# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey JOURN Output Description:

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

(<u>908)</u> 689-0762 www.jcnwj.org

jcnwj@outlook.com

Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

April 2025

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#### Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As was announced from the *bima* at our last Shabbat service, U.S. elections for the 39th quinquennial World Zionist Congress are now open. I am urging all American Jews, including those of us at the Jewish Center of North Jersey, to participate by registering and then voting.

From the official webpage (<a href="https://azm.org/elections/">https://azm.org/elections/</a>):

Between March 10 and May 4, 2025, American Jews will vote for their delegates to the 39th World Zionist Congress, the "parliament of the Jewish people," which will convene in Jerusalem in October 2025. Voting in the election is the most powerful opportunity to have your voice heard in Israel, make an impact in Jewish communities worldwide, and stand up for Zionism. The representatives who are elected — with one-third of them coming from the United States — will make key decisions on allocating over \$1 billion annually to support the most pressing needs across Israeli society and the Diaspora.

The elected delegates include the 152 who fill American seats within the Congress. The larger the voter turnout is, the more the American Jewish voice is heard.

(continued on next page)

#### **Calendar of Events**

Friday, April 4

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, April 5

10:00am: Shabbat Morning Service Royce's Bar Mitzvah

Monday, April 7

5:00pm: Passover in Antiquity and Today presentation at Belvidere United Methodist Church (see Pg. 8) 7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, April 13

12:30pm: Portraits by Dave DaBour 6:00pm: Second Night Passover Seder (see Pg. 9 for info about both events)

Saturday, April 19

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom

Saturday, April 26

9:30am: Hebrew School

10:00am: Music with Deb Apsel 10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

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

#### Rabbi's Message (continued)

From the COVID-19 pandemic to Israel's ongoing multifront war, the five years since the previous World Zionist Congress election in 2020 have seen no shortage of seismic crises. This strongly positions the 2025 election to serve as an uplifting and unifying force for diverse voices and constituencies across the Jewish community, all in support of the vibrancy of Zionism. That is why there are no "winners" and "losers" in this election—participation is a victory in and of itself."

Ballots are cast for one of 20+ slates of candidates submitted by Zionist groups. Voting is done primarily online and via mobile devices, but paper ballots are available upon request. The fee to register and vote is \$5, which goes to cover the operating costs of the election.

The election is administered by The American Zionist Movement (AZM), which is comprised of 46 national Jewish Zionist organizations and works across a broad ideological, political, and religious spectrum linking the American Jewish community together in support of Israel, Zionism, and the Jewish people.

An all-time-high of over 20 slates representing diverse political beliefs, religious denominations, and cultural traditions are competing in the 2025 election, marking an over 50% surge from the 13 slates whose candidates won seats in the Congress in 2020.

This year's candidates are running across the following slates, which are listed in ballot order, based on random drawing. Check back for updates on slate platforms and candidate lists.

To be eligible to vote in the U.S. election to the 39th World Zionist Congress, you must:

Be Jewish (and not subscribe to another religion) Be 18 years or older by June 30, 2025

Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident in the U.S.

Maintain your primary residence in the U.S.

Registration and voting will open on March 10, 2025, Voting will be online and paper ballots will be available on request. The fee to register and vote is \$5, which goes to cover the operating costs of the election.

To watch a short video about the World Zionist Congress and these elections, click <a href="https://youtu.be/KGWRp7\_vZH8">https://youtu.be/KGWRp7\_vZH8</a>

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#### Rabbi's Message (continued)

It's no secret to those who've been listening to me for the past few years that while I am undoubtedly and unabashed and unapologetic Zionist, I am also concerned about the increasingly anti-democratic and authoritarian tenor of what is happening in my spiritual homeland, which makes it all the more important to me that we support the values of Reform Judaism, by voting for Slate #3, known as "Vote Reform."

### **VOTE REFORM**

WZC Platform - 2025

A vote for the Reform Movement in the World Zionist Congress elections is a vote for our values: equality, democracy, pluralism, justice, and peace in Israel, rooted in our love and support for the people and the state of Israel.

Our "Vote Reform" slate is deeply committed to a strong and secure Israel and strengthening the Israel-Diaspora relationship, working in close partnership with our Israeli Reform Movement.

#### WHO WE ARE:

We represent the U.S. Reform Movement, including 2 million people across congregations, affiliates, and institutions, making us the largest Zionist Movement in the U.S. Our love for Israel reflects millennia of shared history and the intertwined destinies of Jews worldwide.

#### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- A strong, secure, democratic, and Jewish Israel, as envisioned in its Declaration of Independence.
- Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State and defend its people from terror. We oppose efforts to delegitimize this right.
- Religious equality where all Jewish traditions and forms of observance are respected, with full recognition of liberal Movements and an end to the ultra-Orthodox monopoly as the recognized religious authority.
- Regional security through peace and stability for Israel, Palestinians, and neighbors.
- Full equality under the law for all Israelis, including minorities, women, and LGBTQ+ people.
- A secure Israel alongside a peaceful Palestinian state is vital for stability.



