

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

Summer 2015
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Rabbi's Message

"Who is rich? One who sees a portion of her dreams fulfilled in her lifetime, and half her dreams fulfilled in the lifetime of her sons and daughters."

- Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin

Dear JCNWJ friends,

This year I mark my *chai* year -18th year- in the rabbinate. The days have been long; the years have passed quickly. When I take stock of my rabbinate so far, I realize how blessed I have been to teach, lead, and be part of so many lives.

Serving JCNWJ has certainly been part of the rich blessings of my rabbinate. I deeply appreciate the way that you have embraced my family and me and, in turn, allowed me to be a part of your lives and community. I hope the contributions I have made to the religious school, prayer services, adult education, lifecycle rituals, holidays, and pastoral care will continue to enrich the Jewish Center and its members. The Jewish memories we have created together will always be an important part of my rabbinate; the friendships will endure for sure.

I know this beautiful community will continue to grow, evolve, and thrive. Wishing you all good things.

Rabbi Mary Zamore

Mark Your Calendar

- **Monday, June 1st**
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- **Tuesday, June 2nd**
7 pm Mah Jongg
- **Sunday, June 7th**
10:30 am Adult Education
- **Friday, June 12th**
7:30 pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Parson, Perfetti, and Kalisher Families
- **Saturday, June 13th**
10:30 am Torah Study
- **Sunday, June 14th**
2 pm Summer Picnic, BBQ, and Pool Party at Rita and Jerry Berkowitz's Home
- **Tuesday, June 16th**
7 pm Mah Jongg
- **Monday, June 22nd**
7 pm Book Club
- **Friday, June 26th**
6:30 pm Shabbat Dinner
7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Oneg: Kowski, Epstein/Feinstein, Berkowitz, and Bauer Families

President's Message

As many of you are aware, my two year term as JCNWJ President is coming to a close. At the recent annual Congregation Meeting, I concluded with the President's Report. In my report, I summarized the accomplishments of the Jewish Center over these past two years, referenced future goals, and thanked the many members who made an easy term for me. An inquiry was made as to whether I prepared a written report. Please accept the following as the President's Annual Report.

First, and perhaps foremost, the long-awaited kitchen and simcha room renovations and improvements were completed. This major undertaking had been discussed for many years. It became a reality thanks to very generous donations, congregational support, the approval by the Board and, most importantly, the tireless work of the kitchen committee to see this project through from the initial design planning, bidding, product selection and permit applications to waiting for final inspections, selecting paint colors and organizing a "kitchen shower" in honor of our remodeled space, with focus on the environment and our rules of kashrut. I especially want to thank on behalf of the Jewish Center Jeff and Jeanne Berkowitz, who chaired the House Committee and Kitchen Committee, respectively.

In addition to interior renovations, the Sisterhood procured a shed for the temple. The shed has created much needed extra space and has allowed us to store all of our materials in one central location as opposed to congregants' homes and a multitude of storage areas in the temple. Also, once the concrete is prepared in the front exterior entranceway, a new park bench will be a welcomed addition thanks to the gift from the 2012-13 B'nai Mitzvah Class.

Our Membership, Ritual and Sisterhood Committees have made great strides in putting together programs and social activities that benefit our congregation and the community beyond our temple walls; from Grow-A-Row and food drives to speakers and programs for Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah to our musical Shabbat Across America featuring the Muhlenberg Chaimonics to Ladies Nights Out and Mah Jongg, just to name a few. The goal for the upcoming year is to continue with these events and add more, such as Men's Club and teen events. Social activities build community.

continued on the next page

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- Monday, July 6th
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- Saturday, July 11th
10:30 am Torah Study
- Monday, August 3rd
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- Saturday, August 15th
10:30 am Torah Study

Adult Education Last Class – Sunday, June 7th at 10:30 am

Bible to Buber and Beyond: God in Jewish Thought

Join the monthly Sunday morning study group led by Rabbi Zamore to learn more about and to discuss "the Jewish God." How has the idea/meaning of God in Judaism changed from Biblical times to today? Come and explore together. Open to adults and teens. Feel free to join us even if you have not attended the past sessions.



Interested in Reading Torah?

If you have read Torah for the High Holidays in past years, please contact Sharon Herson at sharonherson@comcast.net by **June 15** and let her know whether or not you will read again in September.

If you have not read Torah for the High Holidays in the past and would like to do so, please also let her know by June 15.



President's Message (cont.)

