

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

September 2022

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## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Proverbs 22:6 claims: "Teach a child in the way to go, and even when they are old, they will not depart from it."

It has a nice ring to it. Surely, I would not be the man I am today had I not been influenced by the environment of learning and kindness my parents created for me. And I like to think that the kind-heartedness of my own children has at least something to do with the home in which they grew up, as well.

All the same, knowledge and values are much like our muscles, which tend to lose their strength over time unless exercised. Unfortunately, as I look at the general world of American Jewish education, I fear that while childhood education has grown only better and better over the years, the average Jewish adult has not fared quite so well.

Unfortunately, even though most Jewish adults I know have indeed maintained their ongoing relationship with, and commitment to, core Jewish values like kindness, generosity, caring, respect, etc., for too many of us (in my opinion), this is all that Judaism is to them: a noble set of universalistic values, with scant attention paid to the modes of Jewish thought and expression that lead us to those values, nor to the larger Jewish community that have kept those values alive throughout the ages. And because of this, I am concerned that richness that is Judaism may well run

(continued on next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Friday, September 16**

7:30pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Sunday, September 18**

9:30am: Sunday School

9:30am: Temple Cleanup

### **Sunday, September 25**

7:30pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah

### **Monday, September 26**

9:30am: Rosh Hashanah Service

Taschlich following service

### **Tuesday, September 27**

10:00am: Rosh Hashanah Service

Lunch following service

### **Tuesday, October 4**

7:30pm: Kol Nidre Service

### **Wednesday, October 5**

9:30am: Yom Kippur Morning Service

3:00pm: Torah Study

4:00pm: Afternoon and Neilah Service

Break fast following service

**Yoga Dates:** 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

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

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

the risk of stagnating in adulthood at the most basic of pediatric levels.

Now, speaking of pediatric Judaism, I am proud to know that our JCNWJ children have been thriving in so many ways as students of the Mike Wiener School of Jewish Learning. So what is it that makes their experience so successful? Certainly not our numbers. Most synagogues I know educate far more children than we do, which makes sense, because given the reality of demographics, most synagogues I know *have* far more children than we do. Still, though, I am tremendously proud of what Shira and Debbie ("Ms. Apsel") and Student Cantor Shayna and I have created, because our children appreciate how lucky they are to be Jewish. Yes, we care about teaching Jewish information and practice. Yes, it is important to us that they learn Hebrew. And yes, it is paramount that they become intimately familiar and comfortable with the Jewish prayer book. Of course, every time we celebrate another JCNWJ youngster being called to Torah as a *b'nei mitzvah*, it's easy to see just how thoroughly they have mastered the information we expect them to know. But if their entire Jewish education were simply about "performing" the prayers, chanting the Torah & Haftarah, and delivering a beautifully crafted speech on the one day we celebrate their becoming an adult in our Jewish community, clearly that would have been an abject failure, because the goal of Jewish learning can never be about a single day. Rather, at its best, Jewish education ought to excite and inspire students to exude pride in their heritage, an intimate connection with the Jewish People, and a keen interest in continuing to learn over time. With modesty, I believe we do that. How? **By making sure the learning is fun.** Which leads me to the actual point of what I am writing here...

I am excited to announce that the JCNWJ will be experimenting this year with a new program, called *Community b'Yachad*, which is Hebrish for "Community Together." In a nutshell, the question that our Hebrew School team began to discuss in the spring of 2022 is: How can we share the fun and community building that our children enjoy so much with the rest of our JCNWJ family? And how can we make use of the experience to build an even more connected community than we already have? After much discussion, we arrived at a terribly exciting answer:

There will be three different kinds of Hebrew School days this year: Some Sundays will be as they already are, with our children as the only students present. On other Sundays we will welcome JCNWJ adults as our only students. These days will become known as *Community b'Yachad*. And on still other Sundays, we will have multigenerational learning. These days will be called *Dor l'Dor*, which is Hebrew for "Generation to Generation." While all three of our Sunday School models will be educational in spirit, if we do our jobs correctly, our students (which we hope will include you!) will be having so much fun that they won't even realize how much they're learning (until after the fact, that is, when they look back on the experience)!

