

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Last month, after sharing with you about our day of extraordinary learning that almost 25 members of our community experienced on April 28 regarding the history of Israel and Palestine, I proposed in my monthly message to you that if we really want to advance the quest for peace, we ought to be supporting organizations, businesses, and individuals that are already doing important peace-building work on-the-ground. Fortunately, I pointed out, even though there is so much more that needs to be done, there truly is good work already being done on the ground. For example, I shared with you about Hand in Hand, a network of six Israeli schools, that has been hard at work for 25 years already paving the path to peace by educating Jewish and Arab students together under the same roof with integrated and bilingual curricula

([www.handinhandk12.org/](http://www.handinhandk12.org/)). For anyone seeking reason to enjoy some optimism about the work they are doing, I invite you to register for a special presentation by Sally Karaja and Bar Itamari, two young graduates of this extraordinary network of schools. The on-line session will be on **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 12 -1 pm EST**. You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/4cafn6vy>

Happily, Hand in Hand, is hardly the only organization doing necessary peace-building work. In fact, there are many, some more visible than others, and some that may speak to your own

(continued on next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday, June 3**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Friday, June 7**

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Saturday, June 8**

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

### **Sunday, June 9**

9:30am: Annual Congregational Meeting  
Breakfast - 9:30, Meeting - 10:00

### **Saturday, June 15**

10:30am: Shabbat Morning Service

### **Monday, July 1**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Summer Services:**

July 12 and August 16  
Dinner at 6:00pm  
Service at 7:00pm  
Outside if weather permits

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

individual interests more than others, but are all necessary in the quest for peace.

I encourage you to visit the websites of the 15 organizations on the next several pages I've curated to share with you, and to which I have made modest contributions from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund the JCNWJ community has entrusted in my hands. Learn about their work. Find inspiration in their efforts. Support their missions, either financially yourself or through spreading word of their critical contributions to a future of peace. Know that things really can improve.

Please note that almost all of the program description below come directly from the organization websites, with only minor editing from me.

*L'Shalom ("Towards Peace"),*

*Rabbi Dubin*





<https://arava.org>

In the hyper-arid, drought-stricken Middle East, one resource is more precious than water: Trust.

Over the past 26 years, the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies has demonstrated that cooperation on environmental issues that impact all the people of the region is an effective path to building cooperation among communities that have been locked in conflict for generations. Since 1996, AIES has brought together nearly 1,800 Palestinian, Jordanian, Israeli, and international students. AIES educates future leaders who can meet the Middle East's environmental challenges with innovative peace-building solutions and ensure a sustainable future for the region. With on-the-ground projects, cutting-edge research, and a university-accredited academic program, AIES works to protect fragile shared environmental resources, eliminate conflict over these scarce natural resources and serve as a model for constructive peacemaking for wider areas of conflict.

Over a university-accredited semester, a roughly equal number of Israeli Jewish, Arab (Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Moroccan) and other international students live, eat and study together. Through classes, holiday celebrations, trips, dialogue sessions, and more, students get to know each other as individuals, beyond the stereotypes and they engage in transformative dialogue work.

The Arava Institute launched the Track II Environmental Forum in 2016 to address critical environmental issues and build trust in the region. Today, the Arava Institute and its partner have engaged Israeli, Palestinian, and international decision-makers to establish a network of professional partnerships and launched joint projects to address basic infrastructure issues like water, energy, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management.

Led by Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, a Palestinian citizen of Israel and recognized leader in environmental diplomacy and education, the Institute's regional expertise is recognized globally through participation in forums such as the UN COP gatherings.



Wahat al-Salam  
Neve Shalom

واحه السلام  
נווה שלום

<https://wasns.org/>

Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom (pronounced “waaḥat’ as-salaam/nevei shalom”) is Arabic and Hebrew for *Oasis of Peace*: is a village of Palestinian and Jewish citizens of Israel dedicated to building justice, peace and equality in the country and the region. Situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa, the community was established in 1970 by Fr. Bruno Hussar on land of the Latrun Monastery. It is a model of equality, mutual respect and partnership that challenges existing patterns of racism and discrimination as well as the continued conflict. The community has established educational institutions based on its ideals and conducts activities focused on social and political change. Many of the village members work in peace, justice and reconciliation projects. It has a population of 70 families and will grow to 150 families.

Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom gives practical expression to its vision of an egalitarian society through pioneering educational work at The School for Peace (Promoting broad scale change towards peaceful, humane, egalitarian and just relations between the two peoples.), Children’s Educational System (A pioneering educational system that provides bilingual and multicultural schooling to children from WAS-NS and the surrounding area), and the Pluralistic Spiritual Centre (A framework for spiritual reflection and activities that focus on issues at the heart of the conflict). A Youth Club provides extracurricular activities for the community’s children. When funding permits, the community conducts humanitarian aid projects including, in recent years, summer camps for children from the West Bank. And the Oasis Art Gallery organizes exhibitions and programs, with the participation of Palestinian and Jewish artists.



