

President's Message November 2021

Iris received an email this week that Temple Hatikva in Flanders is being sold to the Chabad. They have been losing members and have not been able to keep up their temple.

This is a warning shot to the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey.

While we are financially stable, our membership has been dwindling and our congregation is aging. We only have a few students in Sunday School, and we need to attract more members and younger families. We are trying new things as a board to try and address these issues, but it is hard finding Jewish families where we live who want to be part of a religious organization. I remember a past president, YES THERE WERE PRESIDENTS BEFORE ME, whose main goal was to not have the temple die on their term. I have been working tirelessly to keep this congregation afloat for the better part of 20 years, and we need help from the congregation.

Please reach out to any Jewish families you know who might be interested. We can make financial arrangements to assist new families. We would love to see your grandchildren in Sunday School to enhance their Jewish education and to let the students already there know that there are other Jewish children they can talk to and discuss things with and just hang out and have fun with.

I do get scared that I don't know how long we can keep going without something changing, and I would like your help. Please let's keep a Jewish presence in Warren County for the next generation of Jewish families. This temple was here before I came here, and it gave me the opportunity to see my children have their B'nai Mitzvah's here as well as my wife and her group of "The Bats" (pronounced bots) who still have regular dinners ten years after their B'not Mitzvah.

Please contact me with ANY IDEAS you may have on how to attract new members and younger families.

Love to you all,
Howie