Each *Community b'Yachad* Sunday (unless otherwise instructed, which will be rare) will begin with a morning time schmooze at 9:30 (coffee provided) and adult level Jewish art projects. From there, we will move into a spirited song session with Debbie and Student Cantor Shayna (on the

(continued on next page)

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

weekends that Student Cantor Shayna is scheduled to be with us), during which we will learn some of the newer songs that have been introduced into our Shabbat worship over the past few years, sing some of our classic favorites, and even enjoy some of the standard folk songs out of the American songbook. Most importantly, we will have fun and enjoy each other's company.

After Music, we will then learn Hebrew and other Jewish studies with me and with Student Cantor Shayna when she is with us.

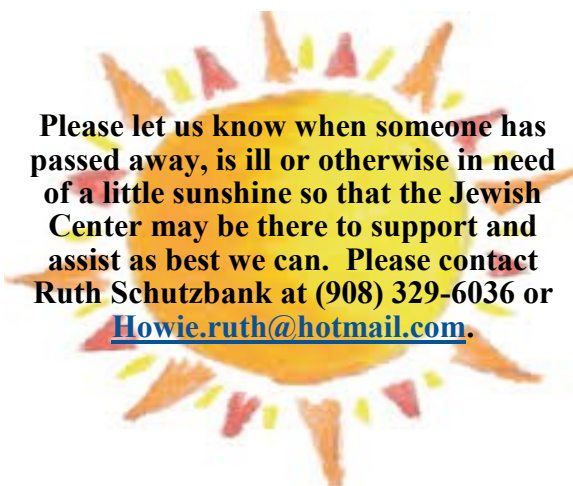
*Dor l'Dor* Sundays are open this year to students ranging from newborn to 101 (once we get a better handle on what we're doing, we'll expand that to include 102-year-olds next year). The schedule of activities will be similar to *Community b'Yachad* Sundays, but the activities will be intentionally intergenerational in order to continue strengthening the tight-knit community that we are. Please see Pg. 10 for a tentative schedule of activities we have planned for both *Community b'Yachad* and *Dor l'Dor*.

There is no need for Jewish education to cease in childhood. Nor is there any need for Jewish education to be anything other than fun and fascinating. We hope you will join us in this new endeavor of the Mike Weiner School of Jewish Learning.

Looking forward to seeing you all during *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*,

Rabbi Dubin

## 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).

## President's Message

I absolutely love the fall weather. I love the cooler days and chilly nights. I adore the fall colors.

Last year I went to Vermont to photograph the fall colors and after I did that, I traveled around our local area. The best picture I took last fall was of a pond on Mt. Bethel Road in Mansfield. I believe I was on either my way to temple or coming home, but I pass this pond every time I go, and I caught it at a perfect moment. I look for these moments in my life. I look for the beauty in our world. I look for the goodness in people. I especially love the wonderful congregation I have had the pleasure to lead for 17 of the last 21 years. I see the goodness in all of you.

The Rabbis have told us to treat each other as if the person next to you could be the Messiah. They may not be the Messiah, but to show them love, kindness and respect will make a huge difference in your life. I know it has made that difference in my life. We all know people who need reaching out to and may feel a little disconnected from us. I plan to make a resolution this year to make sure I keep in touch with as many of you as I can. To make sure that you know that the congregation is here and willing to help you if you need it. Also, please remember that it is not a sign of weakness to ask for a little help. Giving people the opportunity to assist you is actually performing as much of a mitzvah as helping someone out. Remember that, and if you need a little help or someone to talk to, Hineni, Here I am.

I look forward to seeing you at the High Holidays and I hope as many of you as are able will attend in person. And for those of you who can not attend in person, I hope to see you in ZOOM land.

L'Shanah Tovah  
With much love to all,  
Howie

# High Holidays

## SCHEDULE

### Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25 @ 7:30pm - Erev Rosh Hashanah service

Monday, September 26 @ 9:30am - Rosh Hashanah morning service, followed by Taschlich

Tuesday, September 27 @ 10:00am - Rosh Hashanah morning service, followed by lunch

### Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 4 @ 7:30pm - Kol Nidre service

Wednesday, October 5 @ 9:30am - Yom Kippur Morning service

Yizkor following morning service

3:00pm - Torah Study

4:00pm - Afternoon/Neilah Service and Break Fast

## HIGH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

L'Shanah Tovah and Shalom to Rabbi Dubin and Family, Rabbi Lewis and Family, Rabbi Zamore and Family, and to the JCNWJ Congregation from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah from the Smith Family

