

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

Dear Friends,

In June of 1999, the same month that I became a father for the first time, I began working in the national office of the Youth Division of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (known today as the URJ) in New York City. Roughly five years prior to that, a small cadre of Jewish philanthropists (Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt in particular) along with some Israeli government officials (Yossi Beilin in particular) had already begun imagining the potential benefits for the Jewish People if only they could find a way to bring as many young Jews as possible between the ages of 18-26 to visit Israel. It was out of these discussions that Birthright Israel, a ten-day all-expenses-paid trip to our ancestral homeland was born.

One of my earliest responsibilities at the UAHC in 1999 was to recruit two busloads of young people to become some of the first recipients of this outrageously generous Birthright gift. Easy, right? Well, I certainly thought so. And boy was I wrong!

Since there were not very many seats to give out, you might think we would have had to beat interested participants back with a stick, but that's not exactly how it turned out. Instead, probably because Birthright was so new that no one really trusted that the offer was – as advertised – truly without strings attached. In the end, we succeeded in filling those two buses, but it certainly wasn't easy.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, November 4th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service,
Kristallnacht commemoration
Oneg – Stanton, Jordan
- **Saturday, November 5th**
Shabbaton with Cantor Labow (see
details on Pg. 6)
10:00am – Shabbat service followed
by Torah study: Noah
12:15pm – Lunch
1:00pm – Discussion "Could it
happen here?"
5:30pm – Folk Singalong: Songs of
the Sixties and Seventies
7:00pm – Havdalah
- **Sunday, November 6th**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Confirmation
- **Monday November 7th**
7:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Saturday, November 12th**
10:30am – Torah Study
- **Sunday, November 13th**
9:30am – Sunday School

(continued on next page)

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Sixteen years later, in 2015, **Taglit** (as the organization is called in Hebrew) enabled over 45,000 young people to enjoy the Birthright Israel experience. In total, there are over half a million Taglit alumni around the world today.

Even though there are many more seats available today than there were in 1999, so too are there many more people competing for them. Fortunately, there are ways to enhance your chances of receiving a spot. If you fit the eligibility requirements ([click this link to check](#)), I urge you to apply ([click this link to apply online](#)). But if you do, please let me know at RabbiDubin@jcnwj.org, because I am in position to help make sure you get a seat.

One final related word: A few of you have already approached me about helping with our planning process for the recently-announced JCNWJ community trip to Israel (which will take place at an as-of-yet undetermined date over the next 18 months). If anyone else would like to be part of this process at the ground floor, please let me know (RabbiDubin@jcnwj.org) so we can include you. Keep your eyes posted for the announcement of our first meeting.

L'Shalom

Rabbi Dubin



Calendar (continued)

- **Friday, November 18th**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Marr, Webb, Kapp
- **Sunday, November 20th**
9:30am – Sunday School
- **Monday, November 21st**
7:30pm – Book Club
- **Friday, December 2nd**
7:30pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – R/J Berkowitz, Goldner/Post, Goldberg
- **Sunday, December 4th**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Confirmation

President's Message

Autumn is here again; my favorite time of year. I love the cool crisp days, the turning of the leaves, I even jumped into the leaf pile this year with my granddaughter. It is another time of change for the seasons and in this election year a time of change for our country. I will not use this forum to endorse a candidate, but I do urge you to go out and vote and make your voice heard.

One vote can make a difference as this story will show. Eight years ago, my daughters were eligible to vote in their first election and were very excited. We were at the breakfast table when they asked, how does this work? Since the election was a primary, I told them that they had to choose between Democrat or Republican. They made their choices as Democrats. We then looked at the ballot, saw Obama for president and there were candidates running for offices from US Senate to Congress to Town Council. When we got to town council, there was one name and it said to choose two. So I jokingly said to them, why don't you write me in. At the polls, that is exactly what they did.

The next day, I was going to a Yankee game with my good friend, Dan Hirshberg, who was running for town council in Hackettstown. He said to me, "do you want to hear something funny, you got two votes in yesterday's election. I replied I should have gotten three as I also wrote myself in (my father told me if you ever ask anyone to vote for you, you need to vote for yourself as well, so I did). I assume one of us used my middle initial or middle name, and when you write in a name, spelling counts. So Dan's next reply was "you won". "I did???" I replied. He said yes, you came in second with two votes. I could have been on the ballot in the fall, but we decided the joke had gone on long enough and that I did not have the time to commit to actually to running for office.

The moral of the story being, YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

People all over the world think that voting in a free election is one of the best things in the world. Please make your voice heard on Election Day this year, especially if this is the first time you get to vote. It really is a special privilege we have in this country.