## THE HUMANITARIAN GUARD

<https://my.israelgives.org/en/fundme/aidprotection>

The Humanitarian Guard is a brand new group of Israeli Jews who are risking their bodily safety to help protect trucks of humanitarian aid going into Gaza. On their very sparse web page, under the “Updates” tab, they write to their donors and volunteers:

*Thanks to each and every one of you, in the last couple of weeks we established the Humanitarian Guard. Over 900 activists registered to be involved in the guard, stood against extremist settlers, and made sure that hundreds of aid trucks were able to pass through to Gaza. The Humanitarian Guard garnered attention on social media and traditional media platforms in Israel and abroad, giving hope to people and showing them that it is possible to build a society here based on humanity and equality.*



InterAct

<https://www.iinteract.org/>

InterAct is a non-profit education center where we can bring the multi-narratives of conflict to the wider world, building empathy and understanding on a much larger scale.

The Dual Narrative Educational Center (DNEC) of InterAct is a groundbreaking online platform designed to promote education and understanding of the Palestinian Israeli conflict.

By offering comprehensive and unbiased information, the DNEC aims to bridge the gap in knowledge and perspectives among Israelis, Palestinians, and the global community. This grant proposal outlines the project idea and specific goals, which include educating individuals, fostering collaboration among civil society organizations, and creating an inclusive virtual space for dialogue and peacebuilding.

The DNEC seeks to establish a multilingual (English, Hebrew, Arabic) interactive hub that presents balanced perspectives on the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The center will offer meticulously curated content spanning from antiquity (BC) to contemporary times. Interactive maps will delineate shifting borders and regimes over centuries alongside key events, personalities, and international resolutions pertinent to the region's history. Sections such as maps, videos/documentaries/films, academic content, art exhibitions online, detailed historical accounts, personal narratives from prominent figures across various societal facets, VR-powered testimonials, and virtual thematic tours aim to create an immersive experience for users. The project also envisions facilitating real-life dual narrative tours of Israel and Palestine for those inspired to engage on a more physical level.

The DNEC has four main objectives:

- Educating Israelis and Palestinians about each other through providing a platform for individuals from both communities to learn about the opposing narrative, fostering mutual understanding, empathy, and respect. Through interactive maps, videos, academic content, and testimonies, users will gain an in-depth understanding of the perspectives, stories, and experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- Educate the world about the different narratives existing in Israel and Palestine; the DNEC's content will be accessible to a global audience, aiming to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes while promoting a nuanced understanding of the diverse narratives in Israel and Palestine. By showcasing historical facts, art, and recorded interviews, the DNEC will contribute to a more informed and balanced perception of the conflict.
- Encourage collaboration among civil society organizations and partners through actively engage with educational centers, universities, museums, and cultural facilities to foster collaboration and promote a collective effort towards a better reality. By partnering with local and international organizations, the DNEC will create a network of stakeholders committed to promoting peace, dialogue, and understanding.
- Create an online space for peaceful coexistence and a sustainable two-state solution; the center will serve as an inclusive online platform where individuals can engage in dialogue, participate in virtual tours, and access resources that facilitate cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. By promoting peaceful coexistence and a two-state solution, the DNEC seeks to contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the region.

InterAct offers conversation facilitation and conflict resolution workshops with single or multi-day trainings. Capable of guiding individuals and teams through challenging moments and conversations through constructive dialogue, our training programs equip both staff and leadership with effective communication skills to engage with different points of view.

InterAct's Dual Narrative Dialogue program brings two of our trained guides, Israeli and Palestinian, to participate in an online discussion. Together, they'll explore the current situation and future possibilities in the region. Our goal is to provide a platform for personal stories and perspectives, fostering open dialogue and showcasing the collaborative spirit between our guides. Don't miss this opportunity to hear diverse voices and witness the power of respectful cooperation.

This session can be tailored to focus on specific topics that better fit your community - Historical events, Political conversations, etc, OR run as an online Dual Narrative tour using digital tools (maps, videos, 360 pictures) to make the session more interactive.



<https://www.IRAC.org>

IRAC is dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of a just Israeli society. Their peace-building work is done mostly through legal advocacy in the court system and political arena. As listed on their website, IRAC's core goals are:

- Advancing freedom of and from religion.
- Ensuring state recognition and equal status for Reform and Conservative rabbis, synagogues, and institutions.
- Promoting equality in public.
- Advancing racial equality and combating hate.
- Strengthening Israel's democracy.
- Protecting the rights of converts and immigrants to become Israeli citizens and enjoy equal rights

- Regarding their peace-building work, the IRAC website states that it views with great concern the recent onslaught of legislative initiatives that weaken Israeli democracy, and works to fend off attempts intended to curtail the activities of human rights organizations, damage the status or rights of the country's Arab minority, restrict the authority of the Supreme Court, and harm freedom of expression and pluralism. IRAC will continue to act against and attempt to prevent the passage of anti-democratic legislation.