As Reform Zionists, we seek a democratic, pluralistic, and vibrant Israeli society. We believe deeply in Jewish peoplehood and that all Jews are responsible for one another. We support the work and mission of our Israeli Reform Movement in creating vibrant, authentic, new expressions and models of Jewish life in the Jewish State and working to provide for those who are powerless and on the margins of Israeli society. We continue to work tirelessly for the release of the hostages and an end to the war. We are alarmed by and are committed to combating the rising threat of antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the U.S. and in Diaspora communities around the world.

# IN SUPPORT OF THESE BELIEFS, IN THE UPCOMING WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS, THE "VOTE REFORM" SLATE PLEDGES:

- To advocate that the government of Israel does everything in its power to maintain the ceasefire and return all hostages.
- To fight for government recognition and societal acceptance of the many diverse expressions of Jewish religious identity so that all such expressions are recognized as legitimate and equal under the law and to lend its support for Reform Judaism and other liberal streams.
- To assure that liberal streams of Judaism are provided equal financial support and resources in the Jewish State, ensuring that our Movements in Israel and all Jewish denominations in Israel remain strong, vibrant, and growing.
- To support government policy and societal initiatives that pursue a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians through a Two-State outcome.
- To influence the National Institutions (WZO, KKL, JAFI) to support a strong shared society and democratic civil society in Israel.
- To curb funding for and prevent de facto/de jure annexation of the West Bank or the resettlement of Gaza.



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#### Rabbi's Message (continued)

Please make our collective voice heard in this election by voting for Slate #3 ("Vote Reform"). By doing so you will help shape Israeli policies and allocate resources that reflect our Reform ideals, influencing decisions on leadership and priorities of key institutions like the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish National Fund, and the Jewish Agency for Israel. These institutions collectively allocate over \$1 billion annually to support Israel and global Jewry.

A dedicated computer has been set up at the temple that will remain available specifically to make it as easy as possible for our temple family to vote in this election. So if you don't get around to voting at home, don't worry – we can help guide you through the process at the JCNWJ.

In the meantime, if you would prefer to vote at home, this short video may be of help to you: <a href="https://youtu.be/">https://youtu.be/</a> TeZC 67dQ

To go directly to the voting page, you can click on: <a href="https://azm.castiron.votem.net/">https://azm.castiron.votem.net/</a> election/037548cb-4cbb-4a94-aa9a-8aef017d4ddf

Zionistically yours,

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.

#### **President's Message**

What a difference a month makes. The days are warming and there is hope in our hearts!

I want to thank every member of the Congregation, Rabbi Dubin, Howie Hirsch and the Board of Trustees for believing in me – not only to be your President, but to represent our Congregation at the URJ annual Scheidt Seminar. It was truly an inspiring experience. At times, feeling like summer camp, a wellness retreat, a pep rally, a training session, a classroom, a celebration with old friends and on and on.

#### I learned few things:

- 1) I am not alone **Ani lo levad** because not only do I have all of you, my fellow Congregants and Board members but I (and we) have the URJ as a resource to all things temple. Emma Osborn is our small congregation liaison; we've met a few times since the seminar, and she has offered both counsel and resources to problem solve. For me, invaluable resources!
- 2) We are a **Sacred Partnership** the relationships that each of us shares with the Rabbi and with each other are sacred. They are built on mutual respect, trust, transparency, flexibility, compassion and above all accountability. These relationships are complex and multi-faceted. Each are different. Each are valued. Each are sacred.
- 3) We have challenges as a small Congregation in a rural community, but we are not alone. Most churches and synagogues are struggling with membership and participation. What do we do? Well, for one, we don't give up. We continue to have dynamic programming. We continue to show up. We continue to participate. Our success isn't always measured by headcount or dollars raised but by the shared experience and the mutual feelings we have for each other and our little country shul.

Although I've chaired other civic committees, none have been like the JCNWJ. We have our own culture, challenges and needs. Together we will build on what is already a wonderful community – making small tweaks so the shared experience is better for all.

Humbly, suzi





#### **VP** Corner

#### **Recommended Hikes Part 1!**

For those of you who have free time during the week (not jealous at all!), some ideas to meet up with other Temple members who are free. And, we will put something more formal on the calendar on a weekend or two (or more) for Chaverim.

