

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

April 2021

Vol: XLVI Issue: 7



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

On Monday, March 29, a rather large and powerful 38-year-old man was recorded on surveillance video kicking 65-year old Filipina immigrant, Vilma Kari, to the ground near Times Square in my city of New York, as she was on her way to church. He then continued to kick her a number of times in the head, eventually bringing the whole thing to a close with his battle cry shout: "You don't belong here!" To make matters even worse, standing inside the safety of the lobby of a luxury apartment building by which they were employed, just a few feet away from the attack, were three men watching the entire episode as they did nothing to help. In fact, the only action they did take was to distance themselves by closing the front door.

Fortunately, within a couple days, the attacker had been arrested, the three building employees suspended, and Ms. Kari released from the hospital. Still, though, there can be no denying that the episode was nothing short of horrific.

Anyone who's seen the video, it seems, has been overcome with the same reaction: "*This is not America. What has happened to our country?*" Unfortunately, even as this may seem a reasonable reaction to a reprehensible set of circumstances, and even if it *is* true that the emotional temperature of America has been rising higher and higher and higher over the past few years, were we to be perfectly honest with our American selves, we'd actually see that in some bone-

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

All Events are on Zoom until further notice due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic

Weekly Events

Tuesday, April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4
6:00pm: Mindful Meditation

Friday, April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7
7:30pm: Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 10, 17, 24, May 1
6:30pm: Havdalah

Sunday, April 11, 18, 25, May 2
10:15am: Sunday School

Special Events

Monday, April 12
7:00pm: Board of Trustees

Saturday, April 17
10:30am: Torah Study

Monday, May 3
7:00pm: Board of Trustees

Please Note: Calendar events are subject to change, which will be announced by email.

Rabbi's Message (continued)

chillingly unfortunate ways, this response reveals a longstanding and deep-seated disconnect, because the fact is, the attack of March 29 really is our country. Not that American ideals are racist, because surely they're not, but reality suggests that the Land of the Free doesn't always live up to the ideals we claim to hold so dear. Case in point: The Asian experience in America.

For those who are already well schooled in the history of Asian life in America, I hardly need to help you understand my angst over the way our nation has fallen short of our ideals in this arena over the past couple centuries. And for those like me who, until just recently, are lacking in awareness of the torrid American history of anti-Asian bigotry, I encourage you to spend some time learning about it. I don't pretend to be an expert, so I'm not the best person to ask for the most up-to-date scholarship on the subject, but even a simple perusal of the Asian American History Timeline, as compiled by the Center for Educational Telecommunications (<http://www.cetel.org/timeline.html>), will be enough to leave you gobsmacked if you've never been exposed to these historical details before.

Whether it's the:

- **1854** decision, *People v. Hall*, (<https://immigrationhistory.org/item/people-v-hall/>), which ruled that people of Chinese descent could not give testimony in court against white individuals;
- **1878** decision, *In re Ah Yup* (<http://smithsonianapa.org/now/this-month-in-history-in-re-ah-yup-rules-chinese-ineligible-for-naturalized-citizenship-on-april-29-1878/>), which ruled that people of Asian descent were ineligible for naturalized citizenship;
- **1889** decision, *Chae Chan Ping v. U.S.* (<https://immigrationtounitedstates.org/409-chaeechanping-v-united-states.html>) that upheld the constitutionality of Chinese exclusion laws;
- **1922** Cable Act (<https://immigrationhistory.org/item/cable-act/>), which affirmed that any American female citizen married to "an alien ineligible to citizenship" (which was interpreted especially to refer to men of Asian descent) would forfeit her own citizenship;
- or President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's **1942** Executive Order 9066 (<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5154#:~:text=Authorizes%20Japanese%20Relocation-,Executive%20Order%209066%3A%20The%20President%20Authorizes%20Japanese%20Relocation,and%20resident%20aliens%20from%20Japan>), which authorized forced Japanese relocation – arguably the single worst episode of all within the entire history of American anti-Asian discrimination . . .

it can hardly be denied that our country has, time after time, fallen well short of our professed ideals when it comes to our treatment of the vast and diverse Asian community within our borders. And even though the examples of discrimination listed above have all been reversed in our codes of law, Asian Americans continue to suffer discrimination at an alarming rate. While federal statistics for 2020 have not yet been released, 2019 was already showing a dramatic increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. The fact that Covid-19 originated in China has only added fuel to the fire.

It's time for this to stop.

(continued on next page)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

I don't pretend to have a simple solution, but I do know that having just spent the holiday of Passover expressing our gratitude to God for the freedoms we enjoy today, and that anticipating the pangs of sorrow we are about to feel on *Yom HaShoah* (April 8), we Jews understand what it's like to be the target of bigoted hatred, and we also know what it's like to be on the beneficiaries of divine redemption.