<https://www.jerusalempeacebuilders.org/>

Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB) vision is a Jerusalem and a world where Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Druze live together as sisters and brothers in dignity, equality, and peace.

### **Our Mission**

Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB) is an interfaith, non-profit organization with a mission to create a better future for humanity across religions, cultures, and identities. Integral to that mission is the belief that the future of Jerusalem is the future of the world. To that end, JPB promotes transformational, person-to-person encounters among the peoples of Jerusalem, Israel, Palestine, and the United States.

JPB's interfaith programs focus on uniting Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans and providing them with the opportunities, relationships, and skills they need to become future leaders for peace. A passion for peace drives our mission and partnerships power our program.

### **Our Story**

JPB had its genesis in 2011, on the tenth anniversary of the terror bombings of September 11, 2001. Having served at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, JPB Founders Rev. Nicholas and Dorothy Porter were convinced that these attacks made the timeless call for peacemaking in the Holy Lands ever more urgent. Rather than duplicate efforts, the Porters approached an international organization with a shared vision, and partnered to provide a specialized leadership



camp for American, Israeli and Palestinian youth. They held the first Leadership Institute in Brattleboro, VT in July 2011.

Following the success of the first program, JPB Co-Founder, Stuart Kensinger, was inspired to create a multi-year peacebuilding and leadership program. In the fall of 2012, JPB integrated the Houston-based Discovery Institute, with teens entering in ninth grade. Seeing a growing gap in opportunity and impact, in 2016, JPB launched a series of in-school leadership and peacebuilding courses in Jerusalem-area schools. In that same year, JPB extended its reach to work with adult teachers via the EXCEL Institute. In 2017, JPB continued to increase its portfolio of in-school programs in the Holy Lands. In Houston, JPB developed its domestic presence and programming by connecting with local schools, faith communities and nonprofit organizations.

2018 was a banner year for JPB, successfully inaugurating the fourth summer youth institute and the strategic positioning of both domestic and international staff. In 2019, JPB experienced the sudden and tragic loss of our friends and founding directors, Stuart and Angela Kensinger. While their deaths were a great shock to our community, JPB persevered and held a record five summer institutes, including a re-gearred EXCEL Institute in the UK. Meanwhile, our in-school programs continued to expand to over twenty schools across the USA and the Holy Lands.

As a result of the pandemic, the peacebuilding field contracted, but JPB continued steadfastly in its mission, offering online and COVID-safe programming throughout 2020 and 2021. We were the only educational Holy Lands peacebuilding organization to implement online programs at such a scale. Pandemic travel restrictions forced us to adapt and offer in-person, residential summer institutes in Israel. Against the odds, we reached a hundred teenagers, staff, and their families.

In 2022 and 2023, summer institutes triumphantly returned to the US and UK, and in-school courses were offered in over thirty public and private schools. Currently, despite the horrific war that began on October 7, JPB is moving ahead with offering five summer institutes for youth and adults in 2024.

JPB is the only peacebuilding interfaith organization bringing together Israeli, Palestinian, and American youth for educational programming that incorporates specifically-interfaith learning. We now oversee a robust multi-year, year-round program cycle of in-school and summer programs in the USA and Holy Lands. Offering summer institutes at successive levels in Texas, Connecticut, and now Geneva, Switzerland, each program runs over the course of two weeks and provides participants with leadership and peacebuilding skills, dialogues, service projects, presentations by guest speakers, and interfaith learning. Participants enjoy frequent field trips and outdoor recreational activities. Delicious home-cooked meals are prepared by a faithful

cadre of volunteers. The success of our program relies on the family atmosphere, the carefully selected small group of participants, and the emphasis on religion and faith as a path to reconciliation. In joining JPB, these young people are immersed in a life-changing experience that they will never forget.

Participants in the JPB program are an extraordinary group of dedicated young people. This dedication is evident in their avid desire to acquire the tools that will allow them to shine as leaders in forging a peaceful society in Jerusalem and across the Middle East. Today, we continue to create spaces for Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze teens to come together and envision a future of peace. Our participants are as determined as ever to make the prospect of peace a reality and our staff are dedicated to seeing each participant grow into their calling as leaders and peacebuilders.



<https://www.operatingtogether.org/>

Operating Together brings Palestinian and Israeli trauma care providers together to cultivate a joint community of trauma providers with professional, personal, and collective relationships, shared experiences, and a common passion for improving the region's trauma care.

Their flagship program is a 2-day Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course that accommodates 10 Palestinian and 10 Israeli surgical residents, delivered in English. It gives Palestinian and Israeli colleagues the opportunity to share this experience, and the foundation to build life-long personal, professional and collective relationships. Beyond ATLS and the care of trauma patients, this project aims to build a community of ATLS/trauma care providers in the region who have personal relationships, shared experiences, and a common passion to improve the region's trauma care.

