

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

P.O. Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

December 2019

Vol: XLV Issue: 4



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

In anticipation of Hanukah, and with two fabulous *bar mitzvah* ceremonies now behind us, I've been thinking recently about gifts in general, and the TaNaKh in particular, because that is one of the gifts we customarily give to our *b'nei mitzvah* at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey.

Over the past month, I've come to understand something I didn't appreciate until now, which is that while I've been using the term, TaNaKh, quite freely, not everyone has been understanding what I mean by that. I'd like to remedy this confusion with my monthly message here.

The TaNaKh is, simply put, just another name for the Jewish Bible, which is made of three sections: **T**orah (the First Five Books), **N**evi'im (Prophets), and **K**etuvim (Writings). When we take the first letter of each section and piece them together, we wind up with **TaNaKh**.

The Torah and the first few books of Prophets tell the national history of Israel, from Abraham (and Creation before that) to the Exodus to entering and settling the Promised Land. We see that the Prophets tend to serve as a call to moral behavior, and that the Writings represent a wide variety of literary genres.

The purpose of TaNaKh can be categorized in many different ways. For example, it can be seen as history, as literature, as legal code, as wisdom for life, as the explanation for the

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Friday, December 6

7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Sunday, December 8

9:30am: Sunday School

10:15am: Sisterhood Meeting

4:00pm: Mental Health Film & Discussion—
Viewing of the film *That Way Madness
Lies...*, Refreshments and Panel
Discussion. (See ad on Page 6)

Monday, December 9

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, December 14

10:30am: Torah Study

Sunday, December 15

9:30am: Sunday School

Sunday, December 22

5:00pm: Menorah Lighting at Chesapeake
Tavern in Long Valley featuring
music by Deb Apsel.

Friday, December 27

7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Friday, January 3

7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Sunday, January 5

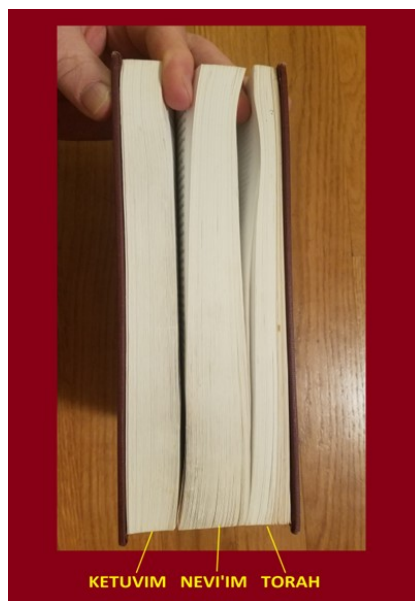
9:30am: Sunday School

Rabbi's Message (continued)

origin of things, as mythology, as a statement of covenant, and probably many other ways as well. Given my limitations on space and time in this short message, let me just say I believe it is all of these these things simultaneously. In short, if we are the "People of the Book," then I would say that the TaNaKh is the "Book of our People."

Two other terms that you may hear referring to this same book are "Hebrew Bible" and "Hebrew Scriptures." While Christians may refer to the TaNaKh as the "Old Testament," these two terms are not equivalent. This is for a few reasons:

1. From a practical point of view, while the TaNaKh and the Protestant Old Testament contain the same books, they are presented in different orders, with the Old Testament leading "chronologically" to the promise of messianic redemption. The Catholic Old Testament, on the other hand, follows the same order as the Protestant Old Testament, except it includes some books that are in neither the Protestant nor the Jewish canon. The Eastern Orthodox Old Testament includes even more books than the Catholic version. In other words, depending on which form of Christianity is being considered, not only are the same words told in a different order, but in many Christian Bibles the words aren't even the same.
2. From a theological point of view, we mustn't ignore the fact that Old implies there must be New. That is, if we accept TaNaKh as the Old Testament, that would suggest there must be a New Testament, which, of course, is exactly what Christians believe. In the Jewish tradition, there is no Old Testament, because there is no New Testament.



