

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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www.jcnwj.org

March 2010
Vol. XXXVI, Issue 7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- *Monday, March 1, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting
- *Tuesday, March 2, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Friday, March 5, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Service
Oneg: Ostenfeld, Torine, Romanczyk, and
Leifer families
- *Sunday, March 7, 9:30 am Sunday School
(K/1)(Music), PTO and Men's Club
Meetings
10:45 am Rabbi's Class
- *Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Saturday, March 13, 10:30 am
Torah Study Class
- *Sunday, March 14, 9:30 am
Sunday School (K/1)
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting
10:30 am Confirmation Class
- *Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Friday, March 19, 6:00 pm
Shabbat Across America Service followed
by pot luck dinner
Oneg: Bauch, Smith, Finkelstein,
Longenecker families
- *Saturday, March 20, 9:00 am
Tot Shabbat followed by Shabbat Morning
Service at 10:00 am
- *Sunday, March 21, 9:30 am Sunday
School (Music/ Passover Craft)
10:45 am Adult Ed.
- *Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- *Sunday, March 28, 9:30 am Sunday
School (K/1)
10:30 am Model Passover Seder
- *Monday, March 29
Passover (First Seder)

Rabbi's Message

My Dad always thought that his legal name was Edward Israel Lewis. He found out otherwise when he had to provide his birth certificate when he went into the army. His legal name was Israel Edward Lewis. Since there was already an Uncle Izzy in the family, everyone called my Dad Eddie. He legally changed his name to what he had always thought it was.

Israel was a good name for my father. He was so proud to be a member of the Jewish people. When my parents moved to Westfield in 1954 and joined the temple, they were one of about seventy families. Those families were like my own family. Seeing them this week at the funeral and during shivah was like having a family reunion. At various times, my Dad directed traffic on Sunday mornings at the temple (the Westfield temple had no parking lot until quite recently), chaired the Rabbi's House Committee (in the days when the synagogue provided a parsonage for the rabbi), was president of the Men's Club and sat on the Temple Board. Many times during dinner, the phone rang and he was called out to make a minyan at the house of a mourner. He and my mother went to services every week. I learned the words to the kaddish by standing at my Dad's side during services and listening to him recite those words for his parents.

And now I say those words in his memory. As I write, we have just gotten up from sitting Shivah. Mourning only begins with shivah; it continues through shloshim, a month long period that includes the shivah. Full mourning concludes at the end of eleven months.

Some of you have asked me about the shloshim. The shloshim is the thirty day period that follows the burial. It is a time in which mourners return to work but still minimize celebration. For instance, I can be part of the Megillah reading but won't attend the Purim carnival. Men often don't shave or get haircuts during this thirty day period. Two ways to mark the shloshim include giving tzedakah and studying Torah as a tribute to the deceased.

I would like the congregation to join me when I observe the shloshim of my father's death. It falls on the weekend when we will celebrate Shabbat Across America, We will find some time to study Torah together – and have some good desserts in his honor.

My family and I am grateful for all of your visits, notes, cookies and love.

~Rabbi Ellen Lewis

President's Message

When I was young, the words "snow day" always made us smile. We would get up early in the morning and listen to the local AM radio station to find out if we had to go to school. For some reason, we were able to get up early to find out if we had to go to school, but would not wake up early to actually go to school. When school was cancelled, we would sleep a little later, get up, have breakfast and then go out and either shovel the driveway or grab our sleds and head for the nearest hill.

As I got older and entered the work force, "snow day" meant getting up early (snow and getting up early always seem to go together), shoveling or snow plowing the driveway, and then hitting the roads of New Jersey, because "snow day" for the working person simply meant it was going to take you longer to go to and from your job. It was always stressful as drivers would not remember how to drive on the snow, and you always had to worry about if you were going to skid and hit something or if someone was going to skid and hit you.

As we move into the internet age, "snow day" now means "NO SNOW DAY FOR ME". I still have to get up early and shovel the driveway, but then, I work from my home, so I can still work a normal day, with an aching back. I am looking out my window at the moment and thinking, "will this snow ever stop?"

At times like this, I try to slow myself down and understand that there were things that I had planned to do that are not going to get accomplished at the times I thought they would. I also try and think about how to make the best use of my time when I am not shoveling. At this point, after the snow removal, a cup of hot chocolate and the Olympics seem like a good idea.

I look forward to seeing everyone at temple once the snow ends. Enjoy your day, stay safe (and warm) with your loved ones.

Love,
Howie

Education/PTO

March is a fun month for Hebrew School as we begin to celebrate Passover. On **March 14th** for K-1, and **March 21st** for grades 2-7, the Hebrew School kids get creative with a Passover/Spring craft project. This year we will decorate tambourines in honor of Miriam. Then, on **March 28th** we will have our Model Passover Seder.

There is no Hebrew School on **April 4th** in observance of Passover.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

(Education Co-Chairs)

Thank you...