פורום משפחות שכולות  
ישראל-פלסטיני בעד שלום  
ISRAELI PALESTINIAN  
BEREAVED FAMILIES FOR PEACE  
منتدى عائلات ثكلى فلسطيني  
إسرائيلي من أجل السلام



## THE PARENTS CIRCLE – FAMILIES FORUM

<https://www.theparentscircle.org>

The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF), created in 1995, is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 700 families, all of whom have lost an immediate family member to the ongoing conflict. The first meeting between bereaved Palestinians from Gaza and Israeli families took place in 1998.

The PCFF has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media, to spread these ideas. These families identified with a call to prevent bereavement, to promote dialogue, tolerance, reconciliation and peace. The contact with these Palestinian families came to an end with the second “Intifada” uprising. At the same time, that is in the year 2,000 contact was established with Palestinians from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, who in turn joined in with the activities of the Parents Circle – Families Forum. This group together with their Israeli partners, established the essence of the work of the Parents Circle today.

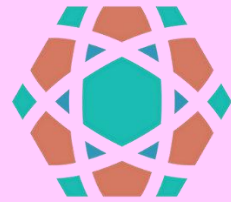
The PCFF is registered as a nonprofit organization, professionally managed by a joint Israeli-Palestinian board and a professional team operating from two offices: the Palestinian office in Beit Jala and the Israeli office in Ramat Ef'al.

The PCFF holds many activities and events to promote reconciliation and peace  
The events take place in Israel, Palestine and overseas

Through its years of operation, the PCFF has extended its activities in creative ways, to spread its message, expose the pain of bereavement, and the heavy toll of the conflict, and reach out for reconciliation and peace among the two people.

Our main activity: Dialogue Meetings. Israeli and Palestinian PCFF members meet with youth and adults and share their personal stories and explain their decision to work through dialogue rather than revenge, and The Parallel Narrative Experience project. One of the PCFF peak events in recent years is a joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day, in collaboration with the Combatants

for Peace movement. The ceremony, which is an annual event on the eve of Memorial Day, is a meaningful event that attracts many participants, seeking mutual consolation and hope.



רוח גלילית  
روح جليلية  
SPIRIT OF THE GALILEE

<https://www.spiritofthegalilee.org.il/>

Spirit of the Galilee works towards the advancement of pluralism, mutual understanding and cooperation between various denominations, religions and cultures of our region, Arabs and Jews alike. We are invested in building a shared society here in the Galilee, as a model for the entire country, the region, and the world.

The two Spirit of Galilee programs most directly related to peace-building between Jews and Arabs are:

### **Interreligious Leadership Program**

Spirit of the Galilee facilitates a high level academic discourse between religions and cultures. Our target audience are those functioning as clergy who are interested in learning, teaching, praying and listening to one another while developing a contemporary spiritual language that bravely and beneficially copes with the challenges of our time in the midst of the diverse communities and audiences they serve.

### **CoExist**

Co-Exist events are a celebration of human encounter: like the spice stand in the local market, we enjoy the variety of colors, aromas, sounds and flavors in the multicultural and diverse society of our region.

At Co-Exist meetings, local musicians, artists and cultural figures, entrepreneurs and residents from around the region come together for a cultural event that includes performances, joint activities and discussions.

Each Co-Exist event is organized by a small but determined group of activists, Jews and Arabs from the surrounding towns and villages, who recruit key people and members of their communities for the event.

In Co-Exist events there is a meaningful, inclusive, honest, and sometimes painful discourse, about that which unifies and separates, the good, the challenging, in the bitter-sweet reality of living in shared society.



<https://www.rhr.org.il/?lang=en>

Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR), founded in 1988, is dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Comprising rabbis and rabbinical students from diverse Jewish traditions—including Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reconstructionist—RHR is driven by the profound Jewish values of justice, dignity, and equality.

Our mission is to uphold the fundamental human rights of all people, inspired by the ethical teachings of Judaism. We believe that every individual is created in the image of God and deserves to live with dignity and respect. This belief guides our advocacy, education, and direct action efforts.

RHR's activities are comprehensive and impactful:

**Social Justice Initiatives:** We advocate for the rights of asylum seekers, migrant workers, and other marginalized populations in Israel. Our work in the Knesset involves lobbying for fair and just policies, ensuring that all residents of Israel receive equal treatment and opportunities.

**Interfaith and Intergroup Dialogue:** We promote dialogue and cooperation among different religious and ethnic groups. By fostering mutual understanding and respect, we aim to build a more inclusive and peaceful society.

**Educational Programs:** We are committed to educating the public about human rights through a Jewish ethical lens. Our programs include lectures, workshops, and seminars in schools, synagogues, and communities, fostering a culture of awareness and action.

**Protective Presence:** We provide a protective presence in areas of conflict, particularly during the olive harvest season. By accompanying Palestinian farmers, we help to prevent violence and harassment, ensuring they can safely access and work their lands.

**Humanitarian Aid:** RHR is committed to delivering humanitarian aid to communities in need. This includes distributing food and other essential supplies to those affected by conflict and displacement. Our aim is to alleviate suffering and support the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations.

