

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

I am continually moved by the generosity and trust this community places in me through the contributions you give to my *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*, which enables me to respond to various needs local, national, international, and, especially, in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. As I did in my June message last year, so too this year would I like to share with you (in alphabetical order) where I've chosen to direct your generosity. While this is hardly exhaustive of all the worthy organizations to which one might be compelled to contribute, I encourage you to peruse through the following list in the hopes that it may spark your own philanthropic passions.

In the name of abundant transparency, let me make clear that these descriptions are not my own; they were written for you by ChatGPT (with minor edits from me).

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dubin

(continued on the next 18 pages)

Calendar of Events

Monday, June 2

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 6

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Shavuot Observance, Bark Mitzvah

Sunday, June 8

9:30am: Breakfast and Annual Meeting

Please make all efforts to attend

Saturday, June 14

10:30am: Torah Study on Zoom

Friday, June 20

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sunday, June 22

12:30pm: Annual Picnic at Berkowitz Home
(See Pg. 21)

Sunday, June 29

10:30am: Mah Jongg (See Pg. 24)

July & August Dates

Shabbat Services

July 11 & August 15

Sisterhood Pool Party (see Pg. 23)

August 10

Mah Jongg (See Pg. 24)

July 27 & August 24



The **Arava Institute for Environmental Studies** is a leading academic and research center located at Kibbutz Ketura in southern Israel. Established in 1996 by environmentalist Alon Tal, the institute is dedicated to advancing cross-border environmental cooperation in the face of political conflict. Its mission is to prepare future leaders—Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, and international students—to cooperatively address regional and global environmental challenges.

The Arava Institute offers accredited undergraduate and graduate programs in partnership with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Students engage in interdisciplinary studies covering topics such as sustainable development, water management, renewable energy, environmental law, and desert ecology. All courses are taught in English, and students live and study together, fostering a unique multicultural learning environment.

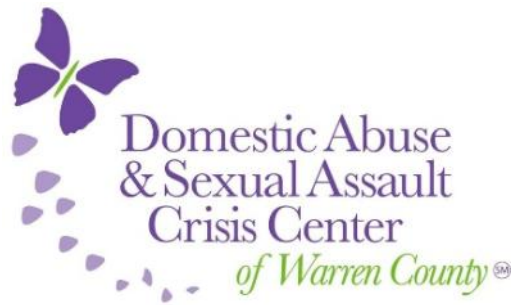
A distinctive feature of the institute is its **Peace-Building and Environmental Leadership Seminar**, a non-credit program that brings together students from diverse backgrounds to engage in dialogue, build trust, and develop leadership skills aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and regional cooperation.

The Arava Institute also houses several research centers focusing on transboundary environmental issues:

- **Center for Transboundary Water Management:** Facilitates collaboration among Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian water professionals to address shared water challenges.
- **Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation:** Conducts research on energy policy, solar fuels, and energy-efficient technologies suitable for arid climates.
- **Center for Sustainable Agriculture:** Focuses on arid land agriculture, including notable projects like the revival of ancient plant species such as the Judean date palm.
- **Center for Hyper-Arid Socio-Ecology:** Studies the interaction between natural ecosystems and human communities in the hyper-arid Arava Valley.

Through its comprehensive educational programs and collaborative research initiatives, the Arava Institute plays a pivotal role in promoting environmental sustainability and peace-building in the Middle East.

For more information, visit their official website: arava.org.



The **Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center (DASACC)** of Warren County, New Jersey, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals impacted by interpersonal violence. Located at 29C Broad Street in Washington, NJ, DASACC offers a comprehensive range of free and confidential services, including a 24/7 helpline, emergency shelter (pet-friendly), individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, case management, and prevention education.

In addition to survivor support, DASACC operates an **Abuse Intervention Program (AIP)** aimed at educating and holding accountable individuals who have been abusive to their partners or ex-partners. This program provides group and individual counseling, utilizing evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI).

DASACC is committed to serving all individuals affected by interpersonal violence, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, disability status, or age. The organization emphasizes inclusivity and cultural competence in all its services.

For immediate assistance or more information, individuals can call the 24/7 helpline at (908) 453-4181 or visit www.dasacc.org.



Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action is a national grassroots movement mobilizing American Jews to confront the climate crisis through spiritual engagement and bold political action. Founded in 2020 by Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Dayenu draws inspiration from the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and the Passover song "Dayenu," which expresses gratitude and urgency.

Mission and Values

Dayenu's mission is to secure a just, livable, and sustainable world for all people by building a multi-generational Jewish movement that addresses the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. The organization emphasizes climate justice, recognizing that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities.

Key Initiatives

- **Dayenu Circles:** Small, local groups that meet regularly to engage in climate action and spiritual reflection.
- **"All Our Might" Campaign:** Encourages Jewish institutions to divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean energy.
- **"Chutzpah" Campaign:** Mobilizes climate-concerned voters to support candidates committed to bold climate action.
- **Spiritual Adaptation Workshops:** Provides resources to help individuals and communities confront the emotional and existential challenges posed by the climate crisis.

Impact and Recognition

Since its inception, Dayenu has partnered with various organizations and institutions to advance climate justice initiatives. The movement has been featured in national media and continues to grow its network of activists and supporters across the United States .

For more information, visit their official website: dayenu.org.



18Doors: Unlocking Jewish Life for Interfaith Families

18Doors is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting interfaith couples and families in exploring and engaging with Jewish life. Founded in 1998 as *InterfaithFamily*, the organization rebranded to 18Doors in 2020 to better reflect the diverse identities and experiences of interfaith families and the multiple pathways they take into Jewish life. The name "18Doors" symbolizes the diversity of interfaith families and the many entry points into Jewish life, with the number 18 representing "chai," the Hebrew word for life, and doors symbolizing new opportunities and inclusivity.

Mission and Services

18Doors empowers individuals, couples, families, and their children in interfaith relationships to make Jewish choices and encourages Jewish communities to welcome them. The organization provides a range of resources, including:

- **Clergy Referrals:** Connecting interfaith couples with rabbis and cantors who are supportive of their relationships and willing to officiate at lifecycle events.
- **Educational Content:** Offering guides, newsletters, and resources on Jewish holidays, lifecycle events, and parenting in interfaith families.
- **Community Engagement:** Organizing local events and programs to help interfaith families connect with each other and with welcoming Jewish communities.

Professional Development and Advocacy

18Doors also focuses on training and supporting Jewish clergy and professionals through initiatives like the **Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship**, which equips rabbis with the skills to work effectively with interfaith couples and families. Additionally, the organization collaborates with other institutions to promote inclusivity and understanding within the broader Jewish community

Recent Developments

In February 2025, 18Doors appointed **Mike Wise** as its new CEO. Wise, formerly co-founder of Honeymoon Israel, brings extensive experience in welcoming interfaith couples into Jewish life and is committed to expanding 18Doors' reach and impact.

For more information, visit their official website: 18doors.org.



The Good People Fund is a nonprofit organization based in Millburn, New Jersey, founded in 2008. Inspired by the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), the fund supports grassroots initiatives primarily in the United States and Israel that address pressing social and humanitarian challenges.

The organization provides financial support, mentorship, and management guidance to small and mid-sized nonprofits led by individuals—referred to as "Good People"—who have developed creative solutions to issues such as poverty, hunger, disability, trauma recovery, and social isolation. These grantees typically operate with low overhead and on a personal scale, often lacking the resources to attract significant funding

The Good People Fund distinguishes itself by maintaining a lean operating budget and minimizing bureaucracy, ensuring that the majority of donor contributions directly support programmatic work. The organization also emphasizes building personal relationships with its grantees, offering ongoing support to help them achieve sustainability and maximize their impact.

For more information, visit their official website: goodpeoplefund.org.



Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey (HFHNWNJ) is a nonprofit organization committed to building and repairing homes for families in need across Warren and Sussex counties. Formed in 2025 through the merger of the Warren and Sussex County affiliates, HFHNWNJ combines decades of experience to expand its impact on affordable housing in the region .

