

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

April 2024

Vol: XLIX Issue: 8



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite recurring childhood memories is the annual Passover *seder* at my Aunt Norma and Uncle David's home in Great Neck, Long Island. I loved being around family – and I also loved playing with Uncle David's antique electric car – but really, if I'm going to be honest, the *seder* itself tended to put me to sleep. There was, however, one part that was so captivating and so exciting, that all the boredom in the world would have actually been worth it. It was when my Uncle Larry, dressed in an old bedsheet with eye holes cut out so he could see, would be there waiting outside as the door was opened for Elijah, ready to walk in, tell a few jokes, give presents to the kids, take a sip of wine from Elijah's cup, wish us a good day, and go on his way. Though I don't remember ever actually *believing* this really was Elijah, that never stopped me from loving the entertaining spectacle. After Uncle Larry passed, my brother took up the mantle, and has continued till this day.

One of the great things about my family *seders* over the years, and perhaps yours, too, has always been the singing. *Dayenu* . . . *Chad Gadya* . . . *Ma Nishtana* . . . There are so many wonderful tunes! But chief among them, perhaps, is *Eliyahu HaNavi* ("Elijah the Prophet").

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Friday, April 5

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, April 7

9:30am: Hebrew School

Saturday, April 13

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

7:30pm: Havdalah and Chaverim Swap
Fundraiser and Party (See Pg. 7)

Sunday, April 14

9:30am: Community B'yachad

11:00am: Presentation by DASACC of
Warren County (See Pg. 8)

Saturday, April 20

9:30am: Hebrew School

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service
Kiddush/Lunch following

Tuesday, April 23

6:00pm: Second Night Passover Seder
(Zoom only)

Sunday, April 28

9:30am: Hebrew School

Friday, May 3

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, May 4

7:00pm: Mystery in the Simcha Gallery
(See Pg. 5)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

*Eliyahu HaNavi
Eliyahu HaTish'bi
Eliyahu HaGil'adi*

*Elijah the prophet
Elijah the Tishbite
Elijah the Giladite*

*Bim'herah beyameinu yavo eleinu
im Mashi'ach ben David.*

*May he soon, in our days, come to us,
with the messiah son of David.*

So who exactly was Elijah? And why is he important? Why do we go through the trouble to provide him a cup of wine at the Passover Seder? Why do we prepare ourselves for the possibility that he may walk through our door when we open it?

In short, Elijah was a 9th-century BCE prophet who lived after the Kingdom had been divided into two (Judah in the south and Israel in the north). He grew to fame by attacking the northern king Ahab's politically motivated marriage with the Baal-worshipping Jezebel, and subsequent purging of God from national worship. For our purposes, however, and for the purpose of Passover, the important point I'd like to consider about Elijah, as the second half of the song proclaims, is that he will one day announce the arrival of the Messiah, who, in turn, will then make known a worldwide state of absolute peace and harmony. Interestingly, however, it is not the Messiah himself who will create this godly reality. Rather, it is we, ourselves, who will enable Elijah's proclamation by dint of our own collective goodness. That is, we acknowledge our own responsibility for bringing on the Messianic Era by proving our own merit. And how do we do that? By living lives of generosity, care, and godliness.

But when will Elijah appear with the good news? And how will we know?

World-renowned scholar of Jewish Mysticism, Daniel Matt, offers invaluable guidance on just these questions in the conclusion of his 2022 award-winning book, *Becoming Elijah: Prophet of Transformation* (pp. 155–156):

According to a Hasidic tale, a pious Jew once asked his rabbi why Elijah never appeared on the night of the Seder, even though the door was opened for him and his goblet of wine was waiting on the table. The rabbi told him: "There is a very poor family in your neighborhood. Go visit them and propose that next year, you and your family will celebrate Passover with them in their house and that you'll provide everything they need for the whole holiday. Then on the night of the Seder, Elijah will certainly come." The man did as he was told, but after the following Passover, he returned to the rabbi, complaining that once again Elijah had failed to appear. The rabbi responded, "Elijah came, but you couldn't see him." Holding the mirror to the man's face, he continued, "Look, this was Elijah's face that night."

