

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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Washington, NJ 07882
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December, 2012
Vol. XXXVII 22

Rabbi's message

Top Ten Things I wouldn't have known if not for Hurricane Sandy

10. It takes 20 minutes to boil water on a gas grill.
9. Telephone poles can snap like twigs when the winds climb over 50 miles per hour.
8. Pine cones can blow all the way from the back of my yard onto the deck at the back of my house (see note on wind speed above).
7. Neighbors who had never acted like neighbors can become your new best friends.
6. In a crisis, bad drivers are still bad drivers, but in a crisis, good drivers can become bad drivers.
5. The iPhone I always considered a luxury turned out to be a godsend.
4. Also under the category of godsend a contractor who climbs up onto your roof, puts a tarp over the leak and then comes by to repair it the next day.
3. It feels fine if I volunteer, "I was lucky, the tree could have fallen on my house," but it doesn't feel sufficiently sympathetic if you tell me, "Aren't you lucky, the tree could have fallen on your house."
2. My Catholic neighbors (who blessedly invited me over to coffee in the mornings after the storm) buy yahrzeit candles at Shoprite and use them in their Christmas luminarias (and were worried they were doing something sacrilegious).
1. I didn't think I could feel more grateful than I did the day before the hurricane, but I could.

Last month, I wrote about the mitzvah of hakarat ha tov, being grateful for all the good that happens to us and expressing it by voting. In all my years writing these messages, I don't think I have written two messages in a row about gratitude, but Sandy was a reminder that I could write one every month.

Our daily prayers remind us to be aware of our blessings every day. They also remind us that feeling grateful is no substitute for expressing our gratitude. We show our gratitude by giving

tzedakah and performing meaningful action. The temple's (aka Team Mike) walking in support of Voices Against Brain Cancer is one way of our expressing both our appreciation of Mike and also our gratitude for those doctors who are researching a cure for brain cancer.

May the strength of that feeling remind us to be grateful for our freedoms on Chanukah and to be appreciative every day for the gifts we have been given.

Rabbi Ellen J Lewis

President's message

This certainly has been a November to remember.

I am thankful that no one from our temple was hurt in the storm (at least not that I have heard about). Most of us had some sort of property damage that we needed to fix. I hope that no one suffered too badly in the storm and that you are on your way to getting back to normal. My best friend lives a block and a half from Rockaway Beach and will not be able to return to his house for at least a month. While my brother's brother in law owned a house at the foot of the Mantoloking bridge that was one of the most photographed spots of damage at the shore. He now has a vacant lot where his house used to be. So I am grateful that we were not hit harder. At this time of the year, please remember that there are folks out there who have lost everything they owned, so try to be as generous as you can to the relief efforts of the Red Cross and the United Way, or any other worthy organization that is helping out the victims of Sandy. One of the things you might do during Chanukah is instead of giving gifts for 8 nights, take the funds from one or two nights of gifts and donate that to the relief effort. It will make you and your kids feel grateful for what you have.

On a much happier note, I want to congratulate Gina Berkowitz on her joining the Jewish faith and her being called as an aliyah to the Torah. I am so proud of you, as is the rest of our temple family. I wish you all a very happy Chanukah and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Shalom Howie



Mark your Calendar



Fri. Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service Celebrating Jeannie Berkowitz's conversion to Judaism Oneg: May, R.& J. Berkowitz and Robins families
Sun. Dec. 2	6:00 a.m.	Bus leaves for Voices against Brain Cancer walk No Sunday school
Mon. Dec. 3	7:00 p.m.	Sisterhood book club, meeting at the home of Rita Berkowitz
Fri. Dec. 7		Confirmation retreat
Sun. Dec. 9	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school
		Confirmation retreat return
	12:00 p.m.	Mitzvah Day at Clover Rest Home
Mon. Dec. 10	7:30 p.m.	Board meeting
Fri. Dec. 14	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat/Chanukah and new member service Oneg: Schutzbank, Stanton, Webb, and Davidson families
Sat. Dec. 15	10:30 a.m.	Torah study
Sun. Dec. 16	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school
	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation class
	10:30 a.m.	Adult education
Sun. Dec 23		No Sunday school
Sun. Dec. 30		No Sunday school
Sun. Jan. 6	9:30 a.m.	Sunday school
	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation class
	12:00 p.m.	B'nai mitzvah brunch

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm when the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey will celebrate the Sabbath and the 7th night of Chanukah, at which time we will also honor our new members. Kindly mark your calendars. Don't forget to bring "your menorahs"

B'NAI MITZVAH BRUNCH – DATE CHANGE

For those families who will be celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah in Fall 2013–Spring 2014, please note that the B'nai Mitzvah Brunch has been rescheduled from Sunday, December 2 to Sunday, January 6 at noon. Kindly mark your calendars. Details to follow...

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).



Education/PTO



Hebrew School is cancelled on December 2nd so that we can all join together to support Voices Against Brain Cancer in honor of Mike Weiner. We meet at the Jewish Center early that morning and the bus leaves at **6:00 a.m.**, then we will walk/run together in New York's Central Park for a great cause.

