

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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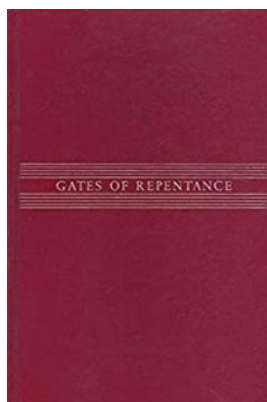
Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

When we gather together on Monday night over Zoom to celebrate Rosh HaShanah, we will be reading, as we do every year, from the beautifully compiled Machzor (Machzor is the Hebrew word for “High Holidays prayer book”), Gates of Repentance (*Sha'arei Teshuvah* in Hebrew).

One of the things that makes this such a remarkable *Machzor* is that even while it clearly is the product of 20th-century minds, there can be no doubt that it stands on the foundation of centuries of Jewish tradition. One of the ancient themes that beats strong throughout the entire Machzor, of course, is that of repentance, or *teshuvah* in Hebrew. While this may come as no surprise, since repentance is perhaps the single most identifying theme defining the holidays (to the point where we call the days between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur the “Ten Days of Repentance”), what you may or may not know is that even the name, “Gates of Repentance” dates back almost a millennium.

(continued on next page)



Calendar of Events

All High Holy Day services will be virtual on Zoom once again this year.

Monday, September 6

7:30pm: Rosh Hashanah Evening Service

Tuesday, September 7

9:30am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

Wednesday, September 8

12:00pm: Rosh Hashanah Second Day Seder

Saturday, September 11

10:30am: Torah Study

Wednesday, September 15

7:30pm: Kol Nidre Service

Thursday, September 16

9:30am: Yom Kippur Morning Service

Yizkor following

3:30pm: Torah Study

5:00pm: Yom Kippur Afternoon/Neilah

Sunday, September 19

9:30am: Sunday School

Monday, September 20

7:00pm: Board Meeting

Calendar Continues on Page 4

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

Though we're not sure as to when exactly he was born, we do know that 1264 C.E. was the year when Spanish Rabbi Yonah ben Avraham Gerondi passed away. During his lifetime, Rabbi Yonah is known to have written a great deal, but much of his work has been lost to history. That which does remain is largely related to the themes of ethics and repentance. Chief among his extant works is a masterpiece called Gates of Repentance (*Sha'arei Teshuvah*) the exact name adopted for our 20th-century Machzor.

Over the course of his book, Rabbi Yonah leads the reader through four gates, the first of which exposes a step-by-step journey that repentants must travel to find *teshuvah*. The second gate describes a handful of scenarios that might lead someone to seek *teshuvah*. The third gate describes ten types of commandments that the repentant must follow in order to show proper deference to God, and the fourth gate expounds on the concept of Divine forgiveness.

As we stand ready to enter the Ten Days of Repentance with open hearts and eager souls, I invite you to review Rabbi Yonah's prescribed path for us to take as we seek to do *teshuvah* now and in the future:¹

- regretting/acknowledging the sin;
- forsaking the sin (see below);
- worrying about the future consequences of the sin;
- acting and speaking with humility;
- acting in a way opposite to that of the sin (for example, for the sin of lying, one should speak the truth);
- understanding the magnitude of the sin;
- refraining from lesser sins for the purpose of safeguarding oneself against committing greater sins;
- confessing the sin;
- praying for atonement;
- correcting the sin however possible (for example, if one stole an object, the stolen item must be returned; or, if one slanders another, the slanderer must ask the injured party for forgiveness);
- pursuing works of *chesed* (lovingkindness) and truth;
- remembering the sin for the rest of one's life;
- refraining from committing the same sin if the opportunity presents itself again;
- teaching others not to sin.

I look forward to seeing you on Zoom for our holiday services.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good year,

Rabbi Dubin

¹Rather than write my own summary of Rabbi Yonah's prescribed path to *teshuvah*, I offer you a well-prepared list that I found on the web. Unfortunately, there is no attribution where I found it, and since this exact list appears on many different sites, my obvious conclusion is that it was written by someone somewhere and then simply re-used without attribution time after time. That said, I still believe it sums up Rabbi Yonah's path well and efficiently.

