

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



## Journal



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October, 2012  
Vol. XXXVII Issue 20

### *Rabbi's message*

To the congregation,

The benediction below is always a work in progress. I modify it every year as I try to include all the contributions you have all made to this congregation. I hope you recognize yourselves in it. Please take a moment to enjoy the blessings you have received from the hands of others as well as those granted to us by the Holy One of Blessing.

#### **A Blessing for the Weeders: Benediction for a Small Congregation 2012**

"You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God – your tribal heads, your elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to waterdrawer – to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God..." Deuteronomy 1:9–11

*Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem*

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From woodchopper to waterdrawer

From weeder to planter

From painter to bulb changer

From flower arranger to ark curtain hanger

From Torah roller to Torah reader

From webmaster to newsletter editor

From Torah silver selector to tallit ironer

From service usher to front row worshipper

From craft creator to memorial board hanger

From potluck chef to garden donator

From gatherer of rummage to teacher of tunes

From bean pickers to apple gleaners

From caterer to Torah acquirer

From ritual planner to snack provider

From haftarah chanter to challah baker

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From student of Torah to teacher of Torah

From balancer of books to payer of bills

From mopper of floors to unstopper of sinks

From teacher of Hebrew to student of Hebrew

From rider of lift to raiser of Sukkah

From spreader of salt to twister of yahrzeit bulbs

From maker of coffee to purchaser of cups

From sender of sunshine to mailer of college packages

From singer of songs to performer of mitzvot

From organizer of oneg to assigner of honors

From plotter of cemetery to recycler of trash

From discussants of books to packers of mishloach manot

From blower of shofar to builder of ark

From installer of carpet to bearer of Torah

From hoster of oneg to performer of talent

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord Your God

The one who says yes when asked

The one who say yes before being asked

The one who brings goats for petting

The one who watches for the sun's setting

The one who arrives first and the one who cleans up last

The one who brings snack and the one who picks up trash

The one who sits and the one who stands

The one who judges talent and the ones who share their talents

The one who convenes and the one who attends

The one who sheds tears and the one who wipes them away

The one who welcomes the stranger and the one who blesses the sick

The one who mourns and the one who rejoices

*Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem*

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

Those who are standing here with us this day

Those who are not with us here this day.

Those who were here in years past

And those who are yet to be born.

And for all of you *g'mar hatima tova*, may you be sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Ellen J Lewis

## *President's message*

Sometimes you don't know where your next great inspiration is going to come from. In my case, the latest really cool thing happened at our Rosh Hashanah Torah service. Having our oldest congregant, Edythe Herson, have the honor of leading the Rosh Hashanah hakafah around the temple was one of the most emotional moments that I have experienced in the temple. I don't know all of the feelings that were going through Edythe's mind as she was finally able to carry the Torah. But you could tell from the tears that were streaming down her face, how much the moment meant to her.

Later in the service, as Marsha Gross and I prepared to succeed Eric Edelstein as the Ba'al Tekiah, both of us were able to feel Eric's presence on the Bimah one more time.

This is one of the things that I love about our temple. We all have the opportunity to do something we have never done before, and to grow from the experience.

As a person who loves to sing, but does not have a good voice, I am thrilled to be part of the choir that sang Kol Nidre and Ha-Yom at this year's Yom Kippur service.

I do challenge you to make a commitment to your Jewish soul to do one thing this year at the temple that you have not done before, whether it may be to read from the Torah, do an aliyah, assist at a Sunday school event, or even throw a sponge at me at the Purim Carnival for the first time. This is one of the benefits of belonging to a small and close knit group, where everyone will accept your effort and applaud you for it (at least that is my hope for the choir).

I wish you much luck in your spiritual journey this year.

L'Shanah Tovah.

Howie

## *Mark your Calendar*

Monday, Oct. 1	7:30 p.m.	Board meeting
Friday, Oct. 5	7:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services Oneg: Shelofsky, Baeck, Arvesen, Melon
Sunday, Oct. 7	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Saturday Oct. 13	10:30 a.m.	Torah Study
Sunday, Oct. 14	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School PTO Meeting
Friday, Oct. 19	7:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services Oneg: Kestecher, Koch, Fenton
Sunday, Oct. 21	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Sunday School Sisterhood meeting Confirmation Ritual committee meeting
Sunday, Oct. 28	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Adult education
Friday, Nov. 2	7:30 a.m.	Shabbat Services
Saturday, Nov. 3	10:00 a.m.	Bat Mitzvah Mikaela Bauer

## Message from Edythe Herson

The Ritual Committee granted me the privilege of carrying our “new” Torah on Rosh Hashanah. On the bimah, an extraordinary happening occurred—perhaps a transcendent experience. In an instant, I was as ancient as our 5773-year tradition and as young as a newborn. My Jewishness seemed to fill my being and the tears of joy just flowed. My parents and grandparents were with me and smiling.