The confirmation retreat is **December 7th to December 9th**. The Sunday school students will enjoy a Chanukah craft project on **December 9th**. Then, after Sunday School at 12:00 noon on **December 9th** please join us for Mitzvah Day when we bring the Chanukah celebrations to Clover Rest Home. On **December 16th** we will celebrate Chanukah with a program of songs and latkes. There will be no Sunday School on **December 23rd** and **December 30th** for our winter break. Sunday School will resume on **January 6th** and confirmation meets at 10:30 a.m. on January 6th.



Contributions



In appreciation of Judy and Paul May
Nancy and Bernie Robins

In honor of this year's b'nai mitzvah: Mikaela Bauer, Jill Fesinstine,
Alex McMullen, Lauren Onweller, Rachel Parilis, and Jill Wilson
The Onweller Family
The Wilson Family

In memory of Margaret Scott
Martha and Jack Needleman

In memory of Hannah and Heather Braunstein
Marci and Gil Braunstein

In memory of Henrietta Goldstein
Iris and Howie Hirsch

In memory of Michael Levin and Esther Newman
Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Sally Zemel
Ralph Zemel

Rose Schneider, the last founding member of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, died on November 14, nearly a month after celebrating her one hundredth birthday with her family. Rose was a very active Jewish Center member, who taught Sunday school and was active in Sisterhood for many years. Yiddish was one of her passions and she was always looking for people to speak Yiddish with her. She enjoyed teaching Yiddish songs to anyone who was willing to learn. Her warm and friendly manner will be remembered by those who knew her.

The Jewish Center sends condolences to her family, especially her son, Ben Schneider, of Washington, NJ and her daughter, Lucy Banner of Massachusetts.

JCNWJ MITZVAH DAY!

JOIN JCNWJ FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CARING AT THE
CLOVER REST HOME
AS WE TREAT RESIDENTS TO CHANUKAH SONGS,
STORIES, GAMES, LATKES & GOOD CHEER



- 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

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.

Yevette 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.

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/>

January Journal Deadline

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

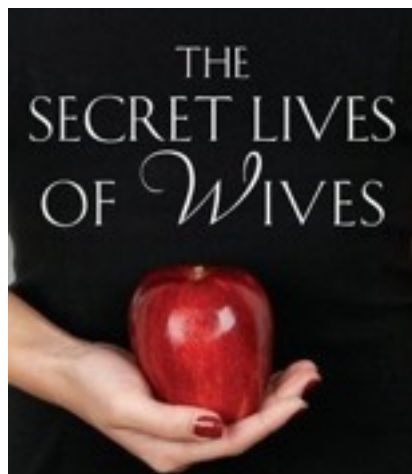
Jewish LIFE UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Step Up For Israel Film Series: Israel & The West, Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m., hosted by Or Chadash, Flemington. Discover Israel as a democratic nation with shared Western values, and learn how the media shapes negative opinions about Israel. All are welcome...free admission.

Iris Krasnow will be the featured Jewish LIFE speaker on **Wednesday, January 9 at 12 Noon**. New York Times best-selling author Iris Krasnow, will discuss her book *The Secret Lives of Wives*, a composite of 200 interviews conducted with women married from 15 to 70 years. This program is hosted by the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater and includes brunch. The fee is \$18/person in advance or \$22/person at the door. This program is co-sponsored by The Brandeis National Committee Somerset Chapter; Temple Beth El, Somerset Sisterhood; Temple Sholom Sisterhood. Call the JCC to register at 908-725-6994 x201.

Simcha Weinstein, The Case for Children: Why Parenthood Makes Your World Better, Thursday, January 17, at 7 p.m. at the Birnbaum JCC. The best-selling author will discuss the benefits that parenthood brings to individuals and society and how parenthood makes your world physically, materially and spiritually better. The fee for the program is \$8/person in advance or \$10/person at the door. Call the JCC to register at 908-725-6994 x201.

A complete listing of Jewish LIFE special events and synagogue course offering for the 2012-2013 calendar year is posted on the JCC website: www.ssbjcc.org





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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.



"Crossing the Line: The Intifada Comes to Campus"



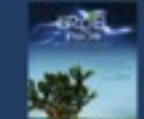
Creation of a State



Israel & the West



Speak Up for Israel



Israel Inside

149 Foothill Road
Flemington, NJ 08822

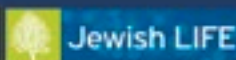
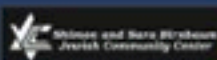
For more information go to:

www.orchadash-nj.org

908-806-2122

FREE to the community!

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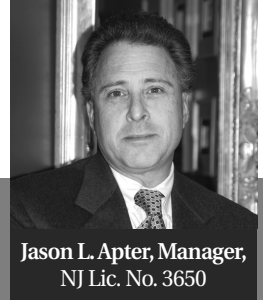
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