(continued on next page)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

Here, the possibility of meeting Elijah is surpassed as one learns to enact the prophet's quality of compassion, thereby *becoming* Elijah.

Having already been a person, Elijah turns into an animating energy. A spark of that energy lies within each of us, ready to be fanned into a flame. In moments of intensity, it radiates as an insight or a creative urge, a striving, an eagerness to uplift others.

The first biblical hero to revive the dead, Elijah fittingly proceeds to live forever, rejuvenating tradition and vivifying those who perceive him or those who discover his spark within.

Elijah may have come to my childhood family *seders* in the form of Uncle Larry under a bedsheet. He may continue that tradition in the form of my brother. But ultimately, Elijah is the internal spark that pushes us to speak kindly and offer our genuine presence to others. Elijah is in me, and he is in you. He is the force that pushes us to live our lives in ways that will merit the Messianic Era. Our job is to listen. Our job is to respond. Our job is to love. Our job is to be worthy.

A Zissen Pesach ("Sweet Passover") to All,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

For the last 20 or so years, occasionally, I have had trouble deciding what to write about in my monthly message to you. For the most part, I am trying to write about good things in life, as we hear so many negatives from so many different sources, and I do not want to add to that. I try to encourage you to be mensches, perform random acts of kindness and try to repair the world a little bit at a time.

Today is different in that I found an easy topic to write about.

On Saturday night, March 23, Deb Apsel led the JCNWJ Purim spielers on a roller coaster of a ride with our original play Viva Las Shushan. In addition to Deb, Adam Tucker again starred as the king, Erica Sylvester was both Vashti and Queen Esther, Bob Margolis was our narrator, Deb played Haman and yours truly played Mordechai.

I have never been prouder to be in the Purim Spiel. The fact that the 5 of us wrote everything except one song that we borrowed from an old spiel, was a new and different effort. It was also terrifying, in that having your words said in front of people, trying to entertain them with a little bit of education, is daunting. This is the first time I have been a part of this process, but I truly hope it is not the last. Deb and I are already working on next year's spiel, which will be done in memory of her late father, whose first Yahrzeit will be the day before Purim next year.

