

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

While home from college for the past six months as campus remained shut down because of Covid-19, my son, Liron, took it upon himself to start sending weekly questions by email to his grandparents. Questions have ranged from the deeply personal (*"Do you have any regrets? If so, what are they or what are some of the biggest ones?"*) to the quite mundane (*"Do you prefer vacationing in cold or hot weather?"*)

One of the questions Liron posed was, "What was the worst disaster you can remember?" Expecting answers like 9/11, or Katrina, or even WWII, Liron was surprised that each one of his grandparents replied with the same answer: Covid-19.

This has indeed been a challenging and tragic six months for us, for the State of New Jersey, for the United States, indeed, for the entire globe. Included in the entire globe, of course, is the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. As 115 Youmans Avenue has for all intents and purposes been closed down – with Hebrew School and B'nei Mitzvah Training and Shabbat Worship and Torah Study and Board Meetings and Reel Theology and Mindful Meditation all relegated to Zoom – we have experienced the profound loss of in-person physical interaction. There has been no hugging, no sharing of Oneg Shabbat, no cooking or baking together, no singing together... Anything that involves close indoor interaction has been put on hold until that time when our medical health experts will tell us it is once again finally safe for us to do so. These past six months have quite likely been the most challenging our community has ever experienced.

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 4 & 11

7:30pm: Shabbat Service on Zoom

Saturday, September 5 & 12

7:45pm: Havdalah on Zoom

Saturday, September 12

10:30am: Torah Study

Monday, September 14

7:00pm: Board of Trustees

Friday, September 18

7:30pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah on Zoom

Saturday, September 19

10:30am: Rosh Hashanah on Zoom

Sunday, September 20

12:00pm: Rosh Hashanah Seder on Zoom

Sunday, September 27

7:30pm: Kol Nidre on Zoom

Monday, September 28

10:30am: Yom Kippur on Zoom (Yizkor to follow immediately afterwards)

1:00pm: Study Session on Zoom

2:00pm: Study Session on Zoom

6:00pm: Neilah on Zoom

6:45pm: Virtual Break Fast TBD on Zoom
(info will be forthcoming by email)

Please Note: Calendar events are subject to change, which will be announced by email.

Rabbi's Message (continued)

Yet here we are. Still together. Still learning. Still worshipping together. Still supporting one another. Throughout the Pandemic thus far, we've found ways not only to adapt, but actually to thrive. Where there have been safe ways to gather outdoors, we have done so. Yoga and a couple ice cream gatherings have been crucial to helping us keep it all together. And, again, Zoom has been a particular blessing. It has enabled us to continue offering so much of what we provide to the community. As a result, in some areas, we've actually been able to do more, not less, than usual. Not only did our Hebrew School and B'nei Mitzvah training continue through the pandemic, but we even decided to extend youth learning into the summer, which is something we never would have even considered had the computer technology not been there to make it possible. Moreover, in a time when we long for each other's company, Zoom has enabled us to gather together every Saturday night – regardless of where each of us is at the time physically – to bid farewell to Shabbat with a brief Havdalah service. This, of course, is in addition to the fact that we have managed to double the number of Shabbat Evening services (instead of biweekly, we are now meeting weekly over Zoom) so long as the Pandemic continues. Of particular satisfaction to me is the fact that some of our members who have certain challenges that make it difficult for them to join us in person when we are at 115 Youmans Avenue on Friday Nights have actually become great regulars over Zoom. Yes, we do want to return to in-person worship as soon as it is possible, but one thing we have learned from this experience is that even when we do, we must continue offering virtual attendance opportunities for those who are unable to join us in the building. Fortunately, with the experience of these past six months behind us, when the time comes, we will understand exactly how to do it.

As you know, our Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur worship will be remote this year over Zoom. We are excited that so many of you have chosen to participate in the preparatory process already, and can't wait to engage in the full worship experience together, starting with Erev Rosh HaShanah on Friday Night, September 18. One of the innovations we will be introducing this year comes on **Sunday, September 20, the second day of Rosh HaShanah**. We are all familiar with the Passover Seder, but few of us of Ashkenazi descent have experienced the popular Sephardic celebration of a **Rosh HaShanah Seder**. This year at the JCNWJ, we will offer just such an experience on **Day 2 of Rosh HaShanah**. Rather than meeting for a full morning service followed by a communal luncheon for the New year, as we usually do, we will instead begin with a very short service and then move directly into a special Rosh HaShanah Seder during the lunch hour.

