

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As we emerge from the Passover holiday, I continue to think about freedom - the freedom we enjoyed three-and-a-half millennia ago leaving Egypt, and the freedom denied the more than 130 hostages who are still held in Gaza. Against the backdrop of their imprisonment, false accusations against Israel of genocide surge. Students across the United States are raising their voices, the term "Zionist" is misconstrued and misused, and old tropes of antisemitism have been resurrected. It's become so difficult, that some Jews, including my own daughter, have stopped wearing Jewishly identifying jewelry and clothing on campus.

We move forward because we must. Because hope and peace are mandatory.

But how, when anger and dismay are such natural responses? We start by seeking agreement. Without a common set of basic historical facts, there can be no foundations on which to build.

This is the principle that drove Matt Polsky, Sharon Herson, and me to create and present our program on Sunday, April 28. To accomplish our goal of establishing an accepted timeline of facts surrounding the history of Israel and Palestine, we heard from two scholars, Hussein Ibish, Senior Resident Scholar at The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, D.C., and David Meyers, the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Distinguished Professor of Jewish History at UCLA, and the Director of the UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy. While their interpretations varied at times, Drs. Ibish and Meyers did agree on the fundamentals. From this agreement, they were able to communicate with marked respect and compassion.

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Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 4

7:00pm: Mystery in the Simcha Gallery

Sunday, May 5

9:30am: Community B'yachad

Monday, May 6

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, May 18

9:30am: Hebrew School

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

Sunday, May 19

1:00pm: Chaverim Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 25

11:15am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

Sunday, May 26

9:30am: Hebrew School

Sunday, June 2

9:30am: Hebrew School

Monday, June 3

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Save the Date - June 9 - Annual Meeting

Rabbi's Message (continued)

(If you'd like to view the unedited videos of their presentation, Part I can be found on www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSAHp4vFsco, and at www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvJqTDifeTA for Part II.)

After learning the history, we then pondered difficult questions, the most difficult of which was, "What now? What can we do to best support the possibility of future peace and prosperity?"

Among our answers, we agreed that to advance the quest for peace, we must support organizations, businesses, and individuals that are already doing important coexistence work on-the-ground. As bleak as the future may seem at times, there really *are* those who are already doing the work. One organization in particular that our group seemed excited to support is an integrated and bilingual network of schools called Hand in Hand (*Yad b'Yad* in Hebrew). Here is how they describe themselves:

Hand in Hand was founded as an engine for social change, and we believe that systemic change begins with education and community work. Since 1998, Hand in Hand has provided a transformational alternative to Israel's divided educational system by creating the only network of integrated, bilingual schools for Jews and Arabs in the country. This year, over 2,000 students are enrolled in six Hand in Hand schools...

We nurture pluralistic parent communities in each Hand in Hand location, engaging thousands of adults and family members in programming that enables genuine friendship-building and dialogue in an environment of inclusion and mutual respect. Even during this turbulent time, our students and community members continue to show up every day, embodying true partnership, and spreading egalitarian and humanistic values across the country.

To learn more, check out www.handinhandk12.org/

Of course, Hand in Hand is not the only entity doing good work. There are many, which itself is a reason for optimism. Over the coming months, we will identify and learn from additional organizations, because what they are doing matters.

It is our guiding principle and purest hope to protect Jews -- on campus, in Israel, and throughout the world. To accomplish this, we have to tackle the difficult conversations. We must engage with those who seek to delegitimize the State of Israel, to find our shared humanity, and to commit to the protection of the innocent and most vulnerable non-combatants, Palestinians in Gaza included. There is a definite place for military force, but if all we do is try to fight our way out of the conflict, we will discover this path to be not only insufficient, but soul corroding, too.

Listening. Respect. Kindness. Empathy. We must begin the conversations – no matter how difficult. The imperative Jewish value of peace leaves us no option, because without peace, there can be no freedom.

B'Cheirut ("In Freedom"),

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

As I write this message, spring is in full bloom. Flowers are blooming, trees are budding, weeds are growing, my ferns are coming up again and I am enjoying spending my time in the gardens. I am beginning to feel my age as I get up and down with less ease than in the past, but I still love being outside, working the soil, pulling the weeds, edging the flower beds and listening to the birds.

In addition, I get to follow two of my favorite sports teams, the baseball Yankees and the hockey Rangers. I am especially enjoying the hockey playoffs, since Comcast and MSG Network can't agree on a price so that I can watch them on my cable, and I haven't forked over the money to watch them on a subscription service (yet).

In addition, I am playing my percussion at Hebrew School and at a Jam night hosted by our own Suzi Marr at Scotty's on Thursday night, where we play popular and some quirky songs. And my other band from Boston is opening a charity festival in Connecticut in September, and I was able to attend a rehearsal this past weekend with my friends in Duxbury Massachusetts.

This is keeping me busy these days, which I absolutely love. My idea of retirement at my age is to keep active, moving, travelling and simply enjoying the good things that life has to offer.

