

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

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Rabbi's Message

At the time of writing this, Yom Kippur has just ended and Sukkot is four days away. Traditionally, the first mitzvah commandment you are supposed to fulfill after breaking the Yom Kippur fast is driving the first nail into your sukkah. One of the great builders of Reform Judaism, Rabbi Stephen Wise was reputed to have innovated the tradition of actually nailing two boards together on the bima at the end of the Yom Kippur neilah service. In his honor, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in NYC still lives this tradition every year.

No matter how we live it, the ritual of starting the building of one's sukkah immediately after Yom Kippur sends a powerful message about our calendar: No Jewish holiday stands on its own. Rather, each connects into the greater holiday cycle, one flowing into the next. Therefore, we do not end holidays; we look into our calendar to see what is next. Maybe this is a good approach for all of life. Don't hold your breath, waiting for this moment to end; be in the moment and then look ahead to flow into what next awaits for you.

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Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, October 6th**
9:30am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)
10:30am Confirmation
- **Friday, October 11th**
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: Seidorf, Goldberg, and
Post/Goldner Families
- **Sunday, October 13th**
9:30am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)
11:30am Grow-A-Row Mitzvah Day
- **Monday, October 14th**
7:30pm Adult Education
- **Saturday, October 19th**
10:30am Torah Study
- **Sunday, October 20th**
9:30am Sunday School
10:00am Membership Committee
Meeting
- **Friday, October 25th**
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Oneg: McMullen Family

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Rabbi's Message (cont.)

As for celebrating our Jewish holidays, looking ahead prevents the common problem of being caught off guard by our shifting calendar. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar-based and the secular calendar is solar-based, our holidays can shift by a month's span when set on the secular calendar. Without the reminders we receive from our greater culture concerning the secular holidays (think of the advertisements for Halloween that start in August), the Jewish holidays can seem to pop out of nowhere.

As we move away from Yom Kippur, we look ahead to Sukkot, and then soon after, Simchat Torah. This year Hannukah will be super early, starting before Thanksgiving. So, there is a great deal to look forward to. This is a great time to make sure you have a Jewish calendar – paper or electronic.

Here's to looking ahead. I hope you have many happy experiences in the new year!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Mary Zamore

Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

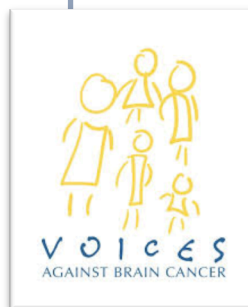
- **Saturday, October 26th**
10:00am Alex McMullen's Bat Mitzvah
- **Sunday, October 27th**
9:30am Sunday School (K/1) (Music)

SAVE THE DATE

The Voices! Against Brain Cancer Annual Run/Walk

Join the **FRIENDS OF MIKE** team and support JCNWJ's Mike Weiner and his family on Sunday, November 17, 2013 in New York City's Central Park.

More information to come!



The JCNWJ Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning Dedication

The congregation of
the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
is proud to honor Mike Weiner,
our longtime Sunday School teacher, board member,
Talent Show toastmaster, and friend,
by naming our religious school program
the JCNWJ Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning.

In so doing, the congregation recognizes
Mike's wisdom, patience, wit, understanding, generosity, and ongoing promotion of *shalom* among us.
Summer 2013 / 5773

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President's Message

The fall season is upon us at the temple. Rabbi Zamore's sermons referencing food and a GPS system are consistent with our love of food and a congregation always on the move.

The early New Year had us jumping with the start of Sunday School and the town festival.

Settling into the fall season, we paused to honor our beloved Mr. Weiner with the naming of our religious school, The JCNWJ Mike Weiner School for Jewish Learning. Mr. Weiner's longstanding dedication to our kids and our congregation were echoed in the heartfelt speeches delivered by Kelsey Shelofsky, Abby Bauer and Howie Hirsch, and an overwhelming attendance by our congregants.

The pause was short, for our next move took us to Helen Mattson leading the Sukkot Service, and then off we went to the congregation eatery at the Sukkah. This eating and community gathering thing is traditional to Judaism for Shemini Atzeret, the next holiday, adds an extra day for inviting the community to continue together in celebration.