In June 1998, at age 78, I became a bat mitzvah with Sharon and six other women. It was time I learned some Hebrew so that I could read the prayer book and study. As a girl growing up in an orthodox Montreal Jewish family, I was not required to study Torah, but I guess, looking back, my very soul absorbed the Jewishness (*Yiddishkeit*) around me: my grandfather in his *tallit* and *t’fillen* saying the *Modi A ni* (morning prayer); the quiet, restful Shabbat, when I was not permitted to practice the piano (that was when I felt like playing); the people who always came on Fridays before Shabbat for an *avodah* (charity); preparations for the holidays, and so on. These flashbacks, as I write, make me realize how these people were my role models—they were loving and compassionate, and I was always able to ask questions because, as my Zayda used to say to my Baba: “How is she going to know and learn if she doesn’t ask?”

I am the most fortunate of women—to be so blessed—to be alive and well enough to be living with my children and to have experienced two of the most significant moments of my life here at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. Thank you, Rabbi Lewis, Howie, and the Ritual Committee for being the enablers.

### *Hebrew Classes Starting*

If anyone is interested in becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah before Rabbi Lewis leaves in June, please contact Howie.

We have one person who is prepared to go forward with this and is looking for anyone else who might be interested.

If you would like to learn to read Hebrew (no pressure for B’Nai Mitzvah), please contact Howie as well.

This is a very useful skill when trying to assist your child with his or her Hebrew lessons. And if they are ahead of you, they can help teach you, which will reinforce their learning even more.

# Contributions

In honor of the confirmands, Scott and Sally  
Rene Marinich

In honor of the B'nai mitzvot 2011-2012  
Dorman-Cafaro Family

In honor of Gracie Marr's bat mitzvah  
Rhonda Jordan

In honor of Rabbi Lewis' 18th year  
Rhonda Jordan  
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky  
Susan and Justin Mamis  
Sarah, Roseann, and Ed Weinstein  
Joan Chase  
Rabbi Michelle Pearlman  
Ronny Jo Siegal

A simcha leaf purchased in honor of the birth of a granddaughter, Emily Thea Romanczyk,  
on August 3, 2011  
Jan Romanczyk

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A prayer for the speedy recovery of Mike Weiner  
Marsha Gross  
Klaire Katz

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In memory Edward Nemer  
Marsha Torine

In memory of Mervin Fleisher and Saul Schick  
In memory of Jack Fleisher and Frances Hock  
In memory of Abraham Schick  
Rona and Stanley Schick  
Lorraine and Marc Orlick

In memory of Eric Edelstein and Charlotte Fels  
Ruth and Ira Melon

In memory of Theodore Jay  
Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Beattie Felberbaum  
Iris and Howie Hirsch

A memorial plaque purchased in memory of Eric Edelstein by the Torah Study Group  
Esther and Roland Bakonyi  
Daniel Fleckles, Sharon Herson, and  
Edythe Herson  
June Kapp  
Helen Mattson  
Judy May

A gift to the Teacher's Fund in honor of Edythe Herson's 91st birthday  
Arlene Gordon

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A gift to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the bat mitzvah of Heather Gross  
Klaire Katz

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## *TORAH FUND*

Arlene and Bob Ballenberg  
Deb and Mike Fesinstine  
Helene and Brian Friedlander  
Lauretta and William Koch  
Karen J. Levin  
Ruth and Ira Melon  
Rochelle and Tom Ostenfeld  
Ronny Siegal  
Phyllis and Arthur Sirkis  
Teri Stanton  
Laura and Paul Tarlowe





## *Education/PTO*

Hebrew School got off to a great start with our Opening Day Program on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone to contributed and participated, it was a wonderful day!

We will celebrate Simchat Torah at the Friday night service on October 5<sup>th</sup> which begins at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see many students and their families at this service. Our first PTO meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. And Confirmation class meets for the first time on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

Marsha Gross

### *First day of Sunday school*







*Shofar practice*



*Tashlich*



*Rosh Hashanah Flowers on Bima*



## November Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements and photos to be included in the November issue is October 21, 2012. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Barbara Simons at [bjbs@comcast.net](mailto:bjbs@comcast.net)



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## Step Up for Israel Film Series

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Discover the growing anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses.

**Tuesday, November 13, 2012: 7:30 pm**

### **Creation of a State**

Learn about the founding of the State of Israel and its struggle for peace and security.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012: 7:30 pm**

### **Israel & The West**

Discover Israel as a democratic nation with shared Western values, and learn how the media shapes negative opinions about Israel.

**Tuesday, January 8, 2013: 7:30 pm**

### **Special re-showing of Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus**

Geared for college-bound students and their parents, to prepare the student for the growing anti-Israel sentiment taking root on college campuses across North America.

**Wednesday, March 13, 2013: 7:30 pm**

### **Speak Up for Israel**

Learn how to speak up on Israel's behalf.

**Wednesday, April 10, 2013: 7:30 pm**

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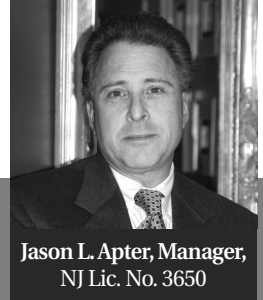
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