

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

On Monday morning, September 19, I had the distinct honor of joining twelve area rabbis for an intimate meeting at the Metro West Jewish Federation office in Whippany with the newly appointed Consul General of Israel, Dani Dayan. Like so many in public service, Consul General Dayan is a passionate man with fervent beliefs. As former Chairman of the Yesha Council – which is the umbrella governing organization of Israeli Jewish communities in what some call Judea and Samaria, others call the West Bank, others call the Administered Territories, others call the Occupied Territories, and still others call the Palestinian Territories – he is adamant in his position that the Settler Movement is necessary for Israel's survival. With the policy of seeking a "Two-State Solution" through negotiation as the Israeli Government's official stance, however, Dayan explained to us he is not closed to the possibility of trading land for peace. In fact, it is what he hopes will happen at some point. The problem as he sees it, though, is that such a deal cannot and will not produce positive results until the Palestinian leadership becomes both genuine in its desire for peace and also stable enough to guarantee peace will actually result from such a trade. Unfortunately, Consul General Dayan shared with us that he does not see these conditions being met in his lifetime. Given his political affiliation with the Settler Movement, I wasn't surprised to hear him say that.

To say that Consul General Dayan and I approach questions of Israel's wellbeing from different perspectives would be entirely accurate. At the risk of oversimplifying the situation, he sits squarely in the "Hardliners" camp, and I align myself with those who are more aggressive in seeking middle ground through negotiation.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, October 2nd**
No Sunday School
7:00pm – Erev Rosh Hashanah
- **Monday, October 3rd**
9:30am – Rosh Hashanah service, Tashlich
- **Tuesday, October 4th**
9:30am – Rosh Hashanah service, lunch following service (sign-up requested)
- **Sunday, October 9th**
10:30am – Confirmation, No Sunday School
- **Monday October 10th**
7:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Tuesday, October 11th**
7:00pm – Kol Nidre service
- **Wednesday, October 12th**
Yom Kippur services
9:30am – Morning service, Yiskor following
3:15pm – Torah study
4:30pm – Neilah service
Break-the-Fast following (sign-up required)

Calendar continues on Pg. 4

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

While I was certainly disheartened by the Consul General's (self-fulfilling?) prediction that peace cannot be achieved in his lifetime, there are at least two other issues on which we could not have been more in agreement!

Over the course of 75 minutes, he said at least three times that he did not come to America to "preach to the choir." Understanding himself to be just as much an ambassador of the American Jewish community to Jerusalem as he is Israel's ambassador to NY, he plans to go the extra mile in creating as many opportunities as he can to dialogue with those who **dis**agree with the official policies of the current Government of Israel.

During the time we spent together, it was abundantly clear that our group of American rabbis had a wide range of opinions regarding a wide range of current issues in Israel. Since we had such a clear invitation and easy access to the Consul General, therefore, a number of us were not shy about sharing our various frustrations. Some talked about the Settlements, some talked about the lack of religious pluralism (including the Women of the Wall controversy), and some talked about publicly funded financial grants to support Ultra-Orthodox men as they study Torah rather than fight in the army. Punches were not held.

What made our meeting so encouraging, though, was the fundamental framework in which Consul General Dayan extended his invitation to disagreement:

*"It's legitimate for one person to think settlements in Judea and Samaria are necessary for the security of Israel while another should think settlements are pushing peace farther away. It's legitimate for some Jews to believe strict Orthodoxy is the last defense to protect our people from extinction, while others believe an Orthodox approach to religion is actually suffocating our people. If it is legitimate for Israelis elected to the Knesset to disagree with Government policies, so too is it legitimate for every other person in every part of the world to disagree with Israeli Government policies. So long as it is the **policy** of Israel's Government that is being challenged, and not the **right** itself for Israel to exist as a free Jewish state in the first place, it is legitimate for Israelis, for Jews, and for all people everywhere to have whatever perspective they want about official Israeli policy. **The only perspective we, as Jews, do not have a right to hold when it comes to the State of Israel and her people is one of indifference.**"*

I am proud to say that we at the JCNWJ are **not** indifferent to Israel. Though some of us support the current Government while others of us oppose the current Government, whatever our individual politics may be, together, we are indeed a community that **loves** Israel, which is why it was announced at the September 18 General Congregational Meeting that **we are currently in the initial planning phase of creating a congregational trip to Israel within the next 18 months.** This is an exciting venture that we hope and predict will be met with great enthusiasm.