The organization offers a range of programs, including new home construction, critical home repairs, and neighborhood revitalization efforts. In 2025, HFHNWNJ aims to undertake over 100 home repair projects and begin construction on eight new homes

HFHNWNJ operates two ReStore locations in Washington, NJ, which sell donated furniture, appliances, and building materials at discounted prices. Proceeds from these stores support the organization's mission and help reduce waste by recycling materials that might otherwise be discarded .

Beyond housing, HFHNWNJ engages the community through initiatives like the WCHF Community Center, which provides programs for youth, seniors, and veterans, fostering a supportive environment for learning and growth .

For more information, visit their official website: <https://habitatnwnj.org/>



Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering a shared society through integrated, bilingual education. Established in 1998, Hand in Hand operates six public schools across Israel—in Jerusalem, the Galilee, Wadi Ara, Haifa, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and Kfar Saba—serving over 2,000 Jewish and Arab students.

These schools are unique in Israel's educational landscape, as they bring together Jewish and Arab children in the same classrooms, promoting mutual respect and understanding from an early age. Each class is co-taught by Jewish and Arab educators, and instruction is provided in both Hebrew and Arabic, ensuring linguistic and cultural inclusivity.

Beyond the classroom, Hand in Hand engages over 10,000 community members through various programs aimed at building relationships and fostering dialogue between Jewish and Arab citizens. These initiatives include community events, parent workshops, and joint cultural activities, all designed to strengthen social cohesion and challenge prevailing narratives of separation.

Hand in Hand's model has garnered international recognition for its innovative approach to peace-building and education, demonstrating that coexistence and equality are attainable goals within a diverse society.

For more information, visit their official website: handinhandk12.org.



The Humanitarian Guard (Hebrew: *HaMishmar HaHumanitari*) is a grassroots initiative launched in May 2024 by the Israeli-Palestinian social movement Standing Together (*Omdim Beyachad–Naqef Ma'an*). Its primary mission is to protect humanitarian aid convoys en route to Gaza from attacks by extremist Israeli settlers, who have been documented looting, vandalizing, and setting fire to aid trucks at checkpoints such as Tarqumiyah.

In response to these threats, the Humanitarian Guard mobilizes volunteers—both Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel—to accompany aid shipments, document incidents, and pressure law enforcement to intervene. Their presence has led to increased police accountability and deterrence of further attacks.

The initiative has garnered significant support, with hundreds of volunteers participating in protective shifts. It represents a broader effort to uphold humanitarian principles and ensure the safe delivery of essential aid to Gaza amidst ongoing conflict.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nif.org/tag/humanitarian-guard/>



InterAct

Interact International is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering peace and mutual understanding between Israelis and Palestinians. Founded by Palestinian peacebuilder Aziz Abu Sarah, the organization gained further prominence in 2023 when Israeli entrepreneur Maoz Inon, who lost both parents in the October 7 attacks, joined the leadership team. Together, they channel personal tragedies into a shared commitment to reconciliation and coexistence .

Central to Interact’s mission is the **Dual Narrative Education Center (DNEC)**, a multilingual (English, Hebrew, Arabic) platform that presents diverse perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through storytelling, opinion pieces, academic articles, books, and films, the DNEC aims to foster mutual understanding and empathy among Israelis, Palestinians, and the global community .

Interact also organizes global events, including lectures, webinars, and cultural programs, to promote dialogue and empathy. Notably, in May 2024, Aziz and Maoz attended the “Arena of Peace” event in Verona, Italy, where they received support from Pope Francis for their shared vision of peace .

Committed to humanitarian efforts, Interact supports all citizens and communities within Israel and Palestine, striving to build a more connected and caring world .

For more information, visit their official website: <https://www.iinteract.org/>



The Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) is the public and legal advocacy arm of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, established in 1987 and based in Jerusalem. IRAC is dedicated to promoting religious freedom, equality, and social justice in Israel, working through legal action, public policy advocacy, and educational initiatives.

IRAC's mission encompasses several key areas:

- **Advancing Religious Pluralism:** Challenging the Orthodox monopoly over religious life in Israel, IRAC advocates for the recognition and equal status of Reform and Conservative rabbis, synagogues, and institutions.
- **Promoting Equality:** The organization works to combat discrimination and promote equality in public spaces, including efforts to end gender segregation on public