

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Because Exodus 12:1-2 (*'And the LORD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying: 'This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.)*) marks the very first commandment placed upon the Children of Israel as a full nation, the obligation to establish a proper calendar – which delineates exactly when the first month of the year begins – seems to take clear pride of place. In order to make sure this happens, we need to have a reliable system of calculation.

The first day of every lunar month, which we call *rosh hodesh* (the “new moon”), is the day on which the moon moves from being entirely invisible to being just barely visible. The yearly cycle of one *rosh hodesh* to the next takes just over 29½ days to complete, which results in the lunar year being roughly eleven days shorter than a solar year.

This discrepancy matters because the Jewish calendar is based on a biblically mandated lunar cycle. Were the solar calendar to be ignored entirely, holidays that are seasonally dependent would more often than not fall at illogical times of the year. The solution came in the form of a 19-year “Metonic” cycle (named after the 5th Century BCE Greek mathematician Meton of Athens), which introduced one additional month to seven out of every nineteen years. This combined luni-solar cycle managed to keep seasonal holidays at their prescribed seasons while also adhering to the strict requirements of biblical calendaring.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, February 1st**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Tarlowe, Knobelman, Stanton
- **Sunday, February 3rd**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, February 4th**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Mtg.
- **Sunday, February 10th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Israeli Bazaar
- **Friday, February 15th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Loomis, Kowski, McMullen
- **Saturday, February 16th**
6:00 pm – Reel Theology – *Stranger than Fiction*– See Pg. 7 for details
- **Sunday, February 17th**
11:00 am – Joint Service at Mt. Pisgah
AME Church
- **Saturday, February 23rd**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, February 24th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Monday, February 25th**
7:30 pm – Book Club
- **Friday, March 1st**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Shabbat Across America

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

The name of this additional month that is added 7 times over 19 years is *Adar Bet* (not surprisingly, it follows *Adar Aleph*). While the holiday of *Purim* usually falls on the 14th day of the month of *Adar*, the *Mishnah* instructs that when we add *Adar Bet*, we have to wait until the 14th day of that additional month to celebrate. This year, 5779, is one of those years in the Metonic cycle when we add *Adar Bet*. In other words, beginning with *rosh hodesh Adar Aleph* (Monday Evening, February 4 – Tuesday Evening, February 5), we will then have an entire month with no major holiday. So we ask, “Given the lack of holidays, how will we find holiness during this month of mundanity?”

On this question, I am reminded of what the early 20th Century French composer, Claude Debussy (who, while not Jewish himself, was married for the last ten years of his life to Emma Bardac, a French singer of Jewish descent) is quoted to have said: “**Music is the space between the notes.**”

Sometimes the best way to experience holiness is to make the very most of those moments that come between the major mileposts of life. As important as the holy days of our calendar truly are, the reality of it is that the overwhelming majority of life is lived on the **other** days, the days that are not accorded special status. Yet these days are of crucial importance, because in order to absorb fully the lessons of our holidays, sometimes we need a little extra time to let them soak in and influence our behavior. Sometimes we need time to reflect, consider, and figure out how best to navigate our lives in a way that truly honors the call for holiness.

So as we enter this month of no-holidays, I encourage us all to take advantage of the silence. Let us make use of *Adar Aleph* to seek out daily opportunities for reflection and connection. Let us strengthen our relationships with each other and with God. Let us make special effort to join together for Shabbat services at JCNWJ – and for the Sunday Sabbath service for which we will be joining our friends at Mt. Pisgah AME Church on Sunday morning, February 17. Most of all, let us take advantage of the space between the notes this month in order to hear the music, experience the music, and create the music of holiness.

Wishing you all a happy and meaningful *Adar Aleph*,

Rabbi Dubin



President's Message

Let it Snow

As I write this message, I am watching the snow fall down in northwest Jersey. It is a beautiful sight to behold. I love looking at the newly fallen snow and watching my grand daughter slide down the hill at my home. But I also know that it means when the snow stops falling, the snow must be moved. At times like this, I wish I had some ZOOM from Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat. A little pinch of ZOOM and everything is shoveled and clean and right with the world.

Don't you wish we had a little ZOOM like magic in our world? If we did, what powers would you wish it had? Would you wish that people would get along better? That we were nicer to each other? That transportation was faster? That cars and homes were more energy efficient? That all of the items that we put out for recycling were really recycled?

I think my wish would be that we all treated each other with respect. That we actually acted like we would like to act. That people would not misconstrue our words. As Horton the elephant said, "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant". I am concerned about how we communicate these days and when everything is typed into a machine, there is no inflection or tone to indicate levels of uncertainty, frustration and confusion. Emojis and emoticons can be helpful, but to me, there is nothing like talking face to face with people. You can read their facial expression and their body language and tell whether they are understanding you or not.

May all your communications in the coming year be clear to the person who said something and the one who heard it. If both parts don't flow, then there is no communication, only people talking without listening.

Time to make the donuts (or shovel the snow) in this case.

Love, Howie

Sisterhood

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sisterhood had a wonderful planning meeting on January 27. We planned for the upcoming Mishloach Manot Fundraiser, our Jewelry/Judaica/Accessory Swap Night (April 13 - 7 pm), and our Sisterhood Tea (sometime in June).

