

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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www.jcnwj.org

February 2011
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 6

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Tuesday, February 1, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Saturday, February 5, 10:30 am
Torah Study

*Sunday, February 6
9:30 am PTO Meeting
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation
12:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah Brunch

*Monday, February 7, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting

*Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Services
Oneg: Longencker, Bauch, Shelofsky,
Berkowitz (Joel) and Simons families

*Sunday, February 13
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)
10:45 am Adult Education

*Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Sunday, February 20
No Sunday School

*Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 pm
Sisterhood Book Club

**Friday, February 25, 7:00 pm
Sunday School Lay Shabbat Services
Oneg: Marinich, McNamara, Leifer, Schaffer
and Dorman/Cafaro families

*Sunday, February 27
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)
9:30 am Men's Club
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting

*Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

Rabbi's Message

I had decided that I was done posting high holy day sermons on our website. It seemed to me that sermons are written to be heard and experienced in community, not read, and most of our members had heard it all in person. I was also concerned that I might have missed an attribution that wouldn't be a worry if the sermon were delivered orally but might appear to be plagiarism if it weren't footnoted correctly on the website. Then I was put in a position of rethinking my decision. Back in October, I received an email from a stranger in Columbia, South Carolina. His request was unusual.

My wife and I are writing a book that is a compilation of sermons given 9/16/01 - the first after the 9-11 attacks. We found yours online and felt it was appropriate for our book and wanted to ask your permission to use the sermon in the compilation. We hope to have about 40-50 sermons included in the finished manuscript. Yours would be the first Jewish sermon (the other 6 we have acquired so far are from Protestant churches) and we'd like to have more diversity provided the sermons have positive uplifting messages.

I responded to his request by asking for more information about who he was and why he was doing what he was doing.

The idea for the book came a few weeks ago when I was in Washington DC and was visiting Ford's Theatre. In the gift shop there was a book titled something like "150 eye witnesses". It was of course a compilation of eye witness accounts of the Lincoln assassination. We were thinking of what sort of similar thing could be done about events more modern and of course the 9-11 attacks came to mind. Given that there were millions of eye witnesses we figured that a book like the one about Lincoln probably wouldn't be very interesting for another 100 years or so and we both recalled how we were moved by sermons we heard in Church (and some on TV) shortly after the 9-11 attacks. I was then and now impressed with what some pastors could create on such short notice that could to this day still coax tears from our eyes in many cases even though they were written on short notice by people who were themselves likely deeply emotionally affected and hurt by the attacks that we were barely able to digest at the time. We decided that this was a project that needed to be done as if we found these sermons so moving so must others who want to be reminded of what things in life are important and the role of God in disasters and other unfortunate events that make up life.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message

I am so energized about our temple trip to Israel. Since Iris and I made aliyah three years ago, I can't wait to go back. But to be able to do this with the temple community I have come to love makes it so much more special. The first planning meeting was on this past Sunday January 30th. So it probably has occurred by the time you read my message. If you didn't make the meeting, I will make sure that the information is distributed to everyone.

Of my favorite places, we are going to almost all of them, based on the initial itinerary that Rabbi Lewis has put together. Jerusalem was my spiritual favorite. Walking the streets of the old city and feeling history oozing out all around you, along with praying at the Western Wall were experiences I cannot express in words. While swimming in the Dead Sea, I can't remember when I have laughed so hard, because you just kept popping up to the surface. It was an experience I will always remember.

For yourselves, I urge you to do everything you can to join us this December.

*Shalom and Love,
Howie*

Education/PTO

February is a quiet month for Hebrew School. We have a PTO meeting on **February 6th**. There is no Hebrew School on **February 20th** (President's Day). March will be an exciting month as we celebrate Purim with hamentashen baking on **March 13th** and the Megillah reading and Purim Carnival on **March 20th**.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

(Education Co-Chairs)

Memorial Plaques

If anyone is interested in honoring a loved one with a permanent bronze memorial plaque, please contact Helen Mattson. Not only will the light on the Memorial Board be lit at the anniversary, or yahrzeit, of that person, but the Rabbi will announce the name and kaddish will be recited by the congregation, as well.