Next up is Simchat Torah, a celebration for completing the torah. Upon completing the last parashah of the Torah, we immediately start over with the first parashah of Genesis. The continuation is representative of a never ending cycle. It is customary for all to participate in the celebration by receiving an aliyah.

The business of the first month of a new year sets the tone for building the bond within our community by bringing us together often and affording each and every one of us with the opportunity to participate in the togetherness.

As we proceed to the second month of our cycle, there will be many togetherness opportunities, including Family Mitzvah Day, the Blood Drive, Sisterhood, our walk for Voices Against Brain Cancer, Book Club, Torah Study, Adult Education, Grow-a-Row and the soon to be formed Men's Club. Please join us for one, two or all of these events. Good company, good food and always good fun.

Mo Bauer

Contributions

- ✧ In honor of Diane Weiner
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Len Moscovitz
- Irene Marinich
- ✧ In memory of Harold Dorfman
- Cheryl and Ed Orenstein
- ✧ In memory of Belle Shure
- Helen and John Mattson
- ✧ In memory of Abraham Schick
- Rona and Stanley Schick
- ✧ In memory of David Tarlowe
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- ✧ In memory of Esther Newman Lewis
- Ellen J. Lewis
- ✧ In memory of Isaac Merein and Sophie Zaret
- Lois and Stuart Goldberg

The Membership Committee will be meeting on **Sunday, October 20th** at the Washington Diner at 10 am. Anyone interested in joining the Membership Committee is welcome to attend. Please let Tracey Bauer know if you can eat and meet then at traceysbauer@comcast.net.

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey welcomes the following families as new members:

The Dieso Family
The Kahan Family

Education/PTO

Thank You to Rabbi Zamore, the teachers, madrichim, and our PTO for making Opening Day a wonderful one for our students. Welcome to Emma, Molly and Renee: all new students in Teri's class. Welcome to Loudon, who is in Suzi's K/1 class.

Sukkot was celebrated with a lovely service led by Helen Mattson with assistance from Debbie Fesinstine, our Music Teacher. The students enjoyed goodies in the Sukkah provided by the PTO.

Mitzvah Day with the Sisterhood is **October 13th**. Sisterhood is providing lunch for those that will be participating with us at Grow-A-Row. Sunday School is closing at 11:30 so that the students and their parents going with us can enjoy lunch before we go to the farm. This event is open to students of all ages!

- Gerri & Joon

SAVE THE DATE

Our Kristallnacht service, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, will be held on **Friday, November 8th**. Holocaust survivor, Margit Feldman, will be sharing her story with the congregation that evening. JCNWJ's Howie Hirsch has known Margit since he was a young child when their backyards were next to each other. He describes her as a remarkable woman. Everyone, especially the Sunday School children, are encouraged to attend this service, as the number of holocaust survivors is diminishing. Listening to Margit is certain to be a life changing experience.

Mazel Tov

From the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey to the McMullen family on Alex's upcoming bat mitzvah.

Save the Date

For the families of all JCNWJ 6th graders who will become bar/bat mitzvah in 2014-2015, the Class of 2014-15 B'nai Mitzah Brunch will be held on Sunday, **November 24th** at 12 pm. Stay tuned for details!



Blood Drive



We will be holding our annual blood drive on **Sunday, November 10th** from 9:30 am until 2 pm. If you are a regular blood donor and wish to donate at the temple, the last date that you can donate and be eligible for the JCNWJ Blood Drive is Sunday, September 15th. Saving a life is one of the purest mitzvahs you can perform, and donating a pint of blood can save up to three lives. Please contact Howie Hirsch to sign up for a time at howheee@comcast.net.

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.

If anyone is interested in learning to read Hebrew, being able to help your child read Hebrew, or just wanting to learn, please let Howie Hirsch know.

News About Our Members

Someone in your family receive an honor? Achieve some goal? Perform an outstanding mitzvah? If you'd like to let JCNWJ members know about it in the newsletter, please send the information in "ready to print" form to Mo Bauer at jcnwjprez@jcnwj.org.