**Rabbis' Network:** RHR maintains a strong network of rabbis across Israel and around the world. This network collaborates on various initiatives, sharing resources and strategies to amplify our collective impact on human rights issues.



<https://www.friendsofroots.net/>

Fostering a grassroots movement of understanding, nonviolence, and transformation among Israelis and Palestinians, at Roots we envision a social and political reality that is founded on dignity, trust, and a mutual recognition and respect for both peoples' historic belonging to the entire Land

At a time when both sides are convinced "there is no partner for peace," we have found otherwise.

### Why We Meet

Despite living so close to each other, Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank exist in almost complete separation, and both sides have little knowledge of each other's lives or humanity. Stereotypes are generally reinforced by exposure to only the aggression of the other; whether through media or personal experience of violence and trauma.

Through our projects and workshops, we create trust and partnership — the societal foundations upon which future political agreements can be built.

Our story begins in 2014 at a meeting between students of Rabbi Menachem Froman, of blessed memory, and members of the politically-prominent Abu Awwad family. This grew into a series of encounters between Palestinians and Israelis: meetings between families, a women's group, workshops, and a joint response to violence. Sensing the transformative power of this work, we committed to a long-term project and called it Roots.

We are a unique network of local Palestinians and Israelis who have come to see each other as the partners we both need to make changes to end our conflict. Based on a mutual recognition of each People's connection to the Land, we are developing understanding and solidarity despite our ideological differences. Roots is a place where local peoples can take responsibility. Our work is aimed at challenging the assumptions our communities hold about each other, building trust and creating a new discourse around the conflict in our respective societies. This is a grassroots and local model for making change — from the bottom up.

## **What We Do**

**Initiatives:** Roots is extremely active and carries out groundbreaking grassroots projects within and between our two communities. Our projects include a wide range of formal and informal activities and action, from interreligious discussion groups to a summer camp for children to community-wide meals.

**Speaking:** A large part of our work is bringing our experience and personal stories to new groups. We speak with various groups at the Roots Field and internationally with the aim to open and change the conversation around the conflict. To access media from past events or to find out about upcoming speaking tours in the US or Europe please look to our 'Speaking Tours' pages.

**Dialogue:** Roots runs dialogue groups at least once a week between members of local communities. We know that there is great disagreement over many issues - over the facts of the past and the reality of the present; but we have found that effective dialogue is the secure place for argument, and leads to deeper understanding. It is in this space that solutions can be built and actions can be developed.

# SEEDS OF PEACE

<https://www.seedsofpeace.org/>

Seeds of Peace began by bringing together 46 Palestinians, Israelis, and Egyptians in 1993.

Now, two decades later, over 3,000 young leaders and several hundred educators from the Middle East have graduated from the Seeds of Peace Camp, including delegates from Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Seeds of Peace now works primarily with young Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian leaders. The program begins at our Camp in Maine, where Middle East campers discuss core elements of the conflict, including the origins of the Zionist movement, the Holocaust, the Nakba, the Occupation, fear of violence, and fear of others, as well as terrorism, racism, and other drivers of oppression.

Our programs continue with year-round local activities focused on the capacities leaders need most to be effective change-makers.

Seeds of Peace offers more targeted programs and advanced skills training as alumni move into their university years and begin their careers, leveraging their unique relationships, understanding, and skills to shift the landscape of conflict and peace in the Middle East.

## **Seeds of Peace Camp**

Each summer, hundreds of young people engage with each other across lines of conflict and difference—sharing meals, living spaces, and learning experiences in a traditional summer camp program.

It is here that personal and interpersonal change begins, as perceptions and attitudes shift in the face of a new reality they create at Camp.

As participants find their own voices, form relationships, and gain insights into the root issues that divide them, they build greater levels of confidence, trust, respect, and empathy, which inspire their commitment to work for change at home.

## **Dialogue Sessions**



Every day, campers engage each other directly in small-group dialogue sessions. Dialogue is a youth-led space where Campers explore and unpack issues around identity, power, privilege, and community, and share with a supportive group the many complex perspectives and identities that make up their different lived experiences. Youth are the experts on their own experiences, and they, as a group, lead the content of the conversation as they share their personal stories.

Facilitators are guides and are there to simply structure the process to ensure it is honest, meaningful, challenging, and trauma-informed. The purpose of dialogue is not to come to consensus or agreement, but to more deeply understand the differences that each individual brings, to listen and to be heard in all of our complexities, and to learn something new about oneself and others. Participants leave the dialogue experience with the courage, curiosity, and communication skills they need to engage others back home and throughout their lives in difficult or complex conversations and discussions.

### **Group Challenge**

The Group Challenge component of the Camp program complements the dialogue sessions—it is dialogue conducted in physical form, or ‘dialogue in action.’ The series of group activities reinforces trust, cooperation and communication, thus forging stronger bonds between dialogue group members and enhancing the dialogue sessions.