So, again, I don't pretend to have a simple solution, but I do know with every fiber of my experience that every human being is created *B'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God. And for that reason, every human being is entitled to be treated with the same basic humanity as every other human being.

The America in which we are living, one that has failed time after time to live up to its noble ideals, desperately needs our help. None of us can solve the centuries-long scourge of anti-Asian bigotry in America entirely on our own, but neither will the scourge be alleviated so long as we stay silent. So if we truly love America, as I certainly do, our only choice at this point is to speak up, do something, and work to build a bridge, no matter how small. Our national soul depends on it.

לֹא עָלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לְגַמֵּר, וְלֹא אַתָּה בֶּן חוֹרִין לְבָטֵל מִמֶּנָּה.

Lo alecha ham'lachah ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin libateil mimenah.

It is not your obligation to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it

— Pirkei Avot 2:16

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

I am a huge baseball fan, and I always look forward to opening day of the season. This year is no different. Fans are being allowed into ballparks at a much-reduced volume, and I sincerely hope that this will be done safely. I plan to attend my first live game on Monday, April 5th, providing I can get a negative Covid test that day that the Yankees will accept. The reason that I am extra-excited this year is that this is the first sign in my life that things are turning towards the normal. I received my second dose of vaccine today (April Fool's Day), and I look forward to being able to participate and host events with my temple family.

In my mind, I am targeting an event for late June to celebrate Edythe Herson's 100th birthday. (This may still be a virtual event.)

We also cancelled a celebration last year to honor my wife Iris, for all the contributions she has made to our temple over our 27-year membership. I would like to be able to have that celebration this summer as well.

We are beginning to think about how we can hold in-person services at the temple. We will continue to hold Zoom services, even when we return to live services. We have seen that there is a need for people who cannot make it to Washington on a Friday evening to enjoy services with us. We will be working on upgrading our audio-visual systems this spring/summer to be able to give a better experience for those who cannot join us in person.

Enjoy the spring, enjoy your family, lean on us when you need to and

I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO HUGGING ANYONE WHO NEEDS A HUG.

Love, Howie

Updates & Events

ZOOM LESSONS

If you would like to learn how to use ZOOM, Howie is willing to help you get familiar with this technology.

Please contact him at jcnwjprez@gmail.com or call him at 908-295-0073 to set up a time for assistance.

FOOD DRIVE

During this time when our building is closed, we encourage members to donate to relief organizations and food pantries online. We will resume collecting food at the JCNWJ after we reopen.

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

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study is nearing the end of Deuteronomy, with just the final two chapters to complete. The next meeting will be on April 17, where we will read and discuss Deuteronomy 33. Please join us via Zoom.

Upcoming dates for Torah Study:

- April 17
- May 15
- June 19

All meetings start at 10:30 a.m.

-Sharon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Sunday School continues online. Check the WhatsApp for the latest updates and schedule.

Updates & Events

DONATIONS

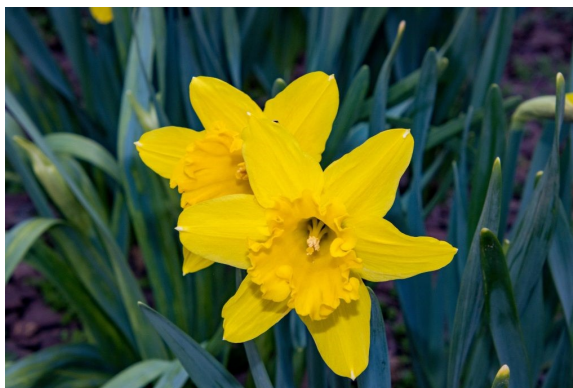
In Memory of Lonnie Bier
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

On the Yahrzeit of Harry Seigel
- Rhonda Jordan

On the Yahrzeit of Gertrude Weil
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

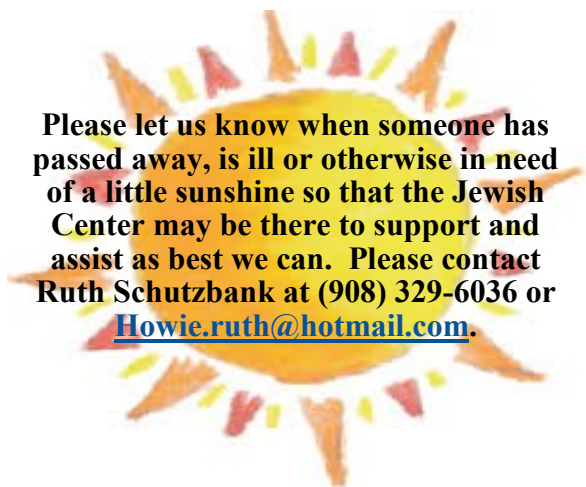
On the Yahrzeit of Rose Schutzbank
- Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

Daffodils in bloom:



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.



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.