

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Some of you may know that before making the decision in 2008 to become a rabbi, I had been a teacher and school administrator for a full two decades. For some of those years at the end of my pre-rabbinic career, I served as Dean of Students, which meant that, among other things, it fell upon me to oversee the disciplinary process when students failed to uphold the behavioral standards expected of them. While it would be reasonable to assume (as people often do) that this would have been particularly unpleasant work, the truth is that as I look back on it, some of my most rewarding teaching experiences came when working with these students in trouble.

One of my standard practices when working with these youngsters was first to speak with them about the incident, and then to have them call their guardian(s) to explain what had happened. I always thought it better for the student, rather than me, to take ownership over this part of the process.

The next step, assuming the infraction was serious enough to call home but not serious enough for me to convene the student-faculty disciplinary committee, would be to ask the student what s/he thought the appropriate consequence should be. Again, the best way that I could see for me to help the student understand the impact of his/her behavior was usually to have him/her trace through all the ways in which the behavior in question had impacted others, and then to ponder the best ways to repair the situation.

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Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, September 7th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
- **Sunday, September 9th**
7:30 pm – Erev Rosh Hashanah
- **Monday, September 10th**
9:30 am – Rosh Hashanah Day 1
12:00 pm – Taschlich following service
- **Tuesday, September 11th**
9:30 am – Rosh Hashanah Day 2
12:00 pm – Lunch following service
- **Tuesday, September 18th**
7:30 pm – Kol Nidre Service
- **Wednesday, September 19th**
9:30 am – Yom Kippur Morning Service
4:00 pm – Torah Study
5:15 pm – Neilah Service & Break Fast
- **Friday, September 21st**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
- **Saturday, September 22nd**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, September 23rd**
1:00 pm – Sunday School
4:00 pm – Sukkot & Pizza in the Hut
- **Monday, September 24th**
7:30 pm – Book Club
- **Sunday, September 30th**
9:30 am – Sisterhood & Sunday School:
Mitzvah Day/Grow-A-Row

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Next, I would ask him/her to spend the next day considering what had happened and then return to me the following day with a written recommendation for what the disciplinary consequences should be, assuring him/her that whatever s/he suggested, that would indeed be my final decision.

This may sound risky, and I suppose it was, but in all the years of my following this practice, I could probably count on one hand the number of times a student actually proposed consequences that were **less** significant than I would have recommended had I done so without deferring to his/her own wisdom.

What do we learn from this? Especially as we stand poised to cross into the most focused ten days of personal repentance of the entire year? Many things, I'm sure. But to me, the most important is that when left to our devices, so long as we are pushed to ponder our actions in the most impactful ways, each one of us will find our inner compass pointing towards moral excellence. Of course, we will miss the mark from time to time. Of course, we will do things we wish we hadn't. And of course, we don't always do things we wish we had. That is part of what it means to be human. But when push comes to shove, I believe the process of *Teshuva* (turning towards God in the spirit of atonement) continues to serve the Jewish People so effectively and fully year after year after year not only because our blessed Tradition has given us the gift of sacred process, but because God Godself created humanity with the facility to discern right from wrong, and with the keen desire to do Good in this world. As tempting as it may be to run from our mistakes, when held accountable for missing the mark, we tend overwhelmingly to demand the best from ourselves.

The opportunities I had over the course of my teaching career to walk this particular path with scores of students will forever enrich me. I am grateful for the lessons they taught me year in and year out about the value of moral excellence and, when all is said and done, the ability and the drive that each and every one of us has towards achieving it.

As we stand ready to enter the Ten Days of Awe and introspection, I pray for us all that we too will find the courage and wisdom to confront our own mistakes and find ways to repair the damage we have caused. In doing so, I pray for each and every one of us that we will find the joy and happiness that comes with the renewed relationships we re-establish and strengthen.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good year,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

What makes us a community? This is my question for the fall.

