

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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www.jcnwj.org

October 2009
Vol. XXXVI, Issue 2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- *Sunday, Oct. 4, 9:30 am
Sunday School
- *Sunday, Oct. 4, 11:00 am
Sukkot/Consecration of new Sunday School students) (K/1)
- *Monday, Oct. 5, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting
- *Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Reading
- *Friday, Oct. 9, 6:00 pm
Tot Shabbat followed by Shabbat evening service at 7:30 pm
Oneg: Ballenberg, Jordan, Lettire, and Braunstein families
- *Sunday, Oct. 11, 9:30 am
Sunday School (Simchat Torah Service follows at 10:30 am) (K/1) (Music)
- *Sunday, Oct. 11, 9:30 am – 2 pm
Blood Drive (Men's Club)
- *Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Reading
- *Sunday, Oct. 18, 9:30 am
Sunday School (Confirmation class at 10:30 am)
- *Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Reading
- *Friday, Oct. 23, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Berkowitz (Jeff), Berkowitz (Jerry), Parsons, and Graham families
- *Sunday, Oct. 25, 8:30 am Outreach;
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) (Music);
9:30 am PTO Meeting followed by Adult Ed. at 10:45 am

Rabbi's Message

By the time this newsletter arrives in your (email) box, we will find ourselves in a brief period between the holidays. After fasting and repenting on Yom Kippur, we will be getting ready for Sukkot. We begin the new year by putting our prayers into action. Our tradition teaches us that the first act you should perform after getting up from break-the-fast is to hammer the first stake of your sukkah into the ground.

We are told to rejoice on Sukkot. Sukkot is a happy holiday that simultaneously makes us aware of our fragility. The midrash tells us, "When Job complained about his misfortunes, the Holy One of Blessing showed him a sukkah with three walls." A three-walled sukkah, says Rabbi Sidney Greenberg, is God's way of reminding Job that every person's sukkah has one wall missing. "Sure everyone would like to have a four-walled sukkah," writes Greenberg, "A happy marriage, gifted children, a successful career, good health and a long life. In actual life, however, no one has a four-walled sukkah. Sorrow, failure, loss of health, disappointment - in varying degrees, these are our common human lot. There is democracy in suffering - no one is exempt...Three-walled sukkahs are the rule, not the exception. And yet a three-walled sukkah is kosher for us. Despite the missing wall, the sukkah continues to stand. Life is full of heartbreak but it is also full of ways of overcoming it. So God was saying to Job, stop thinking only of the pains you suffer, you also have pleasures to enjoy. Stop counting and recounting your losses and begin counting your blessings. Sure you have lost a wall of your sukkah but there are three walls remaining. Make the most of those three walls. You will be held accountable for what you do with those remaining walls."

That is the challenge of this new year: "Make the most of those three walls." We all have too much to do but our tradition tells us that is not an endpoint, merely a beginning. Our Center needs you. Pick a goal for the year. Do one thing around the Jewish Center you have never done before; join a committee, come to Adult Education, learn to read Hebrew, join the PTO, volunteer to make a craft in Sunday School, read Torah on a Friday night, start a congregational choir. The list of possibilities is only as limited as your own imagination.

Hag sameach.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

You Don't Have To Be Jewish To Enjoy This!

On the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, there is a ceremony called Tashlich. Jews traditionally go to the ocean (stream or river) to pray & throw *bread crumbs* into the water. Symbolically, the fish devour one's sins.

