

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

May 2025

Vol: L Issue: 9



Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

Back on March 10 of this year, I logged into my personal Facebook account and shared some quick thoughts about Mahmoud Khalil — the Algerian national and U.S. green card holder who has become one of the most prominent anti-Israel organizers at Columbia University.

Writing as an **unapologetic and deeply proud Zionist**, I admitted that this arrest worried me. To be clear: I didn't (and still don't) know the specific charges he faces. But I strongly believe we can never defeat his repugnant, Israel-hating ideology by arresting our way out of it — nor by taking centralized government control over Columbia University, nor **any** university.

Yes, I wish Columbia and Barnard had acted more swiftly and decisively to bar Khalil from campus after his repeated violations of university policy and his intimidation of Jewish students. But this arrest felt more like a political show of bravado than a strategic, moral, or Jewish defense against the antisemitism Khalil promotes.

Had I taken more time to articulate my concerns at the time, I would have added that even if the arrest had been framed as part of a broader effort to combat campus antisemitism, I feared the signals of repression that it truly signaled — because history has taught us time and again that when **anyone's** civil rights are stripped away, it **never** turns out well for the Jews. I knew this because I've seen it before. We've **all** seen it before.

(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 4

9:30am: Hebrew School

Monday, May 5

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday, May 10

10:00am: Music with Deb Apsel

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut

Friday, May 16

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Lag B'Omer observance

Sunday, May 18

9:30am: Hebrew School

1:00pm: Mothers' Day Tea (See Pg. 6)

Saturday, May 24

10:30am: Torah Study on Zoom

Sunday, June 1

9:30am: Hebrew School & Congregational
Celebration (See Pg. 8)

Mark your calendar:

Bark Mitzvah & Shavuot—June 6

Annual Meeting—June 8

Shabbat & Picnic at Berkowitz Home—June 21

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

Rabbi's Message (continued)

After Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, the Russian Empire cracked down on all forms of “foreign” ideas. Civil rights protections were stripped from minorities; new censorship and emergency laws were enacted, especially against Polish nationalists, Ukrainian peasants, and liberal reformers. While Jews were not the initial targets, pogroms followed nonetheless soon after. ***Once the state succeeded in crushing the rights of others, the Jews were left exposed — and vulnerable.***

In 1920s and '30s Germany, amid the instability of the Weimar Republic, authorities enacted emergency decrees to suppress the rights of political minorities like communists and socialists. And while the Jews weren't the first to be put in the crosshairs, we became the primary scapegoats in quick order, accused of being liberal outsiders, socialists, and agents of chaos. ***Once the state succeeded in crushing the rights of others, the Jews were left exposed — and vulnerable.***

After World War II, Stalin's Soviet Union targeted Ukrainians, religious minorities, artists, intellectuals — and eventually Jews. Hebrew was banned, Yiddish schools and theaters were shuttered, Jewish leaders were murdered, and antisemitic conspiracy theories were sanctioned by the state. Under Khrushchev and Brezhnev, things hardly improved for Jewish identity and religious practice. ***Once the state succeeded in crushing the rights of others, the Jews were left exposed — and vulnerable.***

No — the Russian Empire didn't start by targeting us, but we paid the price.

No — the Nazis didn't start their master plan with us, but the Holocaust ensued anyway.

No — Stalin didn't start with us, but Jewish life was snuffed out in the USSR for over half-a-century.

Once the state succeeded in crushing the rights of others, we were left exposed — and vulnerable.
One way or another, authoritarians never failed to come after us in the process.

As Jews, we cannot sit by with complacency just because we aren't the ones being targeted first. And we certainly cannot support state repression simply because it's being carried out **in our name** under the guise of combatting antisemitism. That is not only naïve — it's morally bankrupt.

When Mahmoud Khalil was arrested, I feared that the negation of his civil rights of due process would backfire — and that it would **fan** the flames of antisemitism rather than extinguish them. That is exactly what has happened. Instead of reducing antisemitism on college campuses or beyond, these strong-arm tactics have only deepened the problem.

