Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey







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

October 2010 Vol. XXXVII, Issue 2

www.jcnwj.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Friday, October 1, Simchat Torah Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Oneg: Goldner/Post, Klein, Margolis, Kaplowitz, and Weiner/Margolin families

*Sunday, October 3, 9:30 am Sunday School and Blood Drive Rummage Sale 9 am to 3 pm

*Monday, October 4, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

*Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class

*Sunday, October 10, 9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) and PTO Meeting Confirmation Class 10:30 am

*Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class

*Friday, October 15, 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Oneg: Koch family

*Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am Shabbat Service B'nai Mitzvah of Ryan and Travis Koch

*Sunday, October 17, 9:30 am Sunday School Continental Breakfast preceding 10:30 am StandWithUs program: "Why and How to Advocate for Israel"

*Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm Adult Hebrew Class

*Sunday, October 24, 9:30 am Sunday School (K/1) Adult Education 10:45 am

*Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 pm Sisterhood Book Club

*Friday, October 29, 7:30 pm "Memories of Kristallnacht" Shabbat Service Oneg: Robins, Schutzbank, May, Heller (Erik), and Heller (Murray) families

*Sunday, October 31, 9:30 am Sunday School

In Honor of Rabbi Joseph Gelberman

1 Tishri 5771

Rabbi Joseph Gelberman, who served our Jewish Center for thirty-one years, described himself as a "modern Chassidic" rabbi. His rabbinic training was in pre-World War II Hungary; he emigrated from there to the US, settling in New York around 1939. He had intended to bring over his wife and daughter, but they were caught up in the tragedy that was the Holocaust. He chose to shut out the sorrow he couldn't control and live his life with joy.

A student of mysticism and teacher of Kabala, Rabbi Gelberman often delivered sermons that reflected this knowledge--for example, his references to numerology, deciphering a Hebrew word into its numerical components to reveal a deeper meaning of the word. He gave each bar or bat mitzvah student a special Hebrew word to remember and to recall as their password to God.

On alternate Fridays Rabbi Gelberman would travel to Washington from Manhattan and be a guest at a member's home for Shabbat dinner. He was often at Matty and Faye Schneider's and at Henry and Helen Steinhardt's. He was also a welcomed guest of other members who lived outside of Washington.

If Rabbi Gelberman thought the Jewish Center was acting more like a Reform congregation but calling itself Conservative, those with Orthodox leanings would argue the point. It was more like what some members referred to as "country" Conservative, loosely Conservative and not affiliated. Rabbi Gelberman really was the one who introduced components of Reform Judaism into our services without the congregants realizing what to call it. One practice was reading Torah on Friday nights. The congregation had seen the Torahs read only on the High Holidays and at b'nai mitzvah. On Friday nights, we traditionally would open the Ark doors for chanting the Shema and see the Torahs standing there. After a while, Rabbi Gelberman suggested we take out one Torah on Friday nights and read it so that the congregation could enjoy the experience. It made a lot of sense because the b'nai mitzvah students were practicing reading from the Torah but rarely saw the Rabbi reading from it. Another Reform practice that Rabbi Gelberman suggested was that the whole congregation recite the kaddish instead of only the mourners reciting it, reminding the congregants that there were many people for whom there was no one to say kaddish and that it was a mitzvah to do so. This was a classic example of Rabbi Gelberman's mantra: "never 'instead of' but always 'in addition to'."

What seemed on the surface to be radical innovations were actually practices already incorporated into Shabbat services at Reform synagogues. This was a compelling reason for the Jewish Center congregants to become affiliated with the Reform movement. The Jewish Center was halfway there. How lucky we've been!

The Jewish Center was always the best-kept secret in New Jersey. Even Rabbi Gelberman didn't share this secret with many. Perhaps he thought it would spoil our little *shtetl* in Warren County if it leaked out that we were such a very special place. Rabbi Gelberman did have another synagogue in New York called the Little Synagogue, a storefront *shul*, where he would hold Shabbat services on alternating weeks when he wasn't in Washington. The story he liked to tell was that if someone asked him where he was going to be for Shabbat when he wasn't in New York, he would answer: "I am going to Washington to have dinner with the president." It gave the impression that he was going to Washington, D.C., to have dinner at the White House with the U.S. president. What a sense of humor!

