

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

It may be hard to believe, but in just about six weeks from now, *Rosh HaShanah* will be upon us! Of course all final decisions will be made based entirely by medical data closer to the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, but things are looking very promising as of now that finally, after three long years, we will once again this gather in our sanctuary as an in-person (and virtually also for those who still prefer to keep their distance) community to pray the High Holiday! The anticipation is, indeed, very high! Before we get there, though, before *Rosh HaShanah* arrives, comes the all-important preparatory month of Elul, which begins this year on the evening of August 26.

As I imagine you are aware already, it is during the ten days between *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* that we engage in the intensive process of *Cheshbon haNefesh* (a thorough “self-accounting” of our deeds) in order to be able to seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. While this process is indeed both laudable and critical, we would be foolish to assume that 10 days could

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## Calendar of Events

### **Saturday, August 13**

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

### **Friday, September 9**

7:30pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Saturday, September 10**

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

### **Sunday, September 11**

9:30am: Sunday School

10:00am: Sisterhood

### **Monday, September 12**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Friday, September 16**

7:30pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Sunday, September 18**

9:30am: Sunday School

11:00am: Temple Cleanup

### **Sunday, September 25**

9:30am: Sunday School

7:30pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah

### **Monday, September 26**

9:30am: Rosh Hashanah Service

### **Tuesday, September 27**

10:00am: Rosh Hashanah Service

**Note: Most in-person events will also be available virtually on Zoom.**

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

possibly be a long enough period of time to conduct the process in even a remotely thorough fashion. Fortunately, tradition accounts for this challenge, which is where the month of Elul comes in.

It is during Elul that we first dip our toes into the water, easing and preparing our way into the process of reflection and atonement. Or, to put it another way, in the words of the Maharal of Prague: “*For the entire month of Elul, before eating and sleeping, a person should look into their soul and search their deeds, that they may confess.*”

To aid in this process, tradition offers a number of traditions to inspire and guide us along the way. For example:

- Though it is common knowledge that we sound the shofar on *Rosh HaShanah* to wake us up to the necessities that await, it is actually during the month of Elul that we begin every day (other than Shabbat) with a blast of the horn to awaken our desire for self-improvement.
- Elul is a particularly popular time for Jews to visit family cemeteries, so as to be inspired by the merits of their deceased loved ones.
- It is customary to increase our level of *tzedaka* offerings. Tradition teaches that by doing so, we bring added protection not only to ourselves, but to the entire Jewish people, too. Also on the topic of continued protection, similar to the way many of us might check the batteries of our home smoke-detectors when we adjust our clocks for Daylight Savings, so too is it customary during Elul for Jews to check the parchment inside their *mezuzot* to make sure no damage has come to them that would render them no longer kosher.
- While it tradition teaches that God is never truly cut off from the true seeker, all the same, during the month of Elul, God is considered to be particularly accessible and eager to see us make amends with our fellow human beings.
- It is customary to say additional prayers of repentance in preparation for the atonement process of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*. These prayers are called *selichot* (which means

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)

“apologies” in Hebrew). Sepharadi communities include these additional prayers for the entire month of Elul, while Ashkenazi communities wait until the Saturday night immediately preceding *Rosh HaShanah* to begin.

- And finally (even though this is hardly an exhaustive list), it is on the first day of Elul that we typically begin signing our letters and emails with words of encouragement for a good new year. Common phrases are:

“*Shanah tovah*” (שנה טובה) “[Have a] good [new] year.”

“*Shanah tovah u'metukah*” (שנה טובה ומתוקה) “[Have a] good and sweet New Year.”

“*Ketivah v'chatima tovah*” (כתיבה וחתימה טובה) “[May you receive] a good inscription and sealing [in the Book of Life].”

“*Leshana tovah tikatev v'tichatem*” (לשנה טובה תכתב ותחתם) “May you be written and sealed for a good new year.”

So, as we look forward to gathering for *Rosh Hashanah* on the evening of Saturday, September 25, let us all make good use of the preparatory month of Elul, which begins on the evening of Friday, August 26.

And finally, though it may be a bit premature for me to sign off this way . . .

“*Shanah tovah*” (שנה טובה) to All!

Rabbi Dubin

## President's Message

Hatikva – The Hope

One of my favorite Jewish songs to sing is Hatikva, the National anthem of Israel, When I sing it as a non-Israeli, I still fill with pride for what the Jewish people have been able to accomplish in my lifetime. When I hear this song, my mind almost always goes back to the movie *Casablanca*, When Victor Laszlo comes into Ricks and in seeing the occupational force in the saloon, instructs Sam the piano player to play *Les Marseillaise* (thank you Google for getting the spelling right). It is a powerful scene of standing up for what you believe in and what is worth fighting for and risking your life for.

So what does that have to do with my message this month?