Rather than reducing antisemitism on college campuses (and elsewhere), the strong-man tactics have made things worse. Instead of standing up to protect the civil rights and due process of a legal resident of the United States, as I believe we must, Supporters of Khalil's anti-Israel rhetoric — and many who never cared about him before — have used his arrest to advance antisemitic conspiracy theories and revive ancient tropes blaming Jews for all the world's ills.

So to the government authorities planning and implementing the erasure of civil rights for dissenters, even for the dissenters who offend us the most, our only logical response of self-protection, so far as I

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Rabbi's Message (continued)

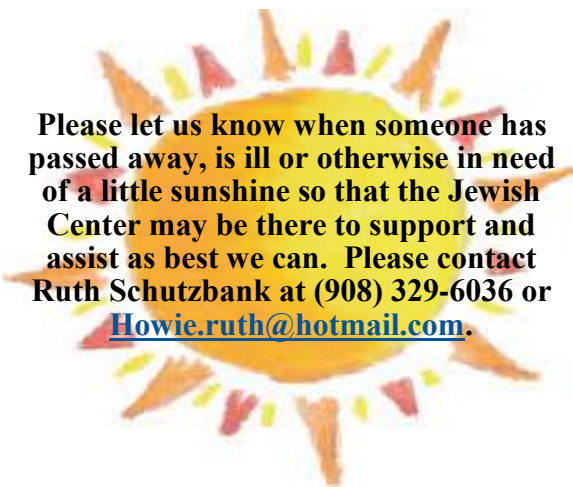
can determine, to stand up and say no. We will not allow our names be used to defend the eradication of civil rights for others. It's not right, it's not effective, and it's not Jewish.

And so I say this, especially to those government officials who believe that eroding civil liberties is the answer – even when it is the liberties of rabid Israel-haters that are being eroded: **We will not let our names or pain be weaponized to justify the oppression of others.** It's not effective. It's not ethical. **It's not Jewish.**

בְּסוֹלִידָרְיוּת, (In Solidarity),

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

As I approach the end of my first year as President, I've been reflecting on our dedicated volunteers and the essence of volunteerism within our community.

It's clear that we all share a deep passion for what JCNWJ represents, though we express this commitment in our own unique ways. This individuality brings valuable perspectives to our community, and while our approaches and timelines for achieving goals may differ, these differences are simply that – variations that enrich our collective efforts.

Ultimately, there are many paths to success, and our Board of Trustees is comprised of many wonderful and enthusiastic volunteers who are deeply devoted to our "little country shul." I wanted to share some of the exciting initiatives currently underway:

Jeanie Berkowitz is thoughtfully planning Rabbi Dubin's 10th anniversary celebration for Sunday, June 22nd, 2025, as well as JCNWJ's 80th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, October 4th, 2026.

Gerri Klein and the Bylaws Committee are diligently working on revamping our Mission Statement and Bylaws, and are developing an Ethics statement to be used as our North Star to guide our decision-making and planning.

Rabbi Dubin and the Education Committee are planning a fun year-end Hebrew School celebration on June 1st AND a Bark Mitzvah with a special surprise on June 6th!!

And, of course, the JCNWJ Board of Trustees will all be on-hand Sunday, June 8th for the Annual Meeting, with their respective Committee reports and to field any questions and hear any suggestions / concerns you may have. Coffee and bagels at 9:30am. Meeting starts at 10:00am.

To further support these efforts and the ongoing vitality of our congregation, we are currently seeking additional volunteers for the following roles:

- Substitute teachers / Hebrew tutors (Fall of 2025)
- Secretary for the Board of Trustees (immediate opening)
- Chaverim/Sisterhood Chairperson (Fall of 2025) – Alternatively, we can restructure Chaverim to have volunteer members plan monthly events (Sept - June with advance sign up and details), with any remaining Sisterhood funds being re-allocated to the JCNWJ general fund.
- President of the Board of Trustees for a two-year term (June 2026)

Your involvement is always invaluable, and there are various ways to contribute your time and talents. Please show up. Please participate. Please encourage the same of your friends. Please consider how you might be able to support our community.