#### NJ Places

**Point Mountain** (near Califon) for a great intermediate hike centrally located, with a nice view: <a href="https://www.njhiking.com/nj-hikes-point-mountain/">https://www.njhiking.com/nj-hikes-point-mountain/</a>

**Columbia Trail:** flat walk through Morris-Hunterdon Counties; woods, water, gnomes, lots to see over 16 miles; can park in Califon, High Bridge and other places to access the trail <a href="https://www.morrisparks.net/parks">https://www.morrisparks.net/parks</a> trails/columbia-trail/

Hacklebarney State Park near Long Valley/Chester

Nine hiking trails traverse a total of 5 miles in the northern portions of the 465-acre natural area and offer breathtaking views of the Black River, which lies deep within a shaded hemlock ravine. Rinehart and Trout Brooks empty into the Black River and several small waterfalls can be seen from the high trails. The diversity of upland and wetland habitats provides excellent birdwatching opportunities, especially during migration. Since the topography of the park is rather rugged, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. 2

https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/hacklebarneystatepark.html

Schooley's Mountain Park Long Valley has many different trail types

https://www.morrisparks.net/parks\_trails/schooleys-mountain-county-park/

**In PA** (Milford area) Hackers Falls and the Cliff Trail Loop. intermediate, nice views, waterfalls too & Grey Towers National Historic Site

https://www.nps.gov/dewa/planyourvisit/hackers-trail.htm

https://greytowers.org (check this out, looks beautiful!!)

### 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 event will be the second night Passover seder on Sunday, April 13 at 6:00pm.

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:
		Family Potrait Fundraiser
		DeBour Photography of Stewartsville - All invited!
Sunday, Apr. 13, 2025	12:30 PM	Questions and sign up with Jeanie at 484.767.3744
		Second Night Seder – In person & Zoom. All invited! Sign
Sunday, Apr. 13, 2025	6:00 PM	up with Iris at 908.239.4585 or Jeanie at 484.767.3744
		Mah Jongg with Ginger – Attend all 3 sessions, 2 card tables
Sunday, Apr. 20. 2025	10:30 AM	needed. Sign up with 908.963.1504
		Mah Jongg with Ginger – Attend all 3 sessions, 2 card
Sunday, Apr. 27, 2025	10:30 AM	tables needed. Sign up with 908.963.1504
		Annual Jewelry & Judaica Swap with Havdalah Service –
Saturday, May 3, 2025	7:00 PM	Questions and sign up with Suzi at 908.343.1135
		White elephant items you may have but no longer bring you
		joy – must be able to carry in and carry out (jewelry, Judaica,
	318	décor items, scarves, purses etc.)
	75 E	Mah Jongg with Ginger – Attend all 3 sessions, 2 card
Sunday, May 4, 2025	10:30 AM	tables needed. Sign up with 908.963.1504
	AT 25	MOTHERS' DAY TEA PARTY – Hosted by Diane Margolin;
Sunday, May 18, 2025	1:00 PM	sign up with Diane at 908.852.7811

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- Chaverim Monthly leaders; you pick one event, and you lead it start to finish.
- Reel Theology Coordinators recommend movies to Rabbi for viewing 2025-26 CY. Coordinate programming for the JCNWJ community.

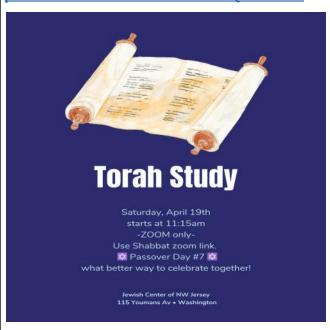
# **Updates & Events**

#### **TORAH STUDY**

The Torah study group is an informal discussion group, led by Rabbi Dubin and participants. We are completing our reading of 1 Samuel this month. The discussions often make connections between the ancient text and modern times.

The next meeting is April 19 at 11:15am.

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



#### **DONATIONS**

In memory of Betty Berkowitz

- Rita Berkowitz

In memory of Ester Herson

- Sharon Herson

#### **YAHRZEITS**

Henry Steinhardt Father of Larry Steinhardt
Dorothy Frank Grandmother of Grace Marr
Stanley Waxman Father of Debbie Kahan

John Laposky Brother-in-law of Diane Margolin Esther Ehrenreich Herson Grandmother of Sharon Herson

Estelle Shelofsky Mother of Andy Shelofsky Betty Berkowitz Mother of Jerry Berkowitz

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

Join us as we explore the historical roots, evolving traditions, and modern observations of one of Judaism's most significant festivals. From its origins in ancient Israel to its development through rabbinic interpretation and contemporary practice, this presentation will examine the Passover story, the Seder ritual, and Jewish understandings of this foundational holiday.



Monday, April 7th at 5 p.m.

#### Passover in Antiquity & Today

Presented by Rabbi Dr. Andy Dubin of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

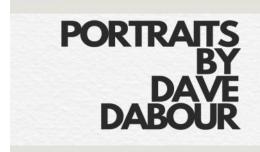


All are Welcome !