For those of you interested in taking a whirlwind tour of every book in the TaNaKh, I invite you to read through the synopsis on the next three pages, as presented on the Open Yale Courses website of Yale University at <https://oyc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/tanakh-synopsis.pdf>.

*L'Shalom,
Rabbi Dubin*

The Tanakh

TORAH (the First Five Books):

Genesis: Chapters 1-11 relate God's creation of the world and the first humans, the stories of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel, the flood, the tower of Babel, and the invention of various human arts and industries. Chapters 12-50 contain the stories of the patriarchal and matriarchal ancestors of the Israelites: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel. The descent of the Jacob's son Joseph into Egypt, his rise to power and the eventual arrival of all of the Israelites in Egypt

Exodus: Contains the story of Moses who is charged by God with leading the Israelites from Egypt where they have been enslaved. At Mount Sinai in the wilderness, God enters into a covenantal relationship with Israel, imparting divine instructions which the Israelites promise to obey. Includes instructions for the construction of God's tabernacle.

Leviticus: Contains instructions concerning the sacrificial cult and other priestly rituals, the initiation of Aaron and his sons as priest, as well as laws concerning purity and impurity (both ritual and moral).

Numbers: Continues the narrative of the Israelites as they wander in the wilderness. Further instructions are given in this period.

Deuteronomy: A set of three speeches delivered by Moses on the plain of Moab on the eastern side of the Jordan river, as the Israelites are poised to enter the promised land. Moses reiterates the divine instruction delivered at Sinai and charges the people to be faithful to God so as not to incur his displeasure. Moses dies without entering the Promised Land.

NEVI'IM (Prophets)

Subdivided into the books of the Former Prophets (Joshua through 2 Kings, consisting of historical narratives featuring kings and prophets and the books of the Latter Prophets (containing the oracles of the classical or literary prophets from the mid 8th to 5th century).

Former Prophets

Joshua: Relates the invasion of Canaan under Joshua and the distribution of the land to the Israelite tribes.

Judges: Stories that center around heroic "judges" who led the people in military victories over a variety of enemies.

I Samuel: Samuel, the last judge and a prophet, reluctantly anoints a king at the behest of the people. Stories about the first king, Saul, and his rivalry with David.

II Samuel: The story of King David. The rich Court History tells of his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and the revolt of his son Absalom.

(continued on next page)

The Tanakh (continued)

I Kings: Relates David's final years, and the reign of David's son Solomon who builds a Temple to God in Jerusalem. Succession of the ten northern tribes to form the kingdom of Israel, leaving 2 southern tribes as the kingdom of Judah. The prophet Elijah zealously promotes Yahwism in the north and comes into conflict with King Ahab.

II Kings: Stories about Elijah and his disciple prophet Elisha. Relates the overthrow of Ahab, the succession of kings in Israel until the final destruction by the Assyrians in 722 B.C.E. Traces the history of the southern kingdom until the final destruction by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.E.

B. Latter Prophets

Isaiah: Oracles by and narratives about the late 8th century northern prophet Isaiah (chapters 1-39). Chapters 40-66 are from a later period.

Jeremiah: Oracles, poems and narratives of the late 7th early 6thc prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah witnessed the end of the southern kingdom.

Ezekiel: Oracles and narratives of the early 6th century prophet Ezekiel, delivered in Babylonia.

The Book of the Twelve: a collection of shorter prophetic books spanning 3 centuries.

Hosea - late 8th century northern prophet

Joel - postexilic oracles focusing on a day of divine retribution

Amos - mid-8th century northern prophet

Obadiah - post-destruction (post 587) prophet

Jonah - a short story about the prophet Jonah who is sent by God to Ninevah

Micah - late 8th century Judean prophet

Nahum - a poem on the fall of Ninevah (late 7th c)

Habbakuk - latter part of the 7th century

Zephaniah - latter part of the 7th century

Haggai - late 6th century prophet, living at the time of the return from exile

Zechariah - combines late 6th century visions with later postexilic materials

Malachi - 5th century prophet.

(continued on next page)

The Tanakh (continued)

KETUVIM (Writings)

Psalms: 150 poetic writings of various types (praise, petition, lament, thanksgiving, etc.)

