

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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

Summer 2011
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 10

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- * Friday, June 3, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Services
Oneg: Webb family
- * Saturday, June 4, 10:00 am
Shabbat Services – Ilissa Webb Bat Mitzvah
- * Sunday, June 5
9:30 am Sunday School Closing Assembly
Confirmation
- * Monday, June 6, 7:30 pm
Board Meeting
- * Tuesday, June 7 Erev Shavuot
Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 pm
- * Saturday, June 11
10:30 am Torah Study
7:00 pm Sisterhood Party Honoring Howie
- * Sunday, June 12
9:30 am Congregational Meeting
- * Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 pm
Adult Hebrew Class
- * Friday, June 17, 7:30 pm
Shabbat Services
Oneg: Jordan, Finkelstein, Stanton, Berkowitz
(Rita), Smith, Hirsch and Marr families
- * Saturday, June 18, 10:00 am
Shabbat Services – B’nai Mitzvah
- * Wednesday, June 29, 7:00 pm
Sisterhood Book Club
- * Friday, July 29, 6:00 pm
Shabbat Services following dairy potluck dinner

JCNWJ Trip to Israel

**Have you ever visited Israel? Would you like to? Do you
NEED to?**

All temple members are welcome and encouraged to join Rabbi Lewis on this tour of Israel.

The tour group will be leaving for Tel Aviv on December 21 and returning on January 1, 2012.

ARZA World, a full-service wholesale tour operator, is handling the tour arrangements in Israel. The company combines superior tourism services with enhanced programming, including educators or local guides who remain with the group throughout the tour. Of course, traveling with Rabbi Lewis, with her knowledge, wisdom and experience, will further enhance the trip.

ARZA World has a website for our group:

[JCNWJ Israel Tour page](#)

which includes the tour itinerary, highlights and what you need to know about the trip. - please note that the price on the site is for the Israel land package only and DOES NOT include airfare. Airfare can be booked through the ARZA World site, or you can book your own air fare.

Rabbi Lewis would love to have as many members of the temple have the singular experience of visiting Israel as possible. It has been a dream of hers to bring her congregation to Israel, and this is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do so.

President's Message

Last month I wrote my message from New Zealand after spending Shabbat on the Great Barrier Reef. Now I will talk about the subject of trust. There are some times in your life that you turn over your life to someone else or maybe even a higher power. While touring New Zealand, my cousins, Iris, Caitlin and I found ourselves spending a couple of days on the western shore of New Zealand to visit the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers. On our ride towards the glaciers, Caitlin was getting very excited that she might get to go skydiving. It has been something that she has wanted to do for a few years now and thought that skydiving over the glaciers would be an interesting way to do this. As we looked at the brochures, the sight of the glaciers from the air intrigued me, and got me thinking that maybe I would do this with her. The more I thought about it, the more I thought I would like to try it. So in the morning, we called up the skydiving place, after checking out their safety record, and booked a jump for the two of us.

When we arrived at the hangar, we were put into jump suits and harnesses and then driven to the airplane. The hardest part for me was walking on the plane, as this was the only place I had control, in case I wanted to back out. While on the plane, I sat in the lap of my parachutist, Mike, who had made around 800 jumps. While we were ascending to 12,000 feet and climbing above the clouds to see the majesty of Mt. Cook and Mt. Tasman in front of an azure blue sky, Mike was attaching himself to me. There was a lot of chatter about how cool this was and how much fun we were having. When we hit 11,500 feet, they opened the door to the plane, and we rose to 12,000 feet. When we hit 12,000 feet, Caitlin and Matt, her parachutist, jumped out. That was the scariest part of the whole trip for me. 30 seconds later it was my turn. I did not hesitate, and went and hung my legs over the ledge and Mike jumped with me attached. As I said, the point of my story is about complete trust. Since I walked onto the plane unattached from Mike, and could not see what he was doing behind me, when he said to get ready to jump, I had to have 100% faith that he had done his job correctly, as MY LIFE depended on it.