L'Shanah Tovah.
Howie

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.

Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

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.

SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood enjoyed a visit from Jessica Mickley from DASACC. (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County. Jessica shared about the services offered at DASACC and also volunteer opportunities that are available. We look forward to coordinating with DASACC .

Upcoming events:

- November 6 Trip to Jeannie Berkowitz's store. Marci Braunstein is coordinating. Please contact her with questions. marci_braunstein@yahoo.com.
- A Jewelry Swap fundraising event and Family Promise meal making.

Don't forget to bring items to donate for the food pantry. They can be left in the box in the Lobby outside of the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions please contact Alison @ shelofsky@comcast.net

“The Sisterhood is full of heart and sprang into action immediately upon hearing of the need.”

~Marci Braunstein



Torah Study

Torah Study

The Torah study group welcomes new participants at any time. The Torah portion we study (not the portion of the week because we begin where we left off the time before) always sparks lively discussion that unfolds on several levels—from the literal meaning to multiple interpretations from our tradition to associations that we in the 21st century bring to the text. The next meeting will be on Saturday, November 12th at 10:30am.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Sunday School Dates:

- November 6
- November 13
- November 20
- December 4

Note: There will be no Sunday School on November 27

WEBSITE UPDATE

Members Only Website Section Coming!

Watch for an e-mail with instructions for accessing online resources for JCNWJ members only.

MAH JONGG

Looking for a fun time? Mah Jongg will be starting again. If interested in being a teacher &/or participant, please e-mail me at helpmerhonda171@yahoo.com and let me know if Tuesday evening works for you. Rhonda Jordan

DONATIONS

In Memory of Jerry Lieb
- Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Robins

In Memory of Celia Robins
- Bernie Robins

In Memory of Steve & David Tarlowe
- Paul & Laura Tarlowe

In Loving memory of Belle F. Shure & Sarah F. Zeiden

Condolences to the families of Lenore Marr, Robert Friedlander, and Keith Ehrenreich

Mazel Tov to the families who recently celebrated marriages of their children: Iris & Howie Hirsch, Debbie & Glenn Knobelmann, Cheryl & Ed Orenstein, Sandy & Ron Seidorf, and Barbara & Gerald Simons

Mazel Tov to Robin & Colson Hall on the birth of their grandson

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Lewis on the birth of her grandson

-Helen Mattson

Belated New Year greetings from the Parson family - L'Shanah Tovah!

Shabbaton – November 5, 2016

NOVEMBER 5, 2016, at the JCNWJ

SHABBATON for adults and families*
[what is this?—see below!]

Led by Cantor Ted Labow

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10:00 a.m. | <i>Shabbat morning service followed by Torah study: Noah</i> |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | <i>Discussion: “Could it happen here?” A look at the unique circumstances that led to the Holocaust and a comparison with trends that exist today.</i> |
| 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 5:30 p.m. | <i>Return for Folk Singalong: songs of the sixties and seventies with guitar, including songs of protest. This will be a hopeful end to the mourning of Kristallnacht and the discussion that we will have in the early afternoon. (To help you sing better, wine and cheese/cider and donuts will be provided.)</i> |
| 7:00 p.m. | <i>Havdalah</i> |

RSVP to Sharon Herson so that we can provide the right amount of food for lunch and late afternoon snacks: sharonherson@comcast.net.

*Feel free to participate in some or all of the activities of the day. If you plan to be present for lunch or the Singalong, don't forget to RSVP.

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Join us for a FREE community event:

Jews of the Ottoman Empire



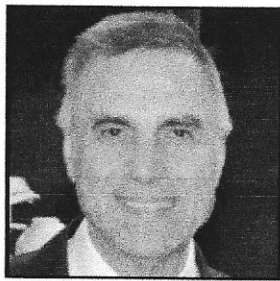
**Wednesday, November 9
7:00PM - 9:00PM**

Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center

775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Register today at

www.jfedshaw.org/Ottoman

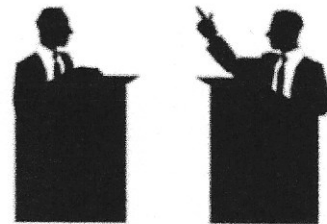


presented by
Peter Stavrianidis, Ph.D



The Jewish Federation
OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES

Save the Date!
Thursday, December 15th



Provocative Debate

Between J.J. Goldberg of the *Forward* & Jonathan Tobin of *Commentary*,
touching on the results of the Presidential Elections and what this means
for Israeli-U.S. Relations and the American Jewish Community.



The Jewish Federation
OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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