Humbly,

Suzi

VP Corner

Recommended Hikes Part 2!

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

Merrill Creek is in Harmony Township, Warren County <https://merrillcreek.com> James and I have gone many times. It is about 6 miles, the entire loop. The scenery is really pretty: water, woods, meadows, birds, etc. It's a walk/hike. Not strenuous but also not an easy path if you walk the entire loop; The Visitor Center is nice, and there is a great view from there; I highly recommend looking at the website prior to going to make sure they are open and what time the gate closes.

Washington Crossing State park in Hopewell Township, <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org>: Washington Crossing Historic Park offers more than 500 acres of American history, natural beauty and family fun. The park preserves the site where George Washington crossed the Delaware River and turned the tide of the Revolutionary War. A farther drive but totally worth it!

Point Mountain Reservation: <https://www.njhiking.com/nj-hikes-point-mountain/>; this is local Warren County/Port Colden, the view is beautiful! Would love to organize a Chaverim hike here, lunch at my house after!

Rocky hike that quickly arrives at a panorama over the surrounding hills, valleys, and farmland and returns along a stream. **3.0 or 6.3 miles.** Steep and rocky at the beginning; the remainder is less rocky with hills and a few field edges.

Really Short: 1.0 – To the overlook then just come back down for a short-n-steep hike with a great payoff.

Shorter: <2.0 – Riverwalk (BLUE) follows the river and loops around.

Long: 6.3 – Add a loop in the North section, directions below.

Longer, nearby lot: 9.7 – see “**Point Mountain Reservation – Mountain Top Road**” for a route that goes through the entire park.

Stephens state park Hackettstown: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/stephensstatepark.html>: Stephens State Park features fishing in the trout stocked waters of the Musconetcong River. Daytime visitors can enjoy picnic tables and grills with scenic views right along the river, or take advantage of the numerous hiking and mountain biking trails

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 Mothers' Day Tea Party on May 18.

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

We are looking for a volunteer to chair Chaverim/Sisterhood, starting Fall of 2025; or, we can restructure Chaverim to monthly events (Sept - June) run by a different Chaverim member each month. Any remaining Sisterhood funds can be re-allocated to the JCNWJ general fund. Options to be discussed at the General meeting on June 8th.



Updates & Events

TORAH STUDY

The Torah study group is an informal discussion group, led by Rabbi Dubin and participants. We are now reading and discussing 2 Samuel, which includes the story of King David. The discussions often make connections between the ancient text and modern times.

The next meeting is May 24 at 10:30am.

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

DONATIONS

In memory of Carol Roessner
- Erica Sylvester

In memory of Harry Siegel
- Rhonda Jordan

In honor of the Purim Spielers
- Alison and Andrew Shelofsky

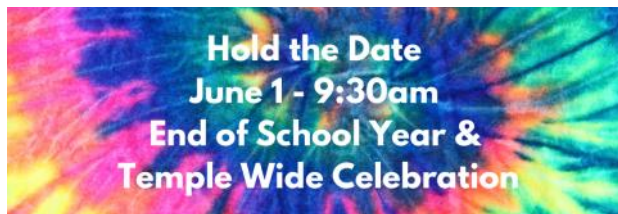
In honor of Rabbi Dubin's Passover presentation at
Belvidere United Methodist Church
- Rosalie Haller