President's Message

Déjà vu all over again

As I sit and ponder how the High Holidays will look this year, I have many mixed feelings about being totally on Zoom again this year. I was SO looking forward to seeing everyone at the holidays and being able to give every one of you a great big hug. I would say more than anything over the last 18 months, the lack of hugging has made me sad.

The leaders of this congregation — the Board of Trustees and I — decided at our last meeting that we in Warren County are not ready to fill the sanctuary and have people singing. COVID is still around and even folks who have been vaccinated have the potential to come down with the disease, although not as severely as unvaccinated people. We had an indoor service attended by about 15 people and the instructions were “no singing”; only the Rabbi was allowed to sing, and we were all wearing masks.

I had varied emotions at this service. I was overjoyed to be able to greet and talk with my fellow congregants in person and to share a meal with them. We were able to keep my granddaughter, Abigail, from hitting the crash cymbal with a cabinet leg, but that made her very unhappy. BUT, and the biggest issue for me was not to be able to sing. When I am in temple, the main way I pray is to sing along with the Rabbi and/or Cantor. Without being able to do that, I felt like I was not able to participate in the service and it left me with an empty feeling for this type of service.

When we get back to our normal services in late September, my current thoughts are we will be able to go back to the sanctuary, as our normal attendance is around 25-30 people a night, and we should be able to keep everyone safe with numbers even higher than that.

I am very excited to listen to our new student cantor from Hebrew Union College this year, who will be taking over for Rayn.

We are hopeful that this year's services will run smoothly, and that you will be happy with the Zoom service.

L'Shanah Tovah and with much love,
Howie

Updates & Events

Calendar of Events (continued)

Friday, September 24

7:30pm: Shabbat Service—Sukkot

Saturday, September 25

10:00am: Bat Mitzvah

Sunday, September 26

9:30am: Sunday School

Friday, October 1

7:30pm: Shabbat Service—Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 3

9:30am: Sunday School

Watch your e-mail for information about whether events will be in-person or on Zoom.

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

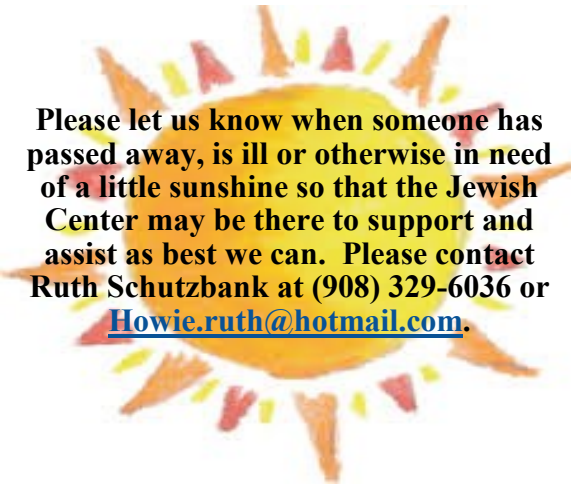
PERSON OF THE WEEK

Sandy Polsky was recently profiled as the "Person of the Week" on InsideWarren.com. The article explores her life in Warren County and her writing and artwork.

The entire article can be found online at <https://www.insidewarren.com/the-writers-retreat/>

Congratulations to Sandy on being honored.

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.

FOOD DRIVE

Although we are not collecting food at the Temple this year, we encourage all members to give to charities helping those in need.

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Dear Temple Family,

Christine Miller, MSW from Family Guidance Center of Warren County will be leading a training session for us on October 13th, at the Jewish Center. She is a Suicide Prevention Educator.

Rabbi Dubin has made mental health awareness important within our community, and this training will continue to raise awareness.

Please RSVP (yes only) to Gerri Klein, gerriruthklein@gmail.com as soon as possible. We want to give Christine time to prepare for the number of people that will be attending. The session will be about 2 hours and will include role play.

We have flexibility in the timing so please let me know if morning or afternoon is better and we will go with the majority.