The program is designed to be flexible and is constantly reevaluated and adjusted to meet the needs of the young people and to best impact group dynamics as the dialogue process unfolds.

### **Leadership and Community Action**

In addition to our dialogue program campers participate in sessions focused on leadership development and the skills for action-taking on the issues and topics they are most passionate about.

These sessions focus on communication and conflict resolution, self-awareness and personal reflection, and the skills they need to take meaningful action in their communities.

### **Community Building**

During camp there are athletic and arts activities designed to develop leadership skills, foster creative expression, and strengthen the values of respect, good communication, and action-taking across lines of conflict.

Campers engage meaningfully with peers, caring adults, and mentors of all ages who create an ecosystem of support and solidarity across lines of difference as they navigate the uncertainty,

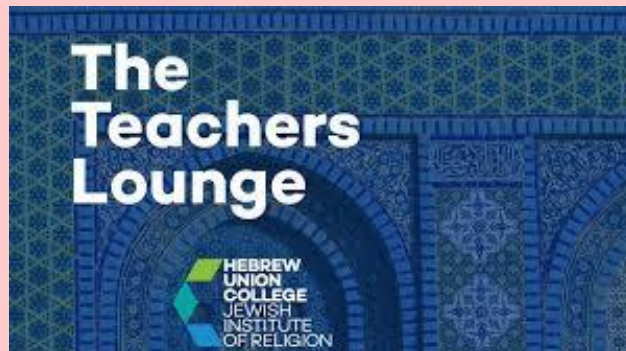
challenge, and resistance that often accompany change-making pursuits. During their time at camp, youth create traditions together that build deep and long-lasting community.

### **Religious and Cultural Events**

The diversity of faiths and cultures at Seeds of Peace presents unique learning opportunities. Campers are invited to witness their peers' religious and cultural practices first hand and engage in dialogue about our different experiences.

Religious services for various traditions take place weekly, and we also support individuals to organize services or practices during Camp.

On special nights during each session, campers share their cultural heritage and traditions with one another, while enjoying a dinner of their favorite dishes from home.



<https://huc.edu/about-huc/our-campuses/jerusalem/teachers-lounge-english/>

Established in 2014, The Teachers' Lounge (accredited by the Israeli Ministry of Education) of HUC-JIR in Jerusalem promotes multicultural tolerance and peaceful shared society by bringing together Arab and Jewish educators from East and West Jerusalem for a year of sustained professional development and relationship-building around their passion for teaching.

Throughout the program, teachers engage in deep exploration of their personal, professional, and cultural identities as they discuss common educational challenges. The experience of meeting with “the Other” is facilitated through a variety of mediums including theater, art, writing workshops, video, and photography, as well as through joint tours of the city.

The guiding purpose of Teachers' Lounge is to enable educators from various, often adversarial, communities to create an open dialogue centered on overcoming barriers to peaceful coexistence.

At the heart of the program are the participating teachers who serve as moral, civic, and educational role models for students in every community. Since the program began, Teachers' Lounge has created a safe haven where teachers from around the city can meet and learn with and from each other.

Based on the success of the Jerusalem program, Teachers' Lounge expanded in 2021 to serve educators in the Western Galilee. In 2022, two additional centers were opened – one in Ramle in collaboration with the Rossing Center, and one in Tel Aviv-Jaffa offered jointly with Beit Daniel.



<https://www.theroadtorecovery.org.il/>

We transport Palestinian patients to and from the border crossings for treatment in Israeli hospitals.

The journey from the border crossing is virtually impossible for the hundreds of parents of sick children, due to both expense as well as logistical complexity. Parents are left completely helpless in the face of their child's illness. The Palestinian Authority finances the hospital treatment, but getting to and from the hospital remains a huge and often insurmountable barrier.

With the help of Road to Recovery volunteers, this journey becomes simple and doable. And while doing that simple act of kindness, a strong bond of new warmth and friendship is created, replacing the suspicion and doubt that is all too present.

**2023**, which has just ended, was a difficult and turbulent year. On October 7th we woke up to a new and painful reality that we have been trying to deal with ever since.

On that Shabbat morning, Tammy Suchman, Vivian Silver, Adi Dagan, Hayim Katsman and Eli Orgad, all of blessed memory, were murdered. Oded Lipshitz and Chaim Peri were abducted to the Gaza Strip Area and have still not returned.

Many volunteers lost family members on that terrible day, and during the ongoing war that ensued. Dozens of our volunteers, residents of the Western Negev, were evacuated from their homes and have been living, ever since, in temporary housing throughout the country.

The war in Gaza continues and all of us pray that the hostages will return home safely and that the war will end quickly. And yet, in spite of all this, the organization's volunteers have not stopped for a moment. On the morning of October 8th we drove patients from the West Bank to hospitals in Israel.

The "Road to Recovery" continues to drive Palestinian patients from the checkpoints to hospitals in Israel.