As with Passover this past April, I will prepare a presentation of all the necessary holiday foods and lead the service from my home. For those who'd like to participate most fully in the Seder, here is a list of foods you will want to have on hand:

Apple	Honey
Pomegranate	Beets
Pumpkin (squash, gourd)	Dates
A fish head (A "head" of cabbage or a "head" of garlic are common vegetarian substitutes)	
Carrots	Leeks or Scallions
Wine	Round challah

See the picture on the next page.

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

Rosh Hashanah Seder Plate:



Looking forward to celebrating Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur with you all,

Rabbi Dubin

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.

President's Message

Shalom,

The board of trustees has had some very hard decisions to make this year regarding the High Holidays, and I wanted to make sure that everyone understood the reasons for the decisions we made as well as what the plans are for the High Holidays.

Due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic, we have made the decision to hold our High Holiday services virtually. This decision was not made lightly, as all of us would have preferred to hold our services in person. Our first concern is to keep the congregation safe. We did not feel that a crowded sanctuary, or even a partially filled sanctuary with everyone praying and especially singing would be the best way to keep our congregation safe. Singing is an indoor activity that spreads germs at a much higher rate than normal conversation. For this reason, we decided to continue to keep our services virtual.

To keep things as normal as possible in an abnormal situation, we have been recording our congregants doing portions of the service at the temple. These recordings will be a great deal of the services this year for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In addition, we will keep the services shorter than usual. When we need to have a longer service, as on Yom Kippur, we will divide the service into sections with breaks in between, as we know that it is hard to focus for hours at a time on a screen.

As the temple greeter and hugger, these times have been very tough for me, as I miss all of you very much. My hope for the New Year is a lot simpler than most years. I want to see and hug all of you as soon as possible. Please stay safe and make intelligent decisions to keep you and your family safe.

Lastly, to anyone who needs help with ZOOM, I am willing to give lessons to get you up and running so that you can attend the services. If you have any concerns using our ZOOM service, please contact me and I will show you how to become part of our virtual community.

Until I can see you in person, consider this a HUGE HUG from Howie.

L'Shanah Tovah
Howie

Updates & Events

TORAH STUDY

Torah study on Saturday, Sept. 12, via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all members on Thursday, included with activities for that weekend.

We are at Deuteronomy 26; discussed last time, but more to come. Then, we will move on. All are welcome to join the session.

-Sharon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Sunday School will be continuing online in the Fall. Check the WhatsApp for the latest updates and schedule.

FOOD DRIVE

During this time when our building is closed, we encourage members to donate to relief organizations and food pantries online. We will resume collecting food at the JCNWJ after we reopen.

The food pantries are in dire need of supplies to fill their shelves as more and more people are in need and your generosity will help fill that need.

Thank you for your continued support!

Iris

YOUTH OUTREACH

Attention All Parents

Hi. I'm Beth Lappin and I'm the new Youth Outreach Coordinator.

Please send me updated addresses of your college aged young adults so we can wish them a Happy New Year :)

Please be timely as the holidays are coming quickly.

Feel free to text or call me at (908)303-3868 or email me at beth@lappin.com.

Thanks for your help!

L'Shana Tova

ZOOM LESSONS

If you would like to learn how to use ZOOM, Howie is willing to help you get familiar with this technology.

Please contact him at jcnwjprez@gmail.com or call him at 908-295-0073 to set up a time for assistance.

Updates & Events

SISTERHOOD

As we start the new year... I wonder how we can collectively redefine sisterhood? Would love to talk with you about your ideas, or receive suggestions via email.



Also, \$18 dues are due and can be mailed to Ruth Schutzbank.

