



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, April 1, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, April 2, 9:30-noon
Adult Education Class
- Saturday, April 9
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Torah Study
- Sunday, April 10:
8:00 a.m. Men's Club Rt 57
clean up followed by breakfast
- Friday, April 15, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, April 16, 9:30-noon
Adult Education Class
- Sunday, April 24,
No Sunday School
6:30 p.m. Passover Second
Seder
- Friday, April 29, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Saturday, April 30, 9:30-noon
Adult Education Class
- Sunday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.
Yom HaShoa Service

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

SHABBATON

*celebrating the 25th anniversary
of the ordination of*

RABBI ELLEN JAY LEWIS



Friday evening, May 6th at 7:45 p.m.

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Guest speaker: H. S. (Buddy) Rosenthal

ONEG SHABBAT



Saturday morning, May 7th at 10:00 a.m.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Guest leaders: Rabbi Kim S. Geringer, Dr. Mira Brichto

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

RSVP by April 25th for Kiddush luncheon

908-689-0762

Directions to the Center can be found at www.jcnwj.org

Rabbi's Message

Week after week, I teach Jewish history to our 6th & 7th grades. If you accept the traditional reckoning, that's 5765 years worth of history (give or take a couple thousand years if you prefer historical reckoning). In either case, twenty-five years is no time at all compared with the span of Jewish history. And yet the twenty-five year period since I was ordained has seen seismic changes in our Reform movement and in the larger American Jewish community. When I was ordained in 1980, fewer than twenty women had become rabbis in the Reform movement. When people asked us (and everyone did), "How many women rabbis are there?" we could not only count but also name each one. Years later, after we had passed the four hundred number, I simply lost count of how many women had been ordained.

In planning for the weekend of May 6, I thought about what I wanted said about this past quarter century. I realized that I did not want to bring in a famous scholar or an important official of our movement. Rather, I wanted you to hear from people who have lived through these past twenty five years with me, who can place the issue of women's ordination within the larger context of Jewish history but who can also express the personal experience we shared along the way. Buddy Rosenthal was the Chairperson of the Search Committee of Temple Emanu-el in Dallas, Texas, in 1980 and was brave enough to take the risk of hiring me. Dr. Milly Brichto, whom some of you met two years ago when she came to speak for Kristallnacht, was the first Religious School principal for whom I taught when I was a rabbinical student in Cincinnati; she was and continues to be my mentor in the rabbinate. Rabbi Kim Geringer became first a congregant and later a friend of mine when I went to Temple Sinai in Summit in 1985; she entered rabbinical school as a second career and now serves as Associate Rabbi at Temple Har Shalom in Warren, NJ. I have learned so much from each of these people; I know you will enjoy them as well.

Thank you again for celebrating with me. I would have it no other way.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis

A Special Message from the President

I read a story this week about a father and a son walking along a road. On the side of the road was a boulder, blocking part of the road. The son asked his father, "Do you think I can move this boulder?" The father responded, "If you use all of your strength, I am sure you can move it." The son pushed with every ounce of energy that he could muster, but he still could not move the boulder. He looked at his father and asked, "You told me if I used all of my strength, I would be able to move the boulder, Why can't I?" The father replied, "You didn't use all of your strength – you didn't ask me for help."

Most of us like to think that we are self-sufficient and can accomplish much on our own. But we are always stronger when we think in terms larger than ourselves. Today, I am asking for all of your help.

By now, I am sure you are aware of the celebration planned for Rabbi Lewis' 25th anniversary of her ordination as a Rabbi. Rabbi Lewis has graciously offered to direct all profits from this celebration to be donated to our temple to build the handicapped access to our temple. As president, I am urging each and every one of you to do three things for your temple.

The first is to show your support for Rabbi Lewis by attending the Shabbaton on Friday evening and/or Saturday morning.

The second is to open your checkbook and make the largest donation that you can comfortably afford. Remember you are honoring our Rabbi, teacher and spiritual leader for the

past decade. If you have already made a donation, look into your heart and see if you can dig a little deeper. There is also a wonderful lunch being catered on Saturday after services. If you are planning on coming to the lunch, please make sure that your donation covers the cost of the lunch plus a little extra (I would suggest a minimum of \$36), but do not let this stop you from coming to the lunch if you cannot afford this donation. It is equally as important to show our support for the Rabbi with our presence (as well as our presents).

