

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ

February 2024

Vol: XLIX Issue: 6



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

On the Sunday morning of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend (January 14), I stood before the congregation of Mt. Pisgah AME Church for the 8th year in a row (including COVID) and said to them:

“Friends: Today is a day none of us ever wanted to see. Today is the 100th day of continuing captivity for 132 of the original 240 hostages who were stolen from their homes in southern Israel and the Supernova open-air music festival near the Gaza border on October 7.

To my dear friends here today, and I use that appellation with absolute love and respect, I feel compelled to share, in case you’ve not noticed, that your Jewish friends are hurting, and **have** been hurting in unprecedented ways for the past 100 days, ever since that barbaric and murderous surprise attack from Hamas, during which almost 1,300 innocent Israelis were massacred and 240, some of them already dead, were abducted into underground captivity. Yes, your Jewish friends have been living in a daze of national trauma ever since that day, the day when more Jews were murdered than have ever been murdered in one day since the Holocaust itself.

But as if the memory of that day weren’t enough, the trauma we’ve been suffering every day ever since then has only been compounding – every time another person or organization that we had **thought** were our friends has, at best, turned a blind eye to the atrocities, and at

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Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 4

9:30am: Hebrew School

5:00pm: Chaverim meeting on Zoom

Monday, February 5

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, February 9

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, February 11

9:30am: Community B’yachad

Saturday, February 17

10:30am: Torah Study on Zoom

Sunday, February 18

9:30am: Hebrew School

Saturday, February 24

9:30am: Hebrew School

10:30am: Shabbat Morning Service
Kiddush/Lunch to follow

Sunday, March 3

9:30am: Hebrew School

Monday, March 4

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

worst, blamed the Jews for our own victimhood.”

Indeed, even as we've seen antisemitism growing more and more acute over the past decade, these past four-months since October 7 have been the single most painful period for our global Jewish family since the Holocaust itself. And if you don't believe me, just try googling, “Jewish Issues Today,” where you will find the results to be overwhelmingly focused on antisemitism. Yes, hatred of our people has indeed taken center stage.

Obviously, I understand the feeling. I feel it, too – enough to focus my MLK Unity Weekend sermon at Mt. Pisgah AME Church about it. But I also caution against allowing antisemitism to become our sole Jewish concern, or even our main Jewish concern today. Because if we spend more effort pushing back against those who hate us, and less time celebrating the joy and beauty of who we are, of what it means to be Jewish, then we have already lost the battle. No, if we want to preserve that which is good and true and uplifting and sacred about our experience of Judaism so that our children, and our children's children will have the same opportunity to benefit from our rich history as we have, I suggest we focus on why we love being Jewish more than why we remain the ongoing target of the “world's oldest hatred.”

So, with that in mind, I took a moment (actually, a little bit longer than a moment) to sit and write down the first 100 treasures of Judaism that came to mind. So, without further ado here they are, 100 reasons/feelings/experiences that stir unadulterated love and gratitude in my heart for being part of the Jewish people (in no particular order).

- The excitement of children reading their first Hebrew words
- The respect we afford our elders
- The expectation that we should ask questions
- The value we place on “community”
- Our focus on “this world” rather than the “next world”
- Mel Brooks
- A fresh warm bagel and schmear
- When Elijah (my brother in a sheet) visits my family *seder* with presents for the children
- Finding myself in Torah
- Singing in Hebrew
- Falafel
- The *afikomen*
- Barbara Streisand
- Ice cream sundaes for Shavuot
- Lifting the wedding couple high into the air on chairs
- Our resiliency
- Our love of the written word
- *Tikkun Olam*
- Flooding our sanctuary with family menorahs on Chanukah
- The squeaky voice of a bar mitzvah boy
- We can laugh at ourselves

