

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882
(908) 689-0762
www.jcnwj.org

March 2011
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

*Sunday, March 6
9:30 am PTO Meeting
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Confirmation

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

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

*Friday, March 11, 6:00 pm
Shabbat Across America
7:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
Oneg: Arvesen, Kunzman, Sonzogni, Baecck and,
Berkowitz (Jeff) families

*Sunday, March 13 Hamentashen Bake
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting

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

*Sunday, March 20 Purim
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)
9:45 am Megillah Reading
12:00 pm Purim Carnival

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

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

*Friday, March 25, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Services
Oneg: Yanow family

*Saturday, March 26, 10:00 am
Shabbat Services – Dylan Yanow Bar Mitzvah

*Sunday, March 27
9:30 am Sunday School
9:30 am PTO Meeting
10:45am Adult Education

*Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class

*Saturday, April 2, 7:00 pm
Talent Show

Rabbi's Message

When you walk in to our Jewish Center, the first thing you do is hang up your coat. When you walk into the synagogue in Tokyo, the first thing you do is take off your shoes and exchange them for slippers. It is what you do in Japan when you enter a private home. It is even what you do in many restaurants. Then you climb the stairs to the classrooms and sanctuary. The building itself is only a year old, built on the site of the original 1952 building. It has its own mikveh, its own kosher (only meat) kitchen and its own Japanese chef!

When you walk in to our sanctuary, you see the rabbinic quotation over the ark, "Know before Whom you stand." In Tokyo, the words from Psalms read, "From the rising of the sun until its setting." The play on words is evident in the Hebrew, calling on Japan as the land of the rising sun. And yet so much feels the same. The liturgy is chanted to familiar tunes from an American prayerbook. The congregation is a mix of native Japanese, Israelis and American ex-patriates, along with random tourists. It is a little larger than ours, about 120 families, but has the same feeling of warmth and welcoming. The rabbi is Antonio de Gesu, friendly and engaging, Italian born and ordained at JTS in New York.

I always tell our kids that the purpose of learning the prayers in the prayerbook has nothing to do with b'nai mitzvah. It has everything to do with skills that will help them feel comfortable when they enter other sanctuaries in other places. Other places might include synagogues in the US but in this increasingly small world, it also includes synagogues in other countries. It is a wonderful thing to be awed by the land of shinto, sushi and skyscraper and still be able to walk into a synagogue and feel that you are home.

You were with me as I prayed (shoeless) in Tokyo, as I know I am with you as you worship in Washington.

Rabbi Lewis

President's Message

"I'd rather be lucky than good"

This quote was attributed to Lefty Gomez, a pitcher for the New York Yankees, mainly in the 1930's. This month's column will tell of how this applied to me last month. I was in Northern California on business last month and had a three day weekend in between meetings. During that weekend, my parents were travelling north to Santa Barbara to go to the Santa Barbara Film festival. I was able to make plans to drive the five hours to visit them. While I was headed in that direction, I was able to get in touch with an old friend, who I had not seen nor spoken to in 25 years, but had been in contact in the last year, thanks to Facebook. We made plans to get together on Friday night. I asked if we could go to shul at her synagogue, but it turned out that they, like we, have bi-monthly services, and that weekend was their "off" week. As I drove down to Los Angeles in the 300 mile fog bank, known as "the 5", my mind had lots of time to think. I remembered that Cantor Coyot had gotten a job in Los Angeles and called Rabbi Lewis to find out what congregation she was at. When I found out she was in Woodland Hills, I called my friend and asked if she would like to go to services at this shul. She said yes, and went on the internet to find out the location and time of the service. She called me back with the information that Cantor Coyot was going to be installed as the congregation's cantor that evening. This "I'd rather be lucky than good".

As we were walking up to the synagogue, Cantor Coyot pulls up along side of us, recognizes me and asks me what I am doing here. I replied, "I was in the neighborhood and thought I would drop in". We went to the service and it was a rousing celebration.

One of Cantor Coyot's song leader teachers, Merri Lovinger Arian from HUC in New York flew out for the celebration, as well as the cantor's mother and sister. Merri completely energized the temple with her rousing guitar playing and passionate enthusiasm. I could tell what a great teacher she must be. Cantor Coyot led a conga line through the synagogue during L'Cha Dodi, to greet the Sabbath bride. We had a wonderful time at this service.