What I think makes us a community is the simple act of caring about one another. When you are sick, we should be there to support you. If you are under the weather or dealing with an illness and you share that with the community, we better be there to help you. When you have lost a loved one, we need to be there to help you grieve and remember the good memories. When you need a hand, we're sailing right behind.

What makes the temple community work?

With my respects to Rabbi Emerita Lewis, I am going to re-write her sermon of a few years ago.

How does a temple run?

From the one who looks after the building
From the one who looks after the Torahs
From the one who sings the prayers in temple
From the one who practices their part to be ready for the high holidays
From the one who organizes the rituals and prepares for the high holidays
From the one who lights Shabbat candles at home
From the one who attends board meetings
From the one who chairs a committee
From the one who participates in a committee
From the one who pulls the weeds in the garden
From the one who cleans the overhead lights
From the one who changes the light bulbs on the memorial board
From the one who checks the lights on the memorial board
From the one who runs the Sunday School
From the one who attends the Sunday school
From the one who teaches the children
From the one who attends Torah study
From the one who attends adult education lessons
From the one who travels to Israel
From the one who gives what they can
From the one who gives a little more
From the one who plays music at our services
From the one who participates in the Purim spiel
From the one who directs the Purim spiel
From the one who picks up the temple mail
From the one who delivers the temple mail
From the one who sends out sympathy cards
From the one who sends gifts to our college students
From the one who arranges for speakers

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President's Message (cont.)

From the one who blows the shofar
From the one who hears the shofar being blown
From the one who plays music at services
From the one who plays music at Sunday school
From the one who provides crafts for the Sunday School
From the one who tutors our children
From the one who keeps our kitchen clean
From the one who sponsors an Oneg
From the one who Cleans up after the Oneg
From the one who orders supplies
From the one who keeps an eye out for the temple
From the one who gives blood
From the one who gives freely of their time
From the one who gives freely of their money
From the one who gives freely of their energy
From the one who smiles as they greet each other
From the one who puts up the Sukkah
From the one who takes down the Sukkah
From the one who prepares the services
From the one who cleans up after the Bark Mitzvah
From the one who we see only on the High Holidays
From the one who arranges security
From the one who tries to find new members
From the one who gives of their property for picnics
From the one who finds prayer books
From the one who brings new life to the temple
From the one who brings in goats for the Sunday School
From the one who bring their pets to the Bark Mitzvah
From the one who runs the website
From the one who edits the newsletter
From the one who sends out the eblast
From the one who approves the eblasts
From the one who keeps our finances in good shape
From the one who organizes Mitzvahs
From the one who works quietly and behind the scenes to do good work for the outside community
From the one who receives a Hebrew name
From the one who reminds us of yahrzeits
From the one who keeps the Misheberach list
From the one who hugs you when you arrive at temple.
From the one who says THANK YOU to all the above people.

If I missed tasks that are done around the temple, please email me so I can add them .

L'Shanah Tovah,

Howie

Sisterhood

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

To All Temple Members!! Please join us on September 30, 2018 at 9:30 at the Temple for our first Sisterhood meeting of the year. We will participate with the Sunday School in Mitzvah Day and Grow-A-Row. No need to RSVP unless you have questions. shelofsky@comcast.net

Here is a tentative meeting schedule for the year.

September 30 @ 9:30- First Meeting of the Year – Mitzvah Day & Grow-A-Row

October 14- TBA

November 18 @ 10:30- at the Temple

January 27 @ 10:30- at the Temple

March 10 @ 10:30- at Temple- pack Mishloach Manot bags

May 19- Final Meeting- at the Temple

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.

Updates & Events

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hope everyone had a great summer! We look forward to seeing you soon.

The first day of Sunday School is September 23 at 1pm. We will be decorating the Sukkah then the Rabbi will lead a Sukkot service followed by our tradition "Pizza in the Hut." All are welcome.