Rabbi Gelberman was a scholar of Torah and Kabala. He sought the exchange of ideas with other religious leaders: rabbis, priests, ministers, imams, and swamis. He himself was an interfaith spiritual leader. And, he created a school of interfaith ministers who he could train to perform ceremonies of all faiths and could serve the unaffiliated, interfaith Jews.

Rabbi Gelberman was a proponent of living one's life with joy. He affected and influenced and touched those who knew him. He created a world in which he was as close to the center of that universe as he could be and yet be part of everything around him. He lived the life he asked of God, a long one, nearly a century of loving, learning, teaching. Now a man of blessed memory.

Rabbi's Message

Not until I woke up on the morning of Shabbat Shuvah between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, did I realize it was Sept. 11. I turned on the television for a few minutes to hear the recital of names, then went off to Shabbat morning services. When we said kaddish at the end of the service, I thought of those 3000 people who had lost their lives and wondered about the family of one of them, a family I had known from my days at Temple Sinai in Summit. Their son Scott had worked at Cantor Fitzgerald and died that day at the age of 29. After services, I met a friend for lunch at a local diner. We sat down and, in a moment of spiritual serendipity, I saw Scott's parents Janice and Chuck sitting in a booth across the aisle. I hadn't seen or spoken to them in the nine years since 9/11.

They had just returned from the ceremonies at Ground Zero. We spent some time catching up. Immediately after Scott's death, they had set up the SCOTT HAZELCORN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION. The website explains:

"The Foundation was formed in response to the tragic events of September 11th 2001, when over 2800 Americans were killed at the World Trade Center. Our son Scott, worked at Cantor Fitzgerald, and unfortunately, was lost to us forever on that terrible day. So we want to say to any of you who have lost a loved one; we share and deeply understand your pain. Our son Scott always had a special love for children, and talked about ultimately living a life where he could help to both educate and bring joy into their lives! Whether it was his dream of one day owning and operating an ice-cream truck, so he could hear the squeals of children's laughter, or running a summer camp where he could help to bring together children of all socio-economic backgrounds, Scott wanted to devote his life to helping children. He was actually in the process of preparing to enter the field of teaching when he was so suddenly and tragically killed. Keeping this in mind, both family and friends joined together immediately following September 11th to form the foundation that now bears Scott's name. Its mission is to provide help to all children in need with a special emphasis on children who lost a loved one on 9/11/01.

To this end, the SCOTT HAZELCORN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION sponsors 'CAMP HAZE', a one week all expense paid summer camp specifically created for children who've lost a loved one due to the World Trade Center attack as well as any child, ages 7-12, who have lost a parent to illness or tragedy. In addition we sponsor other projects that benefit children in need."

I thought of the Hasidic idea that the only response to human tragedy is to do a mitzvah. That is what Scott's family has done over and over again. The Foundation doesn't bring Scott back but it does give hope and laughter to the children who have lost a loved one. Scott's mother Janice said: "There will always be a hole in my heart, but we go on." They haven't let their pain get in the way of the good they can do. There is a lot we can learn from their response to their terrible loss.

Sukkot teaches us that life is impermanent and unpredictable. We stand inside the sukkah, look up at the stars and remember our vulnerability. But rather than feel hopeless, we are commanded to rejoice in the holiday – v'samachta b'hagecha. Every moment is precious. Each time we choose a mitzvah, a holy action, we are sanctifying that moment and making it eternal. May your new year be filled with the joy of holy action.

