

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

P.O. Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

Facebook: JCNWJ

September 2024

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## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

If asked to name the holiest month of the Jewish year, most of us might say *Tishrei*, the month during which we gather for Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, **and** Simchat Torah. Four major holidays in just over three weeks. Talk about a jam-packed month! Especially when we compare *Tishrei* to *Elul*, the month just before, the contrast could not be any clearer: *Tishrei* has four major holidays; *Elul* has exactly none.

All the same, maybe we have it wrong. Maybe *Elul* **is**, in fact, a whole lot holier than we often think it is. Maybe, in fact, *Elul* is the single holiest month of the entire Jewish year! Truth be told, I think it is. And here's why.

Even though *Elul* is one of only three months in the Jewish year devoid of a single significant holiday, as I see it, it also happens to be a month filled with incomparable holiness, because during *Elul*, every last one of its 29 days focuses on the same extraordinary quest of deep personal reflection and preparation so as to begin the coming New Year with the best possible chance for spiritual success. Though we know it is incumbent upon us to engage in self-reflection, atonement, and personal growth every other day of the year, too, during *Elul*,

(continued on next page)

## Calendar of Events

### Friday, September 6

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### Sunday, September 8

9:30am: Hebrew School—Opening Day

### Monday, September 9

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### Saturday, September 14

10:30am: Torah Study (Zoom only)

### Sunday, September 15

9:30am: Hebrew School

Dor L'Dor—All Are Welcome

Chaverim Kickoff Meeting

Meet & Greet w/Washington Police

### Saturday, September 21

10:00am: Hebrew School

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

### Sunday, September 29

9:30am: Hebrew School/Chaverim

Mitzvah Day—Apple Gleaning

### Monday, September 30

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### October 2-4: Rosh Hashanah

Evening Service 10/2 @ 7:00pm

Morning Services 10/3 & 10/4 @ 10:00am

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

which begins tomorrow evening (Monday, Sept. 2), our spiritual trek of introspection rises to a whole new level of daily pursuit.

We are taught by Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezale (also referred to as the Maharal of Prague) that

*Throughout the entire month of Elul, even more than eating and sleeping, a person should look deeply into their soul in order to examine their acts, so that they will be able to confess.*

What an appealing way to spend the month! All the same, as alluring as such an endeavor may sound, simply being told to engage in self-reflection and confession hardly ensures we'll actually succeed at doing it – or even try. This is why, recognizing that written instructions alone can sometimes be less than entirely sufficient to move us to meaningful action, tradition instructs us to sound the shofar each day (other than on Shabbat), in order that we will have our own personal “spiritual alarm clocks” waking us up to action. In addition, understanding that generosity has the capacity to unlock the very best in us, we make the conscious effort to intensify our *tzadaka* practice over the course of the 29 days of *Elul*.

Fortunately, while Judaism teaches that God truly is accessible to the genuine seeker every second of every day of every year, we are taught that during the month of *Elul*, God is **especially** available, which, again, gives us the absolute best chances for spiritual success. Ultimately, by the end of the month, assuming we have put in the proper effort, we really will be ready to enter the new year of 5785 with our best foot forward.

If a deep process of such introspection appeals to you, but you don't know where to begin, please make sure you follow our public-facing JCNWJ Facebook page, where I will be posting daily meditations that have been prepared by my colleagues, Rabbi David Young and Rabbi Neal Katz (I hope you follow our members-only Facebook page, too, but for the daily *Elul* meditations, I will be using our public-facing Facebook page). If you don't already follow us on Facebook but would like to, and don't know how, please reach out to Suzi, who will be happy to guide you through the process.

Wishing us all a constructive and meaningful *Elul*,

Rabbi Dubin

## President's Message

As Hebrew School begins and the High Holidays approach, I continue to reflect on this past year, the opportunities presented, and the choices made. Specifically, that of becoming President of the Jewish Center of NW Jersey. This was not a decision made lightly. When Rabbi Dubin, Howie, and I first met, I could not envision taking on such lofty responsibilities. Could I handle the challenges of meeting people where they are, having sensitive conversations with people that I previously had casual conversation with over cake and coffee, leading our Board of Trustees, and so on?

So, I met with every Board member and many additional member contributors to assess their opinions, personal needs right now, their ability to commit to another year or two to the Temple, and their comfort with me shaking things up. Well, I don't know how comfortable any of us are – even me. I'm learning on the job, and I definitely do, and will, have missteps. But, what I can tell you is that.... **I AM COMMITTED TO THE JEWISH CENTER OF NW JERSEY, AND I AM COMMITTED TO ITS MEMBERSHIP!** It's gonna be a bumpy ride so strap in!

