



## Mark Your Calendar!

- Saturday, June 20, 10:30am  
Torah Study
- Friday, June 26, 7:30pm  
Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Weiner family
- Saturday, June 27, 10:00am  
Bat Mitzvah of Sally Weiner
- Monday, July 13, 7:30pm  
Board Meeting
- Friday, July 24, 6:00pm  
Shabbat Service  
followed by potluck dinner
- Sunday, August 2 –  
Temple Picnic
- Monday, August 3, 7:30pm  
Board Meeting

**Friday Shabbat services now  
start promptly at 7:30 p.m.**

*Rabbi Lewis's sermons are  
now on our Website!  
Visit us at [www.jcnwj.org](http://www.jcnwj.org)*

## Rabbi's Message

This time of year always feels bittersweet. It is filled with endings. Another school year has come and gone. Watching our eight confirmands conclude their formal Jewish education filled me with pride at the same time that it left me with the sadness that accompanies their moving on. Fortunately for us, many of our high school students continue to come on Sunday mornings and assist in our classrooms. Our teacher of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Mike Weiner, refers to them not as aides but as colleagues. They were once our students; now they have become our teachers.

And speaking of teachers, Robin Hall has taught Hebrew in our school for the past twelve years and has decided after much thought that her teaching time is done. Think about how many students she has influenced over the years and how many b'nai mitzvah students she has tutored. We can't even begin to consider how we will replace her. We owe her so much. Robin started teaching when she responded to a plea made at a congregational meeting. Now we need someone to follow in her footsteps. If you are interested in teaching prayer book Hebrew to our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders on Sunday mornings, please speak to me, Marsha Gross or Karen Finkelstein.

There will be a changing of the guard at the PTO as Susan McNamara turns over the reins to Debbie Fesinstine. Under Susan's leadership, the PTO has expanded its already significant contribution to our school and our temple community. We just couldn't run the school without their support and inspiration.

This year also marks the end of Jim Arvesen's term as president of our congregation. No one (except for other past-presidents) knows how much time, effort and love goes into this position. You see them on the pulpit on Shabbat; you

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## President's Message

This summer marks many new directions for me personally. First, I will be stepping down as your President. I look forward to serving as the Immediate Past President, a Board position that will actually give me a vote! Consequently, I will still be very active in our Temple affairs.

I will also continue to serve on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties. This gives us some voice in the larger Jewish community even though we are physically quite distant from the Federation's offices at the JCC in Bridgewater. I know my children all know how to get to Bridgewater Commons Mall, the Federation offices are essentially a stone's throw north of there.

Also, I will be taking a test in July to hopefully become a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™. This will allow me and my business partner, Professor Lewis Coopersmith of the Rider University Business School, the capability of marketing retirement planning software to this profession. We have already tested this software on over thirty friends, all of whom claim to have benefited from its use. One last time I will offer a free analysis of any Congregant's retirement plan (or lack thereof). Of course, all information obtained from any Congregation member would be held in strict confidence.

I have also been serving as a volunteer for the Financial Planning Association (FPA). My most recent gig was a presentation to over 200 retired individuals at a conference jointly sponsored by the FPA and the Diocese of Trenton. Actually, I

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## Rabbi's Message, cont.

don't see them working behind the scenes. Jim has also shown up on Sunday mornings while school is in session and has been active in the larger Jewish community of our local Jewish Federation and the regional Union for Reform Judaism. He is always asking what he can do to help and will still be available as an adviser to us. His experience will be invaluable. We are so lucky that Howie Hirsch has agreed to step in and do a reprise of his presidential role. Howie always makes it easier for me to do my job as rabbi.

There will also be some additional changes on the Board. We are grateful to the six dedicated people who are going off the Board - Jane Kunzman, Gwen Nagorsky, Debbie Knobelman, Sharon Herson, Risa Smith, and Lynne Kowski. In turn, we welcome to the Board Bob Margolis as Vice President, Kimberly Peckman-Greenwald as Secretary, Tracey Bauer and Lois Goldberg as the co-chairs of Religious Practices, and Jennifer Rosenblum as an at-large member. Mike Weiner is moving from Vice President to an at-large position. Lisa Bauch, our devoted and patient newsletter editor, is passing the newsletter to Tracey and Abby Bauer. I look forward to working with all these new board members as well as continuing to work with those members whose terms have not expired.

This year, we also say good-bye to Cantor (yes, it is finally official) Marcy Kadin. We have been blessed to have her with us for the past three years. We have gained from her voice, her spirit and her presence. During our Confirmation service and closing school ceremony, she thanked us for having taught her how to be a real Cantor; we, in turn, thank her for all that she has brought to us. We shall miss her. Her gifts will remain with us even when she has moved on to her first "real" job. She has been so gracious in helping make a match between us and our new student cantor, Tifani Coyot, who will join us at our September 11 service.

To those who are stepping down, we say good-bye and thank you for your service. To those who are stepping up, we say the same thing. Our tradition teaches us that there are no endings without beginnings. We look back with pride as we look forward with hope.

Don't forget to join us for our June and one July services. May you find rest and restoration in these summer months, so that you return renewed for the coming year.

*Rabbi Ellen Lewis*

## President's Message, cont.

learned something interesting. The Catholic Church has a formal program to certify senior citizens as lay counseling leaders. I will try to get a little more information about it, and discuss it a little with another great counselor in our midst, Rabbi Lewis.

Like any leader, I know have made many friends, and possibly have stepped on the toes of others, while serving as your President over the last two years. First, I would like to apologize to those whom I have offended in any way. Second, I truly appreciate the staunch support of those who have helped our Congregation move forward over the last two years. I eagerly look forward to helping the new Board and President.

Shalom,  
Jim Arvesen  
[arvesen@att.net](mailto:arvesen@att.net)

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## Upcoming Events

We are having a temple picnic on August 2<sup>nd</sup>; please contact Howie for details.

Also, we are having a service at 6:30 on Friday, July 24 followed by a potluck supper. Please contact Iris Hirsch at 908 850 1030 to coordinate food.

## Religious School/PTO Events

It's hard to believe another year of Hebrew School has gone by. We would like to give a BIG thank you to our wonderful teachers, classroom helpers, and PTO members. You are the key to our success. We also happen to have a great group of students!

Welcome to Debbie Fesinstine, who will be taking over the position of PTO Chair in September.

Also, if anyone is interested in joining the Education Committee as a co-Chair, we would love to hear from you. We would like to train someone to help out with the Hebrew School responsibilities – it is very rewarding and I'm sure you will enjoy it – we do.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

*Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein*

## Rona & Stanley Schick's new address

Rona and Stanley Schick's new address: 196 Lafayette Ave., Apt #204, Suffern, NY 10901

## Donations

Helen and John Mattson - Wishing the Schicks well in their new home

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Edythe Herson - In memory of Reuben Marcovitch

Laura Tarlowe - In memory of Norma and Herbert Shifrin

Rabbi Ellen Lewis - In memory of Michael Lewis

## A Humble Thank You from your Newsletter Editor

This will be my final issue as editor of The Journal. It has been both a privilege and honor to bring you this newsletter for the past seven years. I want to thank everyone who has diligently sent me your articles on time (or just a wee bit late sometimes); you are all the kindest group of people I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

I will be working behind the scenes on the next few issues, so as to transition smoothly to the next lucky editor.

Have a great summer,  
Lisa Bauch

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