

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-0762
www.jcnwj.org

December 2009
Vol. XXXVI, Issue 4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Friday, Dec. 4 at 5:00 pm to Dec. 6
at 12:00 pm Confirmation Retreat

*Sunday, Dec. 6
8:30 am -- Men's Club Breakfast
9:30 am -- Sunday School (K/1)
(Music) (Chanukah Craft)

*Monday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting

*Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Friday, Dec. 11
1st Night of Chanukah

*Sunday, Dec. 13
9:30 am -- Sunday School (K/1)
10:30 am -- Chanukah Celebration
7:00 pm -- Joint Healing Service w/
Or Chadash and Flemington JCC;
Oneg: Marinich, Goldberg, Baeck,
and Parson families

*Friday, Dec. 18, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Honoring New Members
Service (bring menorahs); Oneg:
Heller (Murray), Kowski, Heller
(Erik), and Mattson families

*Saturday, Dec. 19
9:30 am -- Tot Shabbat
10:30 am -- Morning Service
3:00 pm -- Purim Spiel "Open Cast
Call"/First Rehearsal

*Sunday, Dec. 20, 9:30 am
Sunday School and PTO Meeting
10:00 am -- Sisterhood Meeting
10:45 am -- Adult Ed.

*Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Sunday, Dec. 27
No Sunday School

Rabbi's Message

When we were invited by Rabbi Robin Nafshi of the Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center to co-host a Healing Service during Chanukah, I remembered back to our last Healing Service four years ago. In the course of that service, we dedicated our lift. Since that time, the lift has become a part of our temple's daily life. We have many members who never knew our temple without it. And we have many members who were not here for that Healing Service. Four years ago in this space, I included an explanation of Healing Services so people knew what to expect. At the time, this is what I wrote:

"I participated in my first Healing Service about ten years ago at a UAHC Biennial and have been part of many more since then. I had forgotten any apprehension I might have felt until a Temple member asked me: "For whom is the service intended? People who are seriously and/or chronically ill, sick at heart, recently injured?" She wondered if she should attend or if she would be uncomfortable. I am grateful to her for reminding me that Healing Services are so new that they require some explaining.

"What is a healing service? The simplest definition is; any service where healing takes place. A service of healing provides a place to pray, reflect and meditate. It makes a communal connection for those who are coping with illness, trauma, assault, grief or for families, caretakers, loved ones of those who need healing. For our purpose, it consists of Jewish liturgy (niggunim, psalms, blessings, prayers and Kaddish) and may include non-traditional activities such as communal sharing or stories. At the service one may gain spiritual strength through listening, reflection, meditation and prayers or just by knowing that you are not the only one on such a journey." Chris and Dave Wattenberg, Healing/Spirituality Network of CAJE.

Our Healing Service is for anyone and everyone, for the sick and the ones who care for the sick, for the recovering and the healthy, for those who want to feel the support of the community and for those who want to do the supporting.

"What is Healing? For this discussion we use it is a journey. It takes a person from where they are to a place of ease, from dis-ease to ease. Some think that healing means to return to where they were before the problem, whatever that problem is, started. They can never get back to that point, in fact they can never get back to where they were five minutes ago. At the end of a healing journey they should be better than they were when they started." Chris and Dave Wattenberg, CAJE.

Continued on page 2

President's Message

This month I would like share my feelings on how certain things happen in the temple and the impact that they have on me.

Sounds like a heavy subject and that I am going to ask you all to do more. Nothing could be further from the truth.

My message to you concerns lessons that I have learned by teaching the adult Hebrew class over the past two years.

The first message is that learning is fun. My class has as much fun as any group of people that I have ever been involved with.

As with any group that has been together for a length of time, we truly care about each other. One evening when I was out of town and we cancelled class, the rest of the class went to a member's house to help her unpack boxes in her new home.

As the teacher for over two years, I can truly say that there has never been one day that I did not feel like teaching the class. I look forward to seeing my friends (students) as well as my mentor and my teacher in the class, Charlotte.

They started two years ago without being able to read a word of Hebrew and they can now read the entire prayer book. If you ask them, they are humble and will say that they are not that good, but they are.

