



Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882 - www.jcnwj.org - 972-722-6056

Thank you for interest in membership at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. Established in 1945 in Washington, our small congregation – affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism – is comprised of families living in the surrounding counties of Warren, Morris, Hunterdon, and Sussex. Below are a few more facts that we hope will help you in your decision-making process.

- Our congregation is composed of members from a wide variety of backgrounds: from nonobservant to very traditional practicing Jews, from non-Jewish spouses to Jews by choice, etc. *All* are welcome and encouraged to be active participants!
- Our religious School, the Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning, meets once a week on Sunday mornings and is offered at no charge to members in good standing (a portion of the dues from all members goes toward support of the School). Our school curriculum is determined by the religious leaders, Chairs of the Ritual and Education Committees and the volunteer teachers. Studies include Jewish history, customs, traditions, Torah, music and Hebrew language. The school provides an excellent foundation for those who wish to prepare for bar/bat mitzvah.
- Confirmation Class is offered for students in grades 8-10.
- Educational enrichment programs and a Torah study group are held for adult learning.
- Shabbat Services are bi-monthly on Friday evenings according to a calendar set annually. We enjoy each other's company at a social reception (called an Oneg) that follows Shabbat services! Every family serves as an Oneg host.
- Saturday morning services are scheduled when there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and at other designated times during the year. The entire congregation is invited to attend these services.
- An active Parent Teachers Organization plans special activities and programs for the children.
- The Board of Directors meets monthly to ensure that religious, educational, and social needs continue to be met. Board meetings are open to the congregation.
- Our synagogue functions because of our members who volunteer their time and talents. Staff is limited to our rabbi, cantor, and teachers (parents).

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Debbie Kahan, Membership Committee Chair, at 973-722-6056.

We look forward to having you join our congregation!
JCNWJ Membership Committee



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please send completed application and check for dues & capital improvement fund to:

JCNWJ c/o Allison Thurber, 1502 Spruce Hills Drive, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Date of application: _____

Name of applicant(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Marital status: _____

If married, date of marriage: _____

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (include yourself)

	Name	Hebrew Name (includes name of parents, e.g. Sara bat Yosef v'Jehudit)	Date of Birth	Occupation/ Grade in School
Adult				
Adult				
Child				
Child				

Child				
Child/Other				

In which religious tradition were you raised? _____

Are there any religious traditions, other than Jewish ones, that your family currently observes in your home?

PAST SYNAGOGUE AFFILIATION

What was the name and location of the last Jewish congregation of which you were a member?

How many years did you belong to that congregation? _____

Why did you leave?

On what committees did you serve at your last synagogue?

What office(s), if any, did you hold?

As a URJ congregation, we need your confirmation that all financial obligations in your prior congregation have been met. Please confirm by initialing here: _____



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OUR CONGREGATION

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey is a participatory congregation. We rely on our members to help with the seamless operation of our wonderful synagogue. On what committee(s) would you like to serve?

- ☐ Education (help with Hebrew School)
- ☐ House (help with upkeep of our temple and property)
- ☐ Ritual (help with religious tenets and temple schedule)
- ☐ Sunshine (help send cards to congregants who are sick or grieving a loss)
- ☐ Marketing/Publicity (help spread the word about our temple)
- ☐ Special Events (help offer ideas and plan for special events)
- ☐ Adult Education (help plan and participate in our continuing Jewish education program)

Special skills, talents, hobbies – come on, we know you have some! (e.g., photography, teaching music, crafts, writing) that you could bring to our congregation:

YAHREZIT RECORDS

English and Hebrew name of deceased	Relationship	Date of Death

For questions, please call Debbie Kahan at 973-722-6056 or e-mail jcnwjmembership@gmail.com.



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FEE SCHEDULE – 2019 to 2020

Membership:

Family (1 or 2 adults and dependent children sharing a common household) \$1,200

Single (1 adult living in a household that doesn't meet the description of family membership) \$600

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) - For new members only, payable over 2 years:

Family \$1,000

Single \$ 500

Sunday School – Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning:

The entire Congregation takes responsibility for our children's education. Therefore, Sunday School (kindergarten through confirmation) is free for any child of a member in good standing. Books, supplies, activities, and Confirmation retreat costs are billed separately.

