

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

March 2024

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Rabbi's Message

²⁰Mordecai recorded these events (of victory over their enemies). And he sent dispatches to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus, near and far, ²¹charging them to observe the **fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar**, every year—²²the same days on which the Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and **the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy**. They were to observe them as days of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor.

-- Esther 9:20-22

Dear Friends,

This time of year, being that we are in the Hebrew month of Adar, is very special for us, because it is at this time of year, with the memory of Purim guiding the way, that we are charged with transforming sorrow into joy. In fact, though, this year, Adar isn't just special, it's **doubly**-special, because this year is a leap year, a year in which we have two months of Adar. Adar I began on February 8, and Adar II will begin on March 9.

So how do we achieve that transformation from sorrow to joy, especially if we really do have good reason to be sad? We do it with intention. We do it, according to Mordecai's charge, with good food, merry celebrations, gift-giving, and *tzedaka* for the poor.

It's not always easy to set down the negative burdens of life as we know it, but this is what we're called to do now. It's a

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 3

9:30am: Hebrew School

Monday, March 4

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, March 8

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, March 10

9:30am: Community B'yachad

Sunday, March 17

9:30am: Hebrew School

Saturday, March 23

10:00am: Torah Study on Zoom

5:30pm: Community Dinner

6:30pm: Purim Service & Spiel

Monday, April 1

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, April 5

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, April 7

9:30am: Hebrew School

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

worthy exercise. So as we gear up for Purim, as we wait in eager anticipation for the annual JCNWJ Purim spiel (which, I have on good authority, is looking to be even more fabulous this year than normal!), I encourage you to take extra steps – however small – to exchange sadness for gladness. But don't feel bound to just the four strategies alone that are presented in Esther 9:20-22.

In addition to good food, merry celebration, gift giving, and *tzedaka* for the poor, there are so many other ways to live with the intention of increasing our joy. Try calling someone with whom you have lost touch. Reach out to a friend who has wronged you. Make a batch of soup for someone who is sick. Take a long walk in the sunshine. Listen more. Love more. Say thank you as often as you can. Dance when no one is looking. Dance when they are looking. Sing in the shower. Read a good book. Eat cake.

As war continues to rage in Israel, as we pray daily for the return of hostages, and an end to the suffering of innocent civilians, even as antisemitism rears its head in the scariest of places, even as those we love battle disease, and our lives sometimes feel off the rails, we ought never give up hope of better times to come.

So, during this month of Adar I, and continuing into next month of Adar II, let us hold dear the words of Rabbi Nahman of Breslov:

Mitzvah gedola lih'yot b'simcha tamid

It is a great mitzvah to be happy always.

B'Simcha (In happiness),

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

Spring is in the air, my favorite time of year. At the temple, we can see the daffodils poking their heads up and getting ready to bloom. Deb Apsel, Bob Margolis, Erica Sylvester, Adam Tucker and I have written our first Purim Spiel, and we will be performing on Saturday March 23rd. Keep an eye out for the activities that evening, and we hope you can come and join us. On the 24th, Chaverim will be travelling to NYC to see the play SIX.

At home, I have started my first set of seeds and plan to get going when I return next week from San Diego to visit my dad. I love spring. I used to think that fall was my favorite season, as I loved the changing colors, and I still do. But the rebirth of the world in spring really excites me. The weather will be warmer, and I will be able to spend more time outdoors with our gardens. I will be more inclined to go out with my camera and find cool places to take pictures of the birds.

I am excited to be able to go to the Yankees games again, and at this point in my life, I either go to the Bronx Zoo or the New York Botanical gardens before the games. The botanical gardens in April and May are astounding, especially when the lilacs are in bloom. I could stay there for hours smelling all the different varieties.

I also have the privilege of picking my granddaughter Jemma up from school a few days a week, and I hope to continue watching her bike ride in the parks.

Finally, this year I have a destination wedding for my nephew in a castle in Ireland, where we will vacation for about a week.

Optimism reigns supreme in my life and I hope in yours as well. Pray for peace in Israel and all the world.

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

March 23, 6:30 p.m. – Purim Spiel & Mishloach Manot **PICK-UP**

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, 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



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

VIV A LAS
Shushan!

*PLS SIGN UP NO LATER THAN MARCH 10TH
TO PICK UP BETWEEN 3/17 -3/31

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.

stay tuned for additional details



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 an ancient text.

The next meeting is March 23 at 10:00am. 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.

In April, 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. 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.

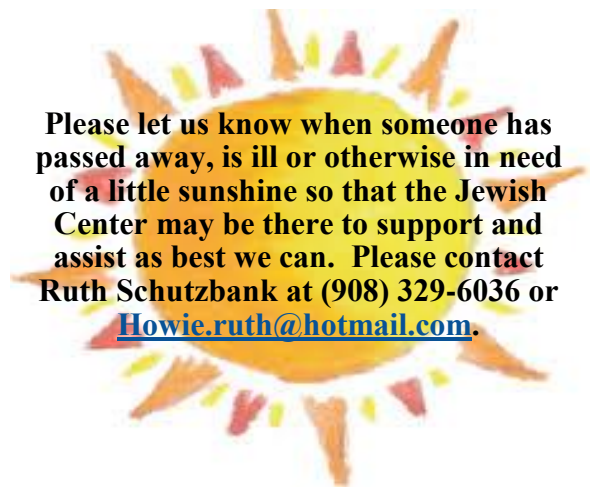
You can either call or email me at irishirsch@comcast.net or 908-850-1030.

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 Edward Israel Lewis and Lillian Greenbaum Jay

- Rabbi Lewis

In honor of Risa's & Sharon's 80th Birthday

- Carol & Steve Mandel

- Dorothy Friedel

- Sylvia Pearl

- Harvey & Tina Applebaum

- Judy Frost

In memory of Harry Siegel

- Rhonda Jordan

In memory of Gertrude Weil

- Ruth Schutzbank

In memory of Helen Steinhardt

- Lawrence & Wendy Steinhardt

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

YAHREZEITS

Rose Nudelman

Lilian Greenbaum Jay

Harry Quintner

Jules Katz

Sadye Hertzmark

Gertrude Weil

Gerry England

Max Spinner

Grandmother of Tracey Bauer

Grandmother of Rabbi Lewis

Father of Marcia Guberman

Father of Marsha Gross

Mother of Nancy Robings

Mother of Ruth Schutzbank

Father of Teri Stanton

Father of Robin Hall

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

Zumba Gold with
Sandy



Mondays 10-10:45am



Where: WCHF Community
Center

31 Belvidere Avenue,
Washington, NJ 07882

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!

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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

JEWISH CENTER OF NW JERSEY

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



AT JCNWJ



115 YOUMANS AV • WASHINGTON, NJ

Have you thought about taking a more active role at the JCNWJ?

- Musically inclined? sing or play at services.
- Expert at something? host or teach a workshop.
- Ideas on fundraising, membership, chaverim - join a committee.
- Want to meet fellow congregants? usher at services!

WWW.JCNWJ.ORG

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

Mark Your Calendar

The JCNWJ Purim Spielers
proudly present



ELVIS!

(impersonators)

VIVA LAS SHUSHAN

The story of the Blue Suede Jews

Saturday, March 23

Dinner @ 5:30

Service & Spiel @ 6:30

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

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.