

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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## Rabbi's Message

We may think that we live on one calendar, but we human beings actually live on numerous different types of calendars. We mark time by the “secular” - Gregorian calendar, the school calendar, our work schedules, our vacations, the seasons, the civil holidays and, of course, our Jewish calendar. This list does not even include the separate calendars of sports and activities for each member of our household. It also does not take into account the rhythm of personal experience by which we measure time – birthdays, anniversaries, *yahrzeits*, days to camp, days since we last saw a loved one, days until we finish a treatment or medicine, days or years until we start or finish the goals which define our lives. Our calendars propel us forward and delve into our memories all at the same time.

This season adds one more calendar to the mix as we Count the Omer, the days between Passover and Shavuot. The former marks our Exodus from Egypt and Slavery, while the latter marks the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Counting the days in between these two major holidays links them theologically. Passover celebrates our redemption by God; Shavuot celebrates God's revelation of God's law to us, God's people. Our freedom, therefore, becomes purposeful. In our modern American society, we often mistake freedom for anarchy or doing whatever we want without limits or responsibility.

continued on next page

## Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
6:15 pm Picnic Shabbat Dinner  
7 pm Shabbat Music Preview  
7:30 pm Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Leifer Family
- **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
10 am Masie Leifer's Bat Mitzvah
- **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)  
Yom HaAtzmaut Israeli Breakfast
- **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm Board Meeting
- **Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 am Goals and Objectives Meeting
- **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
No Sunday School – Mother's Day
- **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
12 pm Rabbi's Class  
7 pm Membership Committee Meeting at Casa Maya
- **Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**  
6:15 pm Picnic Shabbat Dinner  
7:30 pm Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Tarlowe, Knobelman, Simons, and Orenstein Families

## Rabbi's Message (cont.)

However, the Jewish point of view on our redemption is that true freedom allows us willingly and freely to bind ourselves to purposeful action. God loved us by freeing us and giving us the law. We love God by using our freedom to bind ourselves to that law and live it.

The Counting of the Omer also has an agricultural dimension. Passover marks the barley harvest and Shavuot the wheat harvest. At the time of the Ancient Temple in Jerusalem sacrifices were offered from the first fruits of these crops. An Omer, a sheaf of grain, was the measurement used for grain at the time of the Temple. Today we count from the second day of Passover for 49 days or seven weeks. This brings us to Shavuot.

Our personal calendars become the mosaic on which the seemingly desperate schedules of time come together. All of the markings on our personal calendars should reflect what literally counts to us. This period of Counting the Omer challenges us to consider what really matters. How do we use the blessing of our freedom? What are the priorities in our lives? To what purpose do we bind ourselves? As we communally move towards Sinai, I hope you and your family will consider these questions and find satisfying answers.

L'Shalom,

*Rabbi Mary Zamore*

If you, a family member or temple friend is ill or facing a life challenge, please know that Rabbi Zamore is here to help.

Please contact in confidence Rabbi Zamore at [zamorem@comcast.net](mailto:zamorem@comcast.net) or call her at (908) 317-0417.

### Shabbat Music Preview!

Join our Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman on **Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**, for joyful singing, as she teaches some of the newer music from our Shabbat service. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our rich musical traditions.



## Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30 am Torah Study
- **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30 am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)  
10:30 am Confirmation  
10:30 am Sisterhood Meeting
- **Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**  
7 pm Book Club
- **Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
No Sunday School – Memorial Day
- **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**  
6:15 pm Picnic Shabbat Dinner  
7 pm Shabbat Music Preview  
7:30 pm Shabbat Services  
Oneg: Kestecher Family
- **Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
10 am Lacey Kestecher's Bat Mitzvah
- **Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**  
9:30 am Annual Congregation Meeting



If you haven't already done so, next time you're online visit the JCNWJ's Facebook page! This is the place to learn about events at the temple and beyond, see photos of recent events, find links to interesting articles, and more. While the temple's website is still a great place to get information about upcoming events, download forms, or find archived copies of the newsletters and past monthly messages from the Rabbi and President, our Facebook page expands our ability to communicate. You can send us a message about what you'd like to see on the page, or ask a question (Rabbi Zamore and others will see it) and get a response.