Proverbs: A collection of sayings and aphorisms, including tributes to wisdom

Job: The tale of a righteous man afflicted with suffering is the prose framework for a length poetic dialogue on the question of divine justice, human suffering, and the value of righteousness.

The Five Scrolls

Song of Songs - an erotic multi-voiced love poem

Ruth - story of a foreign women's faithfulness to her Israelite family by marriage set in the period of the judges

Lamentations - Dirge on the destruction of Jerusalem

Ecclesiastes - Musings on the vanity of life

Esther - Story of a Mordechai and Esther who save the Jews of Persia from a planned slaughter.

Daniel - Written in the 2nd century B.C.E., this book contains the adventures of the Israelite Daniel and his friends residing in the royal court of 6th century Babylon. The latter part of the book contains apocalyptic visions.

Ezra - Relates the return of the Babylonian exiles to Judea at the end of the 6th century and the reforms of Ezra, a Babylonian priest and scribe, in the 5th century.

Nehemiah - Relates the activities of Nehemiah, governor of Judah under Persian rule, in the mid-5th century.

I Chronicles - A recapitulation of the history of Israel down to the reign of David, with different emphases and themes.

II Chronicles - A continuation of I Chronicles relating the reigns of the kings of Judah down to the Babylonian exile.

President's Message

Greetings from the bottom of the world.

Iris, Caitlin and I have returned from our Antarctica vacation after having an amazing time. Antarctica is so beautiful and pristine. The mountains of the South Shetland Islands are still snow covered and are gorgeous. This goes to show what our planet could look like if we all lived an ecologically sound life-style. There is real fear that global warming is going to prevent the formation of sea ice, which is where phytoplankton are created. Phytoplankton is food for krill which is the food for almost all the fish and mammals in the sea.

I urge each and every one of you to become more informed about global warming and to do your small part in becoming more green.

Let's do our part in making the planet fit for human life thousands of years from now.

See everyone soon.

Love Howie

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
115 Youmans Avenue
Washington, NJ

4:00-5:45
Screening

5:45-6:15
Intermission (with refreshments)




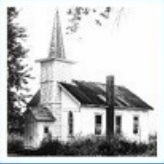

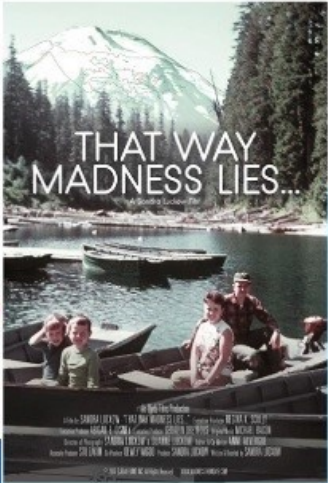
6:15-7:15
Panel Discussion

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**"ONE
WOMAN AND HER FAMILY
TREK THE BROKEN MENTAL
HEALTH SYSTEM IN AN
EFFORT TO SAVE
HER BROTHER AS HE
DESCENDS INTO MADNESS."**

**Admission
by Voluntary Donation**

DISCUSSION PANEL
Sandra Luckow, MFA (Filmmaker)
Rabbi Kara Tav (Board Certified Chaplain)
Reverend Diana Ortiz Bracy (Mt. Pisgah AME Church)
Pamela D'Amato, MA & Sadie Mahmoud, MSW (Islamic Center of Hunterdon County)
Eric Harris, LCSW (Jewish Family Services of Somerset, Hunterdon, & Warren Counties)
Moderator: Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin (Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey)



Updates & Events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Schedule:

December 8

December 15

No Sunday School on 12/22 or 12/29.

“There are many ways to bring good to this world. It doesn’t matter how you do it as long as you do some good in your own way.”

-Tanner Kalisher

WEBSITE

Members Only!

The JCNWJ website has a section for temple members only. Here you'll find the latest membership list and other documents not for public consumption.

To access, go to www.jcnwj.org/members/ and enter the user name jcnwjmember and password. Forgot the password? E-mail website@jcnwj.org.

