

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ

May 2020

Vol: XLV Issue: 8



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Those of you who read these monthly messages may have noticed over the past few years that while I often share personal experiences with you, I always do my best to refrain from writing in a way that might come across as an attempt to brag. When I do share personal stories, it's always with the intention of highlighting a certain value or lesson. Allow me this month to break that general approach, not because I am trying to brag, but because I am overwhelmingly proud of two members of my household and feel the overwhelming need to share. But first, some biblical context:

We read in this week's Torah portion (*Acharei Mot – Kedoshim*):

קְדָשִׁים תִּהְיוּ, כִּי קָדוֹשׁ אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם
You shall be holy, because I, the Lord your God am holy

-- Leviticus 19:2

In other words, because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), it is therefore upon us to reflect that image as best we can. Since God is holy, therefore, so too must we strive to live lives of holiness. How do we do that? In many ways, of course, but not least among them is to live in such a way that empowers us to bring healing, just like God does:

אֲנִי יְהוָה, רֹפֵא
I am the Lord that heals you
-- Exodus 15:26

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Friday, May 8

7:30pm: Shabbat Service on Zoom

Saturday, May 9

8:00pm: Havdalah on Zoom

Friday, May 15

7:30pm: Shabbat Service on Zoom

Saturday, May 16

8:00pm: Havdalah on Zoom

Sunday, May 17

9:30am: Sunday School on Zoom

11:15am: Sisterhood on Zoom

Friday, May 22

7:30pm: Shabbat Service on Zoom

Saturday, May 23

8:00pm: Havdalah on Zoom

Friday, May 29

7:30pm: Shabbat Service on Zoom

Saturday, May 30

8:00pm: Havdalah on Zoom

Sunday, May 31

9:30am: Sunday School on Zoom

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

As some of you know, prior to becoming “Cantor Nancy Dubin,” my wife’s professional name was “Nancy Dubin, R.N., B.S.N.” Even though May of 2009 was the last time she practiced in a hospital, though, she’s been completing her continuing education credits each and every year in order to keep her license current . . . “just in case.” Unfortunately, “Just in case” arrived a couple months ago with the onslaught of Covid-19.

So when Governor Cuomo put out a call to all retired healthcare workers to return to work, Nancy’s ears perked up and heard him loud and clear. After giving the situation a good 35 seconds of deep thought, she opened her computer and began searching for the most recent copy of her resume that included mention of her nursing credentials. She then went on-line to begin figuring out how to recertify the specific nursing skills that required documentation. A few days later, she was on the phone with every staffing agency willing to talk with her. And a couple weeks after that, she finally came out of retirement when she reported to work on a COVID-19 floor of Interfaith Medical Center in the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Mind you, stepping up to care for patients 3 shifts per week, 12-hours per shift, has in no way lessened her cantorial obligations at Temple Am Echad in Lynbrook, LI, because even though her congregants’ needs are different from her patients’ needs, she is needed all the same. Which is all to say that at this point, Nancy is working two jobs, both of which are vital to serving the health and welfare of New Yorkers. She’s exhausted, she’s glowing in the image of God, and I couldn’t be more proud.

Lest you miss the full scope of what is going on in the Dubin household, however, I should add that Nancy is not the only member of our extended family to be fighting COVID-19 on the front line. Some of you have gotten to know my daughter (Shira’s) girlfriend, Rachel Friedman, as she’s been joining us at Temple this year for Shabbat services. When Governor Cuomo announced stay-at-home orders a few weeks ago, Nancy and I urged Rachel to move in with us because we felt she could use the support of “family” during these difficult times.

Having been serving as a part time EMS first responder for the past year, Rachel, like Nancy, has now taken on added responsibilities. Like Shira, she continues to be a full time college student, but her part-time EMS position has morphed into 4-5 ambulance shifts per week at 8-10 hours per shift. Her efforts strike me as slightly extra-human, but I suppose that when someone is doing her best to imitate the ways of God, “extra-human” makes perfect sense.