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

- Every human being is created in the image of God
- Rosalind Franklin
- Chinese food on Christmas
- The warmth of a loving God
- Rugelach (cinnamon, not chocolate, as controversial as that may be)
- Bob Dylan
- Smelling challah in the oven
- The peace and quiet of Jerusalem on Shabbat
- The Prince of Egypt
- Saving a single person is equal to saving the entire world
- Carole King
- The cherry tomato (invented in Israel)
- The eruption of applause every time an El Al plane lands in Israel
- Jonas Salk
- Yitzhak Rabin's peace efforts
- Challah French toast
- The calming effects of prayer
- Jewish summer camp
- Leonard Cohen
- Jewish Geography
- The feminine Shechinah
- Bark Mitzvah
- Bamba
- Every generation reinterprets Judaism so as to keep it relevant
- The sounds of shofar
- Billy Crystal
- Children in Purim costumes
- Fauda
- Recharging my inner battery on Shabbat
- *Tzedakah*
- Judy Blume
- Dancing with the Torahs on Simchat Torah
- *HaTikva* means "The Hope"
- Wherever I go, there's always someone Jewish
- Chanukah *gelt*
- Every Jew is responsible for each other
- Our 3000-year chain of history
- Sandy Koufax
- Floating on the Dead Sea
- What Jews *do* is more important than what Jews *believe*
- With two Jews, we get three opinions
- Israeli rescue workers being dispatched to every corner of the world when disaster strikes
- Welcoming the stranger
- Matzah Ball Soup

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

- Red Auerbach
- Trees have birthdays
- A really crunchy pickle
- Neil Simon
- The pride a teenager feels when wearing a Maccabee Beer t-shirt
- The Purim Spiel
- Traditional Torah study is done in partnership
- God listens to Abraham
- Torah is timeless
- The Gershwins brothers
- Jewish expectations about philanthropy
- Abraham Joshua Heschel's "radical amazement"
- Our collective pride when Jewish athletes go pro
- Albert Einstein
- Singing the bedtime Shema with my children
- Claiming to hate Manischewitz (while secretly loving it)
- That feeling when the gates of repentance begin to close in on me during the late afternoon of Yom Kippur, yet simultaneously knowing that *repentance, prayer and tzedakah will temper the severe decree*
- The (at least) 214 Jewish Nobel Prize Laureates
- Even with all the different ways to be Jewish, we remain a single Jewish People
- Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin shaking hands with Jimmy Carter
- Dustin Hoffman
- The Talmud always preserves minority positions
- We celebrate Jews-by-Choice, but we don't proselytize
- Hanging decorations in the Sukkah
- Our ability to grow from misfortune
- Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman
- A particularly good spin of the dreidel
- Discovering new things in the same Torah portions year after year
- "*Mitzvah goreret mitzvah*" (one mitzvah leads to another)
- The tradition that God speaks to us in our own voice
- A beautiful Yemenite wedding costume
- The understanding that we were all there together at Mt. Sinai
- The honor we give to those who came before us
- Kugel
- A Shabbat nap

So there you have it. My list of 100 (though there are thousands more). What's on your list?

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

The Sandwich Generation

With our parents now living longer, some of us are now having to take care of our parents, as well as always looking out for the welfare of our children and grandchildren.

It is a daunting responsibility. For those people like me, who had a warm and loving family to grow up in, it is a responsibility that I take very seriously to ensure that my father can enjoy his "golden years." Of course, my dad's opinion on the golden years is that they ain't so golden. As I deal with caring for a parent who lives on the other coast, my primary concern is to ensure that he gets to live his life with the dignity that he has always had. But with physical limitations arising, i.e., falling, losing your ability to drive, concessions must be made to ensure safety.

As my dad turns 92 just before this newsletter comes out, some of these issues are arising, and I want to do my best to help dad out and make his life better. As I am finding out, what I think is best for him is not always what he thinks. I want to make sure as best I can that he is well taken care of and that he is not that limited in what he can do and where and when he can go places.

But the hardest part of it all for me is that I can't be there for him physically as much or as often as I would like, and I need to depend on others to help me ensure a good quality of life for dad in his nineties.

For those of you who have gone through this, or are going through it, I can feel your anguish, as wanting to help and not being able, can really put a damper on your day.

May we continue to honor our mothers and fathers, as we are taught in the Torah.

With much love,
Howie

Chaverim

A reminder: Sisterhood is now Chaverim, which means “friends” in Hebrew. That means that EVERY adult is welcome. Dues are \$18.00/year and should be sent to Ruth Schutzbank. We use the dues to pay for temple activities throughout the year.

