

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

jcnwj@outlook.com

Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

February 2025

Vol: L Issue: 6



## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

During a particularly wonderful JCNWJ Torah Study discussion last week, I was reminded of one my favorite biblical passages (chapter 12 of 2 Samuel), in which the prophet Nathan confronts King David, a man of unparalleled power at the time. Speaking to the king, Nathan relates a story in which a wealthy man steals a poor man's only lamb to serve a guest. Outraged, King David expresses disgust with the man's duplicity, unwittingly convicting himself. To David's indignation, Nathan then responds that the story is actually an allegory for David's sin in taking a married woman, Bathsheba, and arranging for the battlefield death of her husband, Uriah. Exposed, David confesses, "I have sinned against Adonai," to which Nathan assures him of God's forgiving nature, even though consequences will indeed follow.

I love this story because it is as powerful an attestation to the sacred force of truth, accountability, and atonement as I can imagine, even in the face of overwhelming authority.

But the story of Nathan and David is hardly a stand-alone episode. So far as speaking truth to power is concerned, the Bible makes no bones about our obligation to push back against injustice whenever and wherever we see it, regardless of how powerful the perpetrator(s) may be. Perhaps no biblical figure embodies more enduring courage of this sort over the course of time than the prophet Jeremiah (c. 650 – c. 570 BCE), who regularly reprimands not only the Children of Israel, but their priests, and even their kings. At overwhelming personal risk, he

(continued on next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Monday, February 3**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Friday, February 7**

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Saturday, February 8**

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom

### **Sunday, February 9**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Saturday, February 15**

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

10:30am: Shabbat Morning Service

New Member Welcome Luncheon

### **Sunday, February 23**

9:30am: Hebrew School

10:00am: Chaverim—Handwriting Analysis  
Workshop with Debbie Berk (see Pg. 7)

### **Sunday, March 2**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Monday, March 3**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

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

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

remains unwavering in his direct condemnation of wrongdoers, even when those wrongdoers' power far outweighs his own.

Jeremiah positions himself quite publicly at the entrance to the holy Temple in Jerusalem in order to admonish his people for their false claims of piety in the face of their regular exploitation of the weakest members of society (Jeremiah 7:1–11). Later on, he counsels the policy makers of Judah to surrender to Babylon in order to escape what would otherwise be sure annihilation should they refuse to submit to the divinely ordained yoke of their neighbor. Though the Judean leaders interpret Jeremiah's advocacy for surrendering to Babylonia as disloyalty, Jeremiah stands his ground because he knows that speaking for God carries with it an obligation to speak out, no matter the repercussions (Jeremiah 27).

In the very next chapter, Jeremiah redirects his scorn and lobs stinging indictments at the prophet Hananiah for claiming in a lie that he has received divine word that the Children of Israel will prevail over their Babylonian captors within two short years. By the end of this chapter, Hananiah is dead (Jeremiah 28).

We should hardly be surprised that Jeremiah displays this kind of courage, because just six chapters prior, he had already warned King Jehoiakim himself that if he didn't rise to protect the stranger, the orphan, and the widow (in biblical language, this triumvirate can be understood as a stand-in for "the most vulnerable among us"), that if he didn't refrain from committing lawless acts, and that if he permitted the death of innocents under his authority, his entire royal house would suffer the ultimate penalty of total annihilation (see Jeremiah 22:1–5).

And then, in chapter 36, Jeremiah dictates God's words of judgment, which are read to King Jehoiakim. When the king, instead of repenting, burns the scroll in defiance, Jeremiah rewrites it, displaying his unwavering commitment to God's truth.

Just because speaking truth to power is the right thing to do, however, it does not always come without a price. Nathan may have come out unscathed when he confronted King David, but Jeremiah is hardly so lucky. In chapter 20, he is arrested, flogged, locked up, and humiliated by the priest Pashhur, as punishment for having prophesied divine judgment against the kingdom of Judah. By the end of his ordeal, Jeremiah is so demoralized, he even curses the day he was born. And then, in chapter 38, after advocating that the Children of Israel surrender Jerusalem to the Babylonians, Jeremiah is convicted by King Zedekiah's officials for demoralizing the army and then imprisoned in a large cistern, where he sinks into the mud.

Over the course of his prophetic career, Jeremiah pays dearly for his unwavering commitment to speak truth to power, but he continues nonetheless, because he has divine righteousness on his side.