Our Simcha Tree Needs More Leaves

Honor a family member or friend who is celebrating a simcha with a leaf on our beautifully hand crafted Simcha Tree. The fee has been reduced to only \$150.

If you are interested in purchasing a leaf, please contact Paul May.

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.



Hospitality for Student Cantor Sugarman

It has been our custom for the past decade—since we began to mentor and enjoy working with student cantors—to offer them hospitality (after the High Holidays) within the community, in our homes. All members who would like to offer weekend hospitality are invited to contact Sharon Herson (sharonherson@comcast.net or 908-537-4378) to discuss dates and details. Sharon Herson will set up the hospitality list in mid-October, so get your requests in to her **not later than Thursday, October 10.**

Dates when Cantor Sugarman (and possibly her husband Ben VanRoy) will be with us are:

- Fri. Oct. 25*–Sun. Oct. 27
- Fri. Nov. 8 (*Kristallnacht*)–Sun. Nov. 10
- Fri. Dec. 6–Sun. Dec. 8
- Fri. Jan. 10–Sun. Jan. 12 (*Tu B'Shevat*)
- Fri. Feb. 21*–Sun. Feb. 23
- Fri. March 7 (*Shabbat across America*)–Sat. March 8 [check with Cantor re: food requirements and departure time]
- Sat. March 15–Sun. March 16 (*Purim*) [check with Cantor re: food requirements and arrival time]
- Fri. April 4*–Sun. April 6
- Fri. May 2*–Sun. May 4
- Fri. May 30*–May 31 [check with Cantor re: food requirements and departure time]
- Sat. June 7–Sun. June 8 (*Shavuot/Confirmation*) [check with Cantor re: food requirements and arrival time]

*bar or bat mitzvah the next day

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Voices! Against Brain Cancer Walk/Run

Dear Congregation,

My name is Andrew Bauer. For the past year I have been raising awareness about brain cancer and collecting money to help find a cure. I am inspired by my Sunday school teacher, Mr. Weiner. If you too are inspired by Mr. Weiner's brave fight against brain cancer, please join the Friends of Mike team and walk with me in Central Park on November 17th at 8:30 am for the Voices Against Brain Cancer walk/run. For more information and to register please go to

http://www.voicesinmotion.org/site/TR?fr_id=1151&pg=entry Please let me know if you are coming so that I can arrange a bus ride to and from Central Park. My email is andrewibauer@comcast.net. Thank you.

Andrew Bauer

I would like to thank the entire congregation for their very generous food donations during the High Holy Days. Because of everyone's generosity, we were able to supply approximately 50 bags of food to two (2) area food banks that are desperately in need of donations!

Iris Hirsch



Hospitality for Student Cantor Sugarman (cont.)

The descriptions below may sound like common sense . . . but you'd be surprised . . .

Home requirements: The most important aspects of home hosting are privacy and quiet. The room must have a bed (or beds) to accommodate two people. There must be a private bath, that is, one that no one else in the household will be using, and it must be adjacent to the bedroom or within a suite/guesthouse arrangement. If possible, there should be a separate entrance (not required). Clean linen and clean towels should be provided on the first day. The host family should be in direct contact with Student Cantor Lilah Sugarman at least a week in advance to provide her with the home address and written directions, and to discuss food options.

Food requirements:

Friday evening: Offer Shabbat dinner. Depending on the time of year, this may or may not be an option for the cantor, but dinner should be offered in any case. Lilah will need to be at the temple by seven. She is a vegetarian; Ben is not; both are kosher. You can host them even if you don't keep a kosher kitchen. Don't serve meat (or buy kosher meat) and don't mix milk and meat products. Use glass or paper plates and disposable "silverware".

Saturday: Offer breakfast. Check with Lilah during the preceding week about breakfast options. If there is a bar or bat mitzvah on the weekend you are hosting, find out if Lilah and Ben will be attending in the afternoon. Then you will know how to figure out food for Saturday afternoon and evening. If there is no bar or bat mitzvah, the cantor will most likely have her own work to do. You are not obligated to "entertain" her/them during the day on Saturday, but meals on Saturday (lunch and/or dinner) should be offered if they will be there.