So when you are having a bad time in your life, maybe it is a good idea to turn over control of your life to a higher power. Maybe it will be Mike or maybe it will be something else. One option you have is our wonderful community, who are here to help you if you let them. This is an incredibly caring congregation and I am so proud to serve as your president. I love you all very much and wish you a wonderful summer filled with good health, wonderful adventures and the love of your family and friends.

In a completely different thought, I want to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Abby Bauer, who two years ago stepped up to be our newsletter editor when no one else would do it. She has upgraded the newsletter with her talent and passion. Abby, you have done a wonderful job and you leave big shoes to fill. Thank you from the bottom of my heart

Shalom and Love,

Howie

Rabbi's Message

NPR recently broadcast a program that made me smile. The program analyzed what it means to appoint women to boards of directors. The interviewee said: When you put one woman on a board, she is invisible; when you put two women on, it is a conspiracy; when you put more than two on, it is cutting edge.

I smiled because I remember living all those stages. Back when I was ordained in 1980, there were about 20 women rabbis in the Reform movement. It was slowly beginning to dawn on the Central Conference of American Rabbis, a classic "old boys club", that they were supposed to represent both male and female rabbis. So they (whoever "they" were) decided to put a woman on each board and committee. That was how I came to be appointed to the Committee on Committees (I kid you not – it was the committee that nominated people to sit on other committees). The Committee on Committees met at 11:30 at night in a hotel suite during a CCAR Convention. I was pregnant with Micah at the time; staying up until 11:30 was a challenge. Then I entered a meeting room filled with cigar smoke; not only did I feel invisible (to the world at large, a pregnant female rabbi was hardly invisible), I couldn't see anything through the haze. It was as if I weren't there.

I can't recall all the committees on which I was the only woman, but I know it was many. There just weren't enough of us to go around in those early days. But I do remember sitting in a meeting that was nominating the CCAR Board. That meeting was at an airport near JFK so that committee members could fly in for the day; it must have been an important meeting. The CCAR executive director at the time kept a file of index cards. Whenever a name was raised for nomination, he would look and say: no, that person hasn't paid his dues this year – or that person didn't contribute to a special fund – no, that person never attends CCAR conventions - or other (often subjective) criteria of which I had been completely unaware. Then another name came up and he said, "No, we already have one woman on the Board." And I remember saying: "Why can't there be two women on the Board?" That was when I discovered the fear of conspiracy; one woman on the board may be invisible, but two women are perceived as a cabal.

I bless the day that gender no longer was used as a yardstick for committee eligibility. All those years of invisibility and conspiracy had added up and broken the glass ceiling. I remember thinking that maybe things had really changed as a result of our early efforts. All of this has been on my mind as I head to a biennial meeting of the Women's Rabbinic Network. We began these meetings in the early 80's when there were too few of us to call it a conference. Now our membership numbers hundreds. Many issues regarding gender have yet to be resolved – issues of maternity leave, pay parity, work schedule, hiring – are just a few among them. We get together to plan our solutions. But we get together mostly just to be together.

We laugh at old times; we rejoice in each other's celebrations; we weep at each other's losses. The WRN Conference, which rotates around the country, is in New Jersey this year. My friend Rabbi Mindy Portnoy (author of the famous [Ema on the Bimah: My Mommy is a Rabbi](#)) will be coming up from Washington DC and will have spent (by the time you read this) a morning with us at the Jewish Center. Then we will take the trip down to the Jersey Shore for our conference. And apparently there is still some interest in the experience of the earlier "invisible" women. An LA based film director wants to interview some of us for a Story Archive of Women Rabbis: An All-New Digital Web Based Archive. Having suffered through way too many interviews in the early days, I would prefer to lie on the beach and defer to the more recent ordinees. I will let you know if I get my wish.

This meeting is always a celebration, as are all the recent and upcoming graduations and b'nai mitzvah (don't forget our adult b'not mitzvah who will ascend the bimah on June 18th). Join us, too, on Sunday June 5 for our congregation-wide Confirmation service in which all the school children participate. It is our 17th, by my count – but who's counting, once the omer is over. May our entrance into summer be filled with good weather, relaxation and celebration.