Within the next few weeks, all congregants should receive a letter and a return envelope for Mishloach Manot. We hope that everyone can participate in some way. We have also been collecting items for Family Promise - helping families who are between homes. They have been very appreciative of our efforts.

Please join us at our next meeting on **March 17 at 10:00**. We will be putting together the Mishloach Manot bags. This is always a lot of fun!



PURIM — A TIME FOR GIFT GIVING! The JCNWJ Sisterhood is once again sponsoring the wonderful MISHLOACH MANOT fundraiser for Purim (March 20-21, 2019). This is a great occasion to give sweets and gifts to your friends, family, and co-workers.

Sisterhood is coordinating this fundraiser to have a Purim treat sent to each Temple family. *Every Temple family will receive one gift bag on or around Purim.*

To support this, we are asking each family to make a donation of at least \$18.00 to cover the cost of the Purim gift bags. As in the past, however, families are encouraged to give up to \$180.00.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the JCNWJ. Every family will receive a letter in February explaining the details of the MISHLOACH MANOT fundraiser. So be on the lookout for your invitation to participate.

Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Schedule:

- February 3
- February 10
- February 24
- March 3

No Sunday School on February 17th.

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study continues at the JCNWJ. The next meeting will be on February 23rd at 10:30 in the Simcha room. Our remaining schedule for the year is:

- February 23
- March 16
- April 13
- May 11
- June 22

FOOD DRIVE

Our congregation continues to donate food all year round to the food pantry. The Jewish Center is collecting non-perishable items such as canned soup, pasta, and cereal on an ongoing basis to help out those in need.

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.

MAH JONGG

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

Updates & Events

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please note that the mailing address for donations and dues payments for the Jewish Center of Northwest New Jersey has changed to:

JCNWJ
c/o Andrew Shelofsky
10 Buttonwood Street
Lambertville, NJ 08530

If you make automated payments through your bank account or charitable foundation, please update the mailing address accordingly.

DONATIONS

In honor of the High Holy Days
– Tracy and Mo Bauer

On the birth of Abigail Thurber (Allison and Austin Thurber)
– Helen and John Mattson

On the Yahrzeit of Ellis Golub
– Helen and John Mattson

On the Yahrzeit of Joseph Berkowitz
– Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

On the Yahrzeit of Laurette F. Pinn
– Helen and John Mattson

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.

Reel Theology

Thank you, Rabbi Dubin!!! After a one-week postponement due to the weather, the temple's first "Reel" night was a big success. We had a nice attendance of interested members, enjoying Havdallah, dinner, movie, dessert and discussion. The first film, *The Truman Show*, proved to be much more than a satirical sci-fi story—it even had biblical/prophetic connections which you couldn't possibly guess unless you participated in the discussion led by Rabbi Dubin.

Members, please support the next "Reel" event. They afford not only what was listed above, but also time for engaging in schmoozing with friends, a very welcomed opportunity on a cold winter night. We now have a VERY large film screen and a great sound system. The next film will be *Stranger than Fiction* on February 16. The evening begins at **6 pm** (note the earlier starting time). Please **RSVP** to sharonherson@comcast.net by noon on February 15 if you are planning to attend. You don't need to be a member to come, so bring your friends (just include them in the count)!

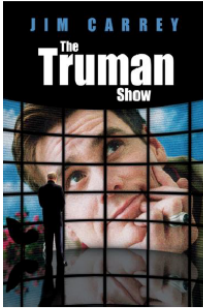
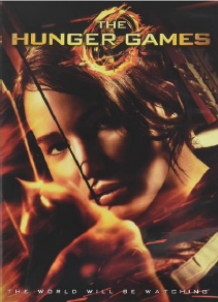
A big thank you to Sharon for organizing the dinner prior to the show. You always go "the extra mile." Also, thank you to everyone who brought delicious contributions to share at dinner and dessert. We are all looking forward to the next event.

Reel Theology

A Series of Five Films over Five Months



Come for the films, the food, the camaraderie, and the surprisingly Jewish discussions led by Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin!

Movie	Date	Time
 JIM CARREY The Truman Show	January 19,	6:30 pm
 Will Ferrell, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman, Queen Latifah, Emma Thompson Stranger than Fiction	February 16,	6:00 pm
 The Young Men: Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Hader, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, Jesse Plemons, Bob Odenkirk Moonrise Kingdom	March 9,	6:30 pm
 THE HUNGER GAMES THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING	April 6,	7 pm
 THE NEW FILM BY JOEL AND ETHAN COEN A SERIOUS MAN	May 11,	7 pm

RSVP to sharonherson@comcast.net (guests are encouraged, but please let us know to expect them).

Dinner and dessert will be served.

Presented by the Adult Education Committee of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey.

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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.

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AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

By Henrik Ibsen Adapted by John Alan Wyatt

Dr. Thomas Stockmann discovers water pollution in a resort that opened in his town. He wants to inform the public and close the resort to prevent a crisis. Others think differently.

What happens when the truth comes up against the will of the majority?

**FEB 15
THRU
MAR 3**

Talkback Feb 17



With Randall Duk Kim & Anne Occhiogrosso

Talkback Discussion with Director, Cast, and Guest Panelists follows the Matinee Performance.

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