Yahrzeits

Carol Roessner	Father of Erica Sylvester
Anna Goldberg	Mother of Stuart Goldberg
Anna Fleckles	Cousin of Daniel Fleckles
Irwin Finkelstein	Father of Shelley Finkelstein
Rebecca Sachat	Grandmother of Barbara Simons
Arthur Hertzmark	Father of Nancy Robins
Susan Waxman	Mother of Debbie Kahan
Saul Schutzbank	Father of Howard Schutzbank
Dora Merein	Grandmother of Lois Goldberg
Robert Joseph Heller	Cousin of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis
David B. Pinn	Father of Helen Mattson
Edward Nemer	Uncle of Marsha Torine
William Moorehead	Father of James Moorehead
Joseph Posner	Grandfather of Tracey Bauer
Carol Fleckles White	Sister of Daniel Fleckles
Larry Bauer	Brother of Mo Bauer
Keith Ehrenreich	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Gerald Klein	Uncle of Gerri Klein
Reuben Marcovitch	Father of Edythe Herson

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

Updates & Events



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

ANNUAL PICNIC

Save the Date: Shabbat & Annual JCNWJ Picnic
Celebrating Rabbi Dubin's 10 year Anniversary with us.

Saturday, June 21

Service at 10:45am, Picnic following

Home of Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

721 Pequest Road, Oxford N.J.

A Potluck signup will be sent out mid-May.

Any questions contact Jeannie Berkowitz

berkowitz55@yahoo.com

484-767-3744

Updates & Events

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT
AT COCA-COLA PARK!
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 at 6:45 PM

 **VS.** 

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS
VS. WORCESTER RED SOX
Triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox

\$24 TICKETS INCLUDE:
FIELD LEVEL TICKET | FOOD VOUCHER*
JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT HAT
*A Glatt Kosher meat meal under the supervision
of the Lehigh Valley Kashrut Commission

\$18 TICKETS INCLUDE:
FIELD LEVEL TICKET
JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT HAT

To purchase tickets online, scan the QR code
or visit jewishlehighvalley.org/ironpigs. You
may also contact JFLV at 610-821-5500 or
mailbox@jflv.org



**TO PURCHASE DISCOUNTED TICKET PACKAGES,
CONTACT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:**
Chabad of the Lehigh Valley, Congregation Am
Haskalah, Congregation Bnai Shalom, Congregation
Brith Shalom, Congregation Keneseth Israel, Con-
gregation Sons of Israel, Jewish Community Center
of the Lehigh Valley, Jewish Day School of the Lehigh
Valley, Temple Beth El, Temple Shirat Shalom

 **Jewish Federation**
of the Lehigh Valley

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Service & Oneg Schedule

<i>Shabbat Services 2025:</i>	<i>START TIME:</i>	<i>Onegs – we need 2 volunteer families per service – please choose a date, if you haven't for this year):</i>
Saturday, May 10, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service / Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'Atzma'ut / <i>Gross & Marr</i>
Friday, May 16, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service LAG Ba'OMER / <i>Guberman & Weinstein</i>
Friday, June 6, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Bark Mitzvah / <i>Fenton & Bauer</i>
Saturday, June 21, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service & Annual Picnic / <i>Kalischer & Sylvester</i>
Friday, July 11, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <i>OPEN – volunteers needed</i>
Friday, August 15, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / <i>OPEN – volunteers needed</i>

capo 3: A C Cfm Em Ffm Am

Sh' - ra. Vis - ra. ed. A - do. nat.

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

A C C E G

El - lo - hai. mi. A - do. nat. A - do. nat. E

A C

chad. sheim 'K

Ffm Am G Eus (Bm) Gsus (Dm)

vod. mal - chm. f - a - lam.

E G A C

f - a - lam. vs

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

2025 SHABBAT SERVICE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

A C

JEWISH CTR OF NW JERSEY
115 YOUNG MAN'S AVE
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882

low. A - do. nat. thy
(2) mach. sham dil. i -
(3) bind. sham for a

Em^m Gm^m

God sent - us with all - thy heart, chil - dren with and all these thy

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

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 Cemetery

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

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: 908.453.3768

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As Our Own*

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www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com

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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.