

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As I'm sure you've picked up on already by now, the month of *Tishrei* is a busy one in our Jewish Calendar. First comes *Rosh HaShanah* on the first of *Tishrei*, then *Yom Kippur* on the tenth of *Tishrei*, followed by *Sukkot* from the fifteenth through the twenty-first of *Tishrei*, and then, finally, *Shemini Atzeret* (the "Eighth Day of Assembly," on which we switch from including the summer prayer for dew in our prayers to the winter prayer for rain) which coincides with *Simchat Torah* (the "Happiness of Torah") on which we complete and then begin again our yearly cycle of Torah reading. Five holidays is just over three weeks!

The calendar just described is the way it is presented in the Bible (except for *Simchat Torah*, which is post-biblical in origin, dating back "only" about 1,000 years). It is the calendar to which our brothers and sisters in Israel adhere, as well as most Reform Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Diaspora Jews of other denominations, however, follow a different schedule, and this is why:

Until the Reform Movement was formed in the 19th Century, it was universally accepted that except for *Yom Kippur*, all holidays of biblical origin – *Sukkot* included – would be extended by one day when celebrated outside the land of

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 8

7:30pm: Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 9

9:30am: Yom Kippur Morning Service
and Yiskor Service

4:00pm: Torah Study

5:15pm: Neilah

Break-fast following service

Sunday, October 13

9:30am: Sunday School

Monday, October 14

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, October 18

7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 19

10:30am: Torah Study

Sunday, October 20

9:30am: Sunday School

10:15am: Sisterhood Meeting

Monday, October 21

7:00pm: Book Club

Friday, October 25

7:00pm: Shabbat Service & Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 27

9:30am: Sunday School

TBD: Daffodil Planting (see Pg. 6)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

Israel. The reason for this traces back well over 2000 years, when it was the responsibility of the Sanhedrin, the chief rabbinical court of the day, to announce each new month. While even back then they were scientifically advanced well enough to predict with good accuracy when one lunar month should end and the next one begin, in keeping with tradition, and in order to be 100% positive, they would wait until two reliable witness had testified to having seen the new moon with their own eyes before making an official pronouncement.

Accuracy, of course mattered, because if they were off by even one day, that would set the entire nation of Israel on a course of failing to fulfill God's time-bound commandments to observe certain specific holidays on certain specific days. Therefore, making the best use of ancient technology they could, immediately upon receiving expert eyewitness testimony regarding the arrival of the New Moon, the Sanhedrin would order a signal fire to be lit on top of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Upon seeing the signal, watchers on the next mountaintop would light their own fire, which would then signal watchers on the third mountain after that to light theirs. Eventually, the chain reaction would continue all the way to the diasporic Jewish community in Babylonia (which was located, roughly speaking, where modern day Iraq sits today). Even as the alert system was indeed remarkably efficient, still, it did take time, which is the reason that holidays are celebrated longer outside Israel than in. The extra day serves as an insurance policy to make sure that we in the Diaspora don't miss the opportunity to fulfill our celebratory obligations.

Of course, with today's science, there's hardly a chance that we will actually mistake the wrong day for the correct one, but rabbinic tradition holds tremendous authority in Jewish thought, which is why non-Reform religious Jews choose to continue adding the extra day of observance when not in Israel. Reform, on the other hand, with our origins firmly established in a more rational approach to Jewish practice, chose at its inception to observe biblical holidays for the biblically prescribed number of days rather than the rabbinically prescribed extended period.

And this is why not all Jews in New Jersey will be celebrating *Simchat Torah* on the same day. Reform congregations in America (and all congregations of all denominations in Israel) will celebrate *Sukkot* for the biblically prescribed **seven** days, and then move on to *Simchat Torah* at sundown of Sunday, October 20. Non-Reform congregations outside Israel, on the other hand, will celebrate *Sukkot* for the rabbinically prescribed **eight** days, and therefore not move on to *Simchat Torah* until sundown of Monday, October 21.

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

Now, all that having been said . . . The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, never afraid to do things our own way, will continue our practice of celebrating all major Jewish holidays (other than *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*) on the Shabbat evening immediately preceding or following the prescribed date. This year we will celebrate *Simchat Torah* during Shabbat services on **Friday, October 25, at 7:00 pm** (note the early start time) In addition to our dancing and singing and merry-making, of special interest will be our annual unrolling of the Torah around the entire sanctuary, for which we will need as many hands as we can get! Also, while the Torah is out for all to see, I will lead us through a whirlwind tour of the entire scroll. As well, the children of our Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning will help lead us in prayer through music during the celebration. This is always one of the highlight services of the year, and I look forward to seeing as many of us as possible come together for it.