The Board of Trustees will be sending a survey soon; please complete and return it. We need your input to assess what programming makes sense to:

- energize our Congregation
- engage our membership
- create buzz and excitement for our COMMUNITY

Our immediate goals are to have a dynamic offering of activities to give choices of where, what, and how to participate. **BUT WE NEED YOU, YOUR INPUT, YOUR PARTICIPATION, YOUR HELP TO KEEP GOING** (both as attendee and contributor).

Since 50% of our revenue comes from donations, we will have an annual schedule of grand (for us) and small-scale fundraising activities – every dollar helps meet our goals, so please give where and when you can.

To help alleviate the Congregation's collective financial "burden," we will actively try to recruit new members with a membership drive campaign. **BUT WE NEED YOU:** please talk about us, post about events you've attended, tell your friends. As the song says, "Wherever You Go, There's Always Someone Jewish"!!!!

In closing, I ask: is the Jewish Center of NW Jersey important to you? If you answer YES, which I know you will, please think about how you can **CONTRIBUTE SOME OF YOUR TIME and TALENT** to improving our Temple for all current members and our Congregation's future. **SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> FOR OPENING DAY OF HEBREW SCHOOL!!!**

# Chaverim

Thank you to everyone who included Chaverim membership with their annual dues. Chaverim is open to all adult members of the congregation. We use the dues to pay for temple activities throughout the year. Please reach out to Ruth Schutzbank if you have not already joined and would like to.

Please mark your calendars! On September 15th at 9:30am, we will hold our kick-off meeting, which will coincide with a l'Dor v'Dor activity day and Meet & Greet with the Washington Twp. Police. Later in the month, we will participate in Apple Gleaning along with Hebrew School on Sunday, September 29.

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

Zumba Gold w/ Sandy Polsky @ WCH4H Community Center, 31 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, NJ – Mondays at 10am, Fridays at 11:15am - \$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 Beth 908.303.3868 OR Suzi 908.343.1135

## Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 15, 2024	9:30 AM	l'Dor v'Dor / WTPD Open House / Chaverim Kick-Off Meeting
Sunday, September 29, 2024	9:30 AM	Mitzvah Day - Apple Gleaning 9:30-11:30 am - Hebrew School / Chaverim
Sunday, October 27, 2024	12:00 PM	Chaverim Hike
Sunday, November 24, 2024	9:30 AM	l'Dor v'Dor / Chaverim
Friday, December 27, 2024	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Chanukah Service & Chaverim PARTY
Sunday, January 12, 2025	9:30 AM	l'Dor v'Dor / Chaverim
Sunday, February 23, 2025	TBD	Chaverim Ritual Cooking
Saturday, March 15, 2025	5:30 PM	Purim Dinner, Service, Spiel / Chaverim Mishloach Manot Tricky Tray
Sunday, April 13, 2025	6:00 PM	Second day Seder - In person & Zoom / l'Dor v'Dor / Chaverim
Sunday, May 18, 2025	1:00 PM	MOTHERS' DAY TEA PARTY / Mothers of Chaverim

# Updates & Events



HOLD THE DATE

*Apple Gleaning*

Weather Permitting  
MITZVAH DAY

Entire congregation is invited & encouraged to participate. Apple Gleaning to benefit those in need!

RSVP: Robin Hall at (908) 720-2205

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**

9:30am - 11:30am

MEET at: Longmeadow Farm  
561 Hope Blirstown Rd, Blirstown, NJ



WASHINGTON TWP  
POLICE DEPT.

## MEET & GREET

ALL JCNWJ MEMBERS  
ARE INVITED TO MEET  
WASHINGTON POLICE OFFICERS

**SEPT 15, 2024**


**BETWEEN 9:30-10:45**

JEWISH CENTER OF NW JERSEY  
115 YOUMANS AV  
WASHINGTON • NJ




WARREN COUNTY PUPPY POWER

MEET & GREET  
TO LEARN ABOUT  
THE SEEING EYE TRAINING PROGRAM!



JEWISH CENTER  
OF NORTHWEST JERSEY  
115 YOUMANS AV  
WASHINGTON • NJ



SUNDAY  
NOV 24, 2024 -  
10:15AM

ENTIRE CONGREGATION IS  
INVITED TO LEARN ABOUT  
THE SEEING EYE, MEET  
SOME PUPS, DOGS &  
TRAINERS / HANDLERS

WHY DO WE NEED SEEING EYE  
DOGS, LEARN ABOUT TRAINING  
& COMMITMENT & HOW  
REWARDING & ENRICHING THIS  
VOLUNTEER PROJECT IS!!



# 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 September 14 at 10:30am. We are continuing our reading of 1 Samuel, which tells the intriguing stories of King Saul and King David.