L'Shanah Tovah to Rabbi Dubin and our friends at the JCNWJ with love from Robin and Colson

L'Shanah Tovah to the Temple from Rene

L'Shanah Tovah to past, present, and future spelers from your dedicated director from Debbie

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

L'Shanah Tovah to all our temple friends from Howard & Ruth Schutzbank

L'Shanah Tovah, a Happy and Healthy New Year to the congregation from the Hirsch family

L'Shanah Tovah to my JCNWJ family with love from Gerri Klein

L'Shanah Tovah to the congregation from Lee Glass

L'Shanah Tovah to my friends at the JCNWJ from Rabbi Ellen Lewis

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from Fred and Rhonda Jordan

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

L'Shanah Tovah to the Congregation from Adam Tucker

L'Shanah Tovah wishing each of you a good & sweet New Year. Love, Suzi and Grace

L'Shanah Tovah and Greetings to all JCNWJ members and family, Rabbi Dubin and family, Howie and Iris Hirsch and family, Jennifer, Mike, and Lochlan McGraw from the Mattson family

# Updates & Events

## YAHREZEITS

Chas McGee Marr	father of Suzi Marr
Lenore Marr	mother of Suzi Marr
Beattie Felberbaum	grandmother of Howie Hirsch
Neché Rachel Flekles	relative of Daniel Flekles
Sophie Zaret	mother of Lois Goldberg
Joseph Goldstein	cousin of Mo Bauer
Mari Hall	mother of Colson Hall
Isaac Merein	grandfather of Stuart Goldberg
Arthur Bauer	father of Mo Bauer
Gloria Jacobs	aunt of Howie Hirsch
Melinda Skoller	sister-in-law of Lynne Kowski
Charlie Hall	father of Colson Hall

## ATTENTION PARENTS

Attention all parents:

If you have a college age young adult I am looking for updated addresses so we may reach out to them during the year!

Even if they are local please let me know by text or email [beth@lappin.com](mailto:beth@lappin.com) or text 908-303-3868

Thank you for your help to keep them in our loop!

Best-  
Beth Lappin

## HIGH HOLIDAY USHERS

I hope you're as excited as I am for in-person High Holiday services this year!

I am looking for a few of you to Usher for the services. It's not difficult: the responsibilities include ensuring the Rabbi and Cantor have water on the Bima, helping folks find seats and page #s, and helping to "gate" folks from walking in the sanctuary when it's not appropriate. Of course, we also ask you to wear a "panic button" to contact the Washington police if ever needed.

Please see the email that was sent on 9/2 for a list of dates and times needed. Consider volunteering to usher with your college student.

Please contact Rene Marinich at 908-229-0364 or email [rene0808@gmail.com](mailto:rene0808@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## CANTORIAL RECITAL

SAVE THE DATE

November 6, 2022

We will be presenting Student Cantor Shayna along with a few of her fellow cantorial students to provide us with a concert.

Time will be announced in the near future.

There will be no charge for this event as it is being presented with funds derived from a grant from the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties.

# Updates & Events

## DONATIONS

In memory of Henritte Goldstein  
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

In memory of Barbara Simons  
- Gerald Simons

In memory of Barbara Simons  
- Erica Sylvester

In memory of Rena Klein  
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In memory of Rena Klein  
- Sharon and Edythe Herson and Daniel Fleckles

## TORAH STUDY

Torah Study is continuing to explore the book of Judges. See the next page for artwork and commentary about the Song of Deborah. The next meeting will be on October 22 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



# Torah Study



Sisera's Mother (undated) by John Gadsby Chapman (1808–1889). John S. Phillips Collection



Sisera's Mother (1861) by Albert Joseph Moore (1841–1893). Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery

## Judges (Nevi'im) 4–5 (Deborah)

Chapter 4, a prose narrative, parallels the powerful and vivid poem, the *Song of Deborah*, that constitutes chapter 5. The *Song of Deborah*, the *Song of the Sea*, and the *Song of Miriam* (Exodus 15:1–21) are believed to be the oldest texts in the Tanach. The *Song of Deborah* contains details of the story of Deborah and Barak, and Yael and Sisera, that do not appear in chapter 4. One of the main take-aways from both versions of this story is the victory of the Israelites, with the general Barak telling the prophetess that he won't go into battle without her. The other, equally important, however, is the Torah's insistence on the humanity of the enemy, Sisera, and this comes through the poem only. Despite his hatred for the Hebrews and his desire to kill them all, Sisera is described as having a mother who waits for him, gazing out the window, wondering—after the reader knows he is already dead—when he will return. Poignant almost to the point of bringing tears . . . ? Demonstrates the humanity of everyone, even the most evil among us . . . .