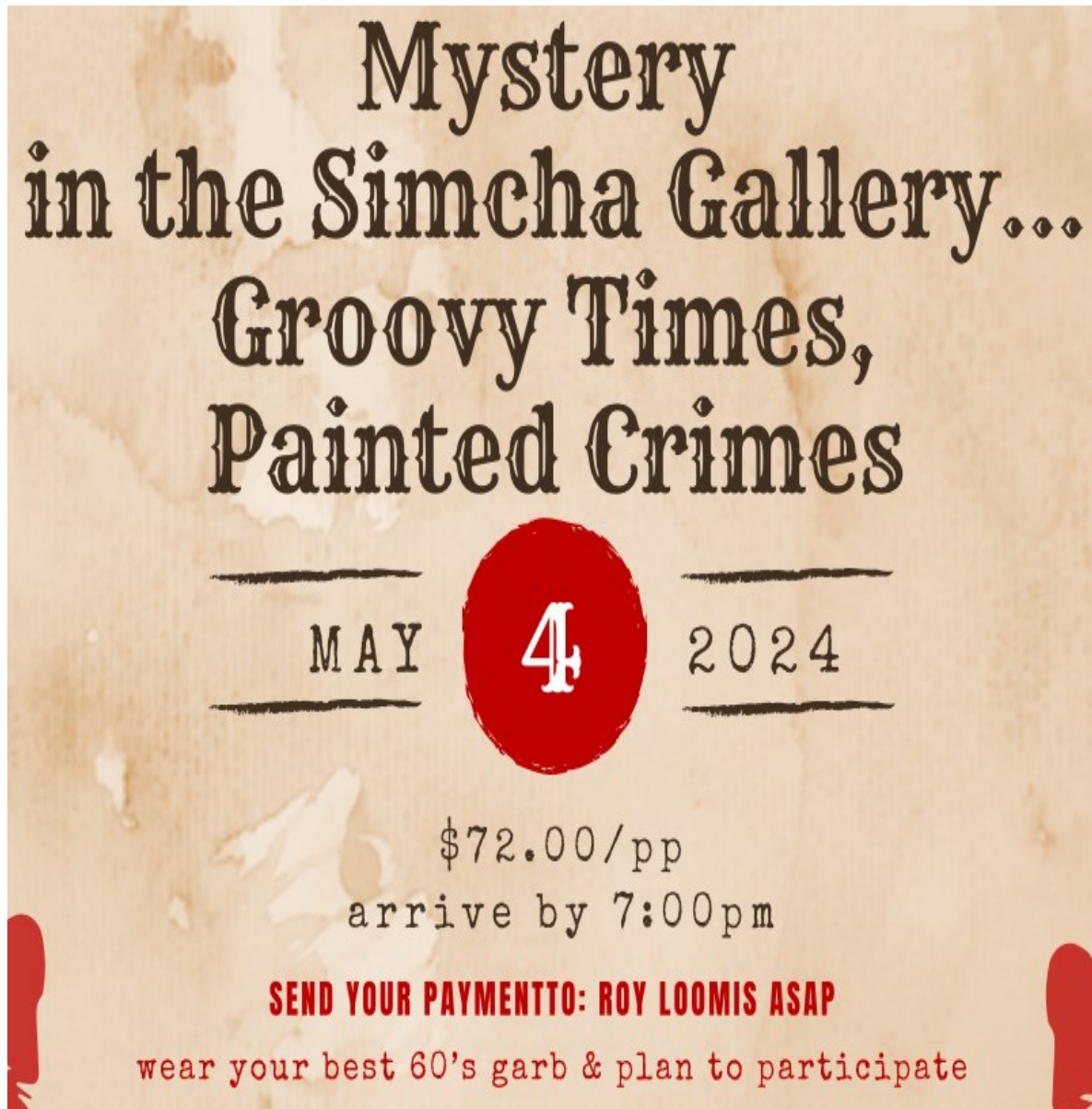
For those of you who were not able to attend, if you have 45 minutes to spare, I suggest you forgo one of your TV shows and watch the lunacy that occurred at the temple Saturday evening. You can find the Spiel on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oK4O4tQ9Dho>.

And in April, we will be hosting a second night Passover Seder on Zoom. Look for more details to come, but since it is on Zoom, hopefully you will have at least some of the Seder items from your first night Seder with your family. And if you are missing an item or two, don't sweat it, because we will be able to show you the item and explain its significance. As we read in the Haggadah, the more you tell of the departure from Egypt, the more blessed you are. So let's take this opportunity to tell the story a second time this year.

Hag Sameach and wishing you good health, peace, and love,

Howie

Reserve Your Spot Today

A vintage-style poster with a light brown, textured background. The text is in a mix of black and red fonts. The main title is in a large, black, serif font. The date is in a black, typewriter-style font, with the number '4' inside a red circle. The price and arrival time are in a black, typewriter-style font. The payment instruction and participation note are in a red, typewriter-style font. There are red silhouettes of people at the bottom corners.

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

MAY 4 2024

\$72.00/pp
arrive by 7:00pm

SEND YOUR PAYMENT TO: ROY LOOMIS ASAP

wear your best 60's garb & plan to participate

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

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

April 14, 11:00 a.m. – DASCC Information Session with Meet & Greet

May 19, 1 p.m. – Annual Mother’s Day Tea Party, RSVP to Suzi Marr

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



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



Chaverim



DASACC

domestic abuse & sexual assault crisis center of warren county

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center *of Warren County*

the mission of

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change.

if you need help...

24/7 Crisis Intervention

Emergency Shelter

individual bedrooms & pet-friendly

24/7 Hotline/Helpline 908-453-4181

24/7 Web Chat www.DASACC.org/web-chat

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team

24/7 confidential advocates to meet at local police stations, court houses and hospitals

Additional Services

Legal Advocacy

in-person, teleconferencing or phone - help with restraining orders, court preparation, referrals for other legal services

Individual and Group Counseling

in-person, teleconferencing or phone - domestic violence and/or sexual assault and vulnerable populations

Community Outreach & Prevention

tailored to the needs of your community

Volunteer Program

direct and non-direct client opportunities

Deaf Services Advocacy

Casa Hispana (Washington & Hackettstown)

Wardrobe of Hope

no cost clothing boutique, open to the public

Come learn about DASACC
& what they offer to
our local community.

