

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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

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## Rabbi's Message

As I remarked at a recent Friday night service, the 2013 Pew study examining the metrics and identity of the American Jewish community ( <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey/> ) could cause any rabbi to crawl under a rock and hide. In the last weeks since its release, the pundits have weighed in with their opinions, most adding to the negativity. The study, in many ways, tells us what we already know: Jews live in great ease in 21<sup>st</sup> century America; We are fully integrated and assimilated into greater American society; We feel comfortable and even proud of our Jewish identity; We are intermarrying in unprecedented numbers; We are not joining synagogues like our grandparents or parents did; We see Judaism more and more as a cultural, not religious identity.

While the initial headlines reported much doom and gloom, the Pew study includes some good news. The study measures 6.3 million Jews in America. That is pretty remarkable since that number has increased since the population study of 2000. This is especially notable because demographers since the 1980's have been harping on American Jews' diminishing numbers and low birth rate. The study also documented substantial Jewish pride.

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## Mark Your Calendar

- **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
9:15am Hanukkah Store Open  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Confirmation  
10:30am Sisterhood
- **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30pm Shabbat Service - Kristallnacht  
Oneg: Arvesen, Hudis, Fesinstine, and Finkelstein Families
- **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**  
9:15am Hanukkah Store Open  
9:30am Blood Drive  
9:30am Sunday School (K/1)(Music)  
12:00pm Defibrillator Training
- **Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30pm Adult Ed
- **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
10:30am Torah Study
- **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30am Voices Against Brain Cancer  
Walk in Central Park  
(Bus will leave the temple at 6am)

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## Rabbi's Message (cont.)

When I was in rabbinical school, my teacher, Dr. Michael Chernick, used to point out that we live in a Golden Age of Judaism. Historically speaking The Golden Age of Judaism refers to the period in medieval Spain (well before 1492 when the Golden Age ended and the Jews were expelled) when Jews lived in unprecedented comfort with their neighbors. During this period, the Jews had unequalled access to education, power, and culture. It was not a perfect time, but stood in stark contrast to the experience that Jews were having in other parts of the world or in other ages. My teacher is correct – today's American Jews are living in another Golden Age, not perfect, but certainly Golden. We are not ghettoized, discriminated against, or held back. We have full access to both religious and secular education, jobs, careers, and society. On the religious side of life, our choices are only limited by ourselves. We have amazing Jewish resources in person, as well as virtual. Through the power of the internet, we can learn almost anything from our Jewish tradition. What was once only available through in person teaching or rare books is ours for the asking and a click away. The problem is that we are not asking or clicking. The study shows that more and more Jews are not interacting with their heritage (at least in my point of view, eating a bagel does not count).

So what can we Jews in the northwest quadrant of New Jersey do?

1. We must remember that each one of us is an ambassador of Judaism and our synagogue. We must tell others about our congregation and invite them to visit. We must be welcoming when visitors do come to the synagogue. That is everyone's job, not one person's or one committee's.
2. As we speak of passing Judaism "l'dor v' dor", "from generation to generation." We have to remember that this can only happen if one generation is willing to pass the heritage and another accepts it. The more we Jewishly strengthen our own generation, the more we will have to pass to the next generation. The more we instill in the next generation the responsibility and **joy** of sustaining Judaism, the more willing the younger generation will be to accept their role in our future.
3. We have to help people understand that synagogues are the center of the Jewish community. In our age, religion seems to have become a bad word for some. Reform Judaism is designed to allow modern Jews to mix secular learning and living with our rich tradition. Religion is not a synonym for rigidity. We have to help our fellow Jews know that the synagogue is a place of acceptance, community, growth, and spirituality.
4. We have to let every Jew know that they matter a great deal to us. And for that matter, every non-Jew who supports Judaism deserves our appreciation, too.

Judaism has survived thousands of years, overcoming annihilations, as well as the test of time. How ironic it would be, if the thing which ended Judaism would be unplanned neglect. Ultimately, our continued survival is in our own hands.

L'Shalom,

*Rabbi Mary Zamore*

## President's Message

Our October 25<sup>th</sup> Shabbat service included the installation of our board of trustees and officers, including myself as our new president. Prior to the service, I was informed that I would be addressing the congregation with a few words of reflection on my leadership and connection with the temple. I may have been a little long winded, but one can't say enough about our temple. The warm and inviting atmosphere makes one who may not be the most religiously connected to want to become more involved and to contribute to our community. I have attended many temples throughout my life, but never once envisioned leading a congregation. The sincerity, togetherness and helping hands of the members of this congregation made my decision to become president easy.

No single person makes our temple tick. As evidenced by the installation, 15 board members actively run our temple through 9 committees, a thriving sisterhood and various ancillary positions, all of which include our adults and our youth. The committees set our religious practices, oversee our youth and adult education programs, maintain our building, build our membership and reach out to the local community. Our committees formulate programs for us to give back to the local community including a walk-a-thon for brain cancer, picking fruits and vegetables for delivery to the local food pantry at Grow-A-Row, and assisting families in need through the Family Promise program.

