



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, June 4, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat - Oneg:
- Sunday, June 6, 9:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting
- Friday, June 18, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat with student cantor
- Saturday, June 19, 11:30 a.m.
First NFTY
Youth Group Meeting
- Friday, June 25, 6:30 p.m.
Lay-Led Shabbat followed by
potluck dinner
- Saturday, July 17, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study
- Saturday, August 21, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Study

Summer Services

July 9 and 30, 7:45 p.m.

August 13 and 27,
Lay Service, 6:30 p.m.

Rabbi's Message

I don't know why I felt so paralyzed. When I was last in Rome some years back, I had seen that famed tableau molded on the inside of the Arch of Titus. The Jewish slaves are struggling under the weight of the menorah pillaged from the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70. You can almost see the beads of sweat on their bodies. I closed my eyes and for one moment, I felt like I was there, watching the Jewish people enslaved yet again, distraught at the destruction of their religious center. When I opened my eyes, it was as if I were seeing that scene for the very first time.

I wondered what these slaves had been thinking as their images were captured in stone for eternity. Did they think the Jewish people had come to an end with the loss of the Temple in Jerusalem? Did they have hope that the Temple would someday be rebuilt as it had been once before? Would they have imagined that there would still be Jews in the world two millennia later? Or were they just hoping to live to see the next dawn?

As I listened to our Confirmation students read Torah this morning, I couldn't help but think how that ancient suffering had been redeemed. We are the heirs to those who heard God's call in Mesopotamia, survived slavery in Egypt, accepted the Torah at Sinai, entered the Promised Land, built not one but two temples in Jerusalem, survived exile and return time and again. And here we still are, making our way into the future as if there is no question that there is a future. Our students bear the weight of that menorah not as a burden of slavery but as a symbol of pride in their heritage.

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President's Message

Sitting in my upstairs bedroom this evening, I am reminded that climbing stairs is not something that we can take for granted. This year, I have tried my best to make our beloved temple handicapped accessible. As I sit here tonight, I am so excited. I have just received a complete set of architectural drawings for an upgrade to make this happen. The plans call for a few major improvements and some minor improvements. The major improvements are to put a lift in the front of the building, which will enable people to enter, exit and move between floors of the building without using a single stair. It will also enable a person to access the entire building in a wheelchair. The second major improvement is to remodel one of the upstairs classrooms into a handicapped accessible bathroom on the upper floor.

The third major improvement is to put an addition at the rear of the building to add classroom space that we are losing due to the other changes. In order to begin work on this project, the congregation must approve of this project in a special meeting.

As your president, I firmly believe that these improvements are essential to the continued viability of our congregation.

I urge you to attend this special meeting and to make your feelings known about this renovation. Your opinion is both valued and essential.

Shalom,

Howie Hirsch

Rabbi's Message, cont.

We all stood at Sinai again today, thankfully aware of the miracles that are with us every day. Each generation hears God's word and each generation passes their truth on to the next. Ashreinu mah tov helkeinu, how good is our portion, how beautiful our inheritance. May we continue to be blessed with the teachers and students of Torah .

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Be sure to attend the annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, June 6 at 9:30 a.m.**

A Very Special Shabbat

Don't miss Shabbat Service on Friday, June 18, 7:45 p.m. We will be welcoming our new student cantor Karen Neff. Please give her a very warm welcome to our community.

NEW! Youth Group Meeting

The Jewish Center is creating a new youth group for students entering 9th grade through the confirmation class of 2002, sponsored by NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth).

Some information about NFTY:

Over 450 Reform congregations throughout North America sponsor Temple Youth Groups, bringing the NFTY experience to more than 10,000 high school-age young people. NFTYites strive to forge an identity in consonance with the goals and values of Reform Judaism.

Stemming from a historic tradition of both Jewish and non-Jewish European youth movements, NFTY is the Reform Jewish youth movement that is advised by a set of adult Jewish youth professionals. Comprised of nearly 500 local synagogue youth groups, NFTY also functions as a youth organization, an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, as well as a program of the URJ Youth Division. There is a healthy balance between those aspects of NFTY that are youth-led and those that are directed by its adult advisors.

NFTYites forge and build friendships, lifelong Reform Jewish identities, and leadership skills through community building, worship, social action, and experiential youth-led Jewish educational programming. Many NFTYites serve as NFTY leaders on the local TYG, regional, and even North American levels. Many NFTY Leaders continue on to become both lay and professional leaders of the Reform Jewish Movement. (info from www.nfty.org)

Be a part of something special. The first meeting will be 11:30am on Saturday June 19th at the Temple. Please contact Mercedes Weiland at 973-927-3292 before June 15th to let her know if you will be attending. Pizza will be supplied for lunch.

Upcoming Adult Education Programs

Torah Study will continue during the summer months. The June date has been CHANGED from June 12 to June 26. New participants are welcome. Next dates are July 17 and August 21. Shabbat mornings at 10:30 on the just-mentioned dates. If you are curious about why the story of Joseph is in the Bible, come to the next session. Questions? Call Sharon at the Temple.

Education Committee and PTO News

Please contact Lisa Bauch if you will be registering your child for our Religious School for the first time. The deadline for new registrations is July 15. Have a great summer!

Thanks to Everyone

Thanks to all who participated in the annual Passover food drive. Our bags of food and toiletries helped fill the shelves of the food bank located in the Long Valley Presbyterian Church. The church was most appreciative and very interested in who and where we are!

Congratulations!

Rona Schick is having a milestone birthday in July. Helen & John Mattson's daughter Jennifer will be getting married August 8th.

Relay for Life

The Seidorf family is participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life which will be held at North Hunterdon High School on June 4-5. The Relay for Life honors cancer survivors, remembers loved ones who lost their battle against cancer, and educates the community about cancer prevention. We would appreciate your support for this effort. Donations of any amount will be happily accepted. Checks can be made out to the American Cancer Society and sent to me at: 5 Grace Drive, Annandale, NJ 08801.

Thanks for your support. At the Relay for Life, there is no finish line until we find a cure.

David Seidorf

Give My Regards to Broadway

Want to see a Broadway show at a great discount? The Temple occasionally receives discount coupons for New York City shows intended for use by students, their parents, and fellow JCNWJ colleagues.

See our website for available shows at www.jcnwj.org/shows/show_list.htm or clicking on NYC Show Discounts on our website menu. Seating is generally available in Orchestra and Mezzanine, and show days are shown on the discount coupons.

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

Thanks to everyone who participated in purchasing Shop Rite and A&P script. The script will continue to be available throughout the summer. Call Sandy Seidorf at the Temple to arrange delivery.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Study + Worship + Community = Kallah

Spend five unforgettable days learning and studying among a vibrant community of committed worshippers — register for the 2004 Summer Kallah! This year's Kallah will be held at the University of California at Santa Cruz, July 7-11, and Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH, July 21-25. For information, visit www.urj.org/educate/kallah, or contact the Dept of Lifelong Jewish Learning, 212.650.4110, educate@urj.org.

Donations

Helen & John Mattson, in honor of the confirmation students, who did a magnificent job

From Your Newsletter Editor

Your humble editor will be working at JCC Camp Deeny Riback during the summer (along with Cara Hessels and Danielle Rosborough). The next newsletter will be out sometime in August for August/September. The deadline will be August 5.

10 Minutes of Torah

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM'S DEPARTMENT OF LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

The Union will send you a **one-page e-mail** each day on a topic of Jewish interest. All you need to do is find **10 minutes a day** to "do Torah."

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WHAT? 10 minutes a day of personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic.

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