Sunday: Offer breakfast. Lilah will need to be at Sunday School by nine. Ask about lunch.

The JCNWJ Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning Dedication

On Sunday September 22nd, the JCNWJ honored our long time 4th and 5th grade teacher, Mike Weiner, by dedicating our Sunday School in his honor. The program will now be called the JCNWJ Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning. By honoring Mike in this manner, we hope to pursue his vision of education and fun in the school. Former students Kelsey Shelofsky and Abby Bauer spoke eloquently about what it was like to be in Mr. Weiner's class and past president, Howie Hirsch, made the presentation to dedicate the school and read the plaque that was given to Mike. It was a moving ceremony which showed the love and respect that this congregation has for Mike Weiner.

A Message from Kelsey Shelofsky

I had the privilege of not only being taught by Mr. Weiner but also being a teacher's assistant with Mr. Weiner. I came here in the 5th grade so I only had one year with Mr. Weiner. It was miraculous how easy my transition was into the congregation and the class. I accredit this mostly to Mr. Weiner. I always felt welcome in his class. Mr. Weiner has a way of making each and every person feel special; he is always asking about *you* and always wanting to know how *you* are doing. When I came back and was a teacher's assistant for Mr. Weiner I was able to see the amazing person Mr. Weiner is. Mr. Weiner has a way of getting the class' attention without ever raising his voice. One of my favorite memories from Mr. Weiner's class was the Frisbee game. I'm sure most of the kids have either heard of or played this game. Mr. Weiner was able to disguise Hebrew learning with a game where the object was to get the Frisbee either to hit the door, the fire extinguisher, or, for the big 4 points, into the garbage can. Going into the 4th and 5th grades is taking a step into the big leagues. Mr. Weiner somehow made this big jump attainable and palatable for all of the kids. *Every* kid left Mr. Weiner's class feeling accomplished and special. I hope no one ever forgets the feeling they had while being taught by Mr. Weiner because it is the most special feeling in the world. It is so suiting that we are here today to dedicate the School at the Jewish Center to Mr. Weiner. I reflect on his skill and heart as a teacher and realize it epitomizes the way that all children should be taught here, now and for many years to come.

Kelsey Shelofsky

A Message from Abby Bauer

On May 31, 2009, I was promoted from Mr. Weiner's 4th/5th grade class to the b'nai mitzvah class. Mr. Weiner handed me a letter that day. It didn't mean much to me then, but looking back, after becoming a bat mitzvah, I understand exactly what he meant. He wrote, "Even if a subject doesn't jump out at you initially as interesting, give it a chance, you'll be glad you did. Trust me on this – this Judaism thing has a lot to offer." He was right. Throughout my journey to become a bat mitzvah, I learned the importance of mitzvot and giving back to the community. I learned responsibility and understanding that the effort you put into something directly correlates to what you get out of it. I learned to master the necessary Hebrew, lead a congregation, and write and deliver a sermon, skills which I continue to utilize in my daily life. But beyond all these things, I learned that being Jewish is an important part of me. Mr. Weiner, thank you for providing the foundation to enable me to positively pursue my Jewish journey. Unknowingly you have helped me to recognize, accept, and appreciate my Jewish identity. I know that I speak on behalf of so many of your former students who have undertaken the same journey when I thank you for your significant contribution to who we have become today. Whoever thought that the legendary Mr. Weiner frisbee game would impact the lives of all the students you taught in such a positive way? Congratulations on the dedication of this special Sunday School to a very special teacher, role model, and person.

Abby Bauer

A Message from Howie Hirsch

Out of all the speeches that I have given in my time in this temple, this is one that I have been looking forward to giving, as I get to honor my friend, Mike Weiner.

One day about 25 years ago, I was listening to a Yankee game on the radio, and the announcer, Phil Rizzuto was talking with his partner Bill White. White looked down at Phil's scorecard and saw the notation WW. Bill had never seen that abbreviation on a scorecard before. He asked Phil what WW meant, and Rizzuto replied WASN'T WATCHING. As we honor Mike today, one of the things we will never see on his scorecard is wasn't watching.

