

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
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www.jcnwj.org

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Rabbi's Message

True Unity Lies in Diversity

Friends, I would like to share my commentary on the Tower of Babel, which appeared on the URJ blog *10 Minutes of Torah* on October 20th. Following the commentary, I share a few more words on how this well-known biblical narrative can inform our lives every day.

The Tower of Babel narrative has always bothered me. How could God have acted in this most unfair, jealous manner towards our ancestors? It used to outrage me that God destroyed a pretty good moment for the humans. Uniting into one voice, one place and one purpose was quite an accomplishment for the people who were last seen in the Noah narrative "filling the earth with violence" and terrorizing each other. Perhaps, the Babel Builders were completely misguided trying to rise up into the heavens, sword in hand, to challenge God's power. However, I always saw it this way: they were acting like ignorant, deluded children. Given a complete chance, they would have built a monolith that was destined to fall like a poorly built tower of playschool blocks. Their ambitions could have never come to fruition, because their goal was misguided from the start. If God waited long enough, the Babel Builders with their juvenile aspirations would have learned experientially that they were barking up the wrong tree.

continued on next page

Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, November 2nd**
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation Class
12 pm B'nai Mitzvah Brunch
- **Monday, November 3rd**
7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Friday, November 7th**
7:30 pm Shabbat and Kristallnacht
Commemoration Service
Oneg: Goldfarb Family
- **Saturday, November 8th**
10 am Sophia Goldfarb's Bat Mitzvah
- **Sunday, November 9th**
9:30 am Sunday School
- **Saturday, November 15th**
10:30 am Torah Study
7 pm Teen Night Out
- **Sunday, November 16th**
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am PTO Meeting
10:30 am Adult Education
- **Monday, November 17th**
7 pm Sisterhood Book Club

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

They would have failed and moved on to a better understanding of architecture and theology. However, threatened by their unity, God jumps in prematurely and disrupts their union, which is never restored to this day. In my eyes, God had played it all wrong.

Now I see the Babel text differently. In contrast to their living as seventy different nations, the humans were able to create peace and harmony among themselves only when they were united by place, language and mission. God foils their plan and scatters them, and us, their descendants, in order to send a strong message, one still needed today. True peace, true unity lies in respectful diversity. The answer to the pre-flood human-against-human violence is not evolving into a homogenous unit; only when we learn to co-exist as different nations, cultures, religions, lifestyles and languages will we find true peace.

JCNWJ friends, when we think about celebrating difference, we usually think of the contrast between the broad differences to which I refer to above. Certainly, living in harmony, while respecting and even rejoicing in those dramatic differences is a very important goal, one which each person must dedicate him or herself to everyday. However, there is another, more subtle way to reach for harmony within difference. Each one of us must strive to tolerate and navigate the small differences which challenge us everyday. When we do not agree or even clash with others in our smaller communities, we have an opportunity to practice tolerance and acceptance. We can try to express our disagreement or displeasure in a manner which promotes peace. In the end, we may still disagree, but we can avoid layering anger, resentment, and pain on top of difference. In this way, we accept one another and our various approaches to life.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Mary Zamore

If you, a family member or temple friend is ill or facing a life challenge, please know that Rabbi Zamore is here to help.

Please contact in confidence Rabbi Zamore at zamorem@comcast.net or call her at (908) 317-0417.

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Friday, November 21st
6:30 pm Picnic Shabbat
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Shutzbank, Mattson, McGraw, and Robins Families
- Sunday, November 23rd
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting
- Sunday, November 30th
No Sunday School

Teen Night Out

All 8th to 12th graders are invited to come to the Temple on Saturday, November 15th from 7 pm to 10 pm for snacks, hanging out and a movie. Invitations to follow.



Picnic Shabbat

On Friday, November 21st Rabbi Zamore and Student Cantor Lilah will be at the temple at 6:30 pm for a "Picnic Shabbat Dinner." They welcome any congregant wishing to join them to bring their own brown bag picnic Shabbat dairy dinner for some informal pre-service time together. They will provide wine and Challah!



President's Message

When I became President of the JCNWJ, one of my tasks included writing a monthly President's message. In writing past messages, I have attempted to avoid personalizing the messages, expressing my political views and writing on controversial religious topics. My messages have been primarily focused on our community and our connections to one another.

