

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



## Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882  
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www.jcnwj.org

April 2011  
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 8

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

\*Sunday, April 3  
9:30 am Men's Club Meeting  
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)  
10:30 am Confirmation  
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting

\*Monday, April 4, 7:30 pm  
Board Meeting

\*Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew Class

\*Friday, April 8, 7:30 pm  
Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Ostenfeld family

\*Saturday, April 9, 10:00 am  
Shabbat Services – Hailey Ostenfeld Bat Mitzvah

\*Sunday, April 10 Pesach Craft  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:45 am Adult Education

\*Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew Class

\*Sunday, April 17 Model Seder  
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)  
10:30 am Model Seder

\*Monday, April 18 Erev Pesach

\*Saturday, April 23, 10:30 am Torah Study

\*Sunday, April 24 No Hebrew School

\*Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 pm  
Adult Hebrew Class

\*Friday, April 29, 7:30 pm  
Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Onweller family

\*Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am  
Shabbat Services – Connor Onweller Bar Mitzvah

\*Sunday, May 1 Yom HaShoah  
9:30 am Sunday School(K/1)(Music)  
Men's Club Meeting  
10:30 am Confirmation  
Yom HaShoah Program

### *Rabbi's Message*

I can usually manage to put off thinking about Passover until the day after Purim. Then all my thinking shifts to what lies ahead. Pesach preparation takes some time and involves even daily food shopping. The questions begin before we ever get to the 4 questions asked at the seder itself: Shall I buy that box of cereal now or will I have to throw it out if I don't finish it before Passover? When will I do my Passover cleaning, shopping and cooking? Who is coming to seder this year? What recipes should I use if I have guests who are vegetarian, ovo-lactarian or vegan? And finally: Which haggadah should I use?

For years, my family has used a cut-and-paste haggadah taken from many sources. Its origin stems from pre-computer days, so the cut-and-paste is quite literal. I aspire to put it all on the computer some day. It has become quite unwieldy, but I just buy bigger binders. What is worse is that I can't resist adding to it. There are new traditions to incorporate and ever-changing ways of understanding freedom. I share with you one of mine, adapted from *the Ma'yan Passover Haggadah*.

### MIRIAM'S CUP

In every generation, our people have added new traditions to their Seders. Tonight we add Miriam's Cup in addition to that of Elijah. The Midrash tells us that Miriam's Well moved with the Jewish people from place to place as our ancestors traversed the desert after the Exodus. Miriam's Cup is a symbol of our past redemption, when our people were brought out of Egypt and delivered from slavery. Elijah's Cup, which we will speak of at the end of the Seder, represents our future redemption, looking forward to the Messianic age when peace will fill the world.

Miriam's Well was said to hold Divine power to heal and renew. It became a special source of transformation for a people seeking to leave slavery behind them and form a new identity. Throughout our journey as a people, we have sought to rediscover these living waters for ourselves. We remember the sustenance and renewal of God's gift to Miriam with this cup of clear well water, a reminder of the living waters of Miriam's Well.

*continued on next page*

## *President's Message*

As we have just finished our latest Purim Spiel, I cannot tell you what a wonderful time we had in putting this show on. The cast was a mix of older and newer members. Adding in new folks to the ones who have done this for a few years was most entertaining to the cast. While our wonderful director had to tell us many times to stop having side conversations, some of these side conversations led to added choreography and certainly to the esprit de corps. Rehearsals were thoroughly enjoyable, and I think the cast laughed as much during the practice as the audience did during the performance. I think my favorite part of the rehearsals was when Cantor Elana was trying to assist me in singing in the right key, which for those of you who have heard me sing, is quite ridiculous. But it does show that she thinks she can accomplish ANYTHING. Personally, I want to thank the congregation for allowing me to get up on stage, overact, ham it up, and sing off key and still like me afterwards.

In addition to the spiel, the Purim Carnival was also a good time. I was hit in the face with sponges for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Some of the newer children seemed to think this was a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday, and I am always happy to make them happy. The way the presents were distributed was a novel idea, and I thought that it worked out well. Huge kudos to the confirmation class in general, and to my helper Drew Needleman, who stayed with me during the whole carnival, mop in hand and good nature in spirit, and assisted me with my newly painted booth.

This is one of my favorite days in the temple, and for those adults who did not stop in for the spiel or the carnival, you missed a really good time. The spiel should be available on the website, either now or soon after the newsletter is delivered. If you have any comments, please direct them to me.

And lastly to the director of the spiel, Debbie Fesinstine, all I can say is OY OY OY.

*Shalom and Love,  
Howie*

### **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.

Please remember that if you want to reach Rabbi Lewis, you should call her at her home office or email her.