Happy New Year to All, and May you be Inscribed for Goodness in the Book of Life,

Rabbi Dubin



Photos from "Grow-A-Row" - 9/22/19

President's Message

L'Shana Tovah to everyone associated with our synagogue.

I want to wish each and every one of you a HEALTHY and happy new year.

As I look to the future, I am less certain than ever of what that future holds for me.

Will I retire? Will I look for work in the field I have been in for the last 40 years?

Will I look for meaningful work in the area? Will I look for volunteer opportunities?

The one thing I can assure myself is that I will be well occupied in the future.

I plan to be a bit more active in the details of running the synagogue, but to my committee chairs, I can assure you I will not be micromanaging your efforts.

For those of you not aware, we received a \$50,000 grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security, and I will be working with Jeff to upgrade our synagogue with recommendations from our inspections with security advisors, probably doing the paperwork required by the state and anything else Jeff needs me to help with.

I look forward to seeing everyone during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and look forward to receiving a big hug from each of you.

Shana Tovah
Howie



Updates & Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who participated at the Grow-A-Row this year. The volunteers from JCNWJ along with the other groups that day harvested over 4,000 pounds of tomatoes which will help those struggling with food insecurity.

Upcoming Schedule:

October 13
October 20
October 27
November 3

TORAH STUDY

Consider joining the monthly Saturday morning Torah study group, ongoing for more than twenty years, freewheeling and always thought-provoking. We are nearing the completion of Deuteronomy—likely later this year. Come when you can.

Upcoming Schedule:

October 19	November 16
December 14	

Tentative 2020 Dates:

January 11	February 15
March 14	April 18
May 16	June 20
July 25	August 15

YOM KIPPUR SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 8
7:30pm—Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 9
9:30am—Morning Service/Yiskor
4:00pm—Torah Study
5:15pm—Neilah
Break-fast following service

FOOD DRIVE

You will find bags in the front lobby or bring your own bags filled with non perishable (NO MATZAH) food and/or cleaning/paper products to Temple by Yom Kippur.

The food pantries are in dire need of supplies to fill their shelves as more and more people are in need and your generosity will help fill that need.

Thank you for your continued support!

-Iris

Updates & Events

DAFFODIL PROJECT

We have ordered more daffodils to increase the size of our Holocaust Memorial Garden this year. We will be digging the garden and planting another 500 daffodils to increase our total to 1,000 daffodils.

For those of you who are not aware of this project, we are part of a worldwide project to plant 1.5 million daffodils in memory of the 1.5 million children murdered in the Holocaust. The daffodil was chosen as the flower due to the similarity between a daffodil and the yellow stars the Jews were forced to wear under Nazi occupation. This is very timely as it will be just before Kristalnacht.

For more information on the daffodil project, you can visit: daffodilproject.net

Last year, this was a wonderful day at the synagogue and I hope that you will be able to join us to dig the garden and plant the daffodils.

See you on October 27th.
Love Howie

MAH JONGG

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

SISTERHOOD

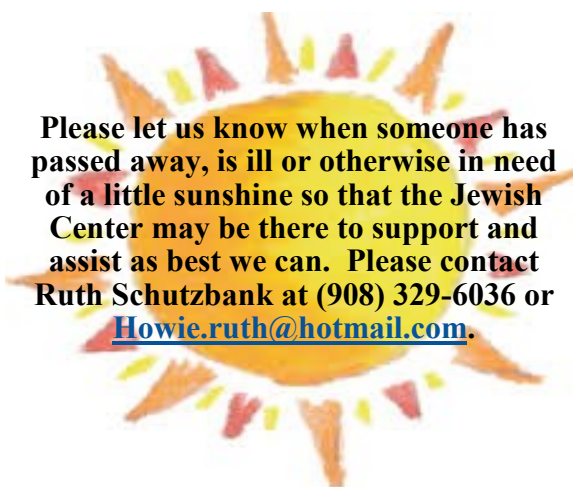
Upcoming Schedule:

October 20 @ 10:15am: First official Sisterhood meeting. Look forward to seeing everyone.