Friends, we are living in particularly turbulent times. Our society has become so colored by injustice that it is now next to impossible to keep up. Politicians are working for themselves, religious leaders are protecting their own positions of authority, and our people are being lied to on a daily basis. It's hard to know what to do, because we are overwhelmed. At the same time, however, it's also *not* hard to know what to do, because we are Jews. We are heirs to a rich and beautiful history of prophetic critics who've

(continued on next page)

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

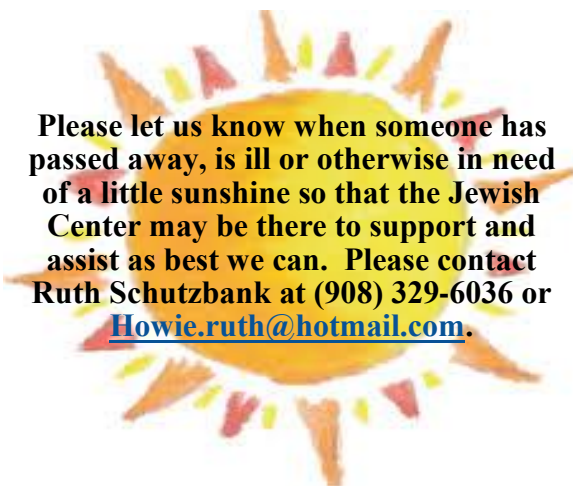
been ready, willing, and able throughout history to speak truth to power whenever, and to whomever, it's been needed.

No, it's not always easy. Jeremiah can attest to that. And no, it's not always fruitful in ways we would like. Jeremiah can attest to that, too. But sometimes – not *every* time, but sometimes – as Nathan can attest, it makes all the difference in the world. So let's commit to shedding fear, standing tall, speaking truth to power when needed, and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Because when we succeed in doing that, I believe, that is when we succeed in becoming true partners with God. And what better accomplishment could there possibly be?

*בעוצמה* (B'Otzmah – “In strength”),

*Rabbi Dubin*

## 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](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).**

## President's Message

As we watch the slow exchange of the remaining Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, the onslaught of bizarre and devastating weather events, and the deconstruction of the American democracy - I want to stress the importance of friends and family. Rabbi Dubin and the JCNWJ Congregation are very much a part of each of our personal networks.

After all, we still have children and grandchildren to raise, family members to care for, jobs to work, houses to maintain, social lives and hobbies to pursue, etc. We can't give up. If you find yourself struggling, if you are, or know someone on the "fringe" please:

- *call someone in your circle*
- *meet up with someone you've been meaning to get to know better*
- *go to the gym, a yoga class, or on a hike*
- *attend a local, or temple event to help build fellowship in our communities*
- *join a civic or temple committee / get involved in the Congregation*
- *see a therapist or life coach*
- *schedule a one-on-one with Rabbi Dubin*

While we will struggle with the new normal, no one said we have to do that alone. Now more than ever we need each other! Needing each other is not weakness, reaching out is actually a sign of self-awareness and strength. And both the giver and receiver benefit from the exchange(s). Remember, that there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together.

Love and peace to all,  
Suzi



# 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 February 23. Debbie Berk will lead a workshop on handwriting analysis. Please RSVP to Debbie at 908-498-2179.

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 2025	TIME	Chaverim Schedule to date:
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025	10:00 AM	<b>Handwriting Analysis</b> – sign up with Debbie Berk at 908.498.2179
Sunday, Mar 9, 2025	9:30 AM	<b>Hamantaschen Baking</b> – make 1-2 batches of dough at home, bring rested and ready to assemble/bake cookie. Sign up with Suzi at 908.343.1135
Saturday, Mar. 15, 2025	5:30 PM	<b>Purim Dinner, Service, Spiel</b> – helpers needed for dinner & oneg. Sign up with Iris at 908.239.4585
Sunday, Apr. 13, 2025	6:00 PM	<b>Second Night Seder</b> – In person & Zoom / l'Dor v'Dor / Chaverim – everyone invited! Sign up with Iris at 908.239.4585
Sunday, Apr. 20, 2025	10:30 AM	<b>Mah Jongg with Ginger</b> – pls sign up for all 3 sessions at 908.963.1504
Sunday, Apr. 27, 2025	10:30 AM	<b>Mah Jongg with Ginger</b> – pls sign up for all 3 sessions at 908.963.1504
Saturday, May 3, 2025	7:00 PM	<b>Annual Judaica Swap &amp; Havdalah Service</b> – sign up with Suzi at 908.343.1135
Sunday, May 4, 2025	10:30 AM	<b>Mah Jongg with Ginger</b> – pls sign up for all 3 sessions at 908.963.1504
Sunday, May 18, 2025	1:00 PM	<b>MOTHERS' DAY TEA PARTY</b> – hosted by Diane Margolin; sign up at 908.852.7811