## *Rabbi's Message (cont.)*

Tonight at our Seder, let us remember that we are still on the journey. Just as the Holy One delivered Miriam and her people, just as they were sustained in the desert and transformed until they became a new people, so may we be delivered, sustained and transformed on our journey to a stronger sense of ourselves as individuals and as one people. May the Cup of Miriam nourish us and give us inspiration as we embark on our journey through the Haggadah.

Miriam's cup is to be filled with well water. As our ancestors gained physical and spiritual nourishment from the waters of her well, so may we continue to gain strength. We fill her cup now with the waters of our own spirit. Praised are You, Adonai, Who brings us from the narrow places into the wilderness, sustains us with endless possibilities and enables us to reach a new place.

Whatever the new traditions we might incorporate, the goal of the seder and the eternal message of Passover remain the same. Bechol dor va'dor - in every generation, we are obligated to see ourselves as if we personally had gone forth from Egypt. We were slaves in Egypt. With divine intervention, we experienced redemption from that servitude. We now relive the experience in our seders as we move from the degradation of slavery to the freedom we enjoy. Why remember a time that was so bitter? So that, no matter where we live, we can always be voices for freedom in our world.

Have a zissen Pesach, full of sweetness and family.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

### **May Journal Deadline**

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the May Issue **April 19, 2011**. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at [abbybauer@comcast.net](mailto:abbybauer@comcast.net).

# Jewish Life

## JEWISH LIFE FESTIVAL OF BOOKS & CULTURE SPRING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the remaining Jewish LIFE programs of the Season!

\* **Sunday, April 3, 12 Noon: Kids' Corner Event** featuring **Leslie Kimmelman**, author of *The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah*. Join in for Passover Family Fun – including a pre-Passover pizza lunch and arts & crafts. Location: Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. For fees and to register, call Paige Silberfein: 908-725-6994 x206; [PSilberfein@ssbjcc.org](mailto:PSilberfein@ssbjcc.org).

\* **Sunday, April 10, 7 p.m.: Rabbi Michael Cook**, *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-being in a Christian Environment*. Location: Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. For fees and to register, call the Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

\* **Sunday, May 1, 7 p.m.: Community-Wide Yom Hashoah Observance** featuring **Leila Levinson**, author of *Gated Grief: The Daughter of a World War II GI Liberator Discovers a Legacy of Trauma*. Location: Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. *Free to the Community*. Please RSVP to Laura Friedman at the JCC: [LFriedman@ssbjcc.org](mailto:LFriedman@ssbjcc.org).

### Torah Study

Saturday, April 23, 2011  
10:30 am



## Mishloach Manot Fundraiser

This second year of the Sisterhood Mishloach Manot fundraiser was a great success. There was fun and craziness assembling the bags on Sunday March 13. Susan McNamara and I want to thank all the helpers, Gina Berkowitz, Karen Finkelstein, Rita Berkowitz, Iris Hirsch, Lisa Bauch, Loretta Koch, Sherri Onweller, Jeff Fenton, Alison Shelofsky, and Rochelle Ostenfeld. Each bag was filled with goodies shopped for by Susan, Marsha Gross, Lauretta Koch and Iris Hirsch. But they could not have done the shopping without the hard work of Lynn Kestecher who did a great job getting donations. We are grateful for the donations from Shop Rite in Washington, Home Depot, A&P and the Washington One Stop. Thanks also goes to Rita Berkowitz for donating the yummy Hamantashen. This year there was a special treat in each bag, a Hamantashen key chain personally designed and crafted by Marsha Gross and Susan McNamara. Each member of our temple family was hand delivered a bag at the temple or at their home. Thanks goes to Marci Braunstein, Karen Finkelstein, Rita Berkowitz, Iris Hirsch, Jeff Fenton, Alison Shelofsky, Lauretta Koch, Melissa Parson, and Sharon Herson. The organization of these deliveries could not have been accomplished without the skills and hard work of Alison Shelofsky (and Andy). This year we also decided to donate a bag to each student away at college. Thanks to Karen Finkelstein for donating the mailings and packing and shipping the bags. I am deeply indebted to all the volunteers who drove around and delivered the bags. Gratefully we had Lisa Bauch, a super computer whiz again this year, organizing and taking care of the accounting for this fundraiser. This program would not be possible without our temple families and members. Participating in the Mishloach Manot is a wonderful tradition of gift giving during Purim. We give to each other and back to our temple. We raised almost \$4400 that will be contributed to paying for the furnace. Thank you to everyone at the Jewish Center.

The JCNWJ Proudly Presents...

# The 6th Annual Talent Show

April 2nd, 2011  
7 o' clock

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## Mazel Tov

From the JCNWJ

To the Ostenfeld family on the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of Hailey

To the Onweller family on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of Connor

## Join Us

As the JCNWJ  
commemorates Yom  
HaShoah on May 1,  
2011

Program begins at 10:30 am

Light refreshments to follow at  
noon.

Details to follow.

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