

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

December 2024

Vol: L Issue: 4



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As happens roughly once every fifteen years or so, we will be lighting our first Hanukkah candles on December 25th – Christmas Night – this month. It's an entertaining coincidence, and maybe even an opportunity for some great interfaith discussion, but certainly not evidence that Hanukkah is the "Jewish Christmas," because it most definitely is not. That, however, is a discussion for a different time. For the purpose of this message, I simply want to offer a brief Jewish understanding of who/what the Messiah is, and an ever-so-brief comparison to the Christian understanding.

The word, Messiah, which comes from the Hebrew word, Mashiach (משיח) means "anointed one," reflecting the biblical practice of anointing someone with oil to signify their selection by God for divine assignment and higher sacred purpose. The two most common of these divine assignments would have been to become a prophet or king. A third reason, discussed but never actually depicted in the Hebrew Bible, would have been to signify that one had been appointed by God to be the Messiah – the one who would lead our world into a state of perfection and harmony.

Contrary to Christian theology, our Jewish understanding of the Messiah recognizes they will be fully human, with no claim of divinity (other than the divinity *every* human being shares simply as having been created *b'tzelem Elohim* – "in the image of God"). The Hebrew Bible includes a number of statements about who the Messiah will be, and what role the Messiah will play. Among them, the Messiah will:

- lead all of humanity to a time of absolute peace and harmony
- be a descendant of King David
- lead the rebuilding of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem
- make it possible for all Jewish exiles everywhere to return to the Land of Israel (Ingathering of the Exiles)

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 2

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, December 6

6:30pm: Menorah Lighting at M Galleries
in Washington (see pg. 8)

Saturday, December 7

10:00am: Hebrew School & Adult Music
with Deb Apsel
10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, December 14

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom

Sunday, December 15

9:30am: Hebrew School & Dor L'Dor
11:15am: Chaverim Craft Project (see pg. 6)

Friday, December 27

6:00pm: Potluck Dinner
7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service
Chanukah Celebration
New Member Recognition

Friday, January 3

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 4

1:00pm: Coopers Gristmill Hike (see pg. 9)

**NOTE: Services are also streamed on Zoom
using the link that is emailed out.**

Rabbi's Message (continued)

- lead the Children of Israel to become a “light unto the nations”
- lead the entire human race to the acknowledgement and worship of the God of Israel as the one true God

Not surprisingly, there is no one single understanding of the Messiah in Jewish thought. That which is described above includes the most common understandings of traditional Orthodox thought. Reform thought, on the other hand, replaces our reliance on a single person who will bring about a time of perfection and instead places responsibility on all of us to work together to create our own Messianic Era instead. Key to this process, according to Reform Jewish thought, is the Tikkun Olam work so many of us pursue. In other words, Reform Judaism teaches that if we truly want to achieve a time of true peace and harmony, it is up to us to make it happen. It is also, by the way, our responsibility to make the effort.

The standard Christian understanding of the Messiah's identity, by the way, is much more aligned with the Orthodox understanding. Clearly, as Christian belief in Jesus as the Messiah indicates, their reliance on a single identifiable personal Messiah is clear. Even more obviously, Christian teachings state that the Messiah lived on earth 2000 years ago in the form of Jesus Christ.

About his name: Contrary to a popular understanding, Christ, was never the actual family name of Jesus. Rather, as an ancient Jew, Jesus' full name was simply, “Jesus son of Joseph.” Jesus' Hebrew/Aramaic name, by which he was known during his lifetime, was Yeshua (ישוע). The word, “Christ,” is not a proper noun, but a descriptor of who he was. It is a Greek translation of the Hebrew word, Meshiach (Messiah),” which means, as mentioned above, “the anointed one.” So, when the Christian New Testament refers to Jesus Christ, it is referring to, “Jesus, the anointed one” – anointed, of course to signify that he had been selected by God to fulfil the sacred mission of the Messiah.

Finally, while I have ultimate respect for every human being to practice religion in the way it most benefits them, on a practical level, Jewish thought rejects Christianity's claims about Jesus being the Messiah because too many of the tasks to be completed by the anointed one have not yet been accomplished. For example, we have yet to live in a time of universal peace, the Holy Temple has not yet been rebuilt in Jerusalem, and half the world's Jews still live in exile.