If you are interested in learning more about our plans, or, better yet, if you would like to take a leadership position in the planning process itself, please let me or Howie know. It will take significant work and commitment for our small community to pull it off, but together there is nothing we cannot do.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

Happy New Year. L'Shana Tovah.

What wonderful words these are. As a Jew, I feel blessed to be able to have two New Years. This one is very different from the secular new year, but there are also similarities. In the secular new year, people celebrate, party with their friends and family while on the Rosh Hashanah, we also spend time with our families, but the revelry is not there. On the secular New Year, we go to others' houses for meals and parties, or host them ourselves. On Rosh Hashanah I go to synagogue to be with members of my temple family. It is an enjoyable time that I cherish.

On the secular New Year, we make resolutions on things we want to try to improve in our lives over the next 12 months. On Rosh Hashanah, we remember the things that we could have done better and on Yom Kippur, we ask forgiveness from those we have offended, intentionally or unintentionally.

For those of you I will not see on Yom Kippur, I take this opportunity to ask for your forgiveness for anything that I might have done this year to offend you. In the same vein, I forgive all of you for anything you may have done intentionally or unintentionally to me. Giving forgiveness is a wonder thing thing to do, because when you harbor resentment over things, the person it normally hurts is yourself. Especially if the person who offended you doesn't even know that they offended you. You hold onto this as a badge of honor that you have been offended and then it can affect your health and well being.

For those of us who have a grudge against a fellow congregant or another person in your life, I suggest you do as the movie Frozen suggests "Let It Go".

I want to wish all of you a very healthy 5777 and I hope to see many of you at the High Holidays services.

Love Howie

WEBSITE UPDATE

Members Only Website Section Coming!

Watch for an e-mail with instructions for accessing online resources for JCNWJ members only.

A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee



Please let us know when someone has passed away, is ill or otherwise in need of a little sunshine so that the Jewish Center may be there to support and assist as best we can. Please contact Ruth Schutzbank at (908) 329-6036 or Howie.ruth@hotmail.com.

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal
Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple Ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz (berk721@aol.com) or Ruth Schutzbank (Howie.ruth@hotmail.com). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.

SISTERHOOD

Mark Your Calendar (cont'd)

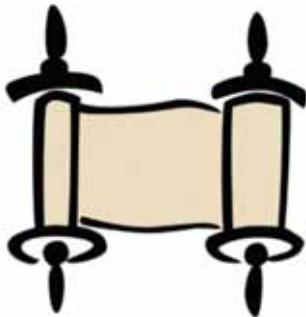
The Sisterhood had a wonderful start to the year with a joint venture with the Religious School. On September 11 we gleaned apples for America's Grow a Row in Hope NJ. 18 Congregation members joined in the task. We gleaned 1,000 pounds of apples for those in need.

On September 25 we had our first meeting. We discussed Service, Social, Educational and Fundraising events for the year. The meeting was well attended, but if you did not get a chance to attend, please plan on joining us at the temple on October 23rd for our second meeting. Breakfast will be served.

“The Sisterhood is full of heart and sprung into action immediately upon hearing of the need.”

~Marci Braunstein

- **Saturday, October 15th**
10:30am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, October 16th**
3:00-5:00pm – Sunday School
5:00pm – Sukkot service;
congregational supper in the Sukkah following service
- **Monday, October 17th**
7:30pm – Sisterhood Book Club
- **Friday, October 21st**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service & Simchat Torah
Oneg – Kalisher, Kowski, Tucker
- **Sunday, October 23rd**
9:30am-noon – Sunday School
10:30am – Sisterhood Meeting
- **Sunday, October 30th**
9:30am-noon – Sunday School



Torah Study

Torah Study

The Torah study group marks its 18th (*chai*) birthday in October (we started in the fall of 1998). We welcome new participants at any time. The Torah portion we study (not the portion of the week because we begin where we left off the time before) always sparks lively discussion that unfolds on several levels—from the literal meaning to multiple interpretations from our tradition to associations that we in the 21st century bring to the text. At our October 15 meeting (10:30 am in the simcha room), we will begin with Numbers 31 (we did begin 18 years ago with Genesis 1). The fascinating journey continues. Come join us!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on October 2nd and 9th for the High Holy Days.

High Holy Day services this year will incorporate kids activities at specific times during morning services. The Rabbi will make an announcement during services to invite the kids to go downstairs. We hope to see all the kids there!

