

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Passover is approaching quickly. We may not have celebrated Purim yet, but the time to begin cleaning and prepping our homes (and ourselves) for Passover has already arrived. As we begin to consider what we will do with all our *chametz* (our religiously forbidden food products for Passover), I'd like to offer two suggestions, both of which can be followed in the same home:

First, as we look through our pantries and refrigerators, I encourage us all to gather our unopened, non-perishable items – such as pasta, – and bring them to the Temple lobby by **Friday, April 4**, so we can bundle them together in order to make a significant donation to those in our larger community who are hungry.

And then, after we have done that, I encourage all of us to participate in an ancient tradition (though new to us this year at JCNWJ) called *mechirah*, which is the selling whatever “Forbidden-for-Passover” foods might still be left in our possession. This includes crumbs that we missed while cleaning, but it also includes foods that we knowingly keep in our home because we choose not to throw them into the garbage or compost. Any food that we sell may remain in our homes, so long as it is put away, out of site.

So how does this process work? While it is ritually forbidden for Jews to own any of these foods during Passover, it is

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Calendar of Events

Friday, March 6

5:45pm: Pizza Dinner
6:30pm: Purim Shabbat Service
7:00pm: Purim Spiel

Saturday, March 7

5:45pm: Dinner & Havdalah, followed by
Reel Theology: The Descendants,
Dessert & Discussion after the movie

Sunday, March 8

9:30am: Sunday School
10:15am: Sisterhood

Saturday, March 14

10:30am: Torah Study

Sunday, March 15

9:30am: Sunday School

Friday, March 20

7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Sunday, March 22

9:30am: Sunday School

Monday, March 23

7:00pm: Book Club

Sunday, March 29

9:30am: Sunday School

Rabbi's Message (continued)

perfectly acceptable for non-Jews to own them during Passover. With this in mind, I, as your rabbi and agent, will act on your behalf in conducting the transaction with our friends at Washington's Mount Pisgah AME Church. Prior to Passover, I will distribute the contract below to all Temple members. Anyone wishing to participate will sign and return the signed contract, along with a donation of your choice made out to the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey (the donation is not mandatory, but it **is** highly appreciated) to:

**Allison Thurber
1502 Spruce Hills Drive
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826**

Alternatively, you can hand deliver your signed contract and donation check to me at the Temple, no later than **Friday, April 4.**

On Sunday, April 6, I will include every member who opts into the process when I create a contract to sell the whole lot to Mt. Pisgah Church. Rev Bracy will sign on behalf of the church and surrender the sum of \$1 in exchange. The food itself will never change hands; only the ownership of it will. And then, when the festival is over, I will execute another contract with Rev. Bracy, in which she will sell the lot of food back to its original owners for the sum of \$2.

I encourage all of us to participate, not only because I believe there is value to following Jewish tradition, but even more importantly, because I have every confidence that anyone who chooses to participate in this way will find themselves experiencing an even more meaningful Passover celebration this year. By preparing our homes to be rid of all *chametz* ownership, I believe we are actually preparing ourselves to appreciate the meaning of Passover at an ever-deepening level.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

טו שְׁבַעַת יָמִים, מִצּוֹת תֹּאכְלוּ--אֶדְ בַּיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן, תִּשְׁבִּיתוּ שָׂאֵר מִבֵּיתְכֶם : כִּי כָל-אֲכֹל חֶמֶץ, וְנִכְרַתָּה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל--מִיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן, עַד-יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי. טז וּבַיּוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן, מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ, וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, מִקְרָא-קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה לָכֶם : כָּל-מְלֶאכֶה, לֹא-יַעֲשֶׂה בָהֶם--אֶדְ אֲשֶׁר יֵאָכֵל לְכָל-נֶפֶשׁ, הוּא לְבַדּוֹ יַעֲשֶׂה לָכֶם. יז וּשְׁמֵרְתֶּם, אֶת-הַמִּצּוֹת, כִּי בָעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, הוֹצֵאתִי אֶת-צְבֹאוֹתֵיכֶם מִמִּצְרַיִם; וּשְׁמֵרְתֶּם אֶת-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה, לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם--חֻקַּת עוֹלָם. יח בְּרִאשׁוֹן בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ, בְּעֶרְב, תֹּאכְלוּ, מִצָּת : עַד יוֹם הָאֶחָד וְעֶשְׂרִים, לַחֹדֶשׁ--בְּעֶרְב יט שְׁבַעַת יָמִים--שָׂאֵר, לֹא יִמָּצֵא בְּבֵיתְכֶם : כִּי כָל-אֲכֹל מִחֻמָּצָת, וְנִכְרַתָּה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא מֵעַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל--בִּגְר, וּבְאֶזְרַח הָאָרֶץ. כ כָּל-מִחֻמָּצָת, לֹא תֹאכְלוּ ; בְּכָל, מוֹשְׁבֵיתְכֶם, תֹּאכְלוּ, מִצּוֹת.

¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day to the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ You shall celebrate a sacred occasion on the first day, and a sacred occasion on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them; only what every person is to eat, that alone may be prepared for you. ¹⁷ You shall observe the [Feast of] Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day throughout the ages as an institution for all time.

¹⁸ In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ No leaven shall be found in your houses for seven days. For whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a citizen of the country.

²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your settlements you shall eat unleavened bread.