Again, I am simply pointing out that in a Jewish understanding of things, the work of the Messiah (or Messianic Age) has yet to be achieved, not that Christianity is theologically careless or in any way “wrong.” That said, I wish Happy Hanukah to all, and a Merry Christmas to those in our community who maintain their Christian identity, even as they continue to bless us by raising or sharing their Jewish children with us.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

President's Message

When I moved to Glen Gardner, I was a single mom with a five-month-old baby. I had no friends or family locally. I was forging a new life for me and my daughter, Grace. I didn't know it was important to me to become affiliated with a Jewish congregation until it was. One day, I opened the phone book. YES! A phone book and looked for Jewish synagogues. Low and behold! There was a Reform congregation a mere five miles north of our new home with a female rabbi. How fortuitous! We joined on the Chanukah special. Grace was presented to the congregation and named that January, which also marked her first birthday.

I noticed services were almost all in Hebrew. I was a Hebrew School drop-out, but I recognized specific prayers from my early years at Yavneh Academy in Paterson, NJ. But I could no longer read, and I struggled to chant prayers and to follow along in the service or understand what was really going on. I spoke to Rabbi Lewis about how uncomfortable I felt, she paired me with two people: Charlotte Fels to re-teach me Hebrew, and Marsha Gross who also had a toddler, Heather, who would turn one in March. Those were really good matches. Charlotte and Marsha both became dear friends. Charlotte tutored me privately in Hebrew until I felt comfortable to recite the Aliyah and coached me on participating in the services. Marsha and Heather quickly became good friends to me and Grace.

I'm sharing because familiar but new, it wasn't easy. There were moments of doubt and uncomfortableness. Could I re-learn Hebrew; a whole new alphabet reading backwards? Well, I persisted. I would go to Charlotte's cottage weekly, and we talked about her childhood, how she never attended Hebrew School but learned at home; and Larry, her beloved husband, who passed prior to her joining the congregation. Well, I can now participate in services, but I can't speak Hebrew. It's still on my goals list. But since I first joined, I've had so many firsts and things I didn't think I could do, have done, or am doing.

I became a part of the community – volunteering on Sunshine with Marsha Gross, then as Membership Chair.


I became a Hebrew School teacher – teaching K-1 for 14 years.

I became Bat Mitzvah with Charlotte Fels and Howie Hirsch teaching me and 6 other adult B'nai mitzvah students (Iris Hirsh, Risa Smith, Karen Finkelstein, Rhonda Jordan, Rita Berkowitz, Teri Stanton).

I watched Grace become bat mitzvah and confirmed.

I went on to become Sisterhood Chair and now President of the Board of Trustees.

My point isn't to brag, although I am proud of each and every accomplishment. My point is to tell you that you may not think you can, but if you have a desire, a will, you absolutely can. But it won't be easy, you will have to take risks, put yourself 'out there', and there will be moments of uncomfortableness. These accomplishments are the direct result of my stepping out of my comfort zone. That there is no way for us to get from here to there, except by holding hands and marching forth together!

PSA: if you are struggling with something right now, please reach out to Rabbi Dubin or a Board member you feel comfortable with. 

VP Corner

Hello JCNWJ Friends! I will be sharing some of my favorite recipes, local hike ideas, etc. in this new "VP Corner."

This recipe is one that I have been asked to share every time I bring it to a potluck at the Temple or a family picnic. I always add pomegranate seeds to this salad, it's my favorite that is not on the list of optional add-ins below.... **THE BEST LENTIL SALAD, EVER**

SALAD

- 2 ¼ cups 1 lb. Du Puy lentils
- 1 medium red onion diced
- 1 cup dried currants you could also use raisins or other dried fruit
- ½ cup capers

VINAIGRETTE

- ½ cup cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. maple syrup
- 1 Tbsp. strong mustard
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- ½ tsp. turmeric
- ½ tsp. ground coriander
- ½ tsp ground cardamom
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- ¼ tsp. ground cloves
- ¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon

OPTIONAL ADD-INS

- Arugula
- Walnuts
- Goat cheese
- Fresh herbs: flat-leaf parsley cilantro, basil
- Sprouts
- Roasted seasonal veggies

