

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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November, 2012
Vol. XXXVII Issue 21

Rabbi's message

You know the Fall holy days are truly over when you finally reach the Hebrew month of Heshvan. Heshvan is a month notable in our Jewish calendar for its lack of holidays. The only holidays in the entire month are the ***Shabbatot***, a blessed relief from the month of Tishri.

And yet during this month there is a “holy day” of a more secular nature. It falls on the 21st day of *Heshvan* this year and is known as Election Day. We don’t always connect our secular holidays with our Jewish values, but we should make that connection in the case of Election Day. The Jewish reason for that connection is found in a 1984 ***teshuva***, an answer to a question posed to an eminent Orthodox rabbi named Moshe Feinstein. The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York was conducting a voter registration campaign and asked Rav Moshe Feinstein, the foremost modern legal authority in Orthodox circles until his death in 1986, whether Jews have an obligation to vote in American elections. Rabbi Feinstein wrote this reply:

On reaching the shores of the United States, Jews found a safe haven. The rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights have allowed us the freedom to practice our religion without interference and to live in this republic in safety.

A fundamental principle of Judaism is ***hakaras hatov***—recognizing benefits afforded us and giving expression to our appreciation. Therefore, it is incumbent on each Jewish citizen to participate in the democratic system which guards the freedoms we enjoy. The most fundamental responsibility incumbent on each individual is to register and to vote.

Therefore, I urge all members of the Jewish community to fulfill their obligations by registering as soon as possible, and by voting. By this, we can express our appreciation and contribute to the continued security of our community. (Quoted by Sigal Samuel in The Daily Beast, Oct. 22, 2012)

How fascinating that Rav Feinstein doesn’t find the source of our obligation to vote in Jewish ideas about justice but in Jewish ideas about expressing gratitude. We know we are supposed to wake up in the morning and recite ***Modeh/modah ani*** in gratitude for awakening. We know we recite a ***motzi*** over meals in gratitude for our food. In general, we recite many daily prayers which express gratitude. It makes sense that Rav Feinstein would extend that feeling of appreciation for creation to appreciation for living in a free country. Voting isn’t just the obligation of every citizen, but for us Jews it is also a ***mitzvah***.

Voter registration has become politicized in many parts of the country as some people work to defraud voters of this basic American right. This attempt to prevent certain groups of people from voting is not only a travesty of justice, but from a religious perspective also prevents people from expressing their gratitude for the opportunities afforded by living in this democratic country. We Jews have a unique appreciation for the privilege of citizenship. For many

centuries in other parts of the world, we Jews were not accorded citizenship. Even once we were granted citizenship, crimes like the Nuremberg Laws deprived us of that right. Of all people, we know how lucky we are to be citizens and to be allowed the privilege of voting. Make sure you get out and express that gratitude on Election Day. It is the Jewish thing to do.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

President's message

This has been a wonderful month for Iris and me. We were able to go on a long awaited trip to Africa. Specifically Rwanda to go and look at mountain gorillas, Kenya to work in an orphanage and then go on 11 days of safaris in 3 national parks in Kenya, and then I was able to go for 3 days of scuba diving on the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania. I learned many lessons whilst in Africa. The first is one that I always remember when I get to travel abroad, and that is America is still the best place on earth to live.

Sometimes, being in a third world country can be a bit scary. The night we flew into Zanzibar, we were met by a driver to take us to the hotel about an hour and a half from the airport. Zanzibar had a political issue going on where some people want to separate from Tanzania. The night we got there, the leader of the party who wanted to separate disappeared and no one knew where he was. The people of Zanzibar decided that their form of protest would be to light bonfires on the roads as well as put boulders on the roads to block traffic. We had a good driver, who was alerted to the situation and found a way around the violence, but a couple we met at the airport did not make it to the hotel until the next morning, as they got stuck by the roadblocks.