This month's message is an exception to my rule. As some of you are aware, immediately prior to the holidays, my mother suffered a major heart attack in the middle of the night that required immediate by-pass surgery. Thankfully, the surgery went well and she is on her way to recovery. In addition, my oldest brother has been experiencing serious health issues. The congregation was made aware of my family health issues as my family and I traveled to Western Maryland and could not spend Yom Kippur or break-the-fast with the congregation as we have each year since joining the Jewish Center seven years ago.

Through this trying time, the members of JCNWJ have showed amazing support to me and my family. Board members stepped up to pinch-hit for me at Yom Kippur services. Bob Margolis effectively delivered the High Holiday appeal (with some humorous flair I am told). Howie Hirsch took my place on the bimah, holding the Torah for Kol Nidre and assisting the Rabbi and the Cantor. Many congregants expressed their sincere concerns for both my mother and brother. Rabbi Zamore reached out on many occasions and even provided streamed Yom Kippur services which my family and I could view while at hospital visits during the holiday. Our student cantor, Lilah, added support as well. I truly felt part of a community that cares for one another, a community that I personally connect with and am proud to be a part of.

Thank you all for your support and kind words. Perhaps the best part is knowing that the same outpouring of support, encouragement and thoughtfulness would be there for any one of our members.

Mo Bauer

SAVE THE DATE

For the families of all JCNWJ 6th graders who will become Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 2015-2016, the B'nai Mitzvah Brunch and Meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 2nd** at 12 pm.

Stay tuned for details!

Sisterhood Book Club

The Sisterhood Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month in the homes of various members. It's always a fun evening whether the book is great or not. This month we will meet at the home of Sharon Herson on **November 17th**. The selection is Rachel



Calof's Story by Rachel Calof and J Sanford Rikoon. If you are not already on the Book Club email list and would like to be included, contact Rita Berkowitz at berk721@aol.com.

MAZEL TOV

From the JCNWJ to the Goldfarb Family on the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of Sophia.

Adult Education – Sunday, November 16th at 10:30 am

Rabbi Zamore will be guiding us through a survey of Jewish theology as we study the great Jewish thinkers. Feel free to come to one class or all. We meet monthly. Open to teens and adults.

Contributions

- ✧ In honor of Lilah Sugarman and Ben VanRoy
- Elaine and Barry Sugarman
- ✧ In loving memory of Mike Weiner, tzedakah collected by last year's 6th and 7th grade classes was donated to Voices Against Brain Cancer
- ✧ In memory of Stanely Schick
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Belle Shure
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Toby Baeck, Martin Baeck's mother and Cameron and Penka's grandmother
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of David Tarlowe and Steve Tarlowe
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- ✧ In memory of Celia Robins
- Nancy and Bernard Robins
- ✧ In memory of Henriette Goldstein
- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- ✧ In memory of Hannah Braunstein and Heather Braunstein
- Marci and Gil Braunstein
- ✧ In memory of Mike Weiner
- The Goldmann Family

The JCNWJ Cemetery Committee wishes to remind the congregation that there are graves available in our portion of the Easton Cemetery in Easton, PA. Information about the cemetery can be accessed by clicking on "Cemetery" on the temple's website (www.jcnwj.org). Please contact Bernard Robins at 908-534-7989 for further information or with questions.

Meet our Kristallnacht Speaker

We welcome **Claude Hagelberg** as our speaker during our Shabbat service and *Kristallnacht* commemoration on **Friday, November 7th** at 7:30 pm. *Kristallnacht*, literally "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938, throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of Czechoslovakia occupied by German troops. During the two days, at least 91 Jews were killed and as many as 30,000 were taken to concentration camps as rioters destroyed synagogues, looted Jewish-owned businesses, and desecrated Jewish cemeteries.

Mr. Hagelberg will reflect on his childhood in Constance, Switzerland, giving us insight on his experience of living right over the border from Germany in safety while Jews on the other side suffered at the hands of the Nazis. He will share vignettes which show what anti-Semitism was apparent to him as a child, and yet how relatively comfortably life was for Swiss-German Jews. Mr. Hagelberg will share the extraordinary story of being asked to greet a train full of concentration camp survivors at the end of the Holocaust. This presentation will give us a unique view of the *Shoah*, the Holocaust, from the other side of the border.

This presentation is open to the public; feel free to invite friends to join us. Our newly formed choir, led by Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman, will also be participating in this service.

Confirmation Class

Our next confirmation class will be November 2nd at 10:30 am.

Don't forget to bring your cellphones or tablets (with cameras) as we talk about holiness in our digital age.