TORAH STUDY

Consider joining the monthly Saturday morning Torah study group, ongoing for more than twenty years, freewheeling and always thought-provoking. We are nearing the completion of Deuteronomy—likely later this year. Come when you can.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 14 at 10:30

Tentative 2020 Dates:

January 11

February 15

March 14

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 25

August 15

FOOD DRIVE

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the local food pantries.

The food pantries are in dire need of supplies to fill their shelves as more and more people are in need and your generosity will help fill that need.

Thank you for your continued support!

-Iris

Updates & Events

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood meeting ~

Sunday, 12/8 10:15 to noon

If anyone can stay after to help setup for the mental health program, that would be much appreciated!

Collection Deadline ~

Sunday 12/8

Hunterdon Developmental Center
New Chanukah Gift Collection for Jewish residents:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70a084caca29a5ff2-hunterdon1>

Bring unwrapped labelled gift to drop off in the Simcha room.

DASACC New Gift & Used Clothing Collection through Sunday, 12/8:

We are collecting for a “new gift drive” (toys/ games, books, sports balls/equipment, toiletries, scarves/gloves/mittens, art supplies etc) and a “clothing drive” (gently used business casual to dressy (no jeans or sneakers) including shoes & accessories.

Both collections to benefit DASAAC. Drop items off by Sunday, December 8. Rack and box located in simcha room. Any questions, ask Suzi 908.343.1135.

JCC EVENTS

Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center

Thursday, December 12, 6:30 PM at the JCC, Bridgewater. Showing of the film, *Theodore Bikel, In the Shoes of Shalom Aleichem*. Discussion to follow film. Fee: \$18/Person includes film and falafel dinner. To register visit ssbjcc.org or call 908-443-9018.

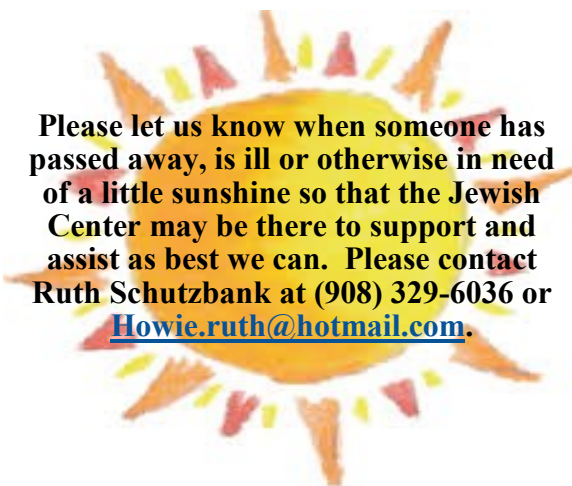
Friday, December 13, 5:30 PM at the JCC, Bridgewater. Family Community Shabbat Dinner & Chanukah Celebration. Fee: \$15/Person or \$45 Max/Family. Register at ssbjcc.org or call 908-443-9018.

Saturday, December 14, 7 PM at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. Temple Beth-El Film Series presents *90 Minute War*, Suggested donation \$5/Person. RSVP to Simona: bakerc@comcast.net.

Sunday, December 15, 10:30 AM at Temple Sholom, Bridgewater. Family Chanukah Community Event. Celebrate Chanukah with songs, food and fun! To register, call Temple Sholom at 908-722-1339.

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

BUILDING UPDATE

Kitchen and Bathroom supplies

If you notice that any kitchen or bathroom supplies are getting low, please email Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net.

MAH JONGG

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



The Rabbi Gets A Shave for
Tzedakah

11/17/19

Sponsors



*Serving All Families
As Our Own*



WARREN HILLS MEMORIAL HOME
RICHARD L. MAGUIRE, JR.
Owner / Manager Lic No. 4434
DENISE MAGUIRE
Funeral Director Lic No. 4971
234 W. WASHINGTON AVE.
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882
908-689-0119

www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com

**CENTENARY
STAGE
COMPANY**

908.979.0900 • CENTENARYSTAGECO.ORG

Year-round professional
music, theatre, and dance!



Jersey Boys'
John Lloyd Young
April 6 2019

Lackland Performing Arts Center 715 Grand Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Sponsors



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.