

# 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

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## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

I write this note to you filled with gratitude and admiration for my JCNWJ family. Many of you, I know, are aware that as the spiritual leader of this community, I am blessed with a Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, out of which I make donations to worthy causes in need of support. The reason I know many of you are aware of this is because many of you have taken it upon yourselves to donate personally to it. What you may *not* know, however, is that the Rabbi's Discretionary fund is fed not only by individual donations, but also by a \$400 contribution each and every year from the general operating budget of the JCNWJ, which means, of course, that the fund from which I support worthy causes belongs not only to those of you who earmark specific donations, but to *every* member of the temple family, because a portion of the dues from *every* member is included.

Moses Maimonides taught in his monumental code of Jewish Law, *Mishneh Torah* (written between 1170-1180 CE) that *"A person who compels others to give charity and motivates them to do so receives a greater reward than the person who actually gives."*

With Maimonides in mind, it's clear to me that each and every one of you should stand proud that your money has indeed "compelled me to give charity and motivated me." As such, the entire JCNWJ community is deserving of great reward.

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## Calendar of Events

### Friday, January 13

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service  
MLK Unity Worship Weekend  
w/Mt. Pisgah AME Church  
Sermon by Rev. Alston

### Saturday, January 14

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

### Sunday, January 15

11:00am: Service at Mt. Pisgah AME Church  
Sermon by Rabbi Dubin

### Sunday, January 22

9:30am: Sunday School

### Friday, January 27

7:30pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### Sunday, January 29

9:30am: Community B'Yachad, Sisterhood

### Sunday, February 5

9:30am: Dor L'Dor

### Monday, February 6

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Mtg.

### Friday, February 10

7:30pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Yoga: Wednesdays at 7:15pm

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

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

So as to offer you fuller understanding of what your funds have accomplished, I am including here a comprehensive list of the organizations to whom I donated discretionary fund money in 2022.



Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, **American Jewish World Service (AJWS)** works to realize human rights and end poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. AJWS's values are rooted in Judaism's imperative to pursue justice for all people and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We embrace and defend the inherent worth of every human being. We work in partnership to elevate the voices and perspectives of those who are marginalized, underrepresented or excluded.



**Hillel**

The mission of **BU Hillel** is to inspire, educate, and empower Boston University students to lead meaningful, joyous Jewish lives.



The **Central Conference of American Rabbis** is the Reform rabbinic professional leadership organization that instills excellence in the Reform Jewish rabbinate. The oldest and largest rabbinic organization in North America, the CCAR strengthens the Jewish community by providing religious, spiritual, ethical, and intellectual leadership and wisdom for the 2,200 rabbis who serve more than 2 million Reform Jews throughout North America, Israel, and the world. The CCAR's unique contribution to a continued vibrant Jewish community and Reform Movement lies in its work fostering excellence in Reform Rabbis, enhancing unity and connectedness among Reform Jews, applying Jewish values to a contemporary life, and creating a compelling and accessible Judaism for today and the future.



**DAYENU**  
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

**Dayenu** is a movement of American Jews confronting the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. We care deeply about equity and justice in our world and about the future we create for our children and future generations. We believe that together, drawing from our Jewish tradition, experience, and faith, we have the power to create real and lasting change.

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)



**Hazon** is leading a transformative movement weaving sustainability into the fabric of Jewish life, in order to create a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable world for all. The organization envisions vibrant sustainable Jewish communities, enriched by Jewish wisdom, authentic nature connection, and environmental responsibility, working with partners to create a better world for all. They embody, teach, and inspire the practice of environmental sustainability and justice, and help people simplify and focus on the fundamental elements of life, connecting people to nature so that they can understand and value the connection between *adam* (people) and *adamah* (earth).



**Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life** is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, working with thousands of college students globally. Hillel is represented at more than 550 colleges and communities throughout North America and globally, including 30 communities in the former Soviet Union, nine in Israel, and five in South America.



