

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

On Tuesday, November 22, prolonged periods of high temperature, parched conditions, and severe winds resulted in a series of wildfires throughout the northern half of Israel. As the week unfolded, well over a hundred different fires ignited in what observers are calling the most extreme series of fires the country of Israel has ever seen.

Indeed, the devastation has been overwhelming. For instance, as reported by ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America), "In Haifa alone, over 1000 homes were destroyed and over 60,000 people were displaced." Among those who were displaced in Haifa is the Reform congregation, Or Hadash.

On Friday, November 25, Rabbi Oshrat Morag of Or Hadash, penned the following note:

I am writing to you with mixed feelings, to share the experiences of my family, and our "Or Hadash" community from the past few days in Haifa, the city I grew up in and the city where I have chosen to raise my children.

It was shocking to see my city burning. Buildings in flames, the Carmel Mountain blackened and the sky grey from smoke.

It is striking to see the helplessness of humanity facing nature's rage, and it left me speechless.

My young daughter's gaze said it all: 'Mommy what will become of us?!? "

I hugged my four children as I told them: 'We shall overcome. Let us pray that the rains will wash the black and bring renewed growth, fresh foliage and new life will arise from this pain and sorrow.'

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, December 2nd**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Berkowitz, Goldner/Post, Goldberg
- **Sunday, December 4th**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Confirmation
- **Monday, December 5th**
7:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Saturday, December 10th**
10:30am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, December 11th**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Sisterhood Meeting
- **Friday, December 16th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Fenton, Margolin, Hirsch
- **Saturday, December 17th**
Shabbaton - See details on Pg. 6
10:30am – Shabbat Morning Musical Service and Informal Torah Study
1:30pm – Shabbat Study: An overview of Hebrew Poetry
5:00pm – Wine & Cheese, Songs and Poems of Leonard Cohen
7:00pm – Havdalah

(continued on next page)

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Tongues of fire also lapped the edges of our humble sanctuary. The surroundings blackened, and all entrances were blocked. My family, among many of my community members had to evacuate from their homes. For 24 hours, we were not sure whether we will have a home to return to.

Now we all have to roll up our sleeves in order to rebuild the spirits of our members and start healing our emotional, as well as physical, wounds that the fire left on our souls and our building.

I call you to join me, to the members of my community and all of the members of the Reform movement in Israel, to repair the damage that was caused by these unexpected fires. To help us reconstruct a building of love from the inside so we can continue to build a community of love and worship.

Sending you wishes for a peaceful Shabbat and always feeling thankful for what we have,

Oshrat

So what can we, the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, do? Well, here's an idea...

On Sunday, December 11, a group of dedicated volunteers will gather at the JCNWJ to commence planning our congregational trip to Israel. In preparing for this first meeting, I've come up with a number of topics for discussion. After reading Rabbi Morag's words, however, I decided to add one more: My hope is that when we do finally travel to Israel as the Reform community of Washington, NJ, we will have opportunity to visit and pray with the Reform community of Haifa. Until then, anyone wishing to offer financial support for the rebuilding effort can submit donations through ARZA at www.arza.org. I am told that if you wish to earmark your donation for *Or Hadash*, you can do so by writing to Alex Langer at alanger@arza.org.

With warm embrace for our sisters and brothers in Israel,

Rabbi Dubin

Calendar (continued)

- **Sunday, December 18th**
9:30am – Family Sunday
School/Chanukah Party
- **Monday, December 19th**
7:30pm – Book Club
- **Monday, January 2nd**
7:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Friday, January 6th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Evening Service
Oneg – Fesinstine, Weinstein, Wilson
- **Sunday, January 8th**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am - Confirmation

President's Message

Last week, we celebrated the American version of Sukkot, which we call Thanksgiving. It is a time of reflection for me, as I have watched members of my immediate family as well as my temple family have some downs this autumn. I am thankful for all the joys that are in my life and I pray for those of you who are dealing with struggles to remember your attitude.