The next Sunday, September 30, from 9:30-12, we will join Sisterhood for our annual Mitzvah Day at America's Grow-A-Row. This will be instead of regular Sunday School.

BLOOD DRIVE

The JCNWJ will be holding a blood drive in honor of Gil Braunstein on October 28, 2018 at the temple. Please consider participating in this important cause. You can register in advance at

<https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/43032>

Thank you for supporting our blood drive and your community. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Howie Hirsch
Volunteer Drive Coordinator

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study will continue this year. Our tentative upcoming schedule is:

- September 22
- October 13
- November 10
- December 15

BUILDING UPDATE

Kitchen and Bathroom supplies

If you notice that any kitchen or bathroom supplies are getting low, please email Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net.

Missing Tablecloths

We seem to be missing our white tablecloths. Before we need to buy more, please check to see if you have them at home. If so, please return them at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg continues at the JCNWJ. Contact Rhonda Jordan at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com if interested!

Updates & Events

FOOD DRIVE

Our local food pantries are in dire need of supplies. Donations are down and the need for food is greater than ever. The Jewish Center is collecting non-perishable items such as canned soup, pasta, and cereal on an ongoing basis to help out those in need.

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

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) or Ruth Schutzbank (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.

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rosh Hashanah:

Sunday, September 9

7:30pm – Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday, September 10

9:30am – Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Taschlich Following Service

Tuesday, September 11

9:30am – Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Luncheon Following Service

Yom Kippur:

Tuesday, September 18

7:30 – Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, September 19

9:30am – Yom Kippur Morning Service
Yizkor Following Service
4:00pm – Torah Study
5:15pm – Neilah Service
Break Fast following service

Donations

A special THANKS to Edythe Herson for her suggestion at the JCNWJ Annual Meeting which has resulted in the receipt of numerous donations this month. THANKS Edythe!

In Memory of Lenore Marr

- Suzi Marr

In Memory of Philip Weinstein

- Roseann and Edward Weinstein

To the General Fund

- Rene Marinich

To the Building Fund

- Deb and Aaron Kalisher
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Adam Tucker
- Laurie Post and Steven Goldner
- Harold Schwartz
- Lisa and Richard Bauch

To the Education Fund

- Harold Schwartz
- Laurie Post and Steven Goldner
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Adam Tucker
- Linda and Robert Margolis
- Roseann and Edward Weinstein
- Deb and Aaron Kalisher

To the Membership Fund

- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Adam Tucker

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- Lisa and Richard Bauch
- Edythe Herson
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Helene and Brian Friedlander
- Marsha Gross
- Adam Tucker
- Claudia and Roy Loomis
- Deb and Aaron Kalisher
- Fred Nerger and Rhonda Jordan
- Lynne and William Kowski

High Holiday Greetings

To Rabbi Dubin and Family from Sharon,
Daniel, and Edythe

To Cantor Lazar and Family from Sharon,
Daniel, and Edythe

To the Congregation, young and old, from
Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

To JCNWJ Congregation from The Gross
Family

To Rabbi Dubin and Family and Cantor Lazar
and Family from Karl, Marsha, and Heather
Gross

L'Shanah Tova from the Smith Family

To the entire JCNWJ Family from Robin and
Colson

To the Temple from Rene

To All Temple Members from Jerry and Rita
Berkowitz

To the Congregation from Rhonda Jordan

L'Shanah Tova from the Webb Family

L'Shanah Tova to the JCNWJ Congregation
from the Tarlowe Family

L'Shanah Tovah from Ed, Roseann and Sarah
Weinstein

L'Shanah Tovah from Bauer Family

To the Congregation and Rabbi from The
Goldner/Post Family

Happy New Year greetings to the
Congregation from Helen and John Mattson,
Jennifer, Mike and Lochlan

To all our temple friends from Howard &
Ruth Schutzbank

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all from the
Margolin/Weiner family

A Happy and Healthy New Year to the
congregation from the Hirsch family