What this class has taught me is that education without fun might be really boring, but learning while having fun with old and new friends is something that we should always be pursued. I urge you to look for learning opportunities at the temple, and if there is something that interests you and that you would like to learn, bring it to my or the Rabbi's attention. We might not get around to it right away, but if there is enough interest in a subject, we will do what we can to make it happen.

To quote Eric Clapton, "Keep on growing".

Love,

Howie

January Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the January Issue is **January 19, 2010**. Please email articles, ideas, or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

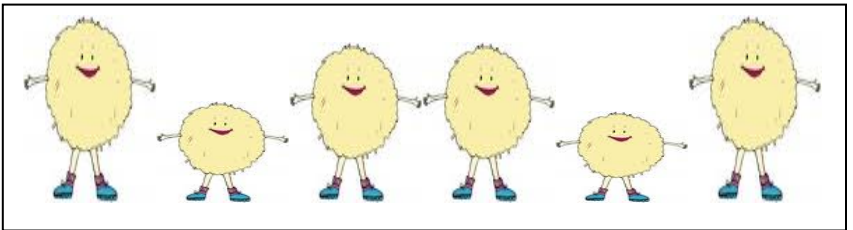
What if you don't feel like you personally are in need of healing? Then come for those who need you.

"Who are healers? Anyone can be a healer. Most people are healers and are not aware or refuse to use the title. A parent, who hugs an injured child and makes them feel better so that they can start the healing process, is a healer. The friend who attends a house of shiva, so that the people know they are being supported and can start to move on in their lives, is a healer. The teacher, who helps a student to realize his or her special gifts and starts to rebuild self esteem, is a healer." Chris and Dave Wattenberg, CAJE."

Someone asked me this week if children are welcome. The answer is yes, although it might help you to know in advance that this is not a service geared toward younger children. It is a quiet contemplative service that allows for individual introspection in the midst of community.

We will be joined by the rabbis of two Flemington congregations, Rabbi Joe Forman of Or Chadash and Rabbi Evan Jaffe of the Flemington JCC. The service is open to anyone who lives in the area of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Warren and Hunterdon Counties. Chanukah is a time of spiritual rededication. Come join us for healing and renewal.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis



Education/PTO

December is a month of fun and celebration for Hebrew School. The Confirmation Class goes on their annual retreat from **December 4th through 6th**. On **December 6th** the Sunday School students will enjoy a Hanukkah Craft project. On **December 13th** we have our Hanukkah Celebration – singing holiday songs and eating latkes, which is always fun. **December 20th** is our PTO meeting, Sisterhood meeting and Adult Education.

Also, please take time to visit our Hanukkah Bazaar during this month on Friday nights after services, and Sundays during Hebrew School (9:30 am – 12:00 pm).

There is no Hebrew School on **December 27th** and **January 3rd** (Winter Vacation).

Happy Holidays!!! ... And we'll see you next year.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein (Education Co-Chairs)

PHOTO ALBUM



Sunday School students gather outside of the temple to wish the congregation a Happy Chanukah.



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on **Sunday, December 13, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**, when the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey will host a **Healing Service for Chanukah** together with our neighboring congregations Or Chadash and the Jewish Community Center of Flemington, and in conjunction with the Ohr Tikvah Healing Center of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties.

More information and details about this special service see the Rabbi's Message.

Please note that the Sunday evening healing service will be held instead of the Friday evening, December 11, 2009, Shabbat service.

On December 11, we hope that all will celebrate the Sabbath and first night of Chanukah at home with family. The congregation will celebrate the Festival of Lights together on **Friday, December 18, 2009**, the last night of Chanukah, at which time we will also honor our new members. Kindly mark your calendars accordingly.