Updated Schedule of Events

Feb 4, 5:00 p.m. – Sisterhood meeting via zoom.

March 23, 6:30 p.m. – Purim Spiel & Mishloach Manot Distribution

March 24 – group trip to NYC to see *SIX* on Broadway. Meet & depart from temple. Sold out!

April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Havdalah, followed by Judaica SWAP Fundraiser & Cocktail Party.

May 19, 1 p.m. – Annual Mother’s Day Tea Party.

June – annual congregational meeting [no Chaverim meeting this month]

Yoga w/ Gina @ The Barn Belvidere, NJ - Spoonful of Om – Wednesday evenings - special monthly rate available.

Zumba Gold w/ Sandy Polsky @ H4H Community Center, Washington, NJ – Mondays 10am-\$5.00.

JOIN us on FB at “JCNWJ members only” page for updates and/or add “WhatsApp” to your smartphone to get current updates. We look forward to seeing you all at these events! Questions, please call Suzi 908.343.1135



Chaverim



ANNUAL MISHLOACH MANOT
FUNDRAISER - GIVE & RECEIVE
DETAILS COMING IN YOUR EMAIL SOON
PICK UP 3/23 -6:30PM AT SCHPIEL

VIVA LAS
Shushan!

*THIS IS THE PRIMARY CHAVERIM FUNDRAISER
SUBSIDIZING ALL WE DO THROUGHOUT YEAR*

Chaverim



SWAP - JEWELRY JUDAICA & MORE!

SAT APRIL 13TH - 7PM
JCNWJ SIMCHA ROOM

HAVE ITEMS STORED AWAY, THAT YOU NEVER
WEAR OR USE. COME TO JCNWJ'S ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING SWAP TO EXCHANGE FOR
SOMETHING NEW TO YOU, WITH A BACKSTORY!
WE'LL START WITH HAVDALAH!

ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD, USABLE CONDITION & EASY TO CARRY
\$18/PER PERSON

A LITTLE NOSH WILL BE SERVED!

REGISTER WITH RUTH AT HOWIE.RUTH@HOTMAIL.COM

QUESTIONS: CALL SUZI 908.343.1135



Reserve Your Spot Today

The Jewish Center of NW Jersey & its
Fundraising Committee present

IT'S A PARTY TO DIE FOR.

Mystery
in the Simcha Gallery...
Groovy Times,
Painted Crimes


MAY 4 2024

THEFT • MURDER • INTRIGUE
Wine & Cheese Reception w/show
\$72.00*/pp
7:00pm

RSVP IF YOU DARE!

Jean Berkowitz / berkowitz55@verizon.net

*A portion of ticket sales will benefit JCNWJ.



Updates & Events

TORAH STUDY

The Torah study group is an informal discussion group, led by Rabbi Dubin and participants. We take turns reading and discuss the paragraphs/chapters as we go. We often touch on/get really into contemporary events, even though we are reading the first book of Samuel.

The next meeting is February 17 at 10:30am. We will continue reading in the Book of 1 Samuel, at chapter 14. This and subsequent chapters deal with the early kings of Israel (Saul, David), and stories with which you might be familiar, such as David and Goliath, and the friendship between King Saul's son Jonathan and the future king David. Torah study is open to all. The Zoom link is the one used for all synagogue events.

For the March 23 Torah Study, we will have a special look at the Book of Esther, in honor of Purim, which is that evening.

FOOD DRIVE

We continue to be able to accept non-perishable food items at the temple. We are also holding a coat drive at this time to provide for those in need during the upcoming winter.