Occasionally, people ask what kind of bread crumbs should be thrown. Here are suggestions for breads which may be most appropriate for specific sins and misbehaviors:

For ordinary sins	White Bread
For sins of passion	French Bread
For particularly dark sins	Pumpernickel
For complex sins	Multi-Grain
For twisted sins	Pretzels
For tasteless sins	Rice Cakes
For sins of indecision	Waffles
For sins committed in haste	Matzoh
For sins of chutzpah	Fresh Bread
For substance abuse	Stoned Wheat
For use of wrongful substances	Poppy Seed
For petty larceny	Stollen
For committing auto theft	Caraway
For timidity/cowardice	Milk Toast
For ill-temperedness	Sourdough
For silliness, eccentricity	Nut Bread
For not giving full value	Shortbread
For jingoism, chauvinism	Yankee Doodles
For excessive irony	Rye Bread
For unnecessary chances	Hero Bread
For telling bad jokes/puns	Corn Bread
For war-mongering	Kaiser Rolls
For dressing immodestly	Tarts
For causing injury to others	Tortes
For promiscuity	Hot Buns
For promiscuity with the devout of other faiths	Hot Cross Buns
For racist attitudes	Crackers
For sophisticated racism	Ritz Crackers
For being holier than thou	Bagels
For abrasiveness	Grits
For dropping in without notice	Popovers
For over-eating	Stuffing
For impetuosity	Quick Bread
For indecent photography	Cheesecake
For raising your voice too often	Challah
For pride and egotism	Puff Pastry
For sycophancy	Brownies
For being overly smothering	Angel Food Cake
For laziness	Any long loaf
For trashing the environment	Dumplings

President's Message

The High Holidays: A lay perspective

At this time of year, I tend to reminisce a bit about the past year and years past. I think of what I have done well and hope to build on my successes. I also look at where I either failed or did not live up to my own expectations in my professional, personal and temple relationships, and try to decide how I can be better at all facets of my life. I would like to take this opportunity to ask your forgiveness if I have done anything to offend you this year. I also forgive everyone who may have offended me this year. May we all try to be better people next in the year 5770.

I also think about my family. Those who are still with me as well as those who are not. This year, my children will not be with me on the holidays and I will miss them very much. My parents will be with me again this year, and I consider this a true blessing. I miss spending the High Holidays praying with my grandfathers in temple as well as rushing home after hearing the shofar blow to a light dinner of bagels, scrambled eggs, tuna fish and salmon salad. Those memories of my youth have been replaced by new traditions, such as staying for havdallah after the blowing of the shofar, enjoying the wonderful aroma of the spice box, and then breaking the fast with my fellow congregants in our simcha room.

Combining the old traditions with the new traditions is what I feel makes my life complete. I treasure all of your friendships. The people I have known since I joined the temple as well as the new members who have just joined. You all hold a special place in my heart as we work together to keep our jewel of Jewish learning in Warren county vibrant and alive.

Shanah Tovah

Howie

Education/PTO

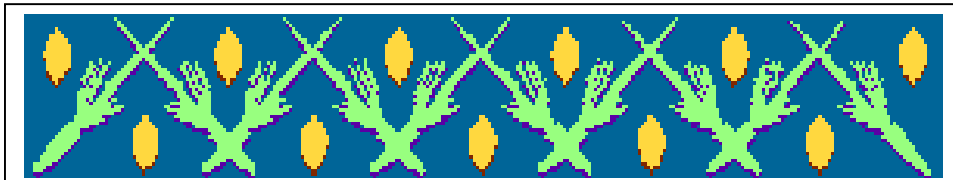
October is a fun month for Hebrew School. Our Sukkot and Consecration service is on **October 4th**, and we celebrate Simchat Torah on **October 11th**.

The Confirmation Class meets for the first time on **October 18th**. And we have our first PTO meeting on **October 25th**, which is followed by Adult Ed.

Welcome to our new students, Sabrina Hutt (5th grade), Eli Gutkin (2nd Grade), Sebastian Gutkin (Kindergarten) and Hanna Schaffer (Kindergarten).