Our Hebrew School curriculum was revamped this year under the direction of Rabbi Zamore and Education Chair Gerri Klein, and we remain thankful for the dedication of our teachers, Jennifer Rosenblum, Howie Hirsch, Suzi Marr and Debbie Fesinstine. This year's Confirmation Class experienced a memorable New York City day trip/retreat. Education is a means for passing on our religion to our children and our children's children. We cannot overemphasize the importance of structuring our education so that our kids remain engaged and appreciate Judaism and its many traditions.

My decision to not seek reappointment as President was based on my belief that leadership changes are healthy and a means for getting everyone involved. During my tenure I have shared my belief that it is important for a co-op to allow committees to make decisions and for the Board to defer to and support such decisions. By following this approach, more congregants will become socially involved and be leaders for the community. The easiest leadership position should be the presidency, given the responsible and hard-working committees that so many members contribute to and more who I hope will join. For me, it was easy because of the support and pro-active workings of the Board and the Committees. I encourage our young leaders to aspire to be President and help guide the future success of the temple.

I again thank everyone; Rabbi Zamore, who will be missed, the Board, the Committees and this special Congregation, for enabling me to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Jewish Center and its members.

Thank you,
Mo Bauer

MAZEL TOV



From the JCNWJ to all of its graduates.

Join us for a **Potluck Picnic and BBQ**
at the home of **Rita and Jerry**
Berkowitz,
721 Pequest Road, Oxford

Sunday, June 14 from 2 pm – 6 pm

Please open the Perfect PotLuck
email for more details and/or to sign
up to bring a dish

Musical entertainment provided by
Ezra Tarlowe and Josh Leibman

Bring a swimsuit (swimming weather
permitting)

Special visit from Cold Stone
Creamery

Contact: Rita Berkowitz at (908) 637-
4536 or berk721@aol.com

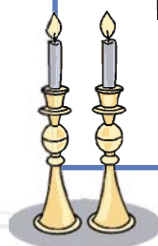


Please join us on Friday, June 26, 2015
to wish Rabbi Zamore farewell and best
wishes.

Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service to begin at
7:30 pm, followed by Oneg.

Please RSVP by June 22 to Jeannie
Berkowitz at (487) 767-3744 or
berkowitz55@yahoo.com.



Contributions

- ✧ In honor of the b'nai mitzvahs of Derek Fenton, Nina Fitzsimmons, and Matt Santillo
- ✧ In honor of the bat mitzvah of Melissa Orlick, granddaughter of Rona and Stanley Schick
- ✧ In honor of our high school graduates: Kelsey Shelofsky and Travis Koch
- ✧ In honor of our Confirmands: Heather Gross, Grace Marr, Alex Parson, and Jonathan Rosenblum
- ✧ Thank you to our President, Mo Bauer, for navigating our Congregation with confidence and patience through the past two years. We appreciate his service to The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
- ✧ Thank you to all our board members and committees for all that they do to keep our Congregation moving forward
- ✧ Thank you to Paul and Judy May for keeping our Congregation stable over the past ten years. Your dedication, in more than just time, has been appreciated.
- ✧ Welcome to Howie Hirsch, our new president
- Helen and John Mattson

- ✧ In memory of my hero, my Dad, Stanley Waxman
- Debbie Kahan

- ✧ In memory of Barnard Waldinger
- The Parson Family

- ✧ In memory of Saul Schutzbank
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

- ✧ In memory of Michael Lewis
- Ellen Lewis

Thank You Note to Rabbi Zamore from the Congregation

Dear Rabbi Zamore,

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank you for your rabbinic services to our community over the past two years. It has been a pleasure working with you. We have enjoyed your family and their participation in our services and within our community. You brought great insight to our temple and we appreciate your efforts to enable us to proceed forward. You have been a great teacher to our children and adults alike. You have been understanding and compassionate with a community that needed much healing at the commencement of your tenure. I hope, as your first pulpit, that you too have learned from us and that in some meaningful way we have helped you grow as a rabbi. Thank you from the entire JCNWJ congregation, and we wish you much luck and success in your future endeavors.

Mo Bauer

- ✧ In memory of David B. Pinn
- Helen and John Mattson

- ✧ In memory of Irwin Finkelstein
- Helen and John Mattson

- ✧ In memory of Rita Leiter
- Audrie and Kenneth Sonzogni

Confirmation 2015

Sunday, May 31, 2015

Heather Gross, Grace Marr, Alex Parson,
Jonathan Rosenblum



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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.

September Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the September Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **August 19, 2015**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer, at abbybauer@comcast.net.

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.



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