

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

We all have moments in life that are forever burned into our memories. For some, it is the birth of a child. For others, it's the day we pass a professional exam. And for others still, it may even be the day our favorite sports team finally wins a long-awaited championship. As for me, I have memories etched permanently into my brain from all three categories. During the month of November, however, I always come back to one memory in particular.

It was November 4, 1995. I was in Philadelphia for the wedding of a graduate school roommate. As I started getting ready to meet some friends so we could travel together to the ceremony, I flipped on the TV for no particular reason. And then it hit me like a ton of bricks. The news was pouring in from Tel Aviv that Prime Minister Rabin had just been shot. The reports were confused and harried. No one seemed to have a clear idea of exactly what had happened, but everyone feared the worst-case scenario might actually play itself out. And then, a few hours later, it did.

A radicalized twenty-five-year-old right wing Jewish law student, convinced of the perverse notion that Rabin's dogged pursuit of peace was somehow in violation of Jewish law, had taken matters into his own hands. After attending a massive peace rally in Tel Aviv where the Prime Minister had been the marquis speaker, this depraved deviant waited until after the participants had joined together in a final singing of the classic Israeli song, "A Song of Peace." He then took position by the Prime Minister's car, waited for his opportunity, and fired three shots, two of which hit his target. The Prime Minister's security detail rushed the wounded leader to the hospital, but it was too late. Yitzhak Rabin died that night.

(continued on next page)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, November 3rd**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Berkowitz, Finkelstein, Tucker
- **Sunday, November 5th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
- **Saturday, November 11th**
10:30 am – Torah Study
- **Monday, November 13th**
7:00 pm – Board of Trustees Mtg.
- **Sunday, November 12th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Book of Judges Class
- **Friday, November 17th**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Loomis, Webb, Kowski
- **Sunday, November 19th**
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Sisterhood,
Guest speaker at 12:00 noon – See Pg. 4
- **Monday, November 27th**
7:30 pm – Book Club
- **Friday, December 1st**
7:30 pm – Shabbat Service
Oneg – Onweller, Wilson, Perfetti
- **Sunday, December 3rd**
9:30 am – Sunday School

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

Two days later, on November 6, when the Prime Minister was laid to rest on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, I, and most everyone I knew, found ourselves glued to the television. Though we knew it was true, still, none of us could actually believe it.

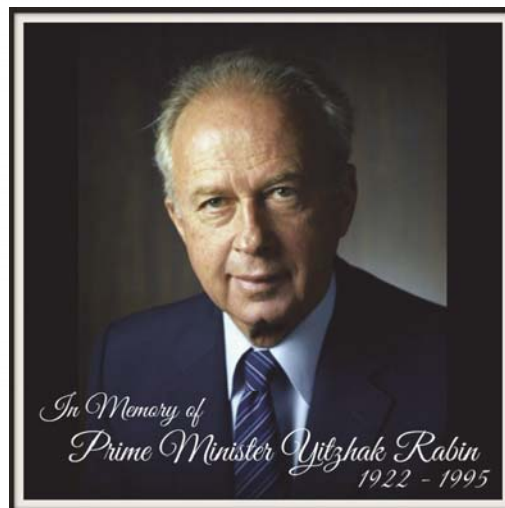
I will never forget those two days. By the actions of a single evil person, our world lost one of the last best hopes in our lifetime for Middle East peace, and I lost one of my most beloved personal heroes. The fact that we are so much farther away from true peace today than we were on the eve of his death twenty-two years ago is a tragic source of endless sorrow. At the same time, we Jews don't give up easily. No matter how discouraged we may become at times, when foundational principles such as the imperative for peace are at stake, we rethink, regroup, and find new hope.

May it be God's will that Yitzhak Rabin's vision of peace will be realized in the not too distant future. And if members of the current generations of leadership fail to achieve that dream, may the next generation stand taller than we. Yes, we will do what we can, but should we fall short, may we maintain faith that the next generation will continue on and achieve that which we ourselves are unable.

It is no accident that Nancy chose the middle name that we did for our fourth child. Ari's full name, Ari **Yitzhak** Dubin, is one of hope and perseverance. May he, and all in his generation, live up to the responsibility that comes with such a name, and may we never give up until peace is finally announced across the land.

L'Shalom ("In Peace"),

Rabbi Dubin



(graphic from israelnewsagency.com)

President's Message

I finally got a chance to take some time off from work and temple this past month. Iris and I were able to travel to the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador. I will not use this column to tell you of our trip; you may ask that personally anytime you want. What I do want to talk about is the experience of disconnecting from our modern world.

For the first time in at least 5 years, I was disconnected. I could not communicate with work and I could not communicate with temple. I could not communicate with family and I could not even follow the Yankees during their playoff series against both Cleveland and Houston. In this day and age, to not know what others are doing or being able to communicate with them can at first be a frightening thought. You don't know if you missed out on something crucial, like someone in your family being gravely ill or dying. Other than that, you come to realize that while all the social media, emails and interactions that you have are truly important, it is not more important than being in the moment with the people that you are with. When you do not have the ability to look into a screen, and you must deal with the people who are in front of you, it can be both scary and wonderful.