Afterwards at the Oneg, I got a few minutes to speak with Cantor Coyot, and sent her warm greetings from everyone at the JCNWJ.

*Shalom and Love,
Howie*

Education/PTO

We have a PTO meeting on **March 6th**. On **March 13th** we begin celebrating Purim by baking hamentashen. Mmmmmmm... Then, on **March 20th** beginning at 9:45 a.m. we will all enjoy the Purim Shpiel and Megillah reading – get your groggers ready! Kids are encouraged to come in costume and bring a friend if they want. After Hebrew School on **March 20th** we continue our celebration with our annual Purim Carnival. There will be games and activities for the kids, baked goods, theme baskets, and much more! **Thank you to our Hebrew School families and everyone else who donated items for our Purim Carnival. We really appreciate it.** We have another PTO meeting on **March 27th** to prepare for our April activities.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein

(Education Co-Chairs)

Mazel Tov

From the JCNWJ
To the Yanow family on the upcoming
bar mitzvah of Dylan.

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.

April Journal Deadline

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





Summer Trip Registration Closing SOON

Last chance to make a referral before registration closes

Dear URJ Professionals & Friends:

Registration for the Summer 2011 season of FREE Taglit-Birthright Israel trips with URJ Kesher will be closing any day now. Refer a community member before it is too late!



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Share the Gift with Eligible Young Adults

If a member of your community is eligible for the Taglit-Birthright Israel program, we will make sure that their application is handled with priority status so long as they sign-up with URJ Kesher no later than Sunday, February 20th. As a reminder, the core eligibility criteria are: Jewish, ages 18-26, and 1st time in Israel on a peer program.

URJ Kesher is an official Taglit- Birthright Israel trip provider.

Learn more:

[Taglit-Birthright Israel](http://www.birthrightisrael.com)

Keep in mind that this offer only applies for applicants who choose URJ Kesher (www.gokesher.org) as their Taglit-Birthright Israel program provider.



How to Refer a Community Member

To refer a member of your community, simply respond to this email and let us know the name of the person for whom we should be on the lookout. Please make sure that the applicants you refer know to select the URJ Kesher trip by starting their Taglit-Birthright Israel application process at www.gokesher.org.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about the experience of Taglit-Birthright Israel with the URJ.

URJ Kesher Israel Team

Jewish Life

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TASTE OF JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?
A THREE-SESSION EXPLORATION OF JEWISH
SPIRITUALITY, ETHICS AND VALUES

Free Series Is Open To Anyone Interested In Learning About
Judaism And Offered At Three Area Locations

Bridgewater, NJ – Jewish LIFE Festival of Books and Culture presents *Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious*, a three-session exploration of Jewish spirituality, ethics and values. The series will be taught by three local Rabbis at three area locations: Rabbi Ron Isaacs of Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center (775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater) on Monday, March 7, 14 and 21 at 7:15 p.m.; Rabbi Arnie Gluck of Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough (67 US Highway 206, Hillsborough) on Tuesday, March 8, 15 and 22 at 8:00 p.m.; and Rabbi Joe Forman of Or Chadash in Flemington (149 Foothill Road, Flemington) on Wednesday, March 2, 9 and 16 at 7:00 p.m. The Taste of Judaism series is open to anyone interested in learning about Judaism – Jewish or not. There is no admission charge. For additional information on the Taste of Judaism series and to register, please contact Laura at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

Jewish LIFE is a community wide education program in its eleventh season serving residents of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. Jewish LIFE is supported by the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties, the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service and area synagogues, including: Chabad of Greater Somerset County, Basking Ridge; Chabad Jewish Center of Southern Somerset County, Hillsborough; Chabad of Hunterdon County, Clinton; Congregation of Kehilat Shalom, Belle Mead; Flemington Jewish Community Center; Or Chadash, Flemington; Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough; Temple Beth El, Somerset; and Temple Sholom, Bridgewater. The Jewish LIFE Festival of Books and Culture is made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties and support from the Jewish Book Council.

Join us for our Annual Purim Carnival



Games ~ Raffles ~ Refreshments
Great Prizes!!

***Kids can come in costume and bring a
friend***

March 20, 2011 14 Adar II 5771
Begins 12:00 noon (after Hebrew School)

The JCNWJ Proudly 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



A Little Jewish Humor

Morty visits the veterinarian in the Fairfax District and says, 'My dog has a problem.'

The doctor replies, 'So tell me about the dog's problem.'