Rabbi Lewis

Education/PTO

June is here and another great year of Hebrew School comes to an end. June 5th is our Closing Assembly and Confirmation Ceremony. All of the Hebrew School students will participate in the Confirmation service, so parents should plan to stay if they can. Mazel Tov to our three confirmands: Jamie Fesinstine, Jamie Rosenblum and Drew Needleman!

We would like to thank Rabbi Lewis, Student Cantor Rosen-Brown, our teachers, teachers' assistants, and PTO families for making this a successful year in Hebrew School for our children. You are appreciated.

Have a Great Summer!

Marsha Gross and Karen Finkelstein
(Education Co-Chairs)

September Journal Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements, and photos to be included in the September Issue **August 19, 2011**. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Howie Hirsch jcnwjhowie@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 parts of 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 Tracey Bauer.

Contributions

In honor of the b'nai mitzvah of Dylan Yanow, Abby Bauer, and Hailey Ostenfeld

~The Parson family

In honor of Edythe Herson on her 90th year

~Eric Edelstein

~Helen and John Mattson

~Judy and Paul May

In honor of the b'nai mitzvot of Connor Onweller, Hailey Ostenfeld, and Dylan Yanow

~Gerri Klein

A new siddur in honor of Dr. Bernard Robins' 80th birthday (belated)

~Judy and Paul May

In memory of Norma and Herbert Shifrin

~Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Saul Schutzbank

~Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

In memory of Estelle Shelofsky, mother of Andrew Shelofsky

~Helen and John Mattson

In memory of our beloved fathers, Julius Schiller and Albert Davidson

~Blanche and Marvin Davidson

In honor of Julia becoming a Bat Mitzvah to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

~Fran and Mike Trachtenberg

Torah Study

Saturday, June 11, 2011
10:30 am

Mazel Tov

From the JCNWJ

To the Webb family on the
upcoming Bat Mitzvah of Ilissa



An Announcement from the Religious Practices Committee

Our summer service is scheduled for **Friday, July 29**. It will begin early, at six o'clock, so that we can enjoy Shabbat dinner together after the service. The dinner will be dairy potluck: fish, eggs, cheese, etc. (remember: chicken does not count as dairy). The coordinator for the dinner will be selected in a few weeks, so watch for a notice/reminder in late June. This is always an enjoyable family occasion, so mark your calendars now for this. And for our first Shabbat service in the fall, which will be just after Labor Day, on **September 9** at 7:30; Cantor Elana will join Rabbi Lewis for the September service.

The schedule of services for the High Holy Days will be announced in the next newsletter. **Erev Rosh Hashanah is Wed., September 28.**

Sharon Herson, for the Committee

Beginner Hebrew Reading Class starting

Are you interested in learning how to read Hebrew?

Would you like to feel more comfortable at services and be able to follow along better?

Would you like to be able to assist your child with their Hebrew studies?

We will be starting a new BEGINNER Hebrew class in the fall.

Call or email Howie and let him know you are interested. Class times will be based on who will be in the class and what the best time for the class will be.

If you can read Hebrew but would like to become more fluent in your reading. Call Howie and we will see about a starting a second class.

MAZEL TOV

Our Final Shabbat for 5711
Four years in the making

Friday, June 17, 2011 7:30 PM 15 Sivan 5711
Saturday June 18, 2011 10:00 AM 16 Sivan 5711
Parasha: Shelach

We are happy and proud to announce a most unusual and memorable Bat Mitzvah. It has been exactly 13 years since the last one, when seven of our members had joined together for such a historic occasion.

By sheer happenstance, we have been assigned the same Torah and Haftarah readings as had our predecessors in 1998.

Our B'Not Mitzvah are:

Rita Berkowitz
Karen Finkelstein
Iris Hirsch
Rhonda Jordan
Suzanne Marr
Risa Smith
Teri Stanton

Guides:

Charlotte Fels
Howie Hirsch

Coaches:

Allison Hirsch
Gracie Marr
Twinkie

Please share in our happiness.

JCNWJ GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday, June 12, 2010
9:30 am**

Confirmation Class 2011

Jamie Fesinstine ~ Drew Needleman ~ Jamie Rosenblum

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