You can visit the page at [www.facebook.com/jcnwj](http://www.facebook.com/jcnwj) to see what it's all about! Hope you "Like" it!

## President's Message

With the school year-end approaching, the JCNWJ takes a step back to reflect on the past year or two in order to assess our future needs and options and to keep up with our ever changing society.

Two very important upcoming events that will impact our future course are the Goals and Objectives meeting scheduled for May 10, 2014 and the Annual Congregation Meeting scheduled for June 1, 2014.

At the Goals and Objectives meeting, we will explore membership retention and membership outreach, communication with our congregants, our town and neighboring towns and communication through social media. We will assess our education curriculum provided to both adults and youth and our development of future leaders for the JCNWJ.

At the Congregation Meeting, the members will be provided with a report from each of our committees outlining events from the past year and the upcoming activities. Reports will be provided by the ritual committee, the finance committee, the education committee, the membership committee, the website committee and sisterhood.

With each passing year, we ask new and existing members to participate in this process by volunteering to join committees, take on active roles and have a voice in the direction of our temple. We cannot succeed without volunteers.

We anticipate many leadership opportunities and are hopeful that members will initiate new programs, like forming a youth group, and revitalize former ones, like the men's club.

Although there are many opportunities for you to become involved, we ask that you take the time and think of how your current leaders may improve temple life, spiritually or socially in anticipation of upcoming meetings. If you have suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me either by phone or e-mail. The simplest suggestion could make a difference. Your contributions are very much valued and welcomed. It is your JCNWJ.

*Mo Bauer*

## THANK YOU

To all who participated in the Best Ever Jewish Center Talent Show last month. It's always a fun-filled evening, enjoying our friends share their many and varied talents. Congratulations to all and thank you!



## MAZEL TOV

From the JCNWJ to Howie and Iris Hirsch on the birth of their granddaughter, Jemma Marie

From the JCNWJ to the Leifer Family on the upcoming bat mitzvah of Masie

From the JCNWJ to the Kestecher Family on the upcoming bat mitzvah of Lacey

### Adult Education – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm

Join Rabbi Zamore as we continue the exploration of food, food production, and Judaism. Rabbi Zamore's book on this topic, The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic, was a National Jewish Book Award Finalist. Come to one session or come to all! Please RSVP to Rabbi Zamore ([RabbiZamore@comcast.net](mailto:RabbiZamore@comcast.net)) if you plan on attending. Feel free to bring a bagged dairy lunch.

### Confirmation Class

Next two Confirmation classes are May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am

The Confirmation Service will be June 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Please join us.



# Contributions

- ✧ In honor of Molly Kahan who “stole the afikomen during the Model Seder”  
- Rabbi Mary Zamore
- ✧ In memory of Pauline Schick  
- Rona and Stanley Schick
- ✧ In memory of Frannie Garfunkel  
- Jan Romanczyk
- ✧ In memory of Stan Waxman  
- Deborah Kahan
- ✧ In memory of Esther Herson  
- Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, and Edythe Herson
- ✧ In memory of H. Wayne Bardy  
- Laverne Bardy
- ✧ In memory of Saul Schutzbank  
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank
- ✧ In memory of Marvin Leiter  
- Audrie Sonzogni

## 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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).

## JCNWJ Membership Committee

will be meeting and eating on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Casa Maya in High Bridge. New members are always welcome. Please let Tracey Bauer know if you can attend at [traceysbauer@comcast.net](mailto:traceysbauer@comcast.net)

## JCNWJ Goes to the Ballgame!

Join the JCNWJ at **Jewish Heritage Night** at Coca Cola Park in Allentown, PA as the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs (Phillies Triple A Affiliate) take on the Toledo Mud Hens on **Thursday, May 22nd at 7:05 pm**. The \$20 ticket price includes admission to the game, an Iron Pigs souvenir Hebrew hat, kosher hot dog or knish, a bag of chips and bottle of soda or water.

Children under the age of 2 are free.