<https://www.womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>

Founded in the aftermath of the 50-day Gaza War/Operation Protective Edge of 2014, Women Wage Peace (WWP) has grown to 50,000 Israeli members, the largest grassroots peace movement in Israel today.

WWP's theory of change refracts the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and its resolution, through a gendered lens. In the words of former US Ambassador Swanee Hunt, "Women tend to have a more holistic view of security, which embraces not just political sovereignty and military strength, but also economic security, education, and personal safety." The movement is non-partisan and does not support any one specific solution to the conflict. Instead, it empowers women from diverse communities to build trust across divides, leading in turn to a unified demand for diplomatic negotiation, with full representation of women, to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

WWP enables women to unite and take the future of this small place into our own hands –from the political left, center and right, younger and older women, those from the center of the country and its periphery, religious and secular, Jewish, Arab, Druze and Bedouin. The movement continues to refine its non-hierarchical structure, distributing its work among thousands of

volunteers who serve on regional and/or mission-specific teams including Government Engagement, Foreign Affairs, Digital Communication, Special Projects, and Strategy.

**Women Wage Peace** is a broad, politically unaffiliated movement, which is acting to prevent the next war and to promote a non-violent, respectful, and mutually accepted solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the active participation of women through all stages of negotiations.

The movement **Women Wage Peace** functions on the basis of these **ten principles**:

1 ***All actions serve to further the two goals of the movement***, a negotiated agreement ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with full participation of women in all aspects of peace making and ensuring security. Thus member(s) must present a rationale for every activity she/they wish to include in WWP's yearly program.

2 ***We refrain from criticism*** including criticism of political leaders, and support positive action directed toward negotiation of a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This approach is based on the belief that action to further a political agreement is both possible and beneficial for the future of Israel.

3 ***We are non-partisan***; the movement's purpose is to create a consensus among the majority of Israeli citizens, regardless of their political affiliations or loyalties, in the belief that we all have common interests, desires and needs for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. We do not, therefore, support any political party or individual identified with any party and we do not campaign on behalf of any individual or party.

4 ***Women lead the movement*** although it is a civil society initiative open to both women and men. We believe that (1) women still remain, generally speaking, a missing cohort in the political arena, (2) that women's leadership must be actively cultivated, and (3) that women have a unique contribution to make in the creation of public accord and in the processes of negotiation.

5 ***Pragmatism is key***. WWP is not an ideological movement; its members reflect diverse ideologies. What is common, however, to all members is the belief that an agreement that is respected and accepted by both sides will meet the diverse needs of Israeli society. Thus despite members' differences, all are ready, willing and interested in cooperating in order to reach their common goal.

6 ***WWP recognizes the need for diverse voices*** and is committed to the idea that the more partners there are in the process of reaching an agreement, the greater the chances of achieving a long-lasting peace that unifies rather than divides. Based on this principle, the movement actively approaches diverse populations in order to understand their needs and reservations (in relation to a peace agreement) and the ways in which these groups feel it is best to

proceed. WWP does not make use of a single formula or method to interest Israelis in reaching an accord nor does it try to persuade anyone of a single truth.

7 ***WWP is a grassroots movement*** committed to the idea that people tend to join a broad social movement and contribute their time on its behalf **not** because of the personalities involved but because of its objectives and principles. In keeping with women's tendency to privilege relationships over abstract notions of justice or hierarchical notions of merit or power, the movement sees all members as equal, with all roles and functions open to all members. Roles which demand more responsibility are rotated based on members' interests in fulfilling those roles. Each member is significant and valued and can be part of the decision-making process.

8 ***"You suggest it – you implement it."*** [The phrase rhymes in Hebrew; an English approximation would be "she who proposes, disposes." With no hierarchy or division between those who suggest and those who implement suggestions – and in order to encourage women to take responsibility and to develop leadership skills – anyone who suggests an idea is expected to implement it with the help of fellow members if it is in keeping with the movement's strategic goals for the year.

9 ***The movement opposes and condemns all forms of violence*** whether physical or verbal.

10 ***The movement operates within the bounds of the law*** at all times.

## President's Message

Summertime 2024

For our school children, summer means time off from school and time to rest and recharge and do fun things.

For the working force, most of you will not have a major change in your daily lives, as you will continue to work. For our beloved teachers and school staff, enjoy your time off as well.

For retired folks like me, there are few changes other than the things we get to do. For me, my happy place in the summer (at least in the mornings and when I have strength in the evenings) is working in my gardens and my landscaping.

2023 brought a major change to my property, as the 20 or so ash trees that gave us shade and privacy from the road had to be removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer, which is destroying ash trees all around us. This has left me with an area that was woods for the 37 years we have lived here, and now I am trying to take my time and reclaim the woods into a nature habitat for the birds, bees and butterflies. It is a large job. I started last year and hope to have all the weeding done and my planting vision accomplished by the end of 2025. But it requires me to spend a lot of time weeding, planting, and mulching to try and match my vision.

I love the early mornings, when there isn't much traffic, and it's just me and the joyful sounds that the birds are singing.