'First you should know, he's a Jewish dog. His name is Irving and he can talk,' says Morty.

He can talk?', the doubtful doctor asks.

'Watch this!' Morty points to the dog and commands 'Irving, Fetch!'

Irving, the dog, begins to walk toward the door, then turns around and demands, 'So why are you talking to me like that? You order me around like I'm nothing. And you only call me when you want something. And then you make me sleep on the floor, with my arthritis. You give me this fahkahkta* food with all the salt and fat, and you tell me it's a special diet. It tastes like dreck*! YOU should eat it yourself!'

And do you ever take me for a decent walk? NO, it's out of the house, a short pish*, and right back home. Maybe if I could stretch out a little, the sciatica wouldn't kill me so much! I should roll over and play dead for real for all you care!'

The Doctor is amazed. 'This is remarkable! What could be the problem?'

Morty says, 'Obviously he has a hearing problem! I said 'fetch', not 'kvetch*!'

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 student helpers, Jamie, 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 treated us to delicious goodies after the service. A good time was had by all.

~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 (Kosher – Dairy Only)

Please RSVP to Jeanne Berkowitz by March 7th



Purim a Time for Gift Giving...The JCNWJ Sisterhood is once again doing this wonderful Mishloach Manot fund raiser for Purim on March 20, 2011. This is a great occasion to raise funds and give sweets and gifts to your friends, family and co-workers.

Every temple family will receive one gift bag. In each bag is a card imprinted mentioning the family(s) that contributed with special acknowledgement to you. Like last year, each temple family has been mailed the forms to purchase and send a gift bag to send to other temple members or purchase extra for family.

Although each temple family will receive only one bag you may make your purchases for as many families as you wish. This contribution will work as a fund raiser for our temple and continue the collection for the new furnace.

For more information and to look or get the forms for this event check on the temple web site...www.jcnwj.org

Jewish Family Service Launches Eldercare Services Website

Jewish Family Service of MetroWest has launched a new dynamic and comprehensive website for its Elderlink program with a grant from The Grotta Fund for Senior Care of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest. Elderlink is an individualized, one-stop connection to eldercare services in the MetroWest community and the new website, www.elderlinkmetrowest.org, provides access to a wide range of resources and information for well elderly and adult children of aging parents.

With Elderlink already a well-established hotline receiving 1,100 calls annually, JFS was able to use the generous contribution from The Grotta Fund for significant investment in technological infrastructure. The website features downloadable guides, glossaries of terms, links and checklists for conversations caregivers should have with the elderly. In addition, visitors can participate in discussion forums where they can ask questions and receive answers from clinical counselors and experts. Confidential contact forms and a satisfaction survey are available on the site as well. JFS anticipates more than 300 individuals from the MetroWest community and beyond will access the site in the first year and will be better informed of local, regional and national resources.

The Grotta Fund for Senior Care is an endowed community advisory fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest (JCF). The Fund is dedicated to positively impacting the lives of seniors and their families, primarily living in Essex, Union and Morris Counties. Grotta seeks to provide innovative approaches to health and social services with direct benefits to seniors that significantly help seniors remain living independently and safely in their homes and communities. Funds are awarded on a non-sectarian basis.

Elderlink is a program of MetroWest CARES, a collaborative effort of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ (UJC) and its agencies to create a continuum of care for the elderly; a comprehensive, consumer-oriented network of services, including physical and mental health care, spiritual health and well being, social and vocational services, advocacy, transportation and housing. MetroWest CARES is dedicated to aging with independence, community engagement and dignity.

Jewish Family Service of MetroWest is a comprehensive social service agency providing counseling and support services, on a non-discriminatory basis, to help strengthen and restore the family, in Essex, Morris, Sussex and parts of Hudson and Union counties. JFS annually touches more than 3,500 families in the Metro West area. Traditionally, half of our services help older adults and their families cope with the changes of aging through extensive in-home services including subsidized home care, case management services, counseling, caregiver education, volunteer friendly visitors, and specialized programs for Holocaust survivors. For children and families, JFS provides individual, couple, child and family counseling, family play therapy, support groups, adoption services, school and synagogue-based social work services, debt counseling, domestic violence services, family life education and other assistance needed to maintain healthy families. JFS has offices located in Florham Park, Livingston and Jersey City. For more information, please call (973) 765-9050 or visit www.jfsmetrowest.org.

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