Attitude is what you project from yourself. I have seen people with many material things in life have attitudes that they are entitled to those things. I have seen people like this have attitudes that reflect that they expect everything to work out for their own personal good. The attitude I like to project is one of helpfulness. I want to be helpful to Iris, to my father, to my family, to my temple and to the world.

Attitude is the one thing that you can control in your life. You cannot control who will run the country, although you have a vote. You cannot control if a friend says something hurtful to you. You cannot control certain health issues. You cannot control how other people react to you. What you can control is how you react to others. You can control the attitude you project.

Are your actions consistent with how you wish to be perceived? I know in my life that sometimes things I say or do are not taken in the manner they were meant. I cannot control how someone reacts to my words and actions, but I can try my best to use words that are conciliatory and not accusatory. It doesn't always work, but all I can do is continue to keep my attitude positive, whether things are going well or things are not going well. My attitude should be the same in all conditions. Isn't that wishful thinking???

As you prepare for the end of the year, for Chanukah and the secular New Year, I would like you to think of the attitude that you project with your words and actions and strive to make them as peaceful to your fellow humans as you can. Perception is reality, and when you project a positive attitude, things always seems to look better.

With much love and thanks,
Howie

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

The Sisterhood will be having a meeting on December 11 at the Temple at 10:30. A light breakfast will be served. Please see the flyer below for important information about the meeting!

Also, please set aside the evening of December 29th to attend the Second Annual Hanukkah party at the Shelofsky residence (23 John Drive, Annandale, NJ). Seasonal favorites will be served. An activity will be planned as well. Please watch your email for an official invite.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison at shelofsky@comcast.net

We Need Your Help!!!

The Sisterhood Service Committee is collecting **Women's Business Attire**—gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories--to help local women going out on job interviews put their best foot forward. By filling the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center's new Wardrobe of Hope, we help survivors achieve economic independence.

We are also collecting gift cards and **NEW unwrapped toys** for children and teens for their Holiday Shoppe.

PLEASE TAKE A DEEP LOOK INTO YOUR CLOSET AND BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE TEMPLE (there will be a box marked DASACC in the Simcha Room) on or before **December 11, 2016.**

Visit the DASACC website for more information about their programs and the Wardrobe of Hope <http://www.dasacc.org>. Information will be coming soon about a visit to DASACC's Washington offices for a tour of the Wardrobe of Hope and therapeutic sewing room and to meet with DASACC representatives.

All Welcome.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

- December 4th
- December 11th
- December 18th
- January 8th

DONATIONS

In memory of Hannah & Heather Braunstein
-Marci & Gil Braunstein

In honor of my friendship with Judy & Paul
May and Nancy & Bernie Robins
-Susan Roth

In memory of Doris Tarlowe
-Paul & Laura Tarlowe

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg will be starting in December on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00PM at JCNWJ! No experience necessary, just a Mah Jongg card which can be purchased at nationalmahjonggleague.org. Please email Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.org if interested. Four people minimum are needed for a game, so advance notice is appreciated.

TORAH STUDY

The Torah study group is lay-led and welcomes new participants at any time. The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 10th at 10:30am. We will be continuing our discussion of Numbers 31 and starting to read Numbers 32.

Shabbaton – December 17, 2016

Come to everything, or pick and choose. Bring a friend or two, or three. If you plan to be present for lunch and/or wine and cheese, please RSVP by Thursday, December 15, to Sharon Herson: sharonherson@comcast.net (we need to know how much food to get)

SHABBATON

Saturday, December 17th

with Cantor Ted Labow

10:30 a.m.



Shabbat morning *musical service* and informal *Torah study*

12:30 p.m.

Light lunch



1:30 p.m.



Shabbat study:
An overview of Hebrew poetry through the ages

S H A B B A T R E S T

5:00 p.m.

Wine and cheese



5:30 p.m.

THE SONGS AND POEMS OF
LEONARD COHEN
1934 - 2016



7:00 p.m.

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