



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, Nov. 4, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Kristallnacht Service
(Cantor)
- Saturday, Nov. 5, 10:00 a.m.
Bar Mitzvah
- Sunday, Nov. 6, 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation
- Monday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting
- Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study
- Sunday, Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m.
Men's Club meeting
- Friday, Nov. 18, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, Nov. 19, 10:00 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah
- Sunday, Nov. 20,
PTO meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Pirke Avot, 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Taste of Judaism, 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 27
No Sunday School
HappyThanksgiving!

Rabbi's Message

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, all of the Fall holidays will be over. We will have atoned and repented, asked forgiveness and offered it. We will have looked through the roof of the sukkah, rejoiced and waved the lulav and etrog. We will have finished reading the Torah and begun again. And together we will heave a collective sigh of relief at the arrival of the month of Heshvan, a month whose only Jewish holiday is Shabbat.

But if the holidays are to have the kind of meaning they are designed to have, you have to ask yourself in their aftermath, what in your life has truly changed? The Jewish definition of repentance is not just acknowledging where you erred and feeling sorry; repentance is not complete until you find yourself in the same situation as before with the same opportunity to err but you choose to do things differently this time. You are required to ask yourself: Am I repeating the same behavior because I choose to or am I repeating it because it is a habit? An article from the *Jewish Forward* recently reported a telling story:

A woman who had recently returned to her Jewish roots, a *baalat teshuvah*, once was invited to an orthodox family's home for Sabbath dinner. When the time came for the ritual washing of hands before the meal, she asked the women present for a ring. Perplexed, the women asked why. The neophyte explained, "I don't have one with me and I can't do the washing unless I have one in my mouth." In the little experience the girl had had with ritual hand-washing she had seen women remove their rings and hold them in their mouths. One's hands are supposed to be bare when washed. The girl had mistaken a gesture incidental to the ritual for the ritual itself. The women who were seen putting rings in their mouths were simply trying to keep them from getting lost.

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President's Message

The fall is my favorite time of year. The weather is not too hot and not too cold. Just right. The leaves turning in northwest Jersey are spectacular and, for a few weeks, it seems like we are living in a painting. The high holidays are over and we get to prepare for the winter by getting our homes in order. Our Sunday school is getting started, our construction is coming close to an end and the lift should be working in the very near future.

Normally the phrase "hope springs eternal" is used in the spring, but that is how I feel this month. I am excited with the changes in the building and that we will make most of the building handicapped accessible thrills me.

But our job is never done. There are always issues do deal with, if it is the water that still gets in our basement during heavy rains, or now making the bimah handicapped accessible. Finances will dictate how much we can get done and how quickly these changes can be made. I urge you to send in your High Holiday pledges early this year, and, as Paul said in his "short" appeal, please be generous. Over the High Holidays, I get to see most of you and give you your annual hugs. With all of the work I do for the temple, this is my reward. I hope you enjoy getting your hugs as much as I enjoy giving them.

L'Shanah tovah.

Howie

We all have had similar experiences; we repeat something we have learned without investigating why. In this case, the habit is a benign one; washing her hands with a ring in her mouth does not hurt this young woman or anyone else. But many of our repetitions are less innocent and more damaging to us and loved ones. Even after the high holidays are over, that is the important message that remains with us until the next new year: When you have the chance, will you do things differently?

May this new year be one of change and growth for us all.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

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

Classes are starting in a few weeks, but 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 session 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 Nov. 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 to participants.

Other Adult Programs

Torah Study: 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 — 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. Upcoming dates: Nov. 20, Dec. 5, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 19, April 30. Let Rabbi Lewis know if you plan to attend.

Talent Show

We're still planning to have a Talent Show, probably in early spring of 2006. Start thinking of what you want to do. The theme is Jewish music, Jewish comedy, Jewish drama. Your choice, but make it a Jewish one. Students, ask your music teachers for Jewish music to learn for this event. You are all going to be stars!