Rabbi E. Lewis



Membership

The JCNWJ welcomes the following new members:

Barrie and Mirril McMullen and their children

Jordan, Corey, and Alex

President's Message

Gleaning

While I have read about the act of not harvesting all your crops, and I had heard the term gleaning used in connection with this practice, I had never participated in anything like a group of us did today. The sisterhood had come up with an idea to go along with our school's theme of Mitzvot, and had arranged a day to harvest food at a local farm. When we got rained out last week, we were able to reschedule today and go to Longmeadow farm in Hope. When the last of us (me) arrived there, the owner of the farm and the director of Growa-row met us, explained how grow-a-row works, and why it is so important that we get fresh produce to the hungry. He told us many food banks and shelters get donations of boxed and canned food, but not much produce. Grow-a-row helps to increase the amount of fresh produce that is sent to these organizations all across the country. He stated that last year, they were able to donate hundreds of thousands of pounds of produce. Then the owner of Longmeadow spoke and told us that he was able to donate over 70,000 pounds of apples to grow-a-row last year. But only because volunteers help him by gleaning the orchards.

Longmeadow farm is a pick your own apple orchard, so any of the apples that fall on the ground are not available to be sold, but many of these apples are in good shape. So we gleaned. We got on our hands and knees, or sat under the apple trees and took all of the apples that had fallen on the ground and either put them in baskets, to be donated to the hungry, or in a pile of damaged apples that were not able to be donated to the hungry. We didn't ask what happened to those apples, but I am sure that some good will come of them as well.

As I was speaking with Mike Weiner while we were gleaning, there seemed to be an added benefit of performing a mitzvah that is mentioned in the Torah (or maybe the book of Ruth) about leaving the gleanings of your harvest for the stranger.

I truly had a great time performing this mitzvah and hope that we can do this again as a temple. If you weren't able to make it this time, I certainly hope you will get another chance to perform this or any other mitzvah.

Howie



Sponsored by Men's Club

Where: JCNWJ

When: October 3, 2010 9:30 am – 2 pm

You must weigh at least 120 pounds and be at least 16

years old

If you have questions about whether you can donate, please visit http://www.bloodnj.org/canidonate.htm

For more information contact Howie Hirsch at jcnwjhowie@comcast.net

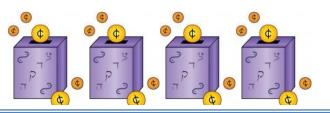
Adult Education

Rabbi Lewis's class for adult members begins on Oct. 24. The group meets monthly on Sunday morning, from 10:45 till noon. If you think studying Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) is boring, or irrelevant to modern life, think again--or better yet, come to the first class and see for vourself. Here are several examples teachings energetically discussed last year: "Pray for the welfare of the government, for without fear of governmental authorities, people would swallow each other alive" (Rabbi Chanina, Pirke 3:2). "It is not your responsibility to finish the work [of perfecting the world], but you are not free to desist from it either" (Rabbi Tarfon, Pirke 2:16). "Do not separate from community, do not trust yourself till the day you die, do not judge your fellow until you reach his place, do not make a statement which cannot be understood which will [only] later be understood, and do not say when I have free time I will learn, lest you not have free time" (Rabbi Hillel, Pirke 2:4). "Be as careful with a minor mitzvah as with a major one, for you do not know the rewards of the mitzvot. Consider the cost of a mitzvah against its rewards, and the rewards of a transgression against its cost" (Rabbi Yehuda benNasi, Pirke 2:1).

Tzedakah Box

Please visit the tzedakah box located in the lobby before you enter or after you leave our sanctuary.

The JCNWJ welcomes the suggestions of its members in determining the beneficiary or beneficiaries of the funds collected in the tzedakah box. Kindly contact Helen Mattson with your recomendation as to a deserving recipient. Thank you.



Contributions

In honor of Max's Bar Mitzvah

~Klaire Katz

Thanking Rabbi Lewis and the Congregation for

Max's beautiful and meaningful Bar Mitzvah

~The Gross Family

In memory of Esther Newman Lewis

~Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Bell F. Shure

~Helen and John Mattson

In memory of Max Needleman

~Martha and Jack Needleman

In memory of Celia Robins

~Nancy and Bernard Robins

In memory of Steve Tarlowe

~Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Michael Lewis

~Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Birthday Wishes to Roland Bakony

~Helen and John Mattson

Education/PTO

Opening day of Hebrew School was fabulous – there was wonderful positive energy throughout the day! We want to thank our Mitzvot/Tzedakah Presenters, Edythe Herson and Teri Stanton, Debbie and Jamie Fesinstine, and Renee Orenstein for sharing their experiences with us.