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rinse lentils well, drain. Place in a pot and cover with 3-4 inches of water, bring to a boil, reduce to simmer. Check lentils for doneness after 15 minutes, but they should take about 20 minutes in total. You will know they are cooked if they still retain a slight tooth – al dente! Overcooking the lentils is the death of this dish. Be careful!
2. While the lentils are simmering, make the dressing by placing all ingredients in a jar with a tight fitting lid and shake vigorously to combine.
3. Finely dice red onion – the salad is best if all the ingredients are about the same size. If using raisins, chop them roughly to make them a bit smaller, and do the same with the capers if they are large.
4. When the lentils are cooked, remove from heat, drain and place under cold running water to stop the cooking process. Once cooled slightly but still a little warm, place lentils in a large serving bowl and toss with dressing. Add other onion, capers, and currants. If using other add-ins such as herbs, greens, or cheese, wait until just before serving. Otherwise, this salad can hang out in the fridge for a couple days.

Chaverim

Chaverim is open to all adult members of the congregation. Please reach out to Ruth Schutzbank if you have not already joined and would like to.

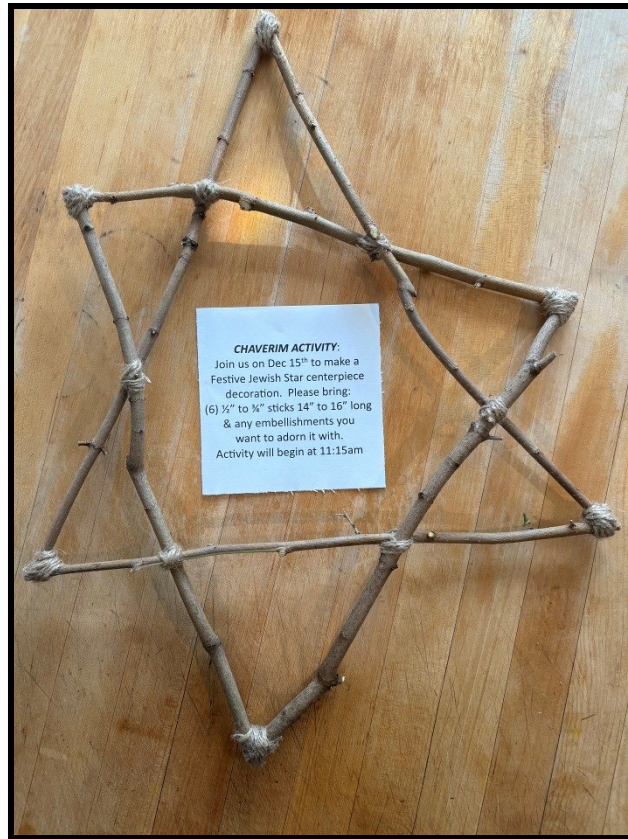
On December 15, we will be making Jewish star centerpieces. Please bring (6) 1/2” to 3/4” sticks 14” to 16” long and any embellishments you want to adorn it with. The activity will begin at 11:15am. See an example on the next page of the newsletter.

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

DAY / DATE '24 - '25	TIME	Chaverim Schedule to date:
Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024	9:30 AM	Hebrew School – I'Dor v'Dor – everyone invited! Chaverim helpers needed throughout morning Chaverim craft at 11:30am
Friday, Dec. 27, 2024	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / New Member Welcome & Chanukah Service & PARTY (Watch for Perfect Potluck Sign Up coming to your email.)
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025	9:30 AM	Hebrew School – I'Dor v'Dor – everyone invited! / Chaverim meeting at 11:30am
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025	TBD	Chaverim Ritual Cooking, may be postponed to correspond with Passover
Saturday, Mar. 15, 2025	5:30 PM	Purim Dinner, Service, Spiel / Chaverim helpers needed for dinner & oneg
Sunday, Apr. 13, 2025	6:00 PM	Second Night Seder - In person & Zoom / I'Dor v'Dor / Chaverim – everyone invited!
Saturday May 3, 2025	7:00 PM	Annual Judaica Swap & Havdalah Service
Sunday, May 18, 2025	1:00 PM	MOTHERS' DAY TEA PARTY / Mothers of Chaverim

Updates & Events



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

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 December 14 at 11:15am. We are continuing our reading of 1 Samuel, which tells the intriguing stories of King Saul and King David.