It's never too late to join confirmation!

Contributions to the High Holiday Flower Fund

- ✧ The Bauer Family
- ✧ Blanche and Marvin Davidson
- ✧ Lois and Stuart Goldberg
- ✧ Laurie Post and Steven Goldner
- ✧ The Gross Family
- ✧ Robin and Colson Hall
- ✧ The Herson-Fleckles Family
- ✧ Iris and Howard Hirsch
- ✧ June and Ira Kapp
- ✧ Rene Marinich
- ✧ Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ The Parson Family
- ✧ Rhonda Jordan
- ✧ Ruth and Howard Shutzbank
- ✧ Alison and Andrew Shelofsky
- ✧ Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- ✧ Marsha Torine
- ✧ Sarah, Roseann, and Ed Weinstein

More High Holiday Greetings

- ✧ L'Shanah Tovah
- The Jordan Family
- ✧ L'Shanah Tovah to the Temple Family
- Rene Marinich
- ✧ L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation
- The Parson Family
- ✧ L'Shanah Tovah to all in the Congregation
- Blanche and Marvin Davidson

*Thank you, Thank you
to all who so lovingly donated to our*

KITCHEN SHOWER

<i>Tracy Bauer</i>	<i>Rhonda Jordan</i>	<i>Nancy Robins</i>
<i>Rita Berkowitz</i>	<i>Debbie Kahan</i>	<i>Ruth Schutzbank</i>
<i>Jeannie Berkowitz</i>	<i>Debbie Kallisher</i>	<i>Risa Smith</i>
<i>Marci Braunstein</i>	<i>Helen Mattson</i>	<i>Teri Stanton</i>
<i>Barrie Cohen</i>	<i>Judy May</i>	<i>Laura Tarlowe</i>
<i>Lois Goldberg</i>	<i>Sherri Onweller</i>	<i>Doreen Webb</i>
<i>Robin Hall</i>	<i>Susan Parilis</i>	<i>Roseann Weinstein</i>
<i>Iris Hirsch</i>	<i>Melissa Parson</i>	<i>Sarah Weinstein</i>

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.

December Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the December Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **November 19, 2014**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

Education/PTO

October was a busy month for the PTO/Education Group. Thank you to our hardworking Sukkah crew: Teri Stanton, Ruth and Howie Schutzbank, Alan Goldfarb, Jeff Fenton, Gil, Marci and Tyler Braunstein, Sandy, Emma and Molly Kahan, Sheryl and Joe Feinstein, Joon Leifer and Sabrina Hutt. Thank you to Karl Gross for getting the corn stalks. We also had very special decorations hand-made by Ashley Braunstein, Heather Gross and Morah Suzie's class.

Our Simchat Torah Pizza Party was a huge success! It was great to see so many families there. I think the kids enjoyed the glow sticks and flashing pumpkin lights provided by Marci Braunstein.

The Simchat Torah service was definitely the highlight of the month. As the Religious School Chair, a parent, and, most of all, a member of our Temple community, seeing everyone holding the Torah as it was rolled out was quite spiritual. This was the second year I have participated in this ritual and it is not something to be missed.

As always, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me with any questions.

Gerri Klein

Religious School Chair

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.





Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Upcoming Special Events include: Cara Tannenbaum, author of *In a Nutshell*, Sunday, November 16, 10am at Or Chadash, Flemington (Fee: \$8/person in advance or \$12/person day of); Janna Gur, author of *Jewish Soul Food*, Wednesday, November 19, 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee includes Luncheon: \$18/person in advance or \$22/person day of event); Allen Salkin, author of *From Scratch: Inside the Food Network*, Wednesday, December 3, 12 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee includes Luncheon: \$18/person in advance or \$22/person day of event); Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy Imagine Event, Wednesday, November 5, 6:30pm, Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Bedminster (Fee: \$125/person); Jewish Family Names with Dr. Nathan Reiss, Tuesday, December 9, 12:00 Noon at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee includes lite Bagel Lunch : \$5/person); The Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel and Israeli Short Films, Friday, December 5, 6:30pm at Or Chadash, Flemington and Thursday, December 11, 6:30pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee includes Falafel Dinner: \$12/person in advance or \$15 day of event). To register for programs, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 or register on line at www.ssbjcc.org.

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Home Health Aide	\$43,472
Assisted Living Facility	\$39,600
Nursing Home (Private Room)	\$81,030

Source: Genworth 2012 Cost of Care Survey

How long would your savings last?