We welcome our new students, Ashley Braunstein (Kindergarten), Brooke Wilson (2nd grade), Derek Fenton (3rd grade), Noah Schaffer (3rd grade), Jill Wilson (5th grade), and Alex McMullen (5th grade).

The Confirmation Class meets for the first time on **October 10**th. And we also have our first PTO meeting on **October 10**th.

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein (Education Co-Chairs)

November Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the November Issue is **October 19**, **2009.** Please email articles, ideas, or news items to Journal Editor, Abby Bauer.

"Why and How to Advocate for Israel" Presented by StandWithUs

Do you ever feel frustrated, angry, even helpless, when someone says something negative and blatantly untrue about Israel, but you don't have the knowledge to rebut the distortions and lies? Come to the program at the JCNWJ, designed for the Jewish community by StandWithUs, an international organization that educates the public about Israel and empowers individuals to become educators themselves. On its Web site, http://www.standwithus.com, the group describes itself this way: "We strive to ensure that Israel's side of the story is told on university campuses and in communities, the media, libraries, and churches around the world. . . . Please join us today to help bring us closer to peace." The morning program at the JCNWJ will provide the information and some of the skills and tools necessary to advocate for Israel, and demonstrate how Israel is part of our lives.

October 17th
9:30 am Continental Breakfast (simcha room)
10:30 am Program (sanctuary)

Mazel Tov

From the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

To the Koch Family on the B'nai Mitzvah of Ryan and Travis

Memories of Kristallnacht

Featuring Erwin Ganz

Shabbat Service Friday, October 29th at 7:30 pm

Erwin Ganz was born in Frankfurt, Germany, on August 22, 1929. He lived there until he was three years old, when he was forced to leave and had to relocate to Berkastel Koos, Germany. He emigrated to the United States in April, 1939, at age nine, and his family settled in Newark, New Jersey.

Erwin graduated from Weequahic High School, and he received a BS in accounting from Seton Hall University while being employed full time with the Ronson Corporation. During this period he was an active member of the New Jersey National Guard.

Erwin married in 1959 and he has two sons. His wife died in 1982, and he remarried and doubled his family in 1984. The family continued to grow and Erwin is the proud grandfather of eight.

Erwin is currently a director at Ronson, where his career has spanned six decades. He and his wife, Sandy, live in Warren, New Jersey.





SHALOM

These inspiring T-shirts are being offered this year by our Temple Hanukkah Store. In order to receive them by the early Hanukkah season we must have our entire order in by October 14th. This is a fundraiser for our Temple, and is a great opportunity to own a wonderful and unique shirt with such a great message. It also makes a terrific gift!

If you are interested in ordering any please email Debbie Fesinstine with the sizes needed--Adult sizes small-XXL, and childrens sizes 2-16. Please specify color, as they are available in white, grey or black. The shirts are \$12.00 each. Payment needs to be turned in to Debbie by October 10th, either handed in on a Hebrew School morning, or mail to: Debbie Fesinstine - see temple membership list for address.

The shirts will be available for pick up starting on November 14th at the Temple Hanukkah Store, which will be open at Friday evening services and Sunday school mornings throughout the holiday.





Year Of Mitzvot

Sunday School got off to a rolling start with a school-wide program on Sunday, September 12, introducing this year's theme -- mitzvot. We began with each class (parents included) learning of the related concepts of mitzvot and tzedakah, using Maimonides "ladder" of tzedakah to help focus our discussion of choices and priorities. The entire school then gathered, with each class reporting on its discussion.

All present were then inspired by JCNWJ members relating their personal experiences with mitzvot and tzedakah: Edythe Herson and Teri Stanton on their collaboration to provide apple sauce to local food pantries; Jamie and Debbie Fesinstine on their ongoing relationship with an African family; and Renee Orenstein on her multifaceted efforts during her time in Israel. We heard how, even within our small temple community, people of all ages perform all varieties of mitzvot, helping those in northwest New Jersey and around the world.

We invite you to join us throughout the year as we continue our study of mitzvot.