Contributions

Genie Berkowitz

~In memory of Frank Bronico and with appreciation to the congregation

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

~In memory of Michael Levin

Dr. Bernard Robins

~In memory of William Robins

Iris and Howard Hirsch

~In memory of Henriette Goldstein, Jessica Hirsch, and Sidney Goldstein

Rona and Stan Schick

~In memory of Rose Fleicher

Ralph Zemel

~In memory of Sally Zemel

Leslie and Murray Heller

~ In memory of Walter Sobine

Marsha Gross

~In appreciation of all the support from Rabbi and the congregation on behalf of Max



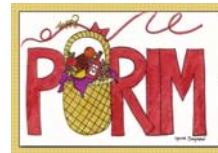
Chanukah Songs **That Never Quite** **Caught On**

- **Oy to the World**
- **Schlepping Through a Winter Wonderland**
- **Hava Negilah – The Megamix**
- **Bubbie Yetta Got Run Over By a Reindeer**
- **Enough with those facakennah Jingle Bells Already...Sheez!**
- **Matzo Man (by the Lower East Side Village People)**
- **I Have a Little Dreidel (the Barking Dog Version)**
- **Come on Baby, Light My Menorah**
- **Deck the Halls with Balls of Matzos**
- **Silent Night? I Should be so Lucky**

JCNWJ Sisterhood Kick-Off a Great Success!

On November 15, 2009 the JCNWJ Sisterhood had their kick-off meeting and breakfast to revive this vital group of women motivated to accomplish great things at our temple! There was a tremendous turn out, with everyone sharing their aspirations for the Sisterhood. Amongst those mentioned were social events, community outreach, fundraising and education. To accomplish these goals we need you! Please come to our next Sisterhood meeting on **December 20, 2009 at 10:00 am** at the Temple to participate in these wonderful programs while having fun with temple friends! For information about JCNWJ Sisterhood please visit our website at www.jcnwj.org.

JCNWJ Sisterhood Purim Giftgiving Event



Purim: a Time for Gift Giving...The JCNWJ Sisterhood would like to let you know about the wonderful gift giving fund raiser we are doing in connection with Purim (February 28, 2010).

It is called Mishloach Manot. Each temple family/member will have an opportunity to purchase and send a gift bag to other temple families/members. Every temple family/member will receive one gift bag. In each bag is a card imprinted mentioning each family/member that contributed with special acknowledgement to you.

Although each temple family/member will receive only one bag you may purchase bags for as many families as you wish. This contribution will work as a fund raiser for our temple and go toward the purchase of a new furnace.

For more information and to look at the forms for this event, please check the temple website.

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Reaching hundreds of readers each month in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, and Warren Counties in New Jersey as well as those residing parts of Eastern Pennsylvania, advertising in the Journal is effective and affordable. Tell your friends and contacts at local businesses whom you patronize about the opportunity to market themselves through sponsoring an advertisement in the online newsletter. For more information on placing an ad see the Journal Advertising Form (on the temple website) or contact Tracey Bauer.





Open Cast Call



Actors • Singers • Dancers

Durim Spiel 2010

Presents...“Middle East Side Story”

First Scheduled Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 19th, 3-5 pm

(Concluding with Havdalah Service)

**For more information contact Sharon Herson
sharonherson@comcast.net**

Menorah Lighting

The JCNWJ will light the menorah in the center of Long Valley on **Dec. 18th at 4pm**. It will be held on the porch of **Splash Restaurant at 1 Mill St. in Long Valley, New Jersey**. Once the candle is lit we will be singing and celebrating. Please join us afterwards for dinner at Splash, and let us continue to celebrate at The Jewish Center for our Chanukah Service at 7:30 pm.

Please join us for a great evening. If you have any questions, please contact the membership committee at jcnwjmembership@gmail.com.

Chanukah Invite

Give a friend a CHANUKAH Gift: FREE Membership to the Jewish Center!

As a membership drive, the JCNWJ is offering free membership from January to June 2010. Send the attached invitation to families who may be looking for their first Jewish community or seeking to join a new one. You may reproduce the invitation in order to send it to more than one family! (Note that the family must accept the gift by **January 15, 2010**.)

If you have any questions, contact Susan McNamara or Melissa Parson at jcnwjmembership@gmail.com.

You are cordially invited to be a member of the
Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
for six months free with Sunday School.*

To: _____

From (member): _____

If interested, please fill out and return.
A membership committee member will contact you:
The JCNWJ Membership
PO Box 2
Washington, NJ 07882

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Chanukah Service December 18th at 7:30 pm
All are welcome
www.jcnwj.org

*space permitting
Expires January 15, 2010

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