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

DONATIONS

In memory of Mary & Frank Bronico
- Jeannie & Jeff Berkowitz

In honor of the birth of their granddaughter Juliette Elizabeth Schegel
- Jeannie & Jeff Berkowitz

In memory of Jean Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan

In memory of William Kalb
- Gerald Kalb

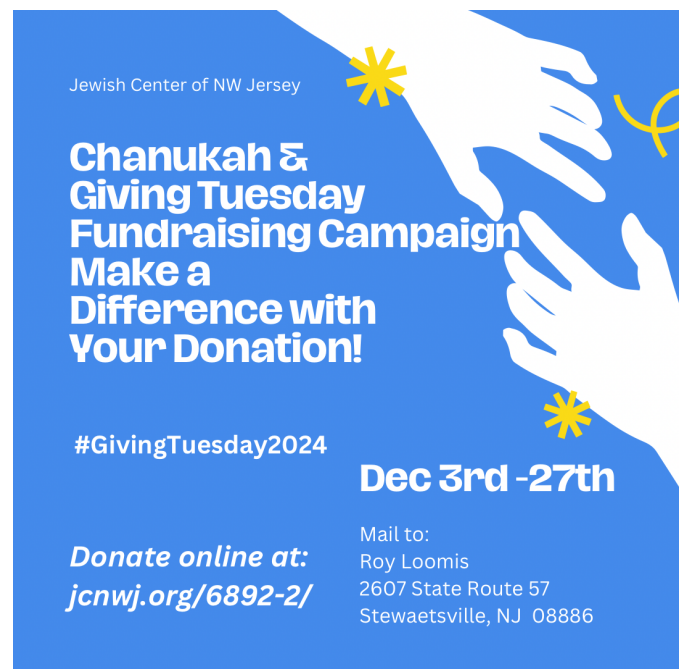
BUILDING UPDATE

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 908-239-4585.

Thank you.

Iris



Jewish Center of NW Jersey

Chanukah & Giving Tuesday Fundraising Campaign
Make a Difference with Your Donation!

#GivingTuesday2024

Dec 3rd -27th

Donate online at:
jcnwj.org/6892-2/

Mail to:
Roy Loomis
2607 State Route 57
Stewaetsville, NJ 08886

Updates & Events

FOOD DRIVE

JCNWJ continues to collect nonperishable items for donation to local food pantries.

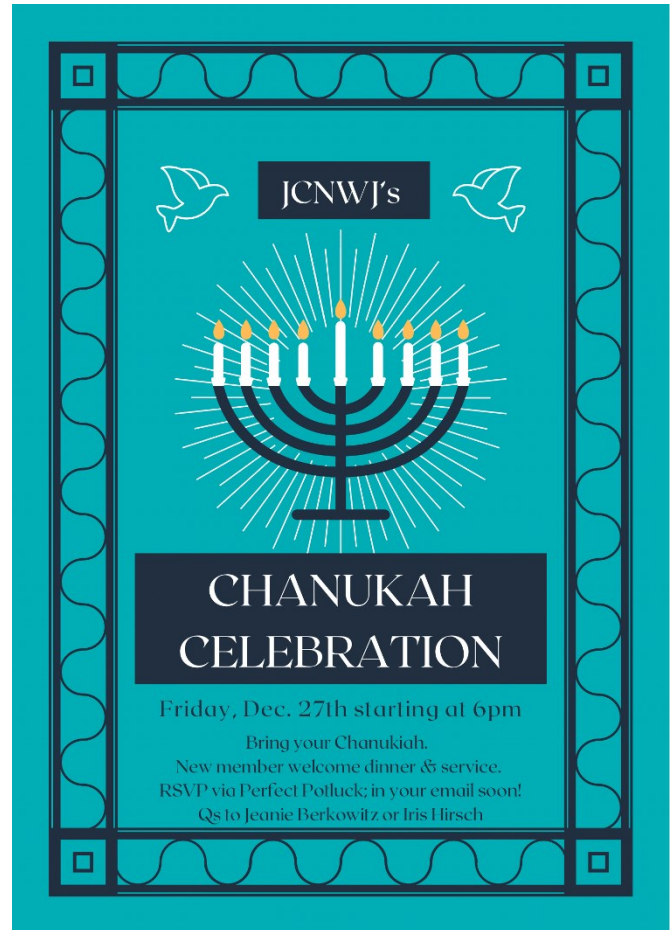
We are also collecting used coats at this time to donate to those in need.