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

(Education Co-Chairs)



New Year Greetings for the Newsletter

Wishing the New Year brings health
and joy to the Congregation
-Rona and Stanley Schick

A hearty **TODAH RABAH** to all the
congregants who have helped enhance our
High Holy Day worship by their generous
contributions to the Flower Fund

- Michael Alper
- Linda Albin and Jim Arvesen
- Lisa and Richard Bauch
- Tracey and Mo Bauer
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- Blanche and Marvin Davidson
- Eric Edelstein
- Lois and Stuart Goldberg
- Laurie Post and Steve Goldner
- Marsha Gross
- Leslie and Murray Heller
- Edythe Herson
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- Rhonda Jordan
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis
- Rene Marinich
- Susan and William McNamara
- Gwen and Ed Nagorsky
- Cheryl and Ed Orenstein
- Melissa and William Parson
- Nancy and Bernie Robins
- Susannah and Brett Schaffer
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- Marsha Torine
- Diane Margolin and Mike Weiner
- Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein

Contributions

In honor of the wedding of Helen and John Mattson's
son, Michael
-Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Esther Newman Lewis
-Rabbi Ellen Lewis



Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Coyot welcome children
on the first day of Hebrew School

Congregation News

The JCNWJ wishes Mazel Tov to...
~ **Jamie Rosenblum** on making the Varsity Tennis
Team in her freshman year of High School. Way to go
Jamie!

~ **John and Helen Mattson** on the recent marriage of
their son, Michael, to Rachel Haan in Sioux Falls,
South Dakota on September 12, 2009. May their life
together be filled with love, joy, and good health.





JEWISH LIFE BEGINS NEW SEASON!

Jewish LIFE is pleased to present a new season. Jewish LIFE is your "campus" for Jewish learning. Be sure to check out the **Special Events**, and the extensive programs and courses offered at participating Jewish LIFE synagogues. **Synagogue course offerings include Bible, Films, Hebrew, History, Jewish Culture, Jewish Living, Liturgy and Rabbis.** Our first special event features author and radio/TV personality **Arthur Schwartz**. Spend a Kosher Shopping Day with **Arthur Schwartz** on **Sunday, October 25**. No one knows Kosher cooking and shopping like Arthur Schwartz! The day begins with breakfast at Arthur's home. We will then head out on the town touring various specialty food shops, and will enjoy lunch as a kosher restaurant. **Registration is limited to the first 20 people.** Fee: \$150/person includes bus, breakfast and lunch. Shopping is on your own. Additional special events scheduled in 2009 will feature **Tracey Fine and Georgie Tarn**, authors of *Jewish Princess Feasts and Festivals* (Sunday, November 15 at 10 a.m.); **Martin Fletcher**, NBC News Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv (Thursday, November 19 at 7 p.m.); Actors **Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry**, *Family Meals* (Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m.); and **Peter Yarrow**, folk singer (Peter, Paul & Mary) and author of the children's book *Day is Done* (Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. - Chanukah Celebration at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater). The above mentioned special event programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater. Additional special events are scheduled in 2010. Please refer to the Jewish LIFE brochure for details on all Courses and Special Events. The Jewish LIFE brochure is posted at www.ssbjcc.org (click on the Jewish LIFE page) and is available at the synagogue office. To register for Courses, please contact the Synagogue offering the course. Registration for Special Events is through the Birnbaum JCC. Please call 908-725-6994 x201.

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Kristallnacht '09

It has become this generation's responsibility to tell the story. We need your help to do so.

November 9 this year marks the 71st anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass. Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Chief of Propaganda used the assassination of Ernst vom Rath as an excuse to organize a program, a carefully orchestrated attack against the Jewish community. This night became known as Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken Glass. Organized mobs in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland attacked places of Jewish worship, Jewish businesses and homes. They destroyed cemeteries, synagogues and schools. Piles of broken glass and personal possessions filled the streets. Many authorities consider Kristallnacht to have been the official beginning of the Holocaust.

We plan to observe Kristallnacht on Friday night Nov. 6. In the past, we have been blessed to have speakers from the community who talked about the impact of the holocaust on their lives and the lives of their families. Some of those speakers have been members of our own congregation.

This year, instead of inviting one speaker, we invite any and all of you to write a piece – a paragraph, a page – about how the Holocaust impacted your family either directly or indirectly. We will plan to use your words as part of our service that evening.



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Sat 9:30-4:00 (9:30-2:00 During Summer)