The second thing I notice is that when you get to talk to the people in these countries, they live very simple lives. They are not running around trying to do 12 things every day. They were farming without machines. They would carry their produce to and from the market on the heads of the women or on the back of a bicycle they were pushing. It seemed to be a hard life, but everyone seemed to be happy. They didn't have much material wealth, but family seemed to be very important to everyone. Each generation was responsible for caring for the older generations, similar to what life was like here 50 years ago, with families all living near each other. Our guides on safari would work for 2 months, 7 days a week and then get 2 weeks off to go home and see their family. Two of the three guides that we had were on their way home to see 2 month old babies that they had never seen before.

There seems to me to be no difference in the happiness of the people I met, whether rich or poor. They all seemed very happy. I hope that the lesson I learned from this trip was one I have talked about often at the temple. The quote from Pirke Avot is "Who is happy? The one who is satisfied with what they have". My wish for you is that you have all the happiness you deserve.

With much love, Howie

Mark your Calendar

Fri. Nov. 2	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service Observance of Kristallnacht (details below) Oneg: Bauer Family	
Sat. Nov. 3	10:00 a.m.	Bat Mitzvah of Mikaela Bauer	
Sun. Nov. 4	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school (Cancelled)	
Sat. Nov. 10	10:30 a.m.	Torah Study (Leviticus 13)	M
Sun. Nov. 11	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School	
	9:30 a.m.	Blood drive	
	9:30 a.m.	Sisterhood	
	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation	
Mon. Nov. 12	7:30 p.m.	Board meeting	
Thur. Nov 15	7:00 p.m.	Education committee meeting	
Fri. Nov. 16	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service Naming of Austin Richard Woolf, son of Caren (Arvesen) and Roger Woolf. Oneg: Goldner-Post, Margolis, McMullen, and Ballenberg families	
Sun. Nov. 18	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school	
Sun. Nov. 25		No Sunday School	
Fri. Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service Celebrating Jeannie Berkowitz, conversion to Judaism Oneg: May, R.& J. Berkowitz and Robins families	
Sun. Dec. 2	10:45 a.m.	Adult education: Rabbi Lewis's class on Life and Death	
	12:00 p.m.	B'nai mitzvah brunch for families with children having 2013-2014 simchas (details below)	

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

Kristallnacht/Shabbat service

On **November 2**, as part of our Shabbat worship, we will commemorate Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass,” the horrifying attack on Jewish homes, shops, and synagogues that occurred in Nazi Germany and parts of Austria on November 9–10, 1938. Storm troopers and civilians destroyed thousands of buildings, leaving streets covered with pieces of smashed window glass. During the assault, 1,668 synagogues were ransacked and 267 set on fire. In Vienna alone, 95 synagogues or houses of prayer were destroyed. In that short period, 91 Jews were killed, and 30,000 Jewish men were taken to concentration camps. They were tortured for months and more than 1,000 of them died. This event should have left no doubt about Hitler’s intentions. *[The preceding historical information is taken almost verbatim from the website of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center, Maitland, Florida.]*

One of our congregants, Ruth Schutzbank, will speak to us about her family’s personal accounts of surviving the Holocaust. We are very grateful to Ruth for volunteering to speak publicly about this most difficult subject.

B’nai Mitzvah Brunch

On **December 2**, families with children who will celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah during the 2013–14 academic year are invited to a **brunch at noon** for the entire family. This is the time when information about the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony, tutoring, and other relevant topics will be discussed. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE** (you know who you are!). Letters containing b’nai mitzvah dates for 2013–14 and other information will be mailed in advance so that you will have a chance to review the information before the meeting. Rabbi Lewis, tutors, and members of the ritual committee will be present to answer questions.

Honoring Family Members and Friends

If you would like to honor a loved one, whether family member or friend, living or deceased, there are a number of ways to do so within the tradition of *tzedakah* to the synagogue. You may purchase a memorial plaque for the memorial board (\$325), a pew plaque (\$250), a leaf on the simcha tree (\$180), a prayer book dedication (\$36), or a donation card (for any occasion, \$5 and up).