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lay Shabbat Service. It was so nice to have so many students share in the responsibility of coming together to practice what they are learning in Sunday School. Since the students don't drive, I thank the parents who brought them and showed how much they care about having their children showcased. I also thank the student helpers, Scott and Hannah, for helping on the bima. A great thank you goes to the teachers, Mrs. Rosenblum, Mr. Weiner, Mrs. Stanton and Ms. Marr for encouraging their students to be counted among those who value this experience. I owe Mrs. Fesinstine kudos for helping with the music in the service. And, a great big Thank You to Eric Edelstein for preparing to read Torah for us, thus, continuing our tradition of reading Torah on Friday Shabbat. The Oneg families, Gross, Stanton, Marr and Bloch, treated us to delicious goodies after the service. A good time was had by all.

~Helen Mattson

April Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the April Issue is **March 22, 2010**. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer.



Contributions

In memory of Theodore C. Jay
~Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Gertrude Post and Adolph Goldner
~Laurie Post and Steve Goldner

In memory of Tillie Ratzman
~Steve Ratzman

In memory of Lonnie Bier
~Sharon Herson

In memory of Terrie Altman
~Rene, Rory and Scott Marinich

In memory of Arthur Tarlowe
~Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Sadye Hertzmark
~Nancy and Bernard Robins

In memory of Harry Siegel
~Rhonda Jordan

In memory of Ed Lewis, father of Rabbi Lewis
~Eric Edelstein
~Rhonda Jordan
~Judy and Paul May
~Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Ed Lewis
~Ruth and Ira Melon

In honor of the birth of their first grandchild, Ethan Grant Melon, to Dr. David and Jennifer Melon
~Ruth and Ira Melon

Men's Club ~ Service with a Smile

The JCNWJ Men's Club provides an opportunity to get together for breakfast and conversation once a month. With an eye toward service, the club has participated in the state Adopt-A-Highway Program for many years, cleaning litter from a mile stretch of Rt. 57 - you've probably seen the blue signs with the temple's misspelled name (see the photo at <http://www.jcnwj.org/images/cleanup07sm.jpg>). This year the club will work with Washington Boro to clean a stretch of Railroad Ave. in addition to some of Rt. 57 since the state program has been suspended.

A highlight of being involved with the Men's Club is cooking and serving breakfast for the Confirmation Class when it returns to the temple from the annual retreat at Camp Harlam in December. Feeding the bleary-eyed but happy youngsters is fun for everyone.

The next meeting will be **Sunday, March 7 at 9:30** a.m. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend - if you plan on coming, or have questions, e-mail jcnwjmensclub@gmail.com.

Shabbat Across America

Celebrated by the JCNWJ on
Friday, March 19, 2010

Join us for a potluck dinner immediately following the 6 pm service (Kosher - Dairy Only)

Please RSVP to Lois Goldberg
by March 15th

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.



Adult Torah Study

March 13 at 10:30 am



Saturday, March 20, 2010
at 9:30 am

Join Us

Saturday Morning Shabbat Services
March 20th at 10:00 am

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: THE 5TH ANNUAL JCNWJ TALENT SHOW

WHEN: APRIL 10TH, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

WHERE: IN THE JCNWJ SANCTUARY

JCNWJ 'S GOT TALENT!

Let My People Go...

To JCNWJ's Annual Model Passover Seder

Sunday, March 28th, 2010
at 10:30 am

Join our Hebrew School students in their
journey through the Hagadah.



After 39½ years of wandering
in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly
asks for directions.

Mazel Tov

To the JCNWJ Purim Spiel Players

Congratulations to the cast and crew of
Middle East Side Story on a job well
done.



A Message from JCNWJ Sisterhood

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the congregation of the JCNWJ, I would like to thank all of the women who have shown compassion for our temple by attending sisterhood meetings. I was excited and thrilled to see women attend our last meeting, on February 7th that have not participated in extracurricular activities at the temple recently due to their children leaving the Hebrew School or time constraints. These women are the heart of our temple and their participation in our sisterhood is essential to the success of this organization! They bring their experience and talents to the group which will benefit our temple beyond words! To this group of women I would like to say, "thank you, keep coming to meetings, helping where you can and tell your temple friends to come along!"

We were all proud of the announcement by Debbi Longenecker, that the Michloach Minot fundraiser has raised \$3400.00 thus far, which will go toward the purchase of a new boiler at the Temple! Our spring social event will be a fun-filled evening at the temple with line dancing lessons, food, drink and lots of laughs! This event will be open to all women of our temple, details to follow. Our dynamic Community Outreach Committee is hard at work gathering information about local organizations and planning ways to engage our congregation in community outreach.

Our next JCNWJ Sisterhood meeting will be **March 14, 2010 at 9:30 am** at the Temple. Rachel Juriscz, Regional Manager of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), will enlighten us with information about this organization. See you then!

Photo Album



Rabbi Lewis and Cantor Coyot (disguised as Cat in the Hat and Thing 1, respectively) lead the Megillah Service for the students and congregation.



The Purim Spiel Cast takes a well deserved bow following their crowd pleasing performance of *Middle East Side Story*.



Howie gets soaked in the popular Purim Carnival game "Hit Haman". What a sport!



Children of all ages enjoy another fun-filled Purim Carnival sponsored by the PTO.

Purim 2010

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