

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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

(908) 689-0762

[www.jcnwj.org](http://www.jcnwj.org)

Facebook: JCNWJ

October 2021

Vol: XLVII Issue: 3



## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

For almost 19 months now, we've been ever-vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. For almost 19 months now, we've been holding our breath, worrying about our loved-ones' health and safety. For almost 19 months now, we've been firing on all cylinders, reinventing our Jewish wheels so as to make them roll effortlessly across the Zoom screen. Suffice it to say, that for almost 19 months now we've been living in a constant state of tension, bracing ourselves for potential disaster until this deadly virus is finally gone, once and for all. And, in the process, we've worked ourselves into a state of exhaustion. It's time we take a moment to rest – not from keeping ourselves safe, but from exerting so much energy worrying about it all, because we can hold our breath for only so long. It's time to rest. We need that. We deserve that.

We are on the cusp of concluding the jam-packed month of Tishrei, during which we've celebrated the birthday of the world, atoned for our sins, expressed gratitude for the harvest, and celebrated the splendor of Torah. Four distinct holidays – each one an absolute gem, but with practically no rest in between. Speaking for myself, during the month of Tishrei, I feel as if I'm the ball in a game of Jewish pinball, ricocheting from one sacred holiday to the next to the next to the next. Even in normal times, by the end of this month, I'm ready for a break. So this year, when we add COVID to the mix, the only way to describe how I feel is "utterly spent." I've given what I can, and unless I take a moment to regroup, I'll be of no use to anyone.

(continued on next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday: October 10**

9:30am: Sunday School

11:00am: Adult Ed—Reading Hebrew

### **Wednesday, October 13**

1:00pm: Suicide Prevention Presentation/  
Training (see Pg. 5)

### **Sunday: October 17**

9:30am: Sunday School

10:00am: Sisterhood

12:05pm: Adult Ed—Reading Hebrew

### **Friday, October 22**

6:00pm: Shabbat Evening—Family Service

### **Saturday, October 23**

12:00pm: Reclaiming Women's Voices  
through *The Torah: A Women's  
Commentary* (online—see Pg. 7)

### **Sunday, October 24**

9:30am: Sunday School

11:00am: Adult Ed—Reading Hebrew

### **Saturday, October 30**

10:30am: Torah Study (on Zoom)

### **Sunday, October 31**

9:30am: Sunday School

11:00am: Adult Ed—Reading Hebrew

Most events will also have a Zoom option,  
which will be sent out by email.

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

Fortunately, the Jewish calendar seems to understand, which is why on Tuesday, October 5, the month of Cheshvan will begin at sunset. Why is this such a life-saver? Because Cheshvan is the one month of the entire year in which we do not celebrate a single holiday other than Shabbat, the day of rest. Cheshvan is our opportunity to take a step back, take a breath, and prepare ourselves to move forward in good health.

At Simchat Torah, we read about the seven days of Creation. It's an interesting story for so many reasons, but this year, as I feel myself aching from exhaustion, the central question that I find needs to be asked and considered is, "Did God create the world in six days and then rest on the seventh? Or did God create the world in seven days?"

This is no frivolous question, especially this year, because the answer has profound theological bearing on my state of exhaustion this year. As one who feels commanded to walk in the ways of God, it matters whether Creation includes the day of rest, or whether the seventh day is discrete from the first six.

As I ponder the question, I find myself thinking about my cell phone. Like most of you, I plug it in to charge every night, because were I to just let it sit on my night table unplugged overnight, it would be of no use to me the next day; the charge would be gone and the phone inoperable. By concluding my days of heavy phone usage by making sure the electricity will be coursing through it during those hours when I'm asleep, however, I ensure it will be fully charged when I wake up, ready to be of full service.

The same, I would say, can be said of the Seven days of Creation. Though "all" God does is rest on that seventh day, there is nothing static about it. So too with us. The seventh day of Shabbat is provided to us so that we can recharge our own batteries, in order to ensure that when the first day of the week comes, we'll be re-energized and ready to go once again. There is nothing inactive about the seventh day of rest. It is every bit as necessary to the act of Creation (and the "re-Creation" that we endeavor to achieve each week) as the first six, which is why I side with those who argue that rather than creating for six days and resting on the seventh, God took the entire seven days to create the world.

So as you move forward, feeling exhausted, please understand that rest is not only a human need, it's also an opportunity for us to walk in God's ways of Creation. Typically, we take one day each week to recharge ourselves, but at this time of year, we are blessed with an entire month of rest. Please remember, however, this does not mean we unplug and do nothing for all 29 days of the month. Rather, we take the active step of plugging in. And we do so by allowing ourselves the opportunity to enjoy that which invigorates us, whether it be spending extra time with friends and family, finally getting to that book that's been sitting on our bedside table for months, pursuing the hobbies we love, or anything else that will leave us fully ready to be our best selves by the end of the month. No matter what method of recharging works best for you, however, I hope you will also remember that we at the JCNWJ will continue gathering for Shabbat, for Hebrew School, for Sisterhood, and for everything else we do. We look forward to seeing you at these times so we can help recharge each other, together.