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

BUILDING UPDATE

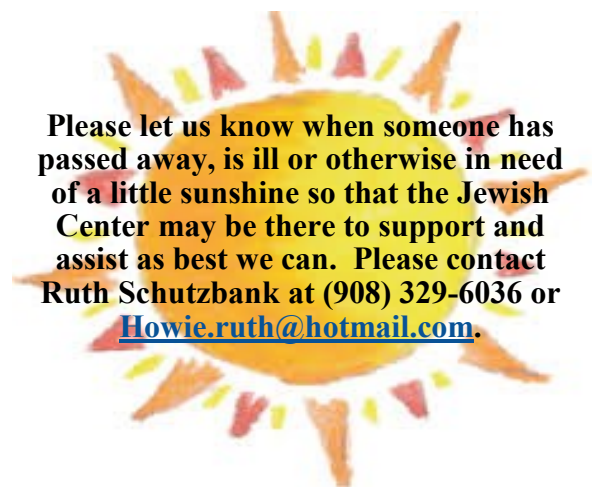
If you notice that something is running low and needs to be replaced (either in the bathrooms or kitchen), please let me know.

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

Thank you.

Iris

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.

Updates & Events

DONATIONS

In honor of Dan, Nicola, Levi, and Lyla's membership at the JCNWJ
- Robin Hall

In memory of Ellis Golub
- Helen and John Mattson

In memory of Roland Bakonyi
- Edward Weinstein

In memory of Joseph Berkowitz
- Rita and Jerry Berkowitz

In memory of Howie Schutzbank
- Ruth Schutzbank

In honor of Oren Ostinfeld
- Andrew and Helen Ostinfeld

In memory of Lonnie Bier
- Sharon Herson & Daniel Fleckles

Please consider making a donation to the temple for our current fundraising campaign. Board members will be reaching out to all congregants to explain our financial needs and answer questions. We are now able to accept secure donations at the JCNWJ website as well as by mail. All donations are greatly appreciated and we hope you are able to participate in this important effort.

THANK YOU

TODAH RABAH, thank you, thank you, to all the Chaverim who planned, contributed to, and/or attended our 80th birthday party on January 28! The spirit, the food, the gifts—couldn't have been better. We are so happy to be part of this community. Love from Risa and Sharon

YAHREZEITS

Rebecca Goldenthal
Anita Bauer
Sanford Rems
Joseph Gelberman
Edward Israel Lewis
Edith Gottlieb
Nathan Guberman
Theodore Jay
Rose Schutzbank
Lonnie Bier
Helen Steinhardt
Louis Gottlieb
Mabel Klein
Sarah Schoenfeld

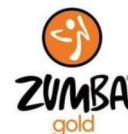
Aunt of Bernie Robins
Mother of Mo Bauer
Brother of Linda Margolis
Rabbi Emeritus
Father of Rabbi Lewis
Relative of Risa Smith
Father of Irwin Guberman
Uncle of Rabbi Lewis
Mother of Howard Schutzbank
Friend of Sharon Herson
Mother of Larry Steinhardt
Relative of Risa Smith
Relative of Risa Smith
Grandmother of Deb Apsel

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

Zumba Gold with
Sandy



Mondays 10-10:45am



Where: WCHFH Community
Center
31 Belvidere Avenue,
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JCNWJ Services

Lifecycle!

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115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

MEMBERSHIP~

Family, married and/or with children \$1300.00
Single, individual \$ 650.00

BABY NAMING~

Member at scheduled service Donation
Member at other-than scheduled service \$ 180.00
Non-member at scheduled service \$ 360.00

B'NAI MITZVAH~

Bar or Bat Mitzvah \$ 360.00
Bar or Bat Mitzvah when CIF is not PIF\$1476.00
Additional \$1000 may be applied to CIF

MARRIAGE~

Wedding.....\$ 360.00

DEATH/BURIAL PLOT~

Funeral..... \$ 180.00
Funeral, non-member..... \$ 612.00
Located in Easton, PA Market Price
All other charges payable to Easton Cemetary

Honors!

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MEMORIAL & SIMCHA

Memorial plaque, member \$ 324.00
Memorial plaque, non-member \$ 540.00
Simcha tree leaf \$ 180.00
Pew plaque \$ 252.00
Prayer book \$ 36.00
Donation card \$ 5.00 & up
Library \$ 10.00 & up

EVENTS

Kitchen/Simcha room.....\$ 252.00
+\$252.00 refundable deposit



This Month in Pictures

**Community B'yachad 1/21
Tu B'shevat Celebration**



**Chaverim 1/28
Birthday Celebration & Craft**



Sponsors



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As Our Own*

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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) or Ruth Schutzbank (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.