**The Jewish Federation**  
OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES

The mission of the **Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties** is to invest in Jewish life by building, supporting, and safeguarding Jewish communities locally, in Israel, and around the world, now and forever. While our main mission is to raise funds for the community's most pressing needs, we offer educational and social events, business networking opportunities, and special programs to build and strengthen our community.



**Keshet** works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and our families in Jewish life. We strengthen Jewish communities. We equip Jewish organizations with the skills and knowledge to build LGBTQ-affirming communities, create spaces in which all queer Jewish youth feel seen and valued, and advance LGBTQ rights nationwide.

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)

### American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee



The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee acts on behalf of North America's Jewish communities and others to provide non-sectarian emergency relief and long-term development assistance worldwide. JDC is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC

works in more than 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters.



National Council of Jewish Women

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

### הקרן החדשה לישראל New Israel Fund الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

The New Israel Fund (NIF) helps Israel live up to its founders' vision of a society that ensures complete equality to all its inhabitants. Our aim is to advance liberal democracy, including freedom of speech and minority rights, and to fight the inequality, injustice and extremism that diminish Israel.

From Israel's first rape crisis centers, to fighting discrimination, NIF-funded organizations have driven positive social change and furthered justice and equality. NIF has provided over \$300 million to more than 900 organizations since our inception in 1979.

And we are more than a funder. NIF is at philanthropy's cutting edge — thanks in large part to our action arm Shatil, the New Israel Fund Initiative for Social Change. Today, NIF is a leading advocate for democratic values, building the coalitions and empowering the activists that can drive meaningful social change in Israel.

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)



Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of people worldwide.



**PROJECT  
KESHER**

Project Keshar's mission is to build Jewish community and advance civil society by developing and empowering women leaders. The values that drive Project Keshar today and into the future are based on Judaism, Feminism, and Pluralism.



**Police Unity Tour**  
WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED

The primary purpose of the Police Unity Tour is to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers killed in the line of duty. The secondary purpose is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum.

The URJ Heller High Semester in Israel Program seeks to inspire in its students, the future



**URJ HELLER HIGH**  
Isaac and Helaine Heller EIE High School in Israel

leaders and members of Reform Judaism, a commitment to and deep love of North American Judaism, the Jewish People and the

State of Israel. URJ Heller High achieves this mission by elevating and deepening its students' knowledge of and connection to Jewish history, Judaism, Zionism and the modern State of Israel. With Israel as the classroom, we build a dynamic learning environment where formal instruction, experiential learning and travel combine to bring Jewish living and learning to life. With over 3,500 alumni since its founding in 1961, URJ Heller High (formerly NFTY-EIE) is the most experienced and most trusted high school in Israel program for meaningful Jewish learning, spiritual experiences, personal growth, and academic success.

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)



**RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR) is an Israeli organization, active in three main areas – work within and about the Occupied Territories; work to promote social and economic justice within Israel; and activities in the fields of education and interreligious dialogue. RHR was founded in 1988 in response to contraventions of human rights taking place in the Occupied Territories. Since its inception, its activities have expanded to include:

- To articulate a vision of justice rooted in Jewish tradition, in the spirit of the Rabbinical teaching that all persons are created in God's image
- To act in order to prevent violations of human rights taking place within Israel and in the Occupied Territories
- To further a vision of Judaism sanctifying life, justice and equality and to increase awareness of this vision within Israeli society
- To further these values on the basis of constant engagement with Jewish tradition

We are guided by the richness of Jewish tradition, and by the call to advance the dignity and protect the rights of all individuals which we find at its heart. This reading of Judaism informs our activities in a variety of fields. It emboldens us to try wherever possible to influence government policy, to hold the State of Israel to live up to its vision and its responsibility: to defend the weak and the downtrodden in society regardless of race, religion, affiliation or orientation. We strive to live in an Israel true to the call of the prophets of old, and the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence.