Late registration fee \$ 25

Activity fee \$ 54

Confirmation class (including retreat) \$240

Use of Sanctuary For Lifecycle Events:

Baby naming, member at a scheduled service	Donation
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Baby naming, member at other than scheduled service	\$ 180
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Baby naming, non-member, at a scheduled service	\$ 360
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Bar/Bat Mitzvah	\$ 350
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Bar/Bat Mitzvah when CIF not paid in full	\$1450
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(Additional \$1000 may be applied to CIF)

Wedding	\$ 300
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Funeral	\$ 180
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Funeral, non-member	\$ 600
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Memorial/Simcha:

Memorial plaque, member	\$325
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Memorial plaque, non-member	\$540
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Simcha tree leaf	\$150
Pew plaque	\$250
Prayer book	\$ 36
Donation card	\$5 and up
Library	\$10 and up
Use of kitchen and Simcha room	\$250
+ refundable deposit	\$250 (\$500 total with half refundable)
Cemetery plot at Easton Cemetery	Market value
(located in Easton, PA; All other charges are payable to Easton)	

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Kashrut/Food Policy

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, affiliated with the Reform Jewish movement, treasures its members and guests who hail from diverse backgrounds and, therefore, different dietary practices. We honor personal autonomy and educated choice when it comes to Jewish ritual practice while we strive to create a communal sacred space—our synagogue—that exemplifies and celebrates our Jewish heritage, customs, rituals, and ethical laws. Our communal meals draw us together as we nurture one another through food and the rhythm of Judaism. We hope that our kashrut/food policy will be a living expression of our community and the values we uphold.

The following guidelines will govern all functions within our building and property.*

- We sanctify the act of eating as a community by reciting blessings.
- Being created in the image of God, we believe that our bodies should be respected. We encourage the serving of healthful foods and strive to provide safe options for those with food allergies, particularly nuts and gluten reactions. We will especially strive to label food in order to help make allergy-safe choices clear.
- We believe that we are stewards of God’s creation. Therefore, we encourage the serving of food that takes into account environmental sustainability and animal welfare. We strive to reduce the use of disposable food service items by using reusable plates, cups, flatware, dish towels, sponges, etc. When we use disposable items, we will strive to make choices that minimize the impact on the environment. We will seek to reduce our use of individual water bottles.
- No foods forbidden by Torah (treiff, meaning pork, shellfish, fish that do not have both fins and scales) will be served or brought into the synagogue. We also extend the prohibition of these foods to include products that mimic them, meaning, for example, fake bacon, imitation crab, etc.
- Meat and dairy foods will not be served at the same meal; that is, meals are to be designated as either meat or dairy.

- Potluck meals will be dairy or parve.** Dairy foods, including cheese and gelatin, do not require a certification, but we encourage a close examination for hidden meat or treiff ingredients, such as broths and flavorings, before serving.
- Meals and snacks brought in by congregants for personal enjoyment should be dairy or parve.
- Meat meals require the approval and oversight of our rabbi and/or ritual committee chair. This includes meals prepared by a kosher caterer or home cook or prepared at the temple.
 - All meats purchased for synagogue functions must be certified kosher.
 - A vegetarian option is to be provided at any meal designated as a meat meal.
 - Dessert served immediately after a meat meal must not contain any milk. This includes non-dairy creamer for coffee and tea.
 - Dairy dessert may be served after a meat meal if the meat meal is completely cleaned up and there is a waiting period of at least 72 minutes after the end of the meat meal.
- All pots, serving items, plates, etc. used in food preparation and service can be used for both milk and meat meals.
- The dishwasher can be used for cleaning up both milk and meat meals, but milk and meat loads should be run separately.
- Our congregation will mark the eight days of Passover by cleaning the kitchen thoroughly and removing all hametz (leavened bread and any food prepared from five species of grain—wheat, barley, oats, spelt, and rye—that has been allowed to leaven) in advance of the holiday; leavened products and leavening will be removed. While we support the eating of kitniyot*** during Passover, we ask that kitniyot not be served at communal seders. Outside of a thorough cleaning, the kitchen and its equipment and food service items do not need to be re-kashered for Passover. The preparation of food for Passover should be approved and overseen by our rabbi and/or ritual chair.

Questions regarding the implementation of this policy should be directed to our rabbi.

These guidelines were ratified by the JCNWJ Board of Trustees on September 8, 2014.

*Functions within the JCNWJ are defined as any function that is held on the synagogue grounds (e.g.: oneg Shabbat, Shabbat dinner, religious school or youth group event, picnic, Sukkah meal, etc.) involving the entire congregation, a sub-group of the congregation, or private participants.

** Parve is a Hebrew term (pareve is the Yiddish term) that describes food without any meat or dairy ingredients; thus, parve foods can be served with either meat or dairy as they are considered neutral. For example. vegetables, fruit, grains, eggs and kosher fish are parve.

*** In addition to hametz , Ashkenazic (European Jewish) authorities add rice, millet, corn, and other legumes to the forbidden foods.