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

This all made sense to me and I appreciated his being able to take a long look at history and what the future might need to make sense of the past. I reread my sermon in the hopes that I would think it was worth publishing. I then promptly forgot all about his request until hearing from him again last week. The book is moving forward and he had a few more questions to ask.

1. Tell about how you prepared the sermon and what you hoped to accomplish as you wrote it.
2. Tell about how your congregation was influenced by the sermon and/or by the events themselves or tell about anyone who had special linkage to the events either through a victim or a responder for example.
3. Tell about your thoughts now 9 years later as you look back at the post 9-11 time period and your perspective now.

I can remember little about preparing the sermon. I remember some colleagues panicking about whether they had to rewrite what they had already written and other colleagues asking, if you are speaking about the eternal themes of the holidays, what are you so worried about? And if you aren't, why not? But I don't think I have given much thought to how I feel ten years later. I imagine I will do that prior to these coming high holy days. In my own self-reflection, I will have to consider whether I should change my mind about posting future sermons.

But I am interested now in how you think about it. What do you recall from those events of almost ten years ago? And what are your thoughts now as you reflect back? Email or call especially on one of these snowed-in days of winter. I'd like to hear.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

Mazel Tov

From the JCNWJ
To Helen and John Mattson and their family
on the birth of granddaughter McKenzie Rae on
January 18, 2011

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Reaching hundreds of readers each month in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, and Warren Counties in New Jersey as well as those residing parts of Eastern Pennsylvania, advertising in the Journal is effective and affordable. Tell your friends and contacts at local businesses whom you patronize about the opportunity to market themselves through sponsoring an advertisement in the online newsletter. For more information on placing an ad, see the Journal Advertising Form ([on the temple website](#)) or contact Tracey Bauer.

Contributions

In honor of the naming of Zachary,
Martha and Jack Needleman's grandson
~Jane and Kenneth Schuster

In honor of this year's b'nai mitzvah class
~Tracey and Mo Bauer
~Joyce and Ken Yanow

In honor of Ethan Grant Melon and his
first birthday
~Ruth and Ira Melon

A gift to the Teacher Education Fund
in memory of Norah Lessne
~Edythe Herson

In memory of William Robins
~Bernard Robins

In memory of Mildred Sobine and
Esther Heller
~Leslie and Murray Heller

In memory of Anna Wartel and Judith
Blohm
~Lauretta Koch

In memory of Mildred Weiss and
Bernard Ratzman
~Carol and Marvin Eisenberg

In memory of Joseph Berkowitz
~Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In memory of Rita Hecht
~Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Jack Zemel
~Ralph Zemel

In memory of our mother Ruth Melon and
our grandfather William Melon
~Ruth and Ira Melon

Torah Study

Saturday, February 5, 2011
10:30 am

March Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the March Issue is **February 19, 2011**. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer.

Jewish Life

JEWISH LIFE IS PLEASED TO BRING THE COMMUNITY THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, February 2, 12 p.m.:

Judith Viorst, *Un-Expectedly Eighty: And Other Adaptations*
(Program to follow lunch)

Location: Birnbaum JCC Bridgewater

What does it mean to be eighty? *New York Times*' best seller and award winning writer Judith Viorst is seeing the world with new eyes—not because of revelations, but because of a successful cataract operation. All ages come and enjoy Emmy award winning and Picture Book Hall of Fame inductee, Judith Viorst, as she describes the virtues, victories, frustrations, and joys of being an octogenarian. *Un-Expectedly Eighty: And Other Adaptations* humorously explores how Judith Viorst got to be a “three-desserts” grandmother (“Just don’t tell your mom!”), how memory failure can keep you married, and her hopes for the Afterlife (in which she doesn’t believe, but if it does exist, her sister-in-law better not be there with her).