# 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 February 8 at 11:15am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89728604184?pwd=L0tBSmhoSDZ3Vk5sdIRRc1Y4QmY4UT09>

## MORE TORAH STUDY

In addition to our Torah Study, Rabbi Dubin leads another Torah Study group at Temple Emanu-el in New York. This group usually focuses on the weekly torah portion. JCNWJ members are invited to join this discussion.

Upcoming dates are February 8 and every Saturday in March. These sessions start at 9:15 and end at 10:15.

The zoom link is at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84844267210?pwd=KzFqTEQ0WG01L2lERjk2K1NvbzhWUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 4426 7210

Passcode: Torah

## Yahrzeits

Sid Goldstein	Father of Iris Hirsch
Naomi Davine	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Gussie Zaret	Grandmother of Lois Goldberg
Anita Bauer	Mother of Mo Bauer
Rose Margolin	Mother of Diane Margolin
Sol Rems	Father of Linda Margolis
Howard Schutzbank	Spouse of Ruth Schutzbank
Arthur Marcovitch	Brother of Edythe Herson
Maya Guberman	Granddaughter of Marcia Guberman
Elaine Hirsch	Mother of Howie Hirsch
Phyllis Loomis	Mother of Roy Loomis
Sanford Rems	Brother of Linda Margolis
Joseph Gelberman	Rabbi Emeritus
Edward Israel Lewis	Father of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis

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

## DONATIONS

In memory of Edward Israel Lewis and Lillian Greenbaum Jay  
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In memory of Lonnie Bier  
- Sharon Herson

In memory of Arthur Marcovitch  
- Edythe Herson

In memory of Mary Sayler Kalb  
- Gerald Kalb

In memory of Laurette Fromer Pinn  
- Helen Mattson

In memory of Rose Shutzbank and Howard Schutzbank  
- Ruth Schutzbank



# Updates & Events



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We invite non-Board members to apply for 3 volunteer roles within our Temple community:

- ◆ Chaverim Chairperson
- ◆ Chaverim Refreshments Coordinator
- ◆ Social Media Promotion

Interested parties should message Suzi Marr directly at [suzology.sm@gmail.com](mailto:suzology.sm@gmail.com) to learn more.

Suzi Marr  
908.343.1135

## PURIM SPIEL

SAVE THE DATE - MARCH 15, 2025

A NEIL DIAMOND SPIEL - SWEET SHUSHAN JEWS !!!!!



Oh how all look forward to each year's new Purim Spiel! So much fun and so many laughs!!

This year will not disappoint so put it on your calendar!

**"A Neil Diamond, Sweet Shushan Jews Spiel"**

Written in house by

Howie Hirsch and Debbie Apsel

March 15, 2025

Community dinner 5:30pm (more to follow)

7pm Spiel!!

Get ready to be entertained with guaranteed belly laughs!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

# Updates & Events

**HAMANTASCHEN BAKING**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE DOUGH AND/OR BAKE COOKIES



**SUNDAY MARCH 9TH - 9:30AM**  
FOR DETAILS CONTACT SUZAT 908.343.1135

**SUNDAY**

Learn Mah Jongg with Ginger

**FREE!**

3 Sundays Only -  
4/20  
4/27  
5/4

10:30am to noon

**FUNDAY**

Have Fun With Friends!

ORDER YOUR 2025 card at -  
[www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/store](http://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/store)

To sign up or for Qs - pls call Ginger at 908.852.1632

\*Max of 8 participants who will attend all 3 sessions\*

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

**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





# 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.

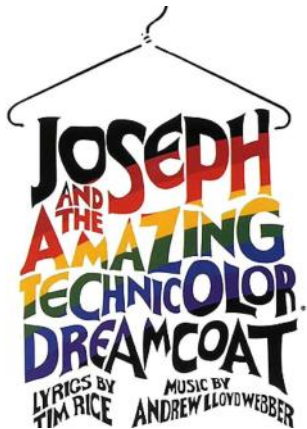
You can either call or email me at [irishirsch@comcast.net](mailto:irishirsch@comcast.net) or 908-239-4585.

