

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

My first address growing up was on 78th Street, but I've lived on so many more since then. To name a few, I've lived on East Grand Avenue, Main Street, Forest Avenue, Pebble Drive, 122nd Street, Pleasant Avenue, Broadway, and Haim Bajayo. On this list, you'll, perhaps, one name that is different from all the others. While the first eight all project hints about the physical location or natural surroundings of each address, only the ninth, only Haim Bajayo begs a history lesson. Given that Haim Bajayo was my address in Jerusalem, perhaps this should come as no surprise, because one of the things that differentiates Israelis from Americans, I believe, is the importance each places on national history. My street was named Haim Bajayo, after the last Sephardic rabbi of the Hebron community outside Jerusalem during the British Mandate period. How do I know? Because, since I lived on the street named after him, I naturally felt the obligation to learn more about who he was. Somehow, living on Pebble Drive never made me long to become a geologist, nor even watch more Flintstones. For whatever reason, I, and most people I know, are simply more drawn to make connections with people than we are to objects or adjectives.

As everybody knows, the streets of Jerusalem are filled to the brim with history. What you may not know, however, unless you've spent time walking the streets there, is that almost every one offers a most fabulous way to learn and connect with our own history.

Most streets in Jerusalem are named after people. Some are biblical (King David Street, Deborah the Prophet Street, Rachel our Mother Street, etc.) and some are from the Rabbinic Period (Hen Baba Street, Bruria Street, Hillel Street, etc.). Some honor the memories

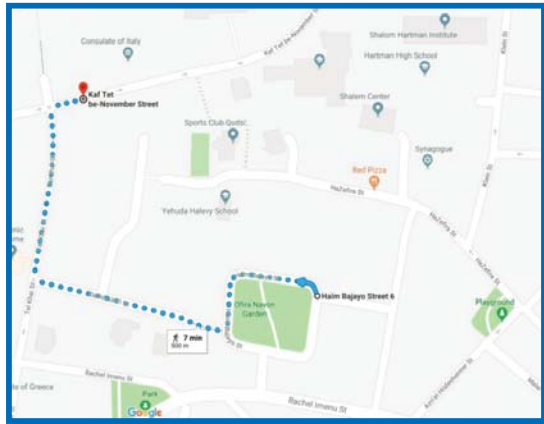
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Mark Your Calendar

- **Saturday, December 9th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, December 10th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Friday, December 15th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat & Hanukkah Service
Oneg – Margolin, Schutzbank, Hirsch
- **Sunday, December 17th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Friday, January 5th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Margolis, Weinstein, Lappin
- **Sunday, January 7th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Sisterhood

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

of Zionist leaders (Menachem Begin Boulevard, Herzl Boulevard, Golda Meir Boulevard, etc), and others remember some of the most influential Jewish scholars of the Golden Age in Spain (Ibn Ezra Street, Rambam Street, Ramban Street, etc.,). I could go on, bringing attention to streets named after the founding pioneers of Israel, or the Holy Temple of Jerusalem, or the Six Day War, or a whole host of other historically significant personalities, but one group that is specifically relevant this week includes place names such as Colombia Street, Mexico Street, Nicaragua Street, Panama Street, and Venezuela Street. These countries are particularly important because they remind us of one of the most important days (in my opinion) in all of Jewish history: November 29, 1947, 70 years ago last week, when 33 countries (including Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela, among others) voted to approve U.N. Resolution 181, which granted official recognition of the right of the Jewish people to create a national home in our ancestral birthplace of Israel. November 29, 1947 was **not** the day Israel became a modern independent state, but it most certainly was the day when the **possibility** of satisfying our 2000 year old hope (HaTikvah) finally became real.



When the Dubin family lived in Jerusalem, our home was on Haim Bajayo Street. Practically around the corner, just 500 meters away, was Kaf-Tet b'November Street. Why Kaf-Tet? Because, as you may know, each letter in Hebrew has a numerical value associated with it. When you put the letter *Kaf*, which has the value of 20, with the letter *Tet*, which has a value of 9, you get 29. I will never forget that date – the 29th of November – because I used to walk by it practically every day.

78th Street, East Grand Avenue, Main Street, Forest Avenue, Pebble Drive, 122nd Street, Pleasant Avenue, and Broadway are all fine streets on which to live, but none of them ever taught me or inspired me to something greater just by their mere names. While I may not endorse the legacies of every last personality after whom Jerusalem streets are named (my own Haim Bajayo included), I can't help but connect to the past and push myself to a better future just by living amidst those personalities.

Jewish tradition teaches that we stand on the shoulders of all the giants who came before us. In Jerusalem, in addition to standing on their shoulders, so too do we walk under their name tags when we go from street to street. As we continue to prepare for our JCNWJ trip to Israel this summer, I encourage those of you who are still on the fence to join us. Together, we will walk the streets, learn the history, and connect, both to our own small JCNWJ family and to the entire Jewish people.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

p.s. For a fuller understanding of November 29, 1947,

I invite you to watch the two videos linked here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrIjzUK0FKg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Wg34NBDjCk&t=936s>

President's Message

As some of you may know, I am on the road a lot for my business. While many of my fellow business travelers spend a good deal of time in their hotel rooms while on the road, I try to get out of the room and see what is around me. In this vein, I have taken upon a quest to have my picture taken at all 50 state capitol buildings. In the two plus years that I have done this, I have now taken my picture at 32 capitols. Some of my capitol pictures are easier to get than others, as I may have meetings in the city where the capitol is. Last week, after work was done for the day, I drove from Dallas, Texas to Oklahoma City and back in 6 hours just to take a picture.

