Tovah to all the congregation. May 5769 be the year of peace!

The Jordans - L'shanah tovah to the JCNWJ Family

The Kowski Family - L'shanah tovah to all

The Longenecker Family - Best wishes to the entire congregation

Helen and John Mattson - Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

Jan Romanczyk - L'shanah tovah to one and all Rona and Stanley Schick - Best wishes to all the members of the Jewish Center

Risa and Al Smith - L'shanah tovah to all

The Sonzogni Family - L'shanah tovah to all

The Tarlowe Family - Wishing the congregation of JCNWJ peace, health and happiness in the New Year

Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein - L'shanah tovah to everyone

A grateful thank you to all the members of the congregation who enhanced our High Holy Day observances with their contributions to the Flower Fund.

Michael Alper
The Bauch Family
Tracey and Mo Bauer
Blanche and Marvin Davidson
Eric Edelstein
The Goldner/Post Family
Karl, Marsha, Max, and Heather Gross
Leslie and Murray Heller
Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, and Edythe Herson
The Jordans
Rabbi Ellen Lewis
The Longenecker Family
The Marinich Family
Helen and John Mattson
Judy and Paul May
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky
Rona and Stanley Schick
The Al Smith Family
The Sonzogni Family
The Tarlowe Family
Diane Margolin and Mike Weiner
Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein

Community Events

JEWISH LIFE

Barry Schrage will discuss The Future of the Jewish Community, on Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. Nov. 12 at 1 p.m., Rabbi Ron Isaacs' topic will be Talking to G-d, the Art of Prayer. Save the date for food critic and author Arthur Schwartz, who will present Jewish Food in America on Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m. All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater. To register for programs, call the JCC office at 908-725-6994 x201.

Warren County Community College's Visiting Authors Series

Join us for our next event: a reading by memoirist Mimi Schwartz, on Thursday, October 16. She will read from her most recent book, *Good Neighbors, Bad Times - Echoes of My Father's German Village* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008). This book tells the small story of the rescue of a Torah by Christians on Kristallnacht, which led to a twelve-year quest on three continents to learn how good neighbors on the sidelines of history negotiated decency before, during and after Nazi times. And what that means for our own lives, wherever we live, today.

The event is free and open to the public. It takes place at Warren County Community College (located on Route 57 just west of Washington), beginning at 7:30 p.m., Room 123.

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