The third thing I would like you to do is to try and sell a few ads to your family, friends and businesses that you frequent. As a community, we normally are self-sufficient. But to do this renovation properly, we are going to need some outside funds as well. All of us have been asked to donate to many charities by our friends. This would be a time that I am asking you to ask them to return the favor.

Remember that anything we are able to raise from the outside lessens the burden on the rest of the congregation.

With all of us working hard together, we can move boulders.

Shalom,
Howie Hirsch

Shabbaton Guest Speakers

A selfless and dedicated community leader, **Buddy Rosenthal** has a long and involved history with the Jewish community in Dallas. Currently serving as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, he has served on the Federation's Board of Directors continuously since 1980 and has also held the roles of vice president, Planning and Allocations chair and Personnel Committee chair.

Buddy is also recognized regionally and nationally as a leader in our community. Currently, he serves on the board of the United Jewish Communities. In 1993, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations recognized him with the Southwest Council's Light of Life Award. Then in 1998, he was honored by the American Jewish Communities with its prized Human Relations Award.

Rabbi Kim Geringer is a proud product of the Reform Movement "through and through." In addition to her position at Temple Har Shalom, Rabbi Geringer also works at the URJ in the Department of Religious Living. In that capacity, she has been actively involved with all of the Reform Movement's worship transformation efforts over the past few years. She co-authored "Ivdu B'simchah: Worship With Joy," the Reform Movement's compendium of worship initiatives unveiled at the 1999 national Biennial Convention in Orlando. She has created programmatic material for Shavuot and, most recently, "Reaching for Holiness: A Program for S'lichot."

Dr Miro Brichto works for R-Fa aye nu Society, which concerns the conservation and preservation of valuable archival holdings in Central and eastern Europe which relate to the cultural past of Jews and Christians alike.



Join us for a special night as our Temple celebrates a 2nd night Pesach seder together on Sunday, April 24 at 6:30pm. Please contact Barbara Meltz at the Temple to attend.

Adult Education

Torah Study, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
April 9, May 14, June 11

Rabbi Lewis's Adult Education Class,
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon
(9:30-10:45 Pirke Avot; 10:45-noon MishkanT'filah)
April 2, April 16, April 30, May 21

Education Committee and PTO News

Happy Passover! The Religious School will be creating beautiful spring crafts on **April 10**. We will have our Model Seder on **April 17**; volunteers are needed for both events. Please contact Karen Finkelstien at (908) 835-8888. There is no school on **April 24** because of Passover.

On **May 1** we will be having our Yom Hashoa service. Confirmation will be **May 22**, the last day of Sunday school and Shavuot, with a luncheon kiddush to follow in the simcha room. The cake will provided by the Center. Students: start studying now!

Shoprite/A&P Vouchers

Shop Rite scrip and A&P gift cards are available at the Temple on the following dates: April 10, May 1, 15.

Contact Sandy Seidorf for any questions or special delivery. We are looking for a volunteer to take over the Shop Rite / A&P gift card program. See Paul May or Sandy Seidorf if interested.

Many Thanks!

Dear Mercedes and Ken, Stefanie and Eric,

I'm singing your praises for all your hard work in planning and arranging the dinner for Shabbat Across America. Everything was terrific and I commend you for engaging in this enterprise. Thank you from me and all the guests we had that evening who join me in singing your praises too !

Helen

Thank you to the Temple members who supported the Easter/Passover Food Drive for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in High Bridge. Five bags of donations were collected totaling over 50 pounds.

JEWISH CENTER OF NORTHWEST JERSEY

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

I/We would like to make a contribution of _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

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Please contact me/us about membership _____

Make check payable to Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey and mail to the Temple

Many thanks to Debbie and Sasha Knobelman, Mercedes Weiland, Ann Stahl, Diane Weiner and Helene Friedlander for all their help stuffing, addressing and stamping envelopes for the Rabbi's Shabbaton. What a great display of team work while having fun. Great job! Also, many thanks to Judy May, Sharon Herson, Jeff Berkowitz and Dan Hirshberg for all their time and effort in helping to compose the invitation packets.

Gwen Nagorsky

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

We apologize for not being able to list this month's Jewish Life programs. Visit www.ssbjcc.org to learn what's happening this month.

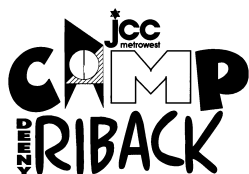
Donations

If you'd like to remember a loved one with a memorial plaque please contact Helen Mattson at any time.

From Your Newsletter Editor

The deadline for the next newsletter will be April 18.

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