For those of you who would prefer to join by Zoom, we will provide a link.

Thank you!
Gerri

TORAH STUDY

Torah Study—September 11: Book of Joshua

We all know the song “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,” but have we ever seriously considered why this song was so meaningful and important to African-Americans, and whether the details of the song are accurate according to the Book of Joshua? And what is the Book of Joshua anyway? What light does it shed upon the early history of the Israelites and their conquest of the Holy Land? When was it written? How do historians, archaeologists, and rabbis view its contents? Does this book have any lessons for us with respect to modern Israel? These are some of the questions we will be considering in the coming months of Torah study as we focus on the Book of Joshua, the sixth book of the Torah and the first book of Nevi'im, or Prophets.

We will continue our exploration of Joshua on Saturday morning, September 11, at 10:30. Those who would like to meet in person are invited to the home of Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles (email rsvp for directions), where we will sit outdoors in our screened-in porch, fan whirring and free from bugs. Those who prefer to meet via zoom should use the link sent out by our president earlier that week.

You may choose to read the text ahead of time. HOWEVER, if you are unable to read the text before the meeting and have interest in the subject, please come anyway! Rabbi Dubin will be part of the group, as he has been—a wonderful addition—for the past year and a half.

Updates & Events

SISTERHOOD

Tentative Meeting Schedule - Temple simcha room, unless otherwise specified, starting at 10:00 am:

September 19 - Opening Day Sunday School - no sisterhood event, come visit if you want

October 17 - First meeting of the year

November 14 - Meeting

December 5 - Hanukkah party at Suzi's / time TBD

January 23 - Meeting

February 13 at 12:00 noon / Paint 'n Sip Fundraising Party

March 13 Meeting & Mishloach Manot assembly

April 9 or 30 Fundraising Swap Party

May 15 or 22 Mother's Day Tea

June - Skip

July - Pool Party at Beth's / date TBD

Meetings will begin at 10:00 am, allowing the first 15 minutes for us to catch up & reconnect while also enjoying breakfast. Meetings will officially commence at 10:15 am. Please come to share your ideas!

Please like us on FB at "JCNWJ members only" page for updates and/or add "WhatsApp" to your smart phone to get current updates. We look forward to seeing many of you on October 17th!

Annual dues are \$18.00. Please make check payable to JCNWJ Sisterhood and bring to first meeting, or mail (preferably by October 1st) to:

Ruth Schutzbank
JCNWJ Sisterhood Treasurer
25 Stewartsville Rd
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

If Sisterhood dues are a barrier to membership please contact Ruth Schutzbank at 908-329-6036 to make alternate arrangements.

If you have any questions, please call: Suzi 908-343-1135

Warmest regards,
Suzi Marr & Beth Lappin
JCNWJ Sisterhood Co-Chairs

High Holiday Greetings

Shanah Tovah; hoping to see you all in person soon! from Edythe

To the Congregation, and clergy of the JCNWJ from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

Wishing Everyone at the JCNWJ a happy and healthy New Year. L'Shanah Tovah from the Gross family.

L'Shanah Tovah from Risa and Al Smith.

To our JCNWJ Family: L'Shanah Tovah. Love Robin and Colson

To the Congregation from the Marinich family.

To All Temple Members from Jerry and Rita Berkowitz.

To The Congregation from Rhonda Jordan.

L'Shanah Tovah from the Webb Family.

L'Shanah Tovah to everyone from Ed, Roseann and Sarah Weinstein.

L'Shanah Tovah from Bauer Family.

To the Congregation and Rabbi from The Garner/Post Family.

Happy New Year greetings to the Congregation from Helen and John Mattson, Jennifer, Mike and Lochlan.

L'Shanah Tovah from the Schutzbank family.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to the congregation from the Hirsch family.

To our temple family from Beth and Hal Lappin.

To the Lappins from Lee Glass.

To the Congregation from Lee Glass.

To my friends in the congregation with love from Rabbi Ellen Lewis.

To the Congregation from Adam Tucker.

L'Shanah Tovah from Ginger and Jerry Nathanson.

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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.