*L'Shalom,*

*Rabbi Dubin*

## President's Message

I am writing my message after attending the Bat Mitzvah of Faye Fletcher, which was held outdoors in Ringoes this past weekend. I also was able to have dinner in the Sukkah on Friday night with Adam, Shira, and our new Student Cantor Shayna Burack, who I hope you all were able to see on Zoom over the High Holidays. Having our Shabbat service outdoors on Friday night was wonderful. There were things that we just did not do on Zoom, and I found out that I truly missed them. One of these was the long Shabbat prayer over the wine that we used to sing before Oneg Shabbat. We sang that prayer with much joy, as I had not heard that prayer since the pandemic started, and it warmed my heart.

We also got to witness the Royce shake as he remembered how to shake the lulav with his own added twist at the end. I hope that some of you were able to enjoy a meal in the Sukkah this past week. I know I have.

The more we Zoom our service, the more I long for in person services. Zoom is an acceptable substitute for me, and a godsend to all who can't make it to services on a given night. And I have been a champion of Zoom since the pandemic started. But I miss people. I miss chatting and laughing and hearing multiple voices singing the prayers. For me, it is just not the same, and the more I attend services in person, the more I want to be at more services in person.

We are taking baby steps to get back to life as it was before the pandemic began, but we are doing it very slowly and deliberately, to not scare you from coming to services.

Have a wonderful October and you will hear from me again next month, G-d willing.

Love Howie

## 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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).**

# Updates & Events

## FOOD DRIVE

Although we are not collecting food at the Temple right now, 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

## PERSON OF THE WEEK

Matt Polsky was recently profiled as the "Person of the Week" on InsideWarren.com. The article explores his study and work in sustainability.

The entire article can be found online at <https://www.insidewarren.com/matt-polskys-search-for-a-better-world-never-ends/>

Congratulations to Matt on being honored.

### JCNWJ ADULT EDUCATION

### HEBREW READING & TORAH CANTILLATION

#### READING HEBREW

TAUGHT BY RABBI DUBIN

STUDENTS WILL LEARN TO READ THE HEBREW ALEPH-BET.

NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE IS REQUIRED.

OCTOBER 10, 17\*, 24, 31

#### SHABBAT IN HEBREW

TAUGHT BY RABBI DUBIN

STUDENTS WILL LEARN THE FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE IN HEBREW.

ABILITY TO READ HEBREW LETTERS IS A PREREQUISITE.

NOVEMBER 14\*, 28; DEC 12, JAN 9, 23, 30; FEB 6, 20



Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

#### TORAH CANTILLATION

TAUGHT BY STUDENT CANTOR SHAYNA BURACK

STUDENTS WILL LEARN THE ART OF CHANTING TORAH.

ABILITY TO READ HEBREW LETTERS IS A PREREQUISITE.

NOV 7, 21; DEC 5, 19; JAN 30; FEB 13, 27; MAR 20

Sunday Mornings  
11:00-11:55

\*(10/17 & 11/14 will be after Sisterhood, from 12:05 - 1:00)

Every session will include a Zoom option.



zoom

CHOOSE 1, 2, OR ALL 3 CLASSES!

# 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](mailto: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.

The program will begin at 1:00pm.

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

Thank you!  
Gerri

## TORAH STUDY

Torah Study—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 Zoom, on Saturday, October 30, at 10:30 am.

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.

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

To my JCNWJ family from Gerri Klein

# Updates & Events

## SISTERHOOD

First Sisterhood Meeting of year will be Sunday 10/17 starting at 10am. Coffee & food will be served. We will catch up, do some planning & review the calendar for the year. Beth, Ruth, Rita and I cant wait to see everyone with or without masks!

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

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 Stewartville Rd  
Stewartville, 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



# Updates & Events



**Or Ami** congregation  
you're home

Reclaiming Women's  
Voices through  
*The Torah: A Women's  
Commentary*

Saturday, October 23  
9:00-10:30 am PDT  
online and in person

with  
**Rabbi Andrea  
L. Weiss, Ph.D.**  
Provost, Hebrew Union College -  
Jewish Institute of Religion  
Co-editor, *Torah: A Women's Commentary*



REGISTRATION AND MORE INFO AT: [ORAMI.ORG/RSVP](https://orami.org/RSVP)

**CO-SPONSORS**



Registration at:

<https://orami.org/RSVP>

<https://congregationorami.shulcloud.com/event/torah-study-with-rabbi-andrea-weiss-october-2021>

# 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](http://www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com)

**CENTENARY  
STAGE  
COMPANY**

908.979.0900 • [CENTENARYSTAGECO.ORG](http://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](mailto:berk721@aol.com)) or Ruth Schutzbank ([Howie.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto: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.