JCNWJ - Simcha Room
Sunday, April 14th - 11am



www.DASACC.org | Outreach Offices: 29C Broad Street, Washington, NJ 07882

Outreach: 908-453-4121 | Outreach Fax: 908-453-3706 | Shelter & Hotline: 908-453-4181 | Shelter Fax: 908-1145

Chaverim

calling all sisters of the JCNWJ

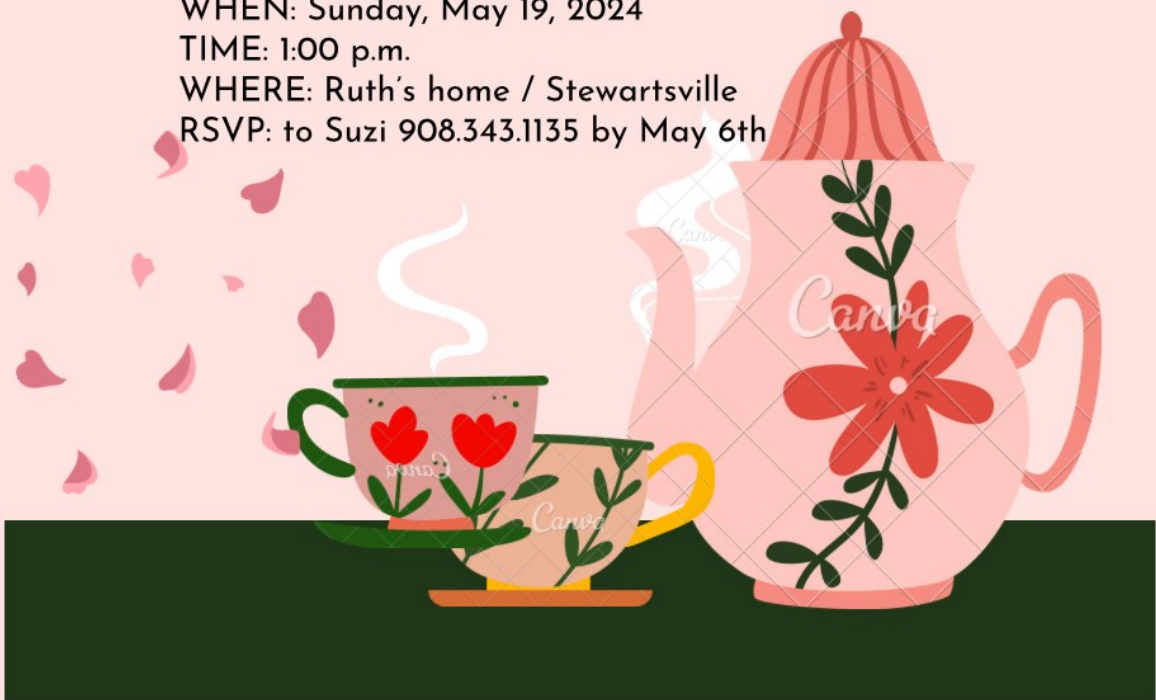
mother's day annual tea party

WHEN: Sunday, May 19, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ruth's home / Stewartsville

RSVP: to Suzi 908.343.1135 by May 6th



Chaverim

Thank
you

Dear Chaverim!

Thank you so much for celebrating Purim with us - the community dinner, the Rabbi's service, the costume parade, & 'Viva Las Shushan' were all well attended - above all so much FUN. A special shout out goes to Deb Apsel & CO for retelling the story of Purim, while entertaining us! Additionally, a big thank you to all who participated in the Mishloach Manot campaign. We raised \$1,753.00 - some will subsidize the upcoming Murder Mystery and more will be contributed to our new natural gas heating system!!

the JCNWJ Board

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 an ancient text.