I have known Mike for about 15 years, since he and his family joined our temple. Mike taught in the Sunday school for 12 years. In the Jewish tradition, there is no more important position than teacher. We value teachers above all others. The main function of a rabbi is to teach, so you can see how much emphasis our tradition puts on teaching. But Mike has been more than a teacher in the Sunday school. He has the ability to get through to his students. He has the ability to make learning fun. Each student that has come through Mike's class has an appreciation of what a wonderful person he is. From my perspective, Mike is able to really engage the fourth and fifth grade students in Hebrew and Judaism. He has taught them while having them actually WANT to come to Sunday school and attend his class. There is not a much bigger compliment that children can give a teacher than knowing that they truly want to come to your class. He made sure that they enjoyed themselves, whether it was engaging them in scavenger hunts or "ASK Mr. Weiner". As a parent of students who attended Mike's class, it was very interesting that Mike never gave a student a report card. What he did was to write a letter to the parent's, telling them how their student performed in his class. Each letter was filled with personal information that you could only know by spending time with the children and really listening to them. He is able to understand people better than anyone I know, children and adults alike.

Personally, Mike has been a mentor to me for all the time that I have known him, whether it was learning Jewish values, assisting me with personnel issues at the temple, or personal issues in my life. Mike has always been there for me. One of the best parts about being president was at the general meeting. Mike would get up and say something about all of the people that he saw working hard at the temple and giving them kudos. And for me, the best part was always when he would say something about me, it would inspire me to work harder for the temple. One of the ways that I am personally honoring Mike is taking over his class in the dungeon. I can only hope that I am able to do half the job that Mike was able to do with his students.

Marsha Gross related a story to me that shows what kind of person Mike is. At the end of the year assembly, Mike was unable to attend, so he sent his speech to Marsha and told her she had to read it "verbatim". In the speech, Mike twice referred to Marsha as "the greatest human being ever to walk the earth", With great humility Marsha ended up reading the line, even though it embarrassed her. One of Mike's greatest strengths is that he makes everyone feel like they are the greatest human being to ever walk the earth without ever saying it. It is just his manner that he defers all praise to others as well as use his wonderful sense of humor to teach and influence the behavior he is hoping for from his students.

This is the trait that I admire most about Mike, his humility. Mike lives by the motto "walk humbly with your God", whether he ever says it or not, it is apparent from his actions that he believes this. I hope Mike realizes that the board of the temple wanted to make sure that we did something in his honor that would last longer than a party. I hope that he is as proud of us naming the school after him as we are in dedicating the school to him.

Mike has a way about him that people simply want to be around him. You feel better after spending time with Mike, whether you learned something or just listening to him. He is one of the most incredible people I have met in my life. I don't know if I would say he is the greatest person to have ever walked the face of the earth, since he has already bestowed this honor on Marsha, but in my opinion, he is a very close second. With that being said, the board of trustees of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey are proud to be able to dedicate our Sunday school, to be known from today forward, as the "Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning".

Howie Hirsch



Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Family Mitzvah Day 2013



Please join your JCNWJ family for a day of Mitzvah! We will be picking fruits and vegetables that will be delivered to local food banks and pantries for the hungry in our community. This is an activity for the entire family! Sunday School will be dismissed at 11:30. Sisterhood will provide lunch at the temple and then we will go to the farm. Parent(s) must accompany their children.

Mitzvah Day and Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, October 13, 2013

9:30 - Sunday School

11:30 - Sunday School Dismissal

11:30 - Brunch at Temple - All

12:00 - America's Grow-a-Row- Mitzvah Day Activity - All

R.S.V.P- Rochelle Ostenfeld at rostenfeld19@comcast.net

Directions to the farm will be forwarded at a later date.

*****Sunday School will end at 11:30*****

Children who are not attending the Mitzvah Day activity must be picked up at the Temple at 11:30!

November Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles and advertisements to be included in the November Issue of the JCNWJ Journal is **October 19, 2013**. Please email articles, photographs, or news items to the Journal Editor, Abby Bauer at abbybauer@comcast.net.

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 in 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 Jeannie Berkowitz.



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