Education Committee and PTO News

October has been a busy month for the school. With the high holidays and Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, it's a wonderful, learning time for our children.

The Kristallnacht Service is Friday, November 4. This is a very important service for our older students to attend. There is no school on Sunday, November 27, Thanksgiving weekend.

Our next PTO meeting will be **Sunday, November 20** at 9:30 a.m. Come and shmooze, while we plan for upcoming events.

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

NFTY Happy Holidays Gift-Card Drive

The NFTY Youth Group is doing a fundraiser to benefit local shelters and Hurricane Katrina evacuees. We are collecting gift-cards (of any denomination) that will be distributed to make the evacuees' holidays happier. We are asking temple members to donate gift cards from the following locations:

Lowes	Sears
Sams Club	Target
Wal-Mart	Toys R Us
Home Depot	JC Penny
Costco	K-Mart

They need to be dropped off in the temple by November 14th.

Healing Service

Save the date: **Dec. 11, 3 p.m.**, when we will hold a Healing Service, in our sanctuary; special music and liturgy. This will be open to the community at large — invite your friends; co-sponsored by the Jewish Healing Center at the JCC, Bridgewater. More details in the next newsletter.

Donations

Helen and John Mattson in honor of the b'nai mitzvot .
Helen and John Mattson in memory of Helen's beloved aunt,
Belle Shure
Teri and Kevin Stanton contributed the new flowers for the bima in honor of the bat mitzvah.

Blanche and Marvin Davidson made a contribution in memory of Sadie and Julius Schiller, Kate and Albert Davidson, Cpl. Herbert Davidson, and Arthur Davidson.

Mazel tov to our b'nai mitzvah students:

The Jewish Center expresses its deepest sympathy to Colson Hall and his family for the recent death of his father

From the Ritual Committee

The Ritual committee thanks all the participants in this year's High Holidays. We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

If you or your children haven't been given a Hebrew name, now is your opportunity to get one. The Jewish Center is planning to hold a Hebrew Naming service at one of our Friday, Shabbat services this year. Call or email Rabbi Lewis regarding your new Hebrew name.

Updates to the Membership List

We've had many new families join us this fall, so we are including an updated membership list with this newsletter.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE is pleased to present 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. Please RSVP to JCC Assistant Executive Director Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213;

LFriedman@ssbjcc.org. Save the date for the Jewish LIFE

Family Chanukah Party featuring Mr. Ray on **Sunday, December 18 from 4-6 p.m.** More details to come!

Berman Center

The Berman Center is bringing two award-winning Jewish authors to Lehigh University in November.

Nov. 2, 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. Her new novel, *The War of the Rosens*, about an eccentric Jewish family in the Bronx, will be published in 2006. Call the Berman Center at 610 758-3352 or visit www.lehigh.edu/~inber/programs.html.

Nov. 14, 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.

Have you heard the one about the Rabbi & the Priest?

Two of the funniest men you ever want to meet, Rabbi Marc Gellman and Monsignor Tom Hartman, will bring a simple message about interfaith understanding to the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center's annual Evening of Inspiration, Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7:15 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown.

Admission is free but by ticket only. Call 908-850-6836 and leave your name, mailing address, phone number and the number of tickets needed.

Union for Reform Judaism Biennial

If you've been thinking about attending the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial in Houston (November, 16-20), now is the time to register! You won't want to miss:

- Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright
 - King Abdullah of Jordan
 - Robert Reich, Former Secretary of Labor
 - HUC-JIR Scholar Rabbi Eugene Borowitz
 - Amazing Shabbat WORSHIP Experiences
 - The Best of Jewish Entertainment
 - o Craig Taubman
 - o Neshama Carlebach
 - o Doug Mishkin
 - o Jeff Klepper
- And many more...

Hotel rooms are limited (a late fee applies after Tuesday, October 25th). Space is limited! Plan to be in Houston with 4,000 Reform Jews to sing, pray, learn and celebrate our Reform Jewish community. Register today at www.biennial.urj.org

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter will be the 18th of the month.

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