Blood Drive

WHERE: Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

WHEN: November 11, 2012

TIME: 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM

HOW TO SIGN UP: Call the Blood Center at 1-800-NJBLOOD or if you are a member for life, you can schedule your appointment time online.

If there are any questions concerning this request, please contact me.

Andrew Shelofsky

Contact Information:

Andrew or Alison Shelofsky

908-617-5467

shelofsky@comcast.net

Contributions

In honor of Cantor Elizabeth Goldmann with love from her family
Janice Goldfarb
Ruth Goldfarb

In honor of Granddaughter Ruby Rose's first birthday
In honor of son David's completion of his residency program and his joining the
Caroline Ear, Nose, and Throat surgical practice in Hickory, NC.
Ruth and Ira Melon

In honor of the Kowski Family
Edward Skoller

In memory of David Tarlowe and Steve Tarlowe
In memory of Doris Tarlowe
Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In memory of William Robins
Nancy and Bernard Robins

In memory of Rose Fleisher
Rona and Stanley Schick

Education/PTO

Hebrew School students will celebrate Jewish Book Month on **November 4th**. Confirmation Class meets on **November 11th**. There is no Hebrew School on **November 25th** for Thanksgiving break.

Marsha Gross (Education Chair)

If you have a professional activity that you want the congregation to know about, please let us know in time to make the newsletter deadline for that month.

Yvette Hendler will have her photographic art on display at several venues local to our area this November and December. Please visit her at any of these group shows to see her current works.

Now - **November 16**: Oxford Municipal Gallery | 11 Green St., Oxford Township, New Jersey

November 8 - December 16 | Reception: **Nov. 11**, 5 to 7 pm at Easton State Theater Gallery

November 10 - December 2 | Reception: **Nov. 10**, 4 - 6 pm at LaDuca Gallery: 7 N. Bank St., Easton Pa.

Washington Art Walk: **November 15 & December 20**, 5 - 8 pm (both dates) Art is on display at local business from **Nov. 8 - Jan. 5**

** more info on website: <http://www.ytreephoto.com/>

JCNWJ MITZVAH DAY!

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- DATE:** SUNDAY DECEMBER 9TH
- TIME:** 11:30 FOR A SISTERHOOD SPONSORED LUNCH
12:00 LEAVE FOR THE CLOVER REST HOME
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE DISMISSED AT 11:30
SO ALL FAMILIES CAN PARTICIPATE!
- PLACE:** MEET AT JCNWJ THEN DRIVE TO
CLOVER REST HOME
- RSVP:** ROCHELLE OSTENFELD - rostenfeld19@comcast.net



Clover Rest Home
28 Washington Street
Columbia, NJ 07832

From JCNWJ

Head Northwest on Route 31 N
Turn right onto NJ 31 N - 6.2 Miles
Turn left on 46 W – 9.5 Miles
Take Exit on the left toward Columbia
Slight right onto Locust Street
Turn right onto Washington Street
Destination on the right

November Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements and photos to be included in the December issue is 19, 2012. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Barbara Simons at bjbs@comcast.net



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Step Up for Israel Film Series

Tuesday, October 16, 2012: 7:30 pm

Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus

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

Israel Inside

Experience Israel's dynamic, innovative, and humanitarian society.

All films will be shown at
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149 Foothill Road
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Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus



Creation of a State



Israel & The West



Speak Up for Israel

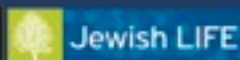
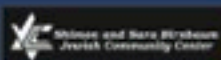


Israel Inside

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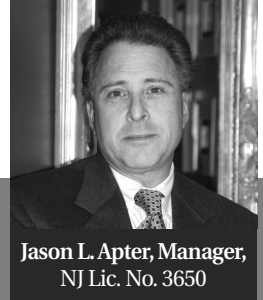
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