Suzi Marr

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 Iris Hirsch
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In honor of Edythe Herson's 99th Birthday
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In honor of Edythe Herson's 99th Birthday
- Paul and Judy May

In honor of Edythe Herson's 99th Birthday
- Ruth and Howard Shutzbank

In Memory of Marianne Fleckles
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

To the Building/ Education/
Membership/ General Fund:

Rhonda Jordan
Rene Marinich
Teri Stanton
Adam Tucker
Leon Glass
Laurie Post and Steven Goldberg
Lynne Kowski

New Year's Greetings

L'Shanah Tovah with love from Gerri, Sabrina, and James

To my temple family from Rene

Shanah Tovah from Risa and Al Smith

L'Shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ congregation from The Tarlowe Family

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin and family from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to JCNWJ Board from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to JCNWJ Congregation from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

Love to the whole JCNWJ Congregation for a Happy New Year from Rabbi Ellen Lewis

To Our Temple Family from Howard and Ruth Schutzbank

L'Shanah Tovah from Ginger and Jerry Nathanson

L'Shanah Tovah to our congregation from Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein

L'Shanah Tovah to the congregation from the Goldner family

L'Shanah Tovah to the Rabbi and Congregation at the Jewish Center from Robin and Colson

L'Shanah Tovah from the Margolin-Weiner Family

L'Shanah Tovah to the entire congregation from Howie and Iris

L'Shanah Tovah to the entire congregation from the Gross Family

L'Shanah Tovah to our JCNWJ family from the Lappin's

L'shanah Tovah to the JCNWJ Congregation and to Jennifer, Mike, and Lochlan McGraw from Helen and John Mattson

High Holy Days

Shalom,

In 2020, Erev Rosh Hashanah is Friday, September 18th and Kol Nidre is Sunday, September 27th (*Note that starting time for these evening services is 7:30 p.m.*) As our thoughts turn to the coming of the New Year, several items that contribute to our observances need to be acted upon.

I. FLOWER FUND is now a donation to a food bank

It has been our congregation's custom to set aside a special fund for the purchase of fresh flowers for the *bima* on the High Holy Days. Due to the Novel Corona pandemic, we will not be needing flowers on the Bimah. We are suggesting that you donate to a temple fund that will be used specifically for a donation to local food banks. Because we will not be running our annual food drive, we ask that you send a check, a donation in any amount is greatly appreciated and can be indicated on the accompanying form.

II. GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Instead of sending greeting cards to one another, it has been our congregation's custom to send New Year's greetings through our newsletter, *The Journal*. Let's continue this "inreach" to each other in 5781! The cost is \$5.00 per greeting and each will be printed in either the September or October issue. A typical greeting might be

L'Shanah Tovah from the _____ Family

Please write your greeting(s) on the accompanying form (next page). These funds are earmarked for gift baskets to members who are ill.

III. YISKOR LIST

This is the **ONLY** opportunity you will have to submit the names of family members and friends whom you wish to have included in the Yiskor service on Yom Kippur. You may submit as many names as you wish. The cost is \$5.00 per name for each of the first five names, then \$1.00 per name for any additional names (e.g., 6 names = \$26.00).

Please list the names on the accompanying form.

For this year's Yizkor reading, instead of the names being read, we will have a scrolling list with your loved one's name and picture, if you supply it to us. Please upload your photo to the jcnwjprez account on dropbox.com. If you can not do this, send your jpg file to Howie at jcnwjprez@gmail.com. Please keep file size under 2 MB. Please name the file with the name of the person you would like remembered, such as ElaineHirsch.jpg or something that is easily identifiable. We will continue to have the names on our memorial board read, but if you have a photo of someone on the board, please send it to Howie. If you can't send it to me electronically, you can send via US Mail.

Print and return the accompanying form (next page) by September 8th .

We will not be able to accept any requests after that date. Please write one check, payable to the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey (JCNWJ), and mail the form with your payment to

Iris Hirsch 52 Russling Road, Hackettstown NJ 07840. If you need any further help or have questions, please call Iris at (908) 850 1030, 908 239 4585 or irishirsch@comcast.net.

Thank you.

The Religious Practices Committee

High Holy Days

Family _____ Phone _____

I/we wish to contribute to the Food drive \$ _____

I/we would like to send New Year GREETINGS (\$5 each)

To _____ From _____ \$ _____

To _____ From _____ \$ _____

To _____ From _____ \$ _____

I/we wish to include these names on the YISKOR LIST [PLEASE PRINT]

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

___ names @ \$5.00 each \$ _____

___ names @ \$1.00 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please write one check, payable to the JCNWJ
Please print and mail this form to
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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.