-- Exodus 12:15-20

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CONTRACT FOR ASSIGNING AGENT STATUS TO RABBI DR. ANDY DUBIN FOR THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

I declare that I appoint in my stead Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin, my true and lawful agent, to sell on my behalf all chametz owned or possessed by me whether it be known or not, as stated in the Torah and defined and interpreted by the sages of Israel. For the purpose of this contract, chametz refers to those leavened foods that are Jewish tradition states are forbidden to Jewish people during the festival of Passover. Included in this contract is any chametz that tends to harden and adhere to pots, pans, or any cooking or eating utensil – but not the pots themselves.

Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin has the full authority and power to assign or appoint a substitute to act in his stead with all the same powers and authority that I have invested in him and I do hereby ratify and confirm all that Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin or his substitute appointed by him shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this contract.

Seller's Name (Printed)

Seller's Signature

Date

President's Message

Tovim HaSh'nayim min ha-ehad – Two are better off than one.

Early last month, I was able to attend the Scheidt Seminar for presidents of congregations that belong to the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Rick Jacobs led off our Thursday night session, after some wonderful introductory music from Cantor Rosalie Will, with a talk starting with the above words, Two are better off than one.

What does this mean? It means that we are better off when we have more than one person to share the load of any job. It means we are not meant to be alone. It means that there is strength in numbers.

As your president, what it means to me is that I need your help. I do not know if I need more help than you are already giving, as many of you are working for the temple as much as you possibly can. Others may have time or motivation to assist more. One of the things I realized at this seminar (and I have had this thought for many years) is how much we are able to accomplish as a small congregation.

And I am certainly not the one doing most of the work. Our board members are dedicated volunteers. One of the things that I was most proud of sharing with the group of presidents is how cordial our board members are to each other. Listening to some of the horror stories from other boards, it is apparent that we are in the minority of peaceful temple boards. We do not agree nor must we agree on everything, as long as we are able to discuss the issues that will make the temple a better place. This is along with the notion that what is best for one of us is not necessarily best for the temple. We use multiple voices to come up with creative ways of doing many different things.

When it comes to the Purim spiel, which is on my mind a lot these days, the collaboration between the director and cast members will make this year's Purim spiel a wonderful production. I really hope that you will be able to come to shul, have dinner with us, and stay for the VERY SHORT service, which will be followed by our temple's Purim spiel. Come in costume (or not) but please come.

See you on Friday, March 6.

Love, Howie

Updates & Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 6



SHABBAT PURIM



5:45 - Pizza Dinner

**6:30 - Shabbat Purim Abridged Service
(including student-led singing)**

7:00 - Purim Spiel

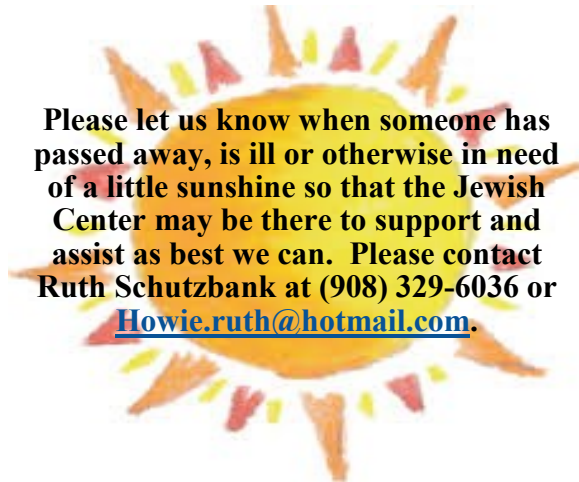
8:00 - Oneq Shabbat / Oneq Purim

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

(but only for those between 1-98 years of age)

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

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

BUILDING UPDATE

Kitchen and Bathroom supplies

If you notice that any kitchen or bathroom supplies are getting low, please email Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net.

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.

TORAH STUDY

Consider joining the monthly Saturday morning Torah study group, ongoing for more than twenty years, freewheeling and always thought-provoking. We are nearing the completion of Deuteronomy—likely later this year. Come when you can.

The next meeting is March 14 at 10:30am.

Upcoming Schedule:

March 14	April 18
May 16	June 13

FOOD DRIVE

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the local food pantries.


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

Updates & Events

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY



Reel Theology - 5780

FEB 1 - YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN - 5:45 DINNER, PASSOVER WINE TASTING, & HAVDALAH - 6:45 SCREENING - 8:30 DESSERT DISCUSSION

MARCH 7 - THE DESCENDANTS - 5:45 DINNER & HAVDALAH 6:30 SCREENING - 8:45 DESSERT DISCUSSION

APRIL 4 - MEMENTO - 5:45 DINNER & HAVDALAH 6:30 SCREENING - 8:30 DESSERT DISCUSSION

MAY 9 - THE KING'S SPEECH - 5:45 DINNER & HAVDALAH 6:30 SCREENING - 8:30 DESSERT DISCUSSION

Updates & Events

WINE SALE

The Passover Wine Sale is back. A variety of red and white wines are available, many of which are imported from Israel. Grape juice is also available.

Please see your e-mail for the order form, which is due March 24. The wine will be available for pickup on April 3 and April 5.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Schedule:

March 8	March 22
March 15	March 29

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood and Mens Club will next meet on Sunday, March 8 at 10:15am.

Save the date for a Jewelry & Judaica Swap on Saturday, April 25 at 7:00pm.

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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.