Members of JCNWJ at Grow-A-Row Outing for "Mitzvah Day"



JEWISH LIFE FESTIVAL OF BOOKS AND CULTURE ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Year-Long Festival Features Lineup Of Speakers & Authors Including Actor & Comedian Annie Korzen, World Renowned Chef Joan Nathan, NBC News Tel Aviv Bureau Chief Martin Fletcher & More.

Bridgewater, NJ – Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) has announced the 2010-2011 calendar of events for the Festival of Books & Culture. Jewish LIFE is now in its 11th season providing educational programs for residents of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties. The yearlong Festival kicks off on Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m. with Genetics Counselor Gary Frohlich's presentation: *Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry: Our Heritage and Our Health.* The Gary Frohlich program is free to the entire community and is co-sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties. Book Festival programs are open to the community and -- unless otherwise specified --will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater.

The extensive Festival of Books Culture lineup also includes: Seinfeld actor and comedian Annie Korzen, author of Bargain Junkie: Living the Good Life on the Cheap, Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.; World Renowned Chef Joan Nathan, author of Quiche, Kugels and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France, Sunday, October 24 at 12:30 p.m. at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC; Mimi Schwartz, author of Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father's German Village, Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough; Jeffrey Cohen, author of The Asperger Parent: How to Raise a Child With Asperger Syndrome and Guns A' Blazing: How Parents of Children on the Autism Spectrum and Schools Can Work Together-Without a Shot Being Fired, Sunday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. (co-sponsored by Jewish Family Service); Rabbi Michael Klein-Katz, Healing Through Laughter: Therapeutic Clowning In Hebrew And Arabic, Sunday, November 14, 11:30 a.m. at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough; NBC News Tel Aviv Bureau Chief Martin Fletcher, author of Walking Israel: A Personal Search for the Soul of a Nation, Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.; Stuart E. Weisberg, author of Barney Frank: The Story of America's Only Left-Handed, Gay, Jewish Congressman, Wednesday, January 12 at 12:00 p.m.; Judith Viorst, author of Unexpectedly Eighty: And Other Adaptations, Wednesday, February 2 at 12:00 p.m.; Stand-up Comedian Joel Chasnoff, author of The 188th Crybaby Brigade: A Skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah, Thursday, February, 10 at 7:00 p.m.; Rabbi and Professor Michael J. Cook, author of Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment, Sunday, April 10, 7 p.m. at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough; and Leila Levinson, author of Gated Grief: The Daughter of a World War II GI Liberator Discovers a Legacy of Trauma, Sunday May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough.

The Festival will also feature the Global Day of Jewish Learning, Sunday, November 7 at 4:30 p.m.; A Taste of Judaism Series in March; and a Yom Ha'Atzmaut Concert by the Israeli Defense Force Ensemble, Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough. In addition, a three Kids' Corner program will be part of the Festival, including: Laurel Snyder, author of *Baxter, the Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher*, Friday, November 19 at 6:15 p.m.; Debbie Levy, author of *Maybe I'll Sleep in the Bathtub Tonight: and Other Funny Bedtime Poems*, Thursday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.; and Leslie Kimmelman, author of *The Little Red Hen and the Passover Matzah*, Sunday, April 3 at 12:00 p.m. All 3 Kids' Corner Events can be purchased at a special series price or on an individual program basis.

A brochure detailing all programs including program and event fees is available at the Birnbaum JCC office and will be posted on line at www.ssbjcc.org. Patron and Benefactor opportunities are available. For further information and to register for programs, call the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

Jewish LIFE is a community wide education program 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, Chabad Jewish Center of Southern Somerset County, Chabad of Hunterdon County, Congregation of Kehilat Shalom, Flemington Jewish Community Center, Or Chadash, Flemington, Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough, Temple Beth El, Somerset and Temple Sholom. 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.

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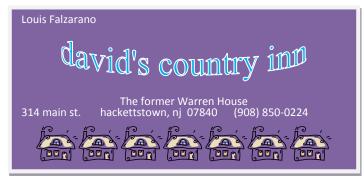
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