I know you all join me in thanking not only Nancy and Rachel, but ALL those workers who continue to put their own health and safety on the line in order to help the rest of us live lives of comfort and security. We all look forward to the day – hopefully soon – when this pandemic subsides so that all essential workers can return to their pre-COVID-19 schedules. In the meantime, we here in NYC will continue to bang our pots out the window every day at 7:00 pm in solidarity and gratitude, and when it’s all over, we will remain as proud as we can be of their selfless contributions.

Be safe, everyone,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

A huge THANK YOU to Rabbi Dubin and Student Cantor Noa Dubin for holding Friday night Shabbat and to Cantor Nancy Dubin for conducting Saturday evening Havdallah services. Seeing everyone online makes my week. Thank you also to everyone involved in the second night virtual seder of our Passover celebration.

As many people are feeling isolated, please reach out to a few folks in the congregation to check and see how they are doing. Especially check in with the members who are at a higher risk. Check with the folks who live near you and see if there is anything you can do. If you are going grocery shopping, maybe you can pick up some items for someone close to you so that they do not have to travel outside of their home. Let's make sure we take care of each other while staying safe and not spreading this virus.

Everyone wants to do something, and right now the best thing you can do for your fellow neighbors and congregants is to stay home.

Please follow the CDC guidelines and practice social distancing. If we do, hopefully we will all be able to be healthy when this pandemic is over.

I miss you all and hope that we can all get together sometime soon.

Virtual hugs to all,

Howie

THANK YOU

I want to say *Thank You* to everyone who has sent me get well wishes.

I appreciate each and every card, email and phone call as I'm going through these cancer treatments and staying completely isolated.

I pray that you are all staying safe and healthy and that this pandemic will be over quickly and we can get back to 'normal'.

Once again, THANK YOU!
Iris

Updates & Events

SISTERHOOD

Hope everyone is doing well!!! Miss you ...
SISTERHOOD meeting Sunday May 17th at
11:15 am. We will meet via zoom.

We welcome returning members and anyone new who wants to give us a whirl?! Put the kettle on and spend some quali-tea time with your friends & family

Look forward to visiting together!

Suzi Marr

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will meet on Zoom until the end of the stay-at-home order.

Upcoming Schedule:

May 3 May 17

May 31 June 7

June 14

No Sunday School on May 10 or 24.



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.

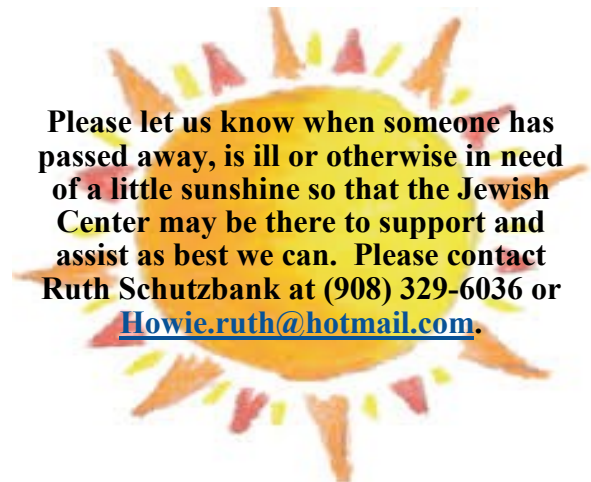
The food pantries are in dire need of supplies to fill their shelves as more and more people are in need and your generosity will help fill that need.

Thank you for your continued support!

Iris

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.



Updates & Events

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study Participants:

Please finish reading Deuteronomy. When it is safe to do so, we will get together in person to discuss the remaining chapters. This may require several sessions. We will also need to decide what we will study next.

Stay safe. Miss you all.

-Sharon

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 Memory of Edward Lewis
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

On the Yahrzeit of Elaine Hirsch
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

In Honor of the Loving Memory of Harry Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan

On the Yahrzeit of Arthur Tarlowe
- Paul and Laura Tarlowe

In Memory of Lillian Jay
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

On the Yahrzeit of Gertrude Weil
- Ruth and Howard Shutzbank

On the Yahrzeit of Betty Berkowitz
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In Memory of Esther Herson and Anna Fleckles
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

On the Yahrzeit of Norma Shifrin and Herbert Shifrin
- Paul and Laura Tarlowe

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