

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

January 2025

Vol: L Issue: 5



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As we bid farewell to Hanukkah for the tenth time since I've been Rabbi of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, we begin to look forward to new opportunities in 2025. The still-flickering lights of our *hanukkiyot* remind us that even in times of challenge, the smallest spark of hope and faith can illuminate the darkest of nights.

Hanukkah teaches us about resilience and the power of conviction. The Maccabees' determination to hold strong in their values in light of overwhelming odds inspires us to stand proud for our ours as well as we seek to make this a better world for all. So, as we reflect on the miracles of the past, we are reminded to seek and recognize the miracles of the present, and to work for miracles in the future.

This year, our reflections are particularly poignant as we think of the roughly 100 hostages still being held in Gaza 452 days later, and their anguished families who are still praying for their loved one's safe return. The story of Hanukkah is one of liberation—a small group overcoming immense adversity to reclaim their freedom and dignity. The tiny little nation of Israel continues to be surrounded by adversaries who want nothing less than the eradication of the Jewish State. So let us channel the courage and hope of our ancestors as we pray for and work toward the release of the hostages and the safety of our extended family in Israel.

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Friday, January 3

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 4

11:00am: Coopers Gristmill Hike (see pg. 7)

Sunday, January 5

9:30am: Hebrew School

Monday, January 6

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, January 11

10:30am: Torah Study on Zoom

Sunday, January 12

9:30am: Hebrew School

10:15am: Dor L'Dor & Chaverim

Saturday, January 18

10:00am: Hebrew School & Adult Music
w/Deb Apsel

10:30am: Shabbat Morning Service (MLK
weekend) with Mt. Pisgah AME Church

Sunday, January 19

11:00am: Sunday Morning Service
at Mt. Pisgah AME Church

Sunday, January 26

9:30am: Hebrew School

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

As we transition from the Festival of Lights to the new secular year ahead, 2025 offers a chance for us to rededicate ourselves—both individually and as a community. Just as the Temple was rededicated after its desecration, so too can we renew our commitments: to our faith, to our values, to our people, and to one another. In the coming year, let us commit to seeking new opportunities to grow, to learn, and to support one another.

As we transition from the Festival of Lights into the new secular year ahead, may we carry the lessons of Hanukkah with us: the courage to stand firm in our beliefs, the wisdom to recognize everyday miracles, and the dedication to spread light in all that we do.

May this year be one of peace, freedom, prosperity, and blessing for all.

Rabbi Dubin



President's Message

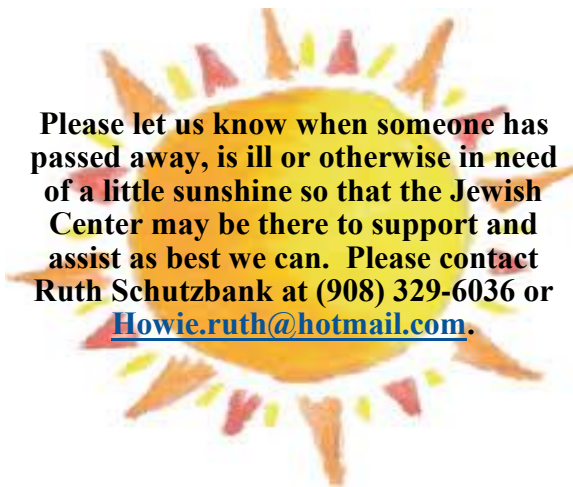
As we close 2024, again I reflect on my life and my choices. Working both a full-time job and 1-2 part-time jobs doesn't leave much time for my needs. So, I have been reassessing those choices and trying to choose me more.

2025 is about making healthy choices for both my psyche and my body. Developing healthy relationships and participating in physical, outdoor activities. The JCNWJ is very much a part of my wellbeing, from services to music with Debbie to chaverim activities and all the other extras our little shul manages to offer.

Selfishly I will use this platform to implore you become more actively involved. We want to get to know you! So please consider participating in the Saturday morning sing-a-longs, the hikes, the potluck dinners, the yoga, the movie nights, services – for sure!! Financial donations keep our doors open, but you keep us vibrant!!

Not sure what's happening? Sign up for WhatsApp alerts. Sign up for the "JCNWJ Members only" FB page. Confirm we have your correct email address for monthly newsletters & reminders. AND ask any Board member or ask me. We want to hear your ideas and want you to be informed and involved in what's planned.
Be safe! Have fun! Happy New Year!

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.