All this in addition to keeping the temple running smoothly, with help from the board of trustees at the temple. As we move towards the end of the year, I want to thank each one of them for the work they do. Marsha Gross has been my right hand over the past 8 years (I think) making sure I keep on top of things. Jerry Berkowitz is our treasurer and along with our bookkeeper Roy Loomis, has done a great job of keeping our temple financially sound for the past year. Rita Berkowitz is our secretary and takes wonderful, detailed notes of the board meetings and distributes these minutes quickly so that we can review them while they are still fresh in our heads. My wife Iris runs the Ritual committee, which among other things coordinates the Onegs and schedules the services for the High Holidays. Suzi Marr runs the Chaverim (formerly Sisterhood) and is the social glue that keeps the temple in good spirits with all the events she schedules. Jeff Berkowitz does a magnificent job of keeping our building in tip top shape. Debbie Kahan may have the hardest job of all, which is trying to find new members in an area where it does not appear to have many Jews moving in. Deb Kalisher has been running our Sunday School for the last few years. Beth Lappin is the head of the cemetery committee and works with Easton Cemetery when we need to bury someone, as well as our person who is ALWAYS cheerful and makes meetings more fun. Rhonda Jordan, Ruth Schutzbank, Adan Tucker, and Bob Margolis are at-large members, which means they attend the board meetings, can vote on issues that arise and are truly helpful with their suggestions and advice. Without this group (and previous

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President's Message

boards), my job as President would be SO MUCH HARDER. THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.

And lastly. A special thank you to Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin. Our spiritual leader for the last 9 years and hopefully for many more. Rabbi, you are an inspiration to all of us at the JCNWJ, and we thank you for being yourself and sharing your family and pets with us over the years. You are truly special.

With all my deepest love to all of you and everyone else who contributes to the synagogue, I appreciate every one of your efforts.

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

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

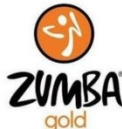
Zumba Gold with Sandy



Mondays 10-10:45am

&

Fridays 11:45-12:30pm



Where: WCHF Community
Center

31 Belvidere Avenue,
Washington, NJ 07882

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

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
- ❖ 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.

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 | 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: 908.453.3708

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.

We are continuing our reading of the book of Samuel. We are about to start the story of David. Our next session will be May 25 at 11:15 a.m. This date is on Memorial Day weekend. Hope that you will join us from wherever you may be.

The following meeting is scheduled for June 8.

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

THE ISRAELI HOLIDAYS

(a Trilogy)

Each spring brings three important modern holidays for Israel and the Jewish people.

Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day - Observed on 27 Nisan (May 5-6 this year): This holiday has been observed since 1951, and is to remember the six million Jews who died in the holocaust, and recognize those who fought back including the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Yom HaZikaron - Israel Memorial Day - Observed on 4 Iyar (May 12-13 this year): Remembers fallen soldiers in the wars of Israel and victims of actions of terrorism. In Israel, a siren is sounded at 8:00pm across the country, beginning a moment of silence where everyone stops. Ceremonies take place at cemeteries during the day and the names of fallen soldiers are broadcast on TV.

Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel Independence Day - Observed on 5 Iyar (May 13-14 this year): The solemnity of Memorial Day gives way to the celebration of Independence Day. An official ceremony takes place on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. There is a ceremonial lighting of 12 torches for the 12 tribes of ancient Israel. There are musical celebrations and fireworks in many cities.

The dates of the holidays do vary by a day or two in some years to avoid falling on Shabbat.

The dates of the holidays are based on the Hebrew calendar, but this year, the date of Yom Ha'atzmaut actually corresponds to the date of Israeli independence on the secular calendar - May 14, 1948.

-Adam Tucker

Source: Wikipedia

Updates & Events

DONATIONS

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

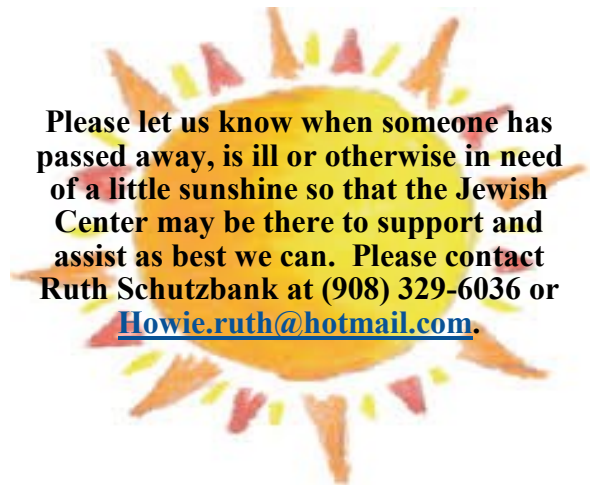
Yahrzeits

Irwin Finkelstein	Father of Shelly Finkelstein
Arthur Hertzmark	Father of Nancy Robins
Julius Schiller	Family of Blanche Davidson
Carol Roessner	Father of Erica Sylvester
Anna Goldberg	Mother of Stuart Goldberg
Anna Flekles	Cousin of Daniel Flekles
Rebecca Sachat	Grandmother of Barbara Simons
Susan Waxman	Mother of Debbie Kahan
Joseph Posner	Grandfather of Tracey Bauer
Saul Schutzbank	Father of Howard Schutzbank
Larry Bauer	Brother of Mo Bauer
Dora Merein	Grandmother of Lois Goldberg
Robert Joseph Heller	Cousin of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis
David B. Pinn	Father of Helen Mattson
Michael S. Lewis	Grandfather of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis
William Moorehead	Father of James Moorehead

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.



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

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*

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RICHARD L. MAGUIRE, JR.
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DENISE MAGUIRE
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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.