Sunday School will resume on October 16th to celebrate Sukkot. School will be held in the afternoon from 3-5pm to decorate the Sukkah. This will be followed by congregation-wide Sukkot services and "Pizza in the Hut."

Sunday School will be back to normal time on October 23th and 30th at 9:30.

Any questions, please contact Deb Kalisher. debkalisher@hotmail.com 908-616-0418.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

- Robin and Colson Hall on the birth of their grandson, Levi Charles Hall
- Renee Orenstein on her recent wedding
- Allison Hirsch on her recent wedding
- Bryant Simons on his recent wedding

If you would like to share your good news with the congregation, please e-mail Adam Tucker at adamt180@gmail.com

DONATIONS

In Memory of Philip Weinstein
-Edward & Roseann Weinstein

In Memory of Sadye L. Hertzmark
-Bernard Robins

In Loving Memory of Lenore Marr
-Suzi Marr

In Memory of Beatrice Felberbaum
-Howie & Iris Hirsch

BOOK CLUB

The October 17 meeting will be at the Herson-Fleckles home at 7:30 pm. Call for directions if you've never been there. GPS directions are not always correct.

The book is *In the Land of Invisible Women* by Qanta Ahmed, the story of a British Muslim doctor who accepts an exciting position in Saudi Arabia--a place she thought she understood. Gail Sheehy writes: "I've rarely experienced so vividly the shunning and shaming, racism and anti-Semitism, but the surprise is how Dr. Ahmed also finds tenderness at the tattered edges of extremism."

Please call Sharon if you plan to come.

High Holy Days Update

PARKING

Please note the driveway to the left of the Temple building is now one way as you turn in from Youmans Ave. We are asking that no one park on the grass alongside of the building, in order to keep the driveway clear and unobstructed. The parking lot behind the Temple to the left may be used for additional parking.

BREAK THE FAST

Please join us for a Break-the-Fast Potluck dinner, Wednesday, Oct.12 immediately following afternoon Service. A separate Perfect Potluck invitation and sign up will be sent out shortly. Please join our Temple family as we begin a new year.

SCHEDULE

Rosh Hashanah

October 2 @ 7:00pm – Erev Rosh Hashanah

October 3 @ 9:30am – Morning Service Day 1

October 4 @ 9:30am – Morning Service Day 2

Yom Kippur

October 11 @ 7:00pm – Kol Nidre

October 12 @ 9:30am – Morning Service

October 12 @ 3:15pm – Torah Study

October 12 @ 4:30pm – Neilah

SECOND DAY LUNCHEON

Rosh Hashanah second day luncheon will be served immediately following Services. Lunch is provided by the Board; however, we do need a count. If you plan to join us for lunch please e-mail or phone Jeannie Berkowitz, berkowitz55@yahoo.com / 484-767-3744.

FOOD DRIVE

Our annual Yom Kippur food drive is upon us again. You will find paper bags in the front vestibule. Please take one (or 2) and fill them (NO MATZAH PLEASE!) generously with non-perishable food items. The food pantry is busier than ever and your generosity is much appreciated!

L'SHANAH TOVAH

L'Shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ Congregation from the Tarlowe Family

L'Shanah Tovah to Temple Families from Howard & Ruth Schutzbank

L'Shanah Tovah to Temple Families from The Jordan Family

L'Shanah Tovah to the Entire Congregation from the Fletcher Family

L'Shanah Tovah to the Entire Congregation from the Margolin/Weiner Family

L'Shanah Tovah to My Friends at the Jewish Center from Rabbi Ellen Lewis

L'Shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ Congregation from Helen, John, Jennifer, Mike and Lochlan

Wishing the JCNWJ Congregation a Happy and Healthy New Year! - L'Shanah Tovah from the Gross Family

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from Rene Marinich

L'Shanah Tovah to all our friends at the JCNWJ from Nancy and Bernie Robins

L'Shanah Tovah to All from Ed, Roseann and Sarah Weinstein

L'Shanah Tovah from the Bauer Family

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin, Cantor Labow and our entire congregational family from Robin and Colson Hall

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin & Family from Sharon, Daniel & Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to Cantor Labow from Sharon, Daniel & Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to our congregational family from Sharon, Daniel & Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin and Congregation from the Goldner/Post Family

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin, Cantor Labow and our entire congregational family

L'Shanah Tovah from the Webb Family

L'Shanah Tovah from the Loomis Family

To the JCNWJ Congregation - L'Shanah Tovah from Howie and Iris Hirsch

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