SIMCHAT TORAH

JCNWJ will observe Simchat Torah at the Shabbat service on October 25 at 7:00pm. This festival marks the completion of the annual cycle of Torah readings. Music, dancing, and the unrolling of the entire Torah will make for a fun evening.

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

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.

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.

FROM THE SHIMON & SARA BIRNBAUM JCC (Bridgewater, NJ)

Yousef Bashir



The Words of My Father
Love and Pain in Palestine

Thursday, October 24 • 7:00 PM at the JCC

In *The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine*, Yousef Bashir recalls his adolescence in Gaza during the Second Intifada, and how he made a strong commitment to peace in the face of devastating brutality. This moving, candid, and transformative memoir, reminds us of the importance of looking beyond prejudice, anger and fear.

Yousef Bashir is a Palestinian-American from the Gaza Strip. He is the son of Khalil Bashir, a highly respected educator. Still suffering the effects of a near catastrophic injury at the hands of an anonymous IDF soldier, Yousef made his way to the United States where he earned a BA in International Affairs from Northeastern University, and an MA in Coexistence and Conflict from Brandeis University. Now living in Washington DC, Bashir has worked on Capitol Hill and serves as a member of the Palestinian Diplomatic Delegation to the United States. Yousef is an accomplished author, a vigorous advocate of Israeli-Palestinian peace and a much sought-after public speaker.

Fee: \$10/Person
Register online at ssbjcc.org or call 908.443.9018.

Jewish LIFE  

THE PLAZA
THE SECRET LIFE OF AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS HOTEL
JULIE SATOW

Thursday, October 10, 12 PM
At the JCC
Fee: \$18 Per Person
Includes Lunch

Award winning Journalist Julie Satow's thrilling, unforgettable history of how one illustrious hotel has defined our understanding of money and glamour, from the Gilded Age to the Go-Go Eighties to today's Billionaire Row.

"Throughout this sumptuous, busy history, the author enlightens and entertains with stories and anecdotes that recount the hotel's many famous and colorful guests... An infectious fun read."

A regular contributor to the New York Times, her work has also appeared on National Public Radio, the New York Post, the Daily Beast, and elsewhere. Her essay, "Under the House" was published in the anthology *Modern Loss: A Candid Conversation About Grief*.

A native New Yorker, she lives in the West Village with her husband and two children.

Jewish LIFE  

Register online at ssbjcc.org or call 908.443.9018.

New Year's Greetings

L'Shanah Tova to the JCNWJ congregation from
The Tarlowe Family

L'Shanah Tova from The Smith Family

L'Shanah Tova to friends and family from The
Gross Family

L'Shanah Tova from The Bauch Family

L'Shanah Tova to our temple friends from
Howard and Ruth Schutzbank

L'Shanah Tova to our congregation from Ed,
Roseanna and Sarah Weinstein

To our JCNWJ family from Howie and Iris
Hirsch

To the Rabbi and congregation, L'Shanah Tovah
from the Goldner/Post family

To our JCNWJ family from Robin and Colson
Hall

To the JCNWJ congregation from Sharon, Daniel
and Edythe

To Rabbi Dubin and family from Sharon, Daniel
and Edythe

To the congregation from Helen and John
Mattson

To everyone at JCNWJ from Jerry and Rita
Berkowitz

To the congregation from Rene

To the congregation, Love Rabbi Ellen Lewis

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from
Rhonda Jordan

L'Shanah Tovah from the Bauer Family

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from Diane
Margolin and the Weiner family

L'Shanah Tovah to the congregation from Bob
Margolis

To the congregation from Suzi Marr

Donations

In Honor of the High Holy Days

- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Rhonda Jordan
- Suzi Marr
- Beth and Harold Lappin
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis
- Rene Marinich
- Doreen and Rory Webb
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- Helen and John Mattson
- Paul and Laura Tarlowe
- Steven Goldner and Laurie Post
- Risa Smith
- Jeffery and Lisa Fenton
- Marsha and Karl Gross
- Lisa and Richard Bauch
- Ruth Schutzbank
- Roseann and Edward Weinstein
- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- Lois and Stuart Goldberg
- Diane Margolin
- Roy and Claudia Loomis
- Robert Margolis
- Robin and Colson Hall

In Memory of Neche Rachel Fleckles

- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

In Memory of Michael Weiner

- Diane Margolin

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As Our Own*

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April 6 2019

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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.