Thursday, February 10, 7 p.m.:

Joel Chasnoff, author of *The 188th Crybaby*

Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid From Chicago Fights Hezbollah

Location: Birnbaum JCC Bridgewater

What's a nice American Jew doing in a place like this? So asks Joel Chasnoff – well-known stand-up comedian and writer- as he sweats, grunts, and rolls his eyes through a military tour in the Israeli Army in *The 188TH Crybaby Brigade*. Surrounded by a platoon of mama's boys and crybabies carrying loaded weapons, this admitted peace-loving, left-leaning, lactose-intolerant Jew from the suburbs invites the reader to share his journey from gung-ho, would-be warrior to disillusioned soldier who in the end discovers he isn't really a Jew at all. Come laugh and learn as Joel Chasnoff presents a disturbingly hilarious look at life inside the Israeli Army.

A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?

A three-session exploration of Jewish spirituality, ethics and community values.

A three-session exploration of Jewish Spirituality, Ethics and Community Values. It is for anyone who wants to learn about the foundations of Jewish tradition and is seeking an entry into Jewish Life. Open to anyone who is interested in learning about Judaism--Jewish or not!! **Free to all members of the community.**

Choice of three Locations with area Rabbis:

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 2011 at 8pm
Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough, Rabbi Arnie Gluck

Wednesdays, March 2, 9, 16, 2011 at 7pm
Or Chadash, Flemington, Rabbi Joe Forman

Mondays, March 7, 14, 21, 2011 at 7:15pm
Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, Bridgewater
Rabbi Ron Isaacs of Temple Sholom

Coming up in April... Rabbi Michael Cook, Sunday, April 10: *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well – Being in a Christian Environment*; and Leslie Kimmelman, April 3, Kids' Corner Program: *The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah*.

For additional information including program fees, please call the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201. Program details are posted at www.ssbjcc.org/jlife.htm.

The JCNWJ Droudly Presents...

The 6th Annual Talent Show

**April 2nd, 2011
7 o'clock**

Star on our Mainstage

**Auditions: Sunday, March 20th
12:00 pm (after the Purim Carnival)**

Acting • Vocals • Instrumental • Jokes • Dance



Spring Fling Event

Thursday, May 12, 2011, 7 p.m.

Crestmont Country Club, 750 Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052

Join the Young Leadership Division & Young Women's Campaign of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ for Spring Fling — an evening of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, dancing, and more.

The evening includes the presentation of the Julius and Bessie Cohn Young Leadership Award to Dana Lichtenberg and Alia Ramer. The event chairs are Rachel Fink, Erica Lieberman, and Lisa Slater.

Couvert: \$60 by April 28/ \$75 thereafter. Minimum gift of \$180 to the 2011 United Jewish Appeal Campaign of MetroWest NJ enables you attend this event.

To register or to make a tribute in Dana's or Alia's honor, go online at www.ujcnj.org/springfling or contact Norma Strickland at nstrickland@ujcnj.org or (973) 929-3057. Look for this event on FaceBook at YLDMetroWest!

SAVE THE DATE

Student Led Lay Shabbat Service

WHEN: February 25th at 7 o'clock

WHAT: Students are practicing their parts in Sunday School for this evening as part of the Sunday school curriculum.

Parents, please support your child's/children's participation in this service. We look forward to this annual event to highlight all of our children.

Helen Mattson

Shabbat Across America

Celebrated by the JCNWJ on Friday,
March 11, 2011.

Join us for a potluck dinner
immediately following the 6 pm service.

Please RSVP to
Jeannie Berkowitz

A Little Jewish Humor

Sadie Cohen lived in a diverse neighborhood on Long Island.

Her neighbor was a very generous black woman who stopped in one Saturday and asked,

"Mrs. Cohen, I have to go into the City this afternoon to meet my daughter; can I get you anything?"

Mrs. Cohen thanked her and exclaimed, "Listen, I have a commuter ticket for the train that I don't use on Saturday. Why don't you use my ticket and you'll bring it back tonight. After all, it's all paid for; why should you pay extra?"

The neighbor thanked her, and later got on the train. As the conductor came through the train, he happened to glance at the ticket and noticed the name "Sadie Cohen".

"Excuse me madam, are you Sadie Cohen, the person whose name appears on this ticket?"

The woman smiled sweetly and shook her head affirmatively. A little suspicious, the conductor asked, "Would you let me compare signatures -- would you please sign your name?"

The black lady turned indignantly and snapped, "Man, are you crazy? You want me to write on Shabbos?"

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