Thank you,  
Iris

## JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

One of the Torah's most important stories is brought to life in this hit musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Nearby Belvidere High School will be performing the show, and we are planning a group outing to see the 1:00pm performance on **Saturday, March 8**. Brunch before the show is also a possibility.

More details will be forthcoming by email and on the Chaverim WhatsApp. Email Adam at [adamt180@gmail.com](mailto:adamt180@gmail.com) with any questions.



Sh' - ma Yis - ra - eil: A - do - nai

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 RENEGAL AS WE LEARN & PRACTICE PRAYER MUSIC. WITH YOUR DEDICATED MUSIC TEACHER, DEBBIE

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AS IT'S QUITE ENJOYABLE!

SATURDAYS - 10:00AM  
2.15 - 4.26 - 5.10 - 6.21

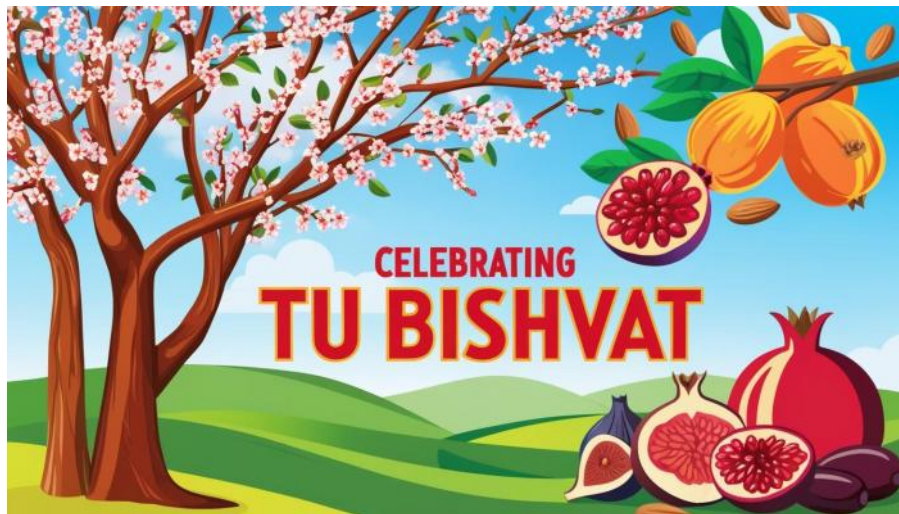
2025 SHABBAT SERVICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

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

God with all thy heart with all thy

# Service & Oneg Schedule

<b>Shabbat Services 2025:</b>	<b>START TIME:</b>	<b>Shabbat Service Onegs (2 families per service – please choose a date, if you haven't yet):</b>
Friday, February 7, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Tu B'Shvat / <b>Margolin &amp; Torine</b>
Saturday, February 15, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service – New Member Welcome Luncheon / <b>Marr &amp; Ansel</b>
Friday, March 7, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <b>Zisook &amp; Schutzbank</b>
Saturday, March 15, 2025	5:30 PM	Purim <b>Dinner</b> , Service, Spiel / Mishloach Manot Pick-Up / <b>OPEN</b>
Friday, April 4, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Pre-Passover / <b>Fletcher family</b>
Saturday, April 5, 2025	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service / Bar Mitzvah / <b>Fletcher family</b> – <b>LET'S CELEBRATE ROYCE!</b>
Saturday, April 26, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / Yom HaShoah / <b>Hanson &amp; Smith</b>
Saturday, May 10, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'Atzma'ut / <b>Gross &amp; Marr</b>
Friday, May 16, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service LAG Ba'OMER / <b>Guberman &amp; Weinstein</b>
Friday, June 6, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Bark Mitzvah / <b>Fenton &amp; Bauer</b>
Saturday, June 21, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / <b>Kalischer &amp; Sylvester</b>
Friday, July 11, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <b>OPEN</b>
Friday, August 15, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <b>OPEN</b>



Tu Bishvat: The New Year of Trees

15 Shevat 5785

February 12-13, 2025

# 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

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

TUESDAY NIGHT YOGA  
**BEGINNER YOGA**

*with Josephine Noone  
Tuesdays - 7:00 pm  
\$10 per class  
Cash or Venmo accepted  
@Josephine-Noone*

*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](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: 1.888.8BE.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: 908.453.3788

# Partners

A business card for Warren Hills Memorial Home. The card features a photograph of a white arched trellis with pink flowers on the left side. The text on the card is as follows:

*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.