Thank you for your continued support!
-Iris

Yahrzeits


Joyce Shubs	Aunt of Helen Mattson
Stephen Margolin	Father of Diane Margolin
Sarah Fromer Zeiden	Aunt of Helen Mattson
Pory Margolis	Mother of Bob Margolis
Myra Novy	Aunt of Robin Hall
Maxwell Gross	Son of Marsha Gross
William Kalb	Relative of Jerry Kalb
Michael Weiner	Husband of Diane Margolin
Charlotte Rems	Mother of Linda Margolis
Klaire Katz	Mother of Marsha Gross
Phillip Peck	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Max Weil	Father of Ruth Schutzbank
Jean Siegel	Mother of Rhonda Jordan
Lisa Greene	Sister of Sandy Kahan
Dora Melnick	Mother-in-law of Gerry Simons
Elaine Lavine	Grandmother of Teri Stanton

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



Updates & Events

JCNWJ New Year's Hike



**LET'S GO
HIKING**

Meet at Coopers Grismill, Rt 24 in Chester
Arrive by 1:00 pm,
ready for easy to moderate group hike
Call Robin with Qs 908.720.2205

SATURDAY, JAN. 4th, 2025

Sh'ma/V'ahavta (190C) Music: Debbie Friedman
Text: Deut. 6:4-9; Numbers 15:37-41

Gently (♩ = 74)

capo 3: A C C#m Em F#m Am

Sh' - ma Yis - ra - eil. A - do - nai. E

**JOIN US FOR A FUN & INSPIRATIONAL
SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC CLASS
WITH THE CHILDREN OF OUR HEBREW SCHOOL.**

El - lo - hai - nu. A - do - nai. A - do - nai E

**ALL ADULTS ARE WELCOME TO START THEIR DAY
WITH A SENSE OF HOPE AND RENEWAL
AS WE LEARN & PRACTICE NEW PRAYER MUSIC**

chail. Es - rich - sheim k' - vod. sheim k'

**I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
IT'S QUITE ENJOYABLE!**

Esus (Bm) Esus (Dm)

voic. YOUR DEDICATED MUSIC TEACHER,
DEBBIE

SATURDAYS AT 10 AM
SHABBAT SERVICE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
2024/2025

JEWISH CTR OF NW JERSEY
115 YOUAMANS AVE
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882

God with all thy heart, with all thy
gent - ly un - to thy chil - dren and thou shall
sign up - on thy hand and they shall

*Indicated in Chordster as capo 2 (Key of B)

HOLD THE DATE

Year-End Hebrew School & Congregational Celebration
Sunday June 1st starting at 9:30am at JCNWJ. Activities will include tie-dyeing JCNWJ T-shirts. We need your t-shirt order ASAP, including the size you'll need in June and a \$5 deposit for each person participating. T-Shirts should be \$10 to \$12 per person (students have prepaid) and will have blk/wht JCNWJ logo on the front (no printing on back). Please Venmo to @Suzanne-Marr-4 (last 4 digits of phone are 1135) or mail to:
Suzanne Marr
70 W. Stewart Street
Washington, NJ 07882



**Hold the Date
June 1 - 9:30am
End of School Year &
Temple Wide Celebration**

JCNWJ Services

Lifecycle!

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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

Do you want to see new programming?
Are you willing to coordinate a one-day event?
Here are some ideas? Do you have another idea?

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
contact Suzi at 908.343.1135 or by
email at prez.JCNWJ@gmail.com



- o Book Club
- o Dinner & a Movie
- o Mahjong
- o Hiking / Walking / Outdoors
- o NY / Philly / Other Day Trip
- o Museum / Art Gallery Visits
- o Photography Class
- o Plays / Concerts
- o Self-Care Day
- o Scavenger Hunt
- o Sleep Over / Retreat
- o Watch Parties – Sports, Movies

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

MONDAY NIGHT YOGA

BEGINNER YOGA

*with Josephine Noone
starting Monday Jan 13th -
7:00 pm
\$10 per class
Cash or Venmo accepted*

*Sign up with Suzi
908.343.1135*



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Streaming for **free** on
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DECEMBER 10-13, 2024

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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
- ❖ 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: 1.888.8BE.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: 908.453.3788

Partners



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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.