For my generation, we did not grow up with all this communication, but over the years, we have certainly come to rely on it. I found it liberating to be disconnected. For all my friends, I suggest trying this one day a week, maybe on Shabbat would be a good idea. If that is too scary for you, try once a month. Rabbi Lewis gave me a present a while back. It was a small bag that you could put your cell phone in during Shabbat. The idea was that you need to disconnect from the modern world for a while and focus on what you are doing. You do not need to document every interaction that you have in the world. Take the time to experience life without wondering what else is going on. I have been told that there is a new phobia called FOMO or Fear of Missing Out. The idea being that whatever you are doing, someone, somewhere else in the world is doing something better. Focus on who you are with and what you are doing and I think you will find your life to be richer and more fulfilled. I know for me, I came back to my real life with new perspectives on being in the moment.

My love to all of you,

Howie

SISTERHOOD

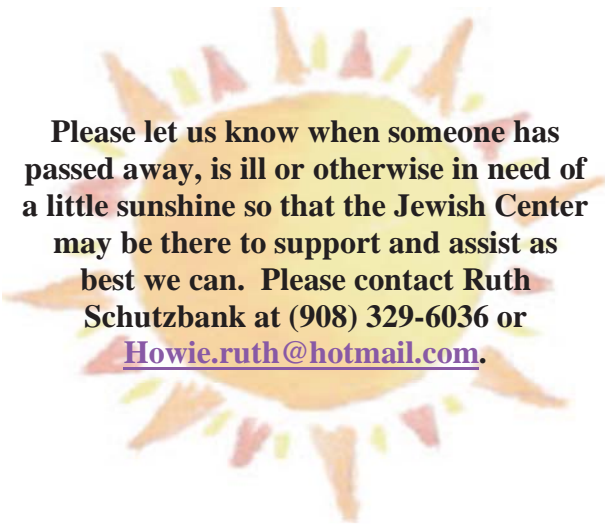
New members are always welcome, and we hope you are able to join us at an upcoming event.

On Sunday, November 19th, we will have a guest speaker who will be showing us how to make sleeping mats for the homeless out of plastic grocery bags. This presentation will start at 12:00 noon.

Sisterhood Calendar

- November 19 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple, Guest Speaker at 12:00
- January 7 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- March 11 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple
- May 6 – Meeting 10:30 at Temple

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

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Upcoming Dates:

November 5th

November 12th

November 19th

December 3rd

There will be NO Sunday School on November 26th

DONATIONS

In memory of Hannah and Heather Braunstein

- Marci and Gil Braunstein

In memory of Doris Tarlowe

- Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In honor of the High Holy Days

- Bertille and Leon Glass
- Dr. Susan E. Pivko
- Mary Beth and Harold Lappin
- Rene Marinich
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz
- Roseann and Edward Weinstein
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
- Barrie Cohen
- Doreen and Rory Webb
- Glenn Cutler
- Janis Romanczyk
- Laurie Post and Steven Goldner
- Tracy and Mo Bauer
- Beth Katzman
- James Saltzman
- Nicole Rosen
- Rhonda Jordan
- Rita Koral
- Ruth and Howie Schutzbank
- Wendy and Richard Fenton
- Diane Margolin
- Ginger and Jerry Nathanson
- Harold Schwartz
- Laura and Paul Tarlowe
- Marci and Gil Braunstein
- Alison and Andrew Shelofsky

Updates & Events

ISRAEL TRIP

Congregational trip to Israel!

June 24 – July 6, 2018

Relive the history of our people in the place where it all happened!

Join us for a life changing, life enriching experience in Israel - the heartland of the Bible. Visit the places you have been hearing about, enjoy exciting and adventurous hiking and water experiences, all while visiting historic landmarks and sites of interest.

Visit the trip website at <http://www.arzaworld.com/Jewish-Center-of-Northwest-New-Jersey-Trip-to-Israel-Led-by-Rabbi-Andy-Dubin.aspx> to view:

- Promotional flyer (accenting the trip highlights) to share with extended friends and family you wish to invite.
- Detailed day-by-day trip itinerary.
- Registration process “how-to” document outlining important details as well as screen shots of what to expect and how to do each step of the process.

Looking forward to sharing this incredible opportunity with my synagogue family!

Sincerely, Lynne Kowski & Roy Loomis

P.S. if you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to email both Lynne (Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu) and Roy (rloomis@cherrybrook.com)

MAH JONGG

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

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.



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Tues – Wed 9:30-5:15, Thurs – Fri 9:30-7:00, Sat
9:30-4:00 (9:30-2:00 During Summer)