To reserve your tickets or for more information, please contact Tracey Bauer by **May 10th** at [traceysbauer@comcast.net](mailto:traceysbauer@comcast.net) or (908) 876-4451.



## Memorial Plaques

Anyone interested in purchasing a permanent bronze memorial plaque to honor a loved one in your family, please contact Lois Goldberg at [DewieandLouie7@verizon.net](mailto:DewieandLouie7@verizon.net).

## Education/PTO

The Education Committee would like to thank Rabbi Zamore, Debbie Fesinstine, and the PTO for yet another terrific Hebrew School Event. Our model Passover Seder was not only a great learning experience for our students, but was also great fun.

We are happy to see many students attending services and hope to see many more throughout the remainder of the school year. We look forward to throwing a wonderful pizza party to reward all students who achieve their service attendance goals.

We are thrilled to see signs of spring after this long winter and we're already looking ahead to the many ways we can enhance and improve our program for next fall.

- Gerri and Joon  
Education Co-Chairs

# PHOTOS



*Model Seder and Passover Craft 2014*

## Picnic Shabbat

On Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Zamore and Student Cantor Lilah will be at the temple at 6:15 pm for a "Picnic Shabbat Dinner". They welcome any congregant wishing to join them to bring their own brown bag picnic Shabbat dairy dinner for some informal pre-service time together. They will provide wine and Challah!



## Share Your Nachas

Will you, your son or daughter or grandchild be celebrating a graduation from high school, college or grad school soon? Have you, he or she received any awards, been recognized for some achievement or accomplished something noteworthy you would like to share with our community? Please email



Tracey Bauer at [traceysbauer@comcast.net](mailto:traceysbauer@comcast.net) with all of the details by May 15th so that they may be included in our June newsletter (and then everybody can kvel).

- Membership Committee

## June Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the June Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **May 19, 2014**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at [abbybauer@comcast.net](mailto:abbybauer@comcast.net).

## Money for Summer Camp 2014

<http://www.onehappycampernj.org/>

<https://bunkconnect.org/ui/Home/Index#start>

## Teens, College Students, Parents: Work at Camp!

Not just a good summer job for teens and 20 year olds! Also, an affordable way to have your kids enjoy camp!

[www.jewishcamp.org/camp-jobs](http://www.jewishcamp.org/camp-jobs)

## Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) thanks the community for supporting this past season of our adult education program. We thank our Patrons and Benefactors and all those who attended and supported Jewish LIFE programs and events this past season. We were thrilled to offer two new prestigious adult education programs this season: The Melton School and Engaging Israel. Our Jewish LIFE calendar was filled with a wide range of opportunities for learning that were well attended and enjoyed by so many in our community. We look forward to a new season of Jewish learning featuring guest speakers, cultural programs, and classes. The 2014-2015 Jewish LIFE brochure will be available in the Fall.

Show your support of Israel! The Celebrate Israel Parade takes place on **Sunday, June 1** in New York City.

## Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

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](mailto:berk721@aol.com)) or Ruth Schutzbank ([Howie.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto: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.





## **The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Goes to the Ballgame!**

Join your friends at the JCNWJ for Jewish Heritage Night at Coca Cola Park in Allentown, Pa on Thursday, May 22, 2014

7:05 pm Game Time

Iron Pigs (Phillies Triple A) vs. Toledo Mud Hens (Tigers Triple A)

\$20 Ticket for Admission to Game, Souvenir Hebrew Iron Pigs Hat, Kosher Hot Dog or Knish, Bag of Chips and a Soda or Bottle of Water

Children under 2 Free

To reserve your tickets or for more information, please contact Tracey Bauer at [traceysbauer@comcast.net](mailto:traceysbauer@comcast.net) or (908) 876-4451



Deadline to reserve your tickets is May 10<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**Run for Rachel**  
*Raising Awareness About Domestic Violence*

**5K Run**

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Livingston Memorial Park, Livingston, New Jersey

**9:30 a.m.**

**Registration 7:30 a.m.**

All proceeds benefit victims and  
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**Online registration at  
[www.rachelcoalition.org](http://www.rachelcoalition.org)**



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