All are welcome to participate in Torah study. The next meeting, on Zoom only, will be Saturday morning, October 22, at 11:00 a.m.

-Sharon Herson





Greetings & Happy New Year!

Beth, Rita, Ruth, and I are excited to share some of what's planned for **5783 \ 2022-2023 JCNWJ Sisterhood**. Beth Lappin and Suzi Marr will continue to chair, with the ongoing and much appreciated support of Ruth Schutzbank as Treasurer and Rita Berkowitz as Secretary.

Our first meeting took place this past Sunday, 9/11 (meeting minutes to follow via email). We planned quite a bit of good stuff including community outreach, fun & service activities. Meetings are in the temple's Simcha Room - schmooze time at 10:00am; meetings will commence at 10:15am.

***Meeting Schedule -***

**October 23** - "Past-Present-Future Celebration"

**November 13** - Community b'Yachad Tallit Workshop

**December 10** - Chanukah/Ms. Apsel 60 - w/Havdalah

**December 11** - Community b'Yachad Tallit Workshop

**January 15** - Community b'Yachad Tallit Workshop

**February 26** - Mishloach Manot Assembly & Meeting

**March** - TBD meeting

**April 15** - Judaica SWAP & Fundraiser w/Havdalah

**May 21** - Annual Mother's Day Tea Party

**June** - skip

**July** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sisters Only Pool Party

For more details contact Suzi or Beth

Wednesday Night Yoga with Gina continues through November - stay tuned for additional details. 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 23rd!

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

# COMMUNITY B'YACHAD



## SELECT SUNDAYS

- Coffee with friends
- Adult arts and crafts
- Music & songs
- Jewish & Hebrew learning
- Feel good schmoozing!



**9:30-12:00**

RUN BY:  
SHIRA, DEBBIE A., RABBI DUBIN, &  
STUDENT CANTOR SHAYNA

## DATES

**CB = COMMUNITY B'YACHAD (ADULTS ONLY)**  
**DOR L'DOR = INTERGENERATIONAL**

DOR L'DOR - SUKKOT  
(4:00-6:30)\*\* OCT 9, 2022

DOR L'DOR - PARSLEY PLANTING  
(9:30-12:00) FEB 5, 2022

CB - PHILLY WALKING TOUR  
(9:30-12:00) OCT.16,2022

CB - HAVDALAH SCENT BOXES  
FEB 12, 2012 (9:30-12:00)

CB - KRIISTALNACHT GLASS ART  
(9:30-12:00) OCT 30, 2022

CB - PURIM PANTRY GROGGERS  
FEB 26, 2023 (9:30-12:00)

CB - TALIT WORKSHOP DAY 1  
(9:30-12:00) NOV 13, 2022

CB - RECLAIMED WOOD MEUZOT  
MAR 12, 2023 (9:30-12:00)

CB - TALIT WORKSHOP DAY 2  
(9:30-12:00) DEC 11,2022

CB - CERAMIC SEDER PLATES  
MAR 26, 2023 (9:30-12:00)

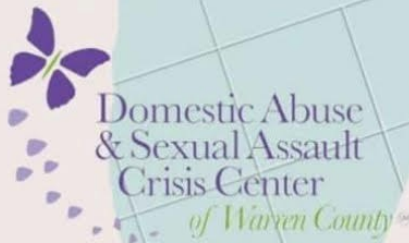
DOR L'DOR - MT. PISGAH  
(9:30-12:00) JAN 15, 2023

DOR L'DOR - ISRAEL PARTY & BBQ  
APR 23, 2023 (12:00-2:30)\*\*

CB - TW DAY 3/JWISH LEARNING  
(9:30-12:00) JAN 29, 2023

DOR L'DOR - SATURDAY BONFIRE  
MAY 6, 2023 (TBD)

**So much fun! איזה כיף!**



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& Sexual Assault  
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*of Warren County*

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9/1- 9/20

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