VP Corner

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

VEGAN EGGPLANT LASAGNA (if you are not vegan, use any preferred cheese; if you are like me and want low fat, don't use fat free ricotta cheese, it's very salty and will ruin the taste & I don't add the extra marinara sauce, I just use the lentil filling as the sauce)

Ingredients

For the Lentil Filling:

- 1/2 Yellow Onion, diced
- 1 cup Carrot, finely diced
- 14 oz Crushed tomatoes
- 1/4 cup Tomato Paste
- 1 cup Dry Green Lentils
- 2 cups Vegetable Broth
- 1/2 cup Parsley, chopped
- 1/4 cup Basil, chopped
- Salt, to taste

For the Lasagna:

- Lentil Filling
- 1 batch of [Vegan Ricotta](#)
- 3 large Eggplant, cut into 1/3" rounds
- 1 1/2 cup Marinara Sauce of Choice

Directions

Prepare the Eggplant: Preheat the oven to 375F while you prepare all of the ingredients. Line 2-3 Baking Trays with parchment paper and fill each tray with the Eggplant "coins", so none are overlapping. Bake for 25 minutes, then remove from the oven.

Make the Lentil Filling: In the meantime, add the diced Onion to a large pot with a splash of Water or Oil; sauté over Medium heat for 3-4 minutes, until translucent. Then, add the Carrot, Crushed Tomatoes, and Tomato Paste to the pot, stirring well. Once everything is well incorporated, add the Lentils, Vegetable Broth, Parsley, and Basil. Bring everything to a boil, then cover and simmer over low for 30 minutes.

Layer the Lasagna: Spread 1/2 cup of Marinara Sauce over the base of a large casserole dish, then cover it well with 1/3 of the Eggplant – try to overlap it as tightly as possible!

1. Layer 1: spread 1/2 of the cooked Lentil filling evenly across the Eggplant, followed by 1/3 of the Vegan Ricotta
2. Layer 2: add another layer of Eggplant, then follow with the remainder of the Lentils and another 1/3 of the Ricotta
3. Top it Off: add the remainder of the Eggplant to the Casserole, followed by the rest of the Vegan Ricotta. Pour 1 cup of Marinara Sauce over the dish, and swirl it together with the Ricotta to complete the Lasagna.

Bake and Serve: bake the Lasagna at 375F for 35 minutes. Let the Lasagna sit for 10 minutes, then cut and serve as desired.

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.

The next meeting will be on January 12.

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, 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	<i>Purim Dinner, Service, Spiel / Chaverim helpers needed for dinner & oneg</i>
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

TORAH STUDY

The Torah study group is an informal discussion group, led by Rabbi Dubin and participants. We are continuing our reading of 1 Samuel, which tells the stories of King Saul and King David. The discussions often make connections between the ancient text and modern times.

The next meeting is January 11 at 10:30am.

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

PURIM SPIEL

It's that time again to begin Purim Spiel rehearsals! Who is ready for the fun?

Howie and I are deep into writing our own NEIL DIAMOND Spiel and will be ready for action in January!

Contact Debbie: debapsel@gmail.com

DONATIONS

In memory of Naomi Davine, Shelley Herson, and Richard Herson
- Edythe Herson

In memory of William Hopkins
- Sharon Herson

In memory of Ellen Field
- Alison Shelofsky

In memory of Joseph Berkowitz
- Jerry Berkowitz


Yahrzeits

Leslie Apse	Mother of Deb Apse
Nannette Hoffman	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Richard Herson	Husband of Edythe Herson
Shelley Herson	Brother-in-law of Edythe Herson
Molly Finkelstein	Mother of Shelley Finkelstein
Art Lavine	Grandfather of Teri Stanton
Jackie Spinner	Mother of Robin Hall
Isaac Nudelman	Grandfather of Tracey Bauer
Jessica Hirsch	Daughter of Iris and Howie Hirsch
Laurette Fromer Pinn	Mother of Helen Mattson
Mary Saylor Kalb	Wife of Gerry Kalb
William Hopkins	Friend of Sharon Herson
Roland Bakonyi	Husband of Esther Bakonyi
Ellen Field	Mother of Alison Shelofsky
Joseph Berkowitz	Father of Jerry Berkowitz

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 Gristmill, Rt 24 in Chester
NOTE TIME CHANGE- Arrive by 11:00 am,
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 (♩ = 78)

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

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

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

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

YOUR DEDICATED MUSIC TEACHER,
DEBBIE

SATURDAYS AT 10 AM
SHABBAT SERVICE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
2024/2025

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

God with all thy heart, with and 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-dying 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**

Updates & Events

FOOD DRIVE

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

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 908-239-4585.

Thank you,
Iris

SURVEY RESULTS

We had 19 members fill out the survey. Thanks to all who participated; your responses are very much appreciated!

Many of you would like to see the return of Book Club, a game night, and educational programming including, but not limited to, Israel and antisemitism. Stay tuned as we work on adding more programming in 2025-2026. To those who offered to help plan events, we will be reaching out to you!

It is never too late to send me your thoughts and you can do so via email: gerriruthklein@gmail.com, text or call: 908 455 1285.

Gerrí



Photos



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!

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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

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*

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: 1.800.8BE.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

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

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.