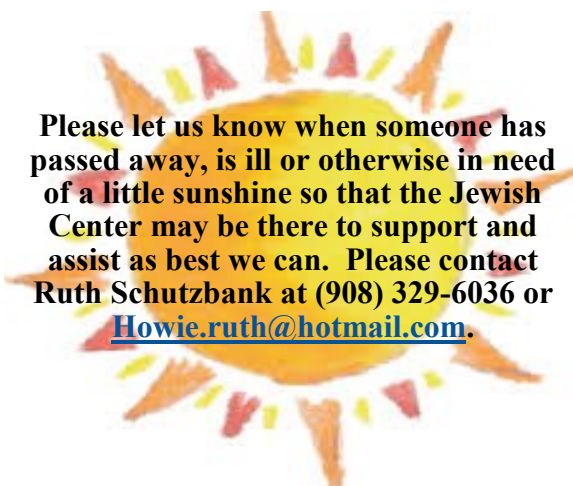
My hope is that for our High Holiday services this year, that we are back at the synagogue in person. We have not had an in-person High Holiday service in 3 years and I miss all the people that I normally see on the High Holidays. I HOPE that I am not being too optimistic, and I know that some of you will still be joining us on Zoom, but I for one am excited to be back in the synagogue.

The Yahrzeit request is included in this newsletter, in case you did you receive the temple email. Please make sure you get us your names by September 1st, so I have time to make sure the presentation is ready for Yom Kippur.

I HOPE you have had a healthy summer and I look forward to seeing YOU in September.

With much 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).**

# High Holidays Update

In 2022, Erev Rosh Hashanah 5783 is Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> and Kol Nidre is Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

(Note that starting time for these evening services is now 7:30 p.m.) As our thoughts turn to the coming of the New Year, several items that contribute to our observances need to be acted upon.

## I. FLOWER FUND

It has been our congregation's custom to set aside a special fund for the purchase of fresh flowers for the *bima* on the High Holy Days. A donation in any amount is greatly appreciated and can be indicated on the accompanying form.

## II. GREETINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Instead of sending greeting cards to one another, it has been our congregation's custom to send New Year's greetings through our newsletter, *The Journal*. Let's continue this "inreach" to each other in 5783! The cost is \$5.00 per greeting, and each will be printed in either the September or October issue. A typical greeting might be:

*L'Shanah Tovah* from the \_\_\_\_\_ Family

Please write your greeting(s) on the accompanying form. These funds are earmarked for gift baskets to members who are ill.

## III. YISKOR LIST

This is the **ONLY** opportunity you will have to submit the names of family members and friends whom you wish to have included in the Yiskor service on Yom Kippur. You may submit as many names as you wish. The cost is \$5.00 per name for each of the first five names, then \$1.00 per name for any additional names (e.g., 6 names = \$26.00).

Please list the names on the accompanying form.

Please email photos of anyone on your list to be included in the Yizkor ceremony to Howie at [jcnwjprez@gmail.com](mailto:jcnwjprez@gmail.com). If you can not do that, you can mail or drop off the photos and I can scan them for you. If you have submitted pictures in the past and would like me to use the same pictures, I have them already and they are in the scroll of names.

## IV. FOOD DRIVE

Keep in mind the JCNWJ sponsors a food drive in conjunction with the High Holy Days.

Start putting aside non-perishable items now (no matzah, please). Paper goods and toiletries are appreciated. Bring them to the Center during the period from Erev Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur.

### **Print and return the accompanying form by September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

We will not be able to accept any requests after that date.

Please write one check, payable to the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey (JCNWJ), and mail the form with your payment to

# High Holidays Update

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION - DUE September 1, 2022

Family \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to contribute to the **FLOWER FUND** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to send New Year **GREETINGS** (\$5 each)

To	From	\$
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

I/we wish to include these names on the **YISKOR LIST** [PLEASE PRINT]

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

\_\_\_ names @ \$5.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ names @ \$1.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Updates & Events

## DONATIONS

In memory of Philip Weinstein  
- Ed Weinstein

In memory of Neche Rachel Flekles  
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

In memory of Gloria Jacobs  
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

## YAHREZEITS

Theodore Columbus Jay, grandfather of Rabbi Lewis  
Leonard Moskowitz, father of Rene Marinich  
Marianne Flekles, family of Daniel Fleckles  
Abraham Melnick, father of Barbara Simons  
Lenore Marr, mother of Suzi Marr  
Philip Weinstein, father of Ed Weinstein

## TORAH STUDY

Torah Study started exploring the book of Judges at our June and July meetings, and will continue at our next meeting on August 13. The meeting will be on Zoom at 10:30am.

Anyone is welcome to join, and it is not necessary to read the text ahead of time. It is helpful to have a copy of the Tanakh (Bible) so that you can follow along. We appreciate Rabbi Dubin's continued participation and insights.

Please watch your email for the Zoom link.

## BUILDING UPDATE

Now that we are back to in person services and using the facilities, if you notice that something is running low and needs to be replaced (either in the bathrooms or kitchen), please let me know.

You can either call or email me at  
irishirsch@comcast.net or 908-850-1030.

Thank you.

Iris

## 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

# Updates & Events



## Join / Renew Your Membership

Its that time of year. Don't miss out on all the fun! Send your \$18 dues to:  
Ruth Schutzbank, 25 Stewartsville Rd, Stewartsville NJ 08886

First meeting Sunday September 11th at 10am. We will discuss/ plan 2022-23 calendar.

Please come with your ideas and bring unopened toiletry item(s) to donate to one of the two Washington Borough Food pantries to benefit local women and children in need.

Light breakfast will be served!

Suzi  
908.343.1135



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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](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.