Meeting Schedule:

September 14	November 9
October 19	December 14

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89728604184?pwd=L0tBSmhoSDZ3Vk5sdlRRc1Y4QmY4UT09>

## DONATIONS

In memory of Phyllis Weinstein  
- Ed Weinstein

In memory of Marianne Flekles  
- Sharon Herson & Daniel Fleckles

In memory of Philip Weinstein & Mary Casciani  
- Ed & Roseann Weinstein

In memory of Dorothy Frank & Lenore Marr  
- Suzi & Grace Marr

In memory of Beattie Felderbaum & Gloria Jacobs  
- Howie & Iris Hirsch

In memory of Chas McGee  
- Suzi & Grace Marr

In memory of Anthony Frank  
- Suzi & Grace Marr

In memory of Neche Rachel Flekles  
- Sharon Herson & Daniel Fleckles

In honor of Howie Hirsch  
- Rhonda Jordan  
- Rita Berkowitz

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
- Robin Hall

## 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



# Updates & Events

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Here is the 2024-2026 Board of Trustees

President	Suzi Marr
Vice President	Geri Klein
Secretary	Jeanie Berkowitz
Finance/Treasurer	Howie Hirsch
Immediate Past President	Howie Hirsch
Finance/Bookkeeper	Roy Loomis
Religious Practices (Ritual)	Iris Hirsch
Education/Hebrew School	Robin Hall
House (Building/Grounds)	Jeff Berkowitz
Membership	Beth Lappin
Chaverim	by committee
Cemetery	Beth Lappin
At Large	Rhonda Jordan
At Large	Bob Margolis
At Large	Ruth Schutzbank
At Large	Adam Tucker

## 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.

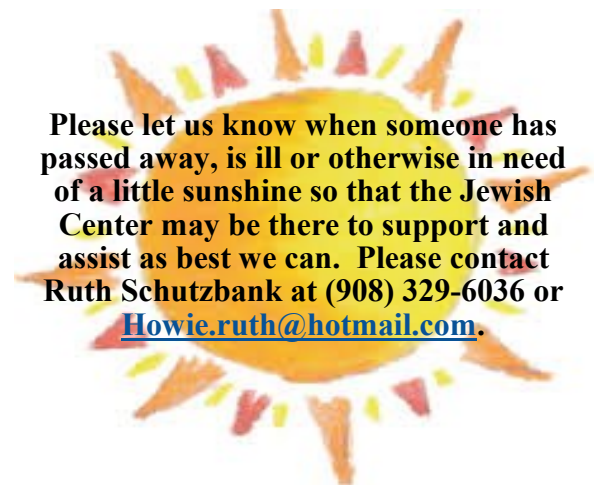
Thank you for your continued support!  
-Iris

## YAHREZEITS

Joseph Goldstein	Cousin of Mo Bauer
Chas McGee	Father of Suzi Marr
Beattie Felberbaum	Grandmother of Howie Hirsch
Mari Hall	Mother of Colson Hall
Neché Rachel Flekles	Relative of Daniel Flekles
Sophie Zaret	Mother of Lois Goldberg
Arthur Bauer	Father of Mo Bauer
Isaac Merein	Grandfather of Stuart Goldberg
Gloria Jacobs	Aunt of Howie Hirsch
Melinda Skoller	Sister-in-law of Lynne Kowski
Charlie Hall	Father of Colson Hall

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

## A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee



# JCNWJ Services

## Lifecycle!

JCNWJ.ORG • 908.689.0762

115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

### MEMBERSHIP~

Family, married and/or with children ..... \$1400.00  
 Single, individual ..... \$ 700.00

### 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

## Partners

Zumba Gold with



Sandy

Mondays

10-10:45am

&

Fridays

11:15am-12pm



**ZUMBA**<sup>®</sup>  
gold

**Where: WCHFH Community  
Center**

**31 Belvidere Avenue,  
Washington, NJ 07882**

# Partners



Instructor  
**Gina Cerbone**

Wednesdays  
5:00-6:00 pm  
@ the barn  
117 Hope Crossing Road  
Belvidere, NJ 07823

**For Booking or Questions**  
Monthly commitment of 4  
(or 5) Wednesdays  
\$10 per session  
908.319.8838

visit our website  
[www.spoonfulofom.com](http://www.spoonfulofom.com)

## MOVEMENT CLASS

Class tailored to all  
levels of yoga  
practitioners

**START NOW!**

# Partners

Be a Hero...

**Volunteer!**

***Tax time is here!***

The Norwescap *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)* program needs your help in *Sussex & Warren counties!* Receive training to assist seniors & those facing challenges in your community.

***Volunteer Opportunities Include:***

- *Tax Appointment Scheduler*
- *Intake Specialist*
- *Tax Preparer*
- *VITA Site Coordinator*



*Scan here  
to contact:*

Rochelle Ostenfeld  
973-784-4900 ext. 2909  
ostenfeldr@norwescap.org  
norwescap.org





# Partners

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: 908.453.3708



# Partners



*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](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.