The reason I am starting with this story is that our temple family is embarking on a trip to Israel in June. While I know that some of you cannot make this trip, I would like to encourage those of you who are on the fence to get out of your comfort zone, make an extra effort to come to Israel with us. Having been to Israel 10 years ago, I am excited to see what has changed and what has remained the same. However, what really excites me about this trip is traveling with my temple family. I am so excited to share the wonder of our ancestral home with however many of you are able to join us. If you have never been to Israel, I urge you to take this opportunity to finally make Aliyah and go. For those of you who have been there already, I think you will see the country in a new light while traveling with Rabbi Dubin and the rest of the JCNWJ family.

Iris and I wish all of you a very Happy Hanukkah. Our wishes for you for the next secular year are simple: we wish for you good health, happiness and contentment with your lives and NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM.

Love, 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.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood thanks all the participants who purchased Hanukkah gifts for Jewish residents at the Hunterdon Developmental Center in keeping with a Jewish Center tradition that goes back over four decades.

Thank you, one and all.

Sisterhood Calendar

- January 7 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple, a light breakfast will be served
- March 11 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- May 6 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple

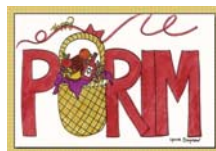
Mishloach Manot

Purim -- a Time for Gift Giving! The JCNWJ Sisterhood is once again sponsoring the wonderful Mishloach Manot fund-raiser for Purim (February 28–March 1, 2018). This is a great occasion to give sweets and gifts to your friends, family, and co-workers.

Sisterhood is coordinating this fund-raiser to have a Purim treat sent to each Temple family. *Every Temple family will receive one gift bag on or around Purim.*

To support this, we are asking each family to make a donation of at least \$18.00 to cover the cost of the Purim gift bags. As in the past, however, families are encouraged to give up to \$180.00.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the JCNWJ general fund. Every family will receive a letter in January explaining the details of the Mishloach Manot fund-raiser. So be on the lookout for your invitation to participate.



Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Dates:

December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th – Hanukkah Celebration

No Sunday School December 24th or
December 31st

Sunday School resumes on January 7th

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study continues in the Book of Deuteronomy.
Please join us at any or all of the following upcoming
meetings at 10:30am in the Simcha Room:

December 9 th	April 14 th
January 13 th	May 12 th
February 24 th	June 9 th
March 24 th	

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members
only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and
other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter
the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the
password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

DONATIONS

In Honor of Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
– Jeannie and Jeff Berkowitz

In Memory of Stanley Shelofsky
– Jeannie and Jeff Berkowitz

In Memory of Stanley Shelofsky
– Helen and John Mattson

On the Yahrzeit for Belle Shure
– Helen and John Mattson

On the Yahrzeit for Ira Kapp
– Deborah Kapp

On the Yahrzeit for Max Weil
– Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

On the Yahrzeit for William Robins
– Nancy and Bernie Robins

Towards Technology Equipment
– Sisterhood, JCNWJ

In Honor of the High Holy Days
– Deb and Aaron Kalisher

– Gwen and Ed Nagorsky
– Helen and John Mattson
– Iris and Howie Hirsch
– Nancy and Bernie Robins
– Robert Margolis
– Robin and Colson Hall
– Judy and Paul May
– Nancy and Bernie Robins

Updates & Events

ISRAEL TRIP

Congregational trip to Israel!

June 24 – July 6, 2018

Relive the history of our people in the place where it all happened!

Join us for a life changing, life enriching experience in Israel - the heartland of the Bible. Visit the places you have been hearing about, enjoy exciting and adventurous hiking and water experiences, all while visiting historic landmarks and sites of interest.

Visit the trip website at <http://www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx> to view:

- Promotional flyer (accenting the trip highlights) to share with extended friends and family you wish to invite.
- Detailed day-by-day trip itinerary.
- Registration process “how-to” document outlining important details as well as screen shots of what to expect and how to do each step of the process.

Looking forward to sharing this incredible opportunity with my synagogue family!

Sincerely, Lynne Kowski & Roy Loomis

P.S. if you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to email both Lynne (Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu) and Roy (rloomis@cherrybrook.com)

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

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.

Thank You

New Year's Greetings

Thank you to the following contributors for "L'Shanah Tovah" Greetings:

The Webb Family
Diane Margolin
The Herson/Fleckles Family
The Hirsch Family
The Maranich Family
The Bauer Family
The Mattson Family
The Weinstein Family
Rabbi Ellen Lewis
The Tarlowe Family
The Schutzbank Family
The Smith Family
The Gross Family
The Hall Family
The Jordan Family

Flower Fund

Thank you to the following contributors for donations to the High Holiday Flower Fund:

The Webb Family
The Rita and Jerry Berkowitz Family
Diane Margolin
The Herson/Fleckles Family
The Hirsch Family
The Maranich Family
The Bauer Family
The Mattson Family
The Weinstein Family
Rabbi Ellen Lewis
The Tarlowe Family
The Schutzbank Family
The Smith Family
The Gross Family
The Hall Family
The Jordan Family
Dr. Jeffrey Nurenberg
The Weinstein Family
The Goldberg Family
The Mattson Family

חנכה שמח

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Tues – Wed 9:30-5:15, Thurs – Fri 9:30-7:00, Sat
9:30-4:00 (9:30-2:00 During Summer)