Hosted by *United People in Faith*Belvidere United Methodist Church
219 Hardwick Street

FREE EVENT- BUT please RSVP (908) 475-4065

# **Updates & Events**



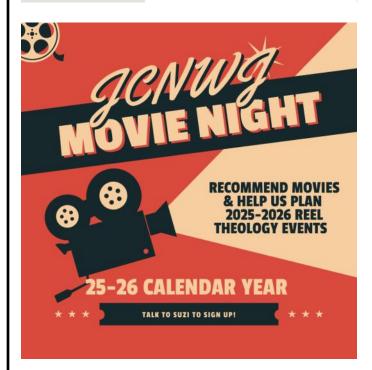
**Sunday April 13th** 

15 MINUTE SITTINGS \$50 PER SITTING SIGN UP WITH JEANNIE BERKOWITZ AT 484 767 3744 PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT JCNWJ

Beginning at 12:30pm



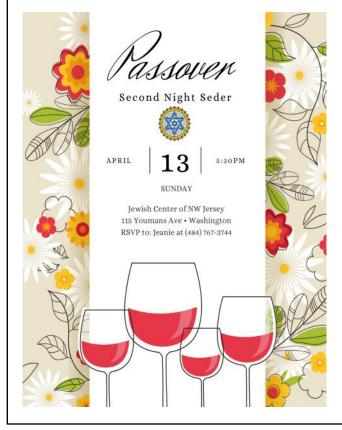
DABOUR Photography Stewartsville, NJ dabourphoto.com Let us capture the moments so you can ENJOY them!



#### **SECOND NIGHT SEDER**

Join the temple community on the second night of Passover for a seder and dinner in the simcha room. The dinner is potluck, and all food should be parve or dairy, and Kosher for Passover. We will begin the seder on Sunday, April 13 at 6:00pm.

#### Perfect Potluck Sign-Up



# **Updates & Events**





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



# **Recent Photos**

























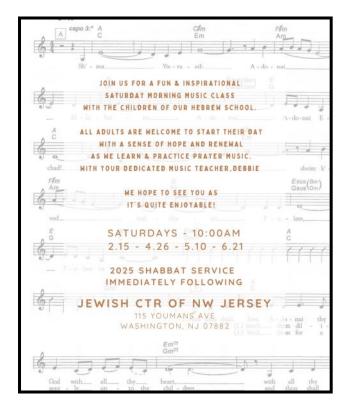






# Service & Oneg Schedule

Shabbat Services 2025:	START TIME:	Onegs – we need 2 volunteer families per service – please choose a date, if you haven't for this year):
Friday, April 4, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Pre-Passover / Fletcher family
Saturday, April 5, 2025	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service / Bar Mitzvah / Fletcher family – LET'S CELEBRATE ROYCE!
Saturday, April 26, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / Yom HaShoah / <i>Herson &amp; Smith</i>
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; Wein-stein</b>
Friday, June 6, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Bark Mitzvah / Fenton & Bauer
Saturday, June 21, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / Kalischer & Sylvester
Friday, July 11, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <b>OPEN – volunteers needed</b>
Friday, August 15, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <b>OPEN – volunteers needed</b>



#### **FOOD DRIVE**

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

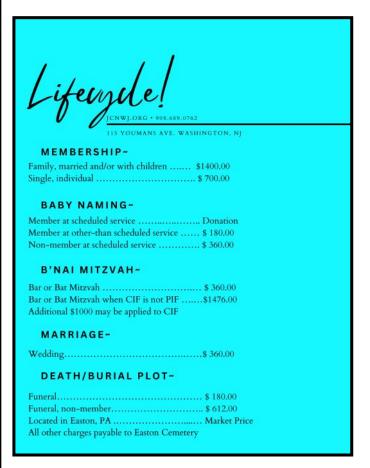
Thank you for your continued support!
-Iris

#### **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.

## **JCNWJ Services**





CNWJ.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**

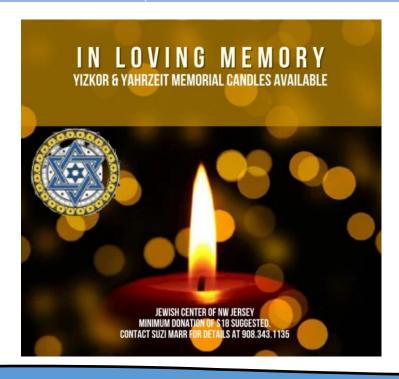


Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey contact Suzi at 908.343.1135 or by email at prez.JCNWJ@gmail.com





- 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



### **Partners**



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
- 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.3AFE | WWW.DA3ACC.ORG | OUTREACH OFFICES: 29C BROAD STREET | WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07882
OUTREACH: 908.463.4121 | OUTREACH FAX: 908.223.1146 | SAFE HOUSE: 908.463.4181 | SAFE HOUSE FAX: 908.463.3708

### **Partners**



#### 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.