The next meeting is April 13 at 10:30am. We will continue reading in the Book of 1 Samuel. This and subsequent chapters deal with the early kings of Israel (Saul, David), and stories with which you might be familiar. We are about to begin the story of David, first as shepherd, then as king. If you've never read this except as a "Bible story," this is the time to join. The Zoom link is the one used for all synagogue events.

FOOD DRIVE

We continue to be able to accept non-perishable food items at the temple.

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

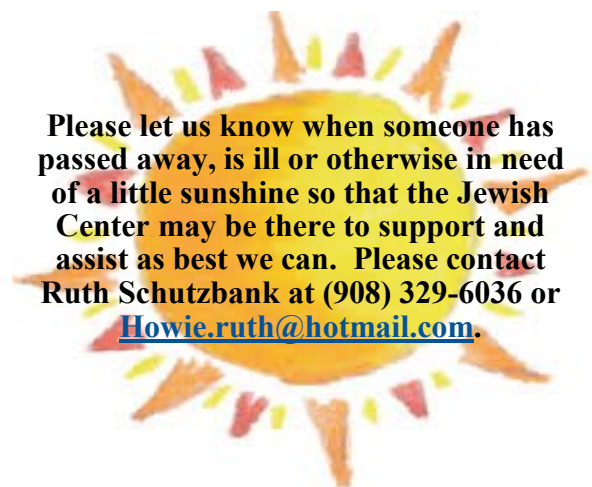
If you notice that something is running low and needs to be replaced (either in the bathrooms or kitchen), please let me know.

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 memory of Betty Berkowitz
- Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

We are now able to accept secure donations at the JCNWJ website as well as by mail. All donations are greatly appreciated.

ON THE CALENDAR

You may have noticed that Passover is rather late on the secular calendar this year. The traditional, but not very helpful explanation is that the holiday is right on time as it should be on the Hebrew calendar. Here is a more detailed explanation of why Jewish holidays move around the way they do.

The Hebrew calendar is based around a year of 12 lunar months, which averages 354 days in a full year, quite a bit shorter than the solar calendar of about 365 days. Without adjustments, it would only take a few years for the months to no longer line up with the seasons the way we expect them. That would be a problem for several Jewish holidays, like Passover and Sukkot, which are tied to planting and harvest seasons in Israel.

How to fix the problem? Enter the leap month! In the middle ages, a system was set up to add an extra month to the calendar 7 times within a 19 year cycle. The mathematics of this keeps the months on the calendar in line with the seasons where they belong. This year is a leap year, so we added a second month of Adar, pushing Purim and all subsequent holidays forward. From here on, holidays will gradually get earlier until the next leap year adjustment in 5787 (2027).

-Adam Tucker

Yahrzeits

Harry Siegel
Stanley Waxman
John Laposky

Henry Steinhardt
Estelle Shelofsky
Esther Ehrenreich Herson

Betty Berkowitz
Dorothy Frank

Father of Rhonda Jordan
Father of Debbie Kahan
Brother-in-law of Diane Margolin

Father of Larry Steinhardt
Mother of Andy Shelofsky
Grandmother of Sharon Herson

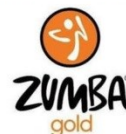
Mother of Jerry Berkowitz
Grandmother of Grace Marr

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,
Washington, NJ 07882

JCNWJ Services

Lifecycle!

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115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

MEMBERSHIP~

Family, married and/or with children \$1300.00
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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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115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

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



JCNWJ Services

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to give time, ideas & talents for:

- activities committee
- fundraising committee
- promotional committee

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



WE NEED YOU!!

contact Suzi at 908.343.1135 or by email at suzology.sm@gmail.com

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

IN LOVING MEMORY YIZKOR & Yahrzeit Memorial Candles Available



JEWISH CENTER OF NW JERSEY
MINIMUM DONATION OF \$18 SUGGESTED.
CONTACT SUZI MARR FOR DETAILS AT 908.343.1135

Sponsors



*Serving All Families
As Our Own*

WARREN HILLS MEMORIAL HOME
RICHARD L. MAGUIRE, JR.
Owner / Manager Lic No. 4434
DENISE MAGUIRE
Funeral Director Lic No. 4971
234 W. WASHINGTON AVE.
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882
908-689-0119
www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com

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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) 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.