Although many of the programs and inter-workings of the temple are formulated by committees, it is the congregations' member participation and attendance at these events that make each a success. This participation is what brings us together as a temple, it is the basis of our enjoying each other's company and the cornerstone for making our temple a success. This camaraderie is noticeably present at each of our services and onegs. It influences new families' decision to join our community and encourages our members to participate and take on leadership roles.

*Mo Bauer*

## Mark Your Calendar (cont.)

- **Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
7:30pm Shabbat Service  
Oneg: Onweller, Gross, Marr and Marinich Families  
9:00pm Hanukkah Store Open
- **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
9:15am Hanukkah Store Open  
9:30am Sunday School  
12:00pm B'Nai Mitzvah Brunch

### 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.



To register go to  
[www.voicesinmotion.org/friendsofmike](http://www.voicesinmotion.org/friendsofmike)

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

The Kalisher Family  
The Goldfarb Family

If you, a family member or temple friend is ill or facing a life challenge, please know that Rabbi Zamore is here to help. Please contact in confidence Rabbi Zamore at [zamorem@comcast.net](mailto:zamorem@comcast.net) or call her at (908) 317-0417.

## Education/PTO

Welcome to Sofia Goldfarb, a new student in the 6/7 class and the Goldfarb family. Welcome also to Tanner Kalisher, a new student in the K/1 class, and the Kalisher family.

Dates to remember: **November 17th** is the walk for Voices Against Brain Cancer, Sunday School will be closed that day and we hope everyone can participate. Hanukkah is early this year, the store will be open starting Sunday, **November 3rd** at 9:15am

Thank you to the Room Reps for setting up the snack schedule, and also to Stephanie Perfetti who once again set up the Door Duty schedule.

- Gerri & Joon  
Education Co-Chairs

## Contributions

- ☆ In memory of Hannah Braunstein and Heather Ellen Braunstein  
- Marci and Gil Braunstein
- ☆ In memory of Isaac Merein and Sophie Zaret  
- Lois and Stuart Goldberg
- ☆ In memory of Steve Tarlowe and Doris Tarlowe  
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- ☆ In memory of Celia Robins  
- Nancy and Bernard Robins
- ☆ In memory of Henrietta Goldstein  
- Iris and Howie Hirsch
- ☆ In memory of Herb Parilis  
- Susan and Gary Parilis
- ☆ In memory of Rose Fleisher  
- Rona and Stanley Schick



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](mailto:howheee@comcast.net).

### Save the Date

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

## 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.



### **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.

### **Adult Ed**

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
We continue the exploration of Food and Judaism.

## **Mitzvahs**

In September, Long Valley food pantry held an emergency food drive. In addition to donating food, Tyler, Ashley and Marci Braunstein helped sort out expired food, brought dozens of bags of food downstairs, and place donated items on the back-up pantry shelves.

Tyler and Ashley Braunstein made several beaded fishtail rainbow loom bracelets for the United Way to sell.

Tyler and Ashley Braunstein assembled 30 new toothbrushes and trial sized toothpaste tubes to send to military personnel stationed in Afghanistan.

### **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](mailto:jcnwjprez@jcnwj.org).

## **Sisterhood Mitzvah Day!**

We could not have asked for a nicer day to have the Sisterhood Mitzvah Day! Nineteen people including eleven Hebrew School children and assistants gleaned apples at Long Meadow Farm in Hope, on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>. The group gathered over 1,600 lbs of apples, which will feed about 6,400 people. The Sisterhood served a nutritious and delicious lunch before the volunteers set out. The Grow-A-Row representative was very pleased with what this small, but mighty group was able to accomplish in just under two hours.



## **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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).



Please join us Friday, November 22 for:  
**JCNWJ's Great Menorah Pasta Project**

**The Project**

Build a larger than life Menorah out of donated pasta boxes



Your mission, should you decide to accept it is to bring at least 10 boxes of dried pasta to Temple on or before Friday November 22. The build will begin in the Oneg room after services.



**The Mitzvah**

All collected boxes of pasta will be contributed to local food banks after the menorah is constructed.

## December Journal Deadline

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

## 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](mailto:DewieandLouie7@verizon.net).

## St. Petersburg, FL Condo

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Call : Jeff at 610-217-1662 or E-mail

[berkowitz18013@yahoo.com](mailto:berkowitz18013@yahoo.com)





**Hanukkah is around the corner!**  
**Don't miss out!**



**JCNWJ**



# **HANUKKAH STORE**

**Only five shopping days**  
**Sun Nov 3, 10 & 24 9:15-12:15**  
**Fri Nov 8 & 22 after services**

**Hanukkah is early (Nov 27), but don't worry,**  
**our store is stocked with everything from gelt**  
**and candles to kids and adult gifts**

**DebbieFesinstine**

**DebFez@comcast.net**

**All proceeds  
benefit JCNWJ**





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