My hope for you this summer is to enjoy your life, take care of your health and enjoy time with friends and family.

With much love and appreciation,  
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.

Thank you for a great year! Chaverim activities will start back up again in September.

**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

## Zumba Gold with Sandy



Mondays 10-10:45am

&

Fridays 11:45-12:30pm



Where: WCHF Community  
Center

31 Belvidere Avenue,  
Washington, NJ 07882



# Chaverim

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

Dear Members of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey,

"Just as despair can come to one only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings."  
– Elie Weisel

At the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center – DASACC, we believe that these challenging times have given us an opportunity for self-reflection, learning, and growth. The mission of the DASACC is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change.

We offer a wide range of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of those affected by interpersonal violence:

#### 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](http://www.DASACC.org/web-chat)
- ❖ Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team

#### Additional Services

- ❖ Legal Advocacy
- ❖ Individual and Group Counseling
- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ Community Outreach & Prevention
- ❖ Volunteer Program
- ❖ Casa Hispana
- ❖ Wardrobe of Hope

As members of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, we invite you to join us in supporting the important work of DASACC. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of survivors and create a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered.

For more information about DASACC and how you can get involved, please visit our website at [www.DASACC.org](http://www.DASACC.org).

Thank you for your support and compassion.  
Sincerely,

**The DASACC Team**

24/7 Hotline/Helpline  
908-453-4181



HELPLINE: 1.800.8BE.SAFE | [WWW.DASACC.ORG](http://WWW.DASACC.ORG) | OUTREACH OFFICES: 28C BROAD STREET | WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07882  
OUTREACH: 908.453.4121 | OUTREACH FAX: 908.223.1145 | SAFE HOUSE: 908.453.4181 | SAFE HOUSE FAX: 908.453.3768

# 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 June 8 at 10:30am. Having just read the narrative of David and Goliath, we will be reading/studying 1 Samuel:18 and 19 (Saul's growing fear of David and Saul tries to kill David).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89728604184?pwd=L0tBSmhoSDZ3Vk5sdIRRc1Y4QmY4UT09>

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 9. Breakfast will be provided starting at 9:30, and the meeting will begin at 10:00.

We need a quorum of 25 people to attend in person to be able to vote, so please make every effort to be there.

## SHAVUOT

The festival of Shavuot begins the evening of June 11. This is one of three biblical festivals (Pesach and Sukkot are the others) that blend annual harvest milestones from Ancient Israel with religious and historical commemorations. As with other holidays, many Jews outside of Israel observe for two days due to uncertainty in the calendar that previously existed.

In ancient times, Shavuot marked the beginning of the grain harvest of early summer. The first fruits of the harvest were sacrificed in Jerusalem. More importantly, it recognizes the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai seven weeks after the exodus from slavery. The giving and acceptance of the Torah symbolizes the covenant between the Jewish people and G-d.

One of the main customs of Shavuot is to eat dairy foods. This is likely related to Israel being the "land of milk and honey," as described in the Torah. It is also a tradition to read the Book of Ruth. There are several connections between the story of Ruth and the themes of Shavuot.

- Adam Tucker

Sources:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/shavuot-101/>  
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/shavu-ot>

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

Thank you.

Iris

# Updates & Events

## DONATIONS

In memory of Saul Schutzbank  
- Ruth Schutzbank

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

## 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.

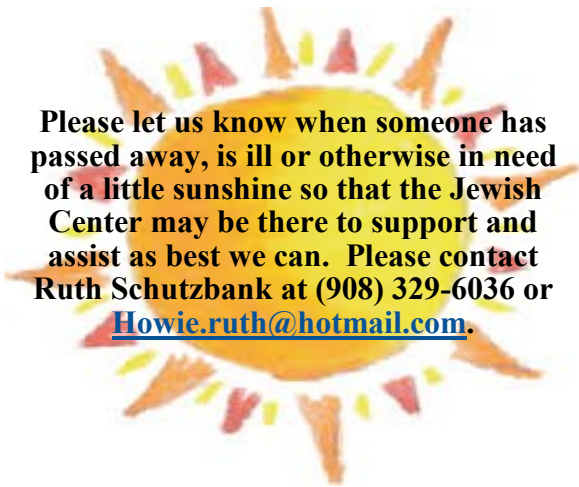
Thank you for your continued support!  
-Iris

## Yahrzeits

Carol Fleckles	sister of Daniel Fleckles
Keith Ehrenreich	cousin of Edythe Herson
Gerald Klein	uncle of Gerri Klein
Susan Waxman	mother of Debbie Kahan
Reuben Marcovitch	father of Edythe Herson
Alan Berkman	relative of Rabbi Lewis
Mary Bronicco	mother of Jeannie Berkowitz

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

## 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).

# JCNWJ Services

*Lifecycle!*

JCNWJ.ORG • 908.689.0762

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!*

JCNWJ.ORG • 908.689.0762

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](mailto: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



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[www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com](http://www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com)

## **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.