**St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital**

Finding cures. Saving children.

The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder Danny

Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.

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## Rabbi's Message (continued)



Warren County Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian

principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. WCHFH is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.



ZA'AKAH is dedicated to advocating for survivors of child sexual abuse in the Orthodox Jewish community. We do this by raising awareness in the community, organizing and participating in educational events for parents and teachers on how to identify and correctly handle suspicions and disclosures of child sexual abuse, and

by advocating for legislative reforms designed to prevent sexual abuse in the future and secure justice for survivors.

This concludes the list of worthy organizations to whom I contributed out of the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in 2022. If you have an organization that is near and dear to your heart that you think I should consider for future donations, please do reach out to me privately to help me understand the good work they do. I am always looking to expand the list of organizations that receive our help.

*L'Shalom, and Todah,*

Rabbi Dubin

## President's Message

For those of you who have been following my quest to have my picture taken at all 50 state capitol buildings, this is my major announcement. I HAVE COMPLETED THIS QUEST!!!



I did a reprise of Trenton, NJ in December to give various members of my family who were not able to travel with me an opportunity to participate in my quest.

As a recap for my friends:

My favorite capitol was Des Moines, Iowa. This was because when I went to the Iowa Cubs minor league baseball game, the state capitol was present just beyond centerfield.



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## President's Message

The most impressive buildings were Austin, Texas, Des Moines, Iowa and Little Rock, Arkansas.

My favorite capitol moment of the trip occurred in Juneau Alaska. The Capitol building in Juneau was the least impressive of all 50 buildings that I attended. What I remember most about Juneau was that a great deal of my family was with me, and Allison, Austin, Caitlin, Iris and I took a small boat out on Juneau bay and watched as a pod of 11 humpback whales went bubble net feeding.



Along the way, I travelled with family, friends and co-workers who accompanied me on these travels.

It was a wonderful experience traveling the country and seeing beautiful landscapes and experiencing different cultures as I was able to dine in or around most of the capitols.

If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them, and they might help me as I write up my experiences during the seven years it took me to visit all 50 state capitols plus the US Capitol and the capitol in San Juan Puerto Rico.

Have a HEALTHY and happy New Year.

All my love,

Howie



Greetings Sisterhood & Temple Members!

***Please hold these dates!***

**Sunday, January 29th** - Community b'yachad, tallit making workshop continues, please bring your sewing supplies - Sisterhood will also finalize plans for this year's remaining activities & events. Starts at 10am with light refreshments being served.

**Sunday, February 26th** - Sisterhood Meeting and tentative Mishloach Manot assembly - helping hands are needed. Starts at 10am with light refreshments being served.

**Saturday, April 22nd** - Annual Fundraising Swap (jewelry, small accessories & ANYTHING JUDAICA) with Havdalah lead by Student Cantor Shayna. Arrive at 7pm - dessert & wine will be served - \$18.00 per person, please invite friends.

**Sunday, May 21st** - Annual Mother's Day Tea Party at Suzi's home... starts at 1pm - all mothers are invited!!!

***Weekly Yoga with Gina Cerbone*** - Wednesdays at 7:15pm in the simcha room. Monthly prepaid registration is preferred, but drop-ins are also welcome. All levels.

Any questions or suggestions, can be directed to Suzi Marr and/or Beth Lappin.  
Shalom!

# Updates & Events

## TORAH STUDY

Torah Study is continuing to explore the book of Judges. The next meeting will be January 14 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.

## 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

## PURIM SPIEL

Get ready 2023 SHPIELERS!

Searching for fun-loving, silly adults for a fun-loving, ridiculously silly experience!

This year we will be shpieling into an Elton John script. Talent is nice, but not needed! All that's needed is a desire to laugh out loud and enjoy each other in weekly rehearsals every Sunday in Jan and Feb. Times to be announced.

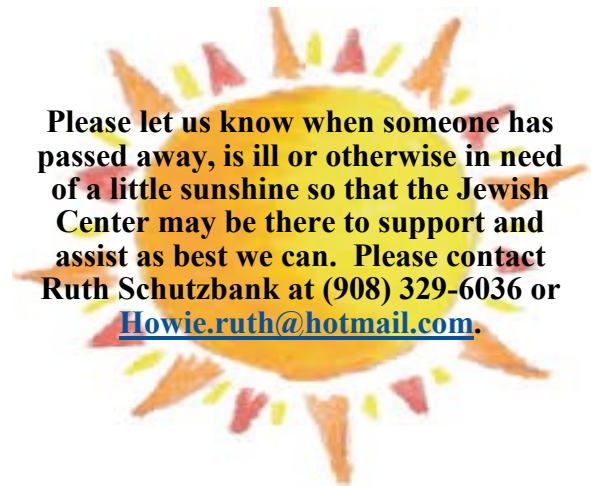
Performance will be March 3 at Friday evening services.

Please let me know if you'll join in the fun.

Your dedicated director,  
Debbie Apsel  
debapsel@gmail.com

## 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

## Yahrzeits

Sadie Schiller	Family of Blanche Davidson
Leslie Apsel	Mother of Deb Apsel
Jessica Hirsch	Daughter of Iris & Howie Hirsch
Laurette Fromer Pinn	Mother of Helen Mattson
Isaac Nudelman	Grandfather of Tracey Bauer
Ellen Field	Mother of Alison Shelofsky
Joseph Berkowitz	Father of Jerry Berkowitz
Sid Goldstein	Father of Iris Hirsch
Naomi Davine	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Gussie Zaret	Grandmother of Lois Goldberg
Gertrude Post	Mother of Laurie Post

Note: If any Yahrzeit information is missing or incorrect, please notify the Temple.

## Donations

In memory of Joseph Berkowitz  
- Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

In memory of Jessica Hirsch  
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

In memory of Sid Goldstein  
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

## Unity Worship Weekend

It is with pleasure and excitement that we invite you to join us for our 7th Annual MLK Weekend Unity Worship Weekend this Friday and Sunday.

With COVID in mind, Friday's service at JCNWJ will be both in-person and also on Zoom (which accepts both computer and telephone log-ins), and Sunday's service at Mt. Pisgah AME Church will be both in-person and also over conference call (which is voice-only).

## 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](mailto:irishirsch@comcast.net) or 908-850-1030.

Thank you.

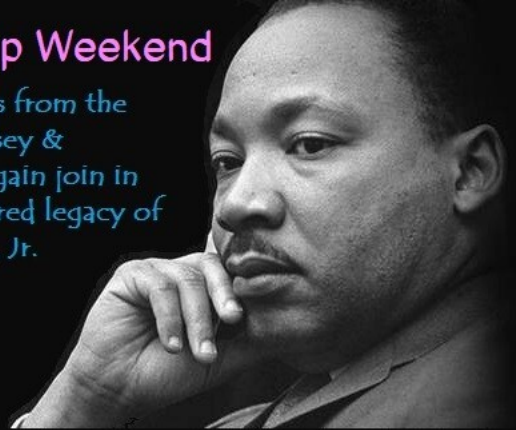
Iris



## 7th Annual MLK Unity Worship Weekend

Come lend your voice as friends from the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey & Mt. Pisgah AME Church once again join in prayer and gratitude for the sacred legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**January 13 & 15  
2023**



### UNITY FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT SERVICE

The Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey  
115 Youman's Avenue, Washington, NJ

Friday, January 13, 2023 (7:00 pm)

Sermon by Rev GeorgeAnn Alston



### UNITY SUNDAY MORNING SABBATH SERVICE

Mt. Pisgah AME Church

169 North Lincoln Avenue, Washington, NJ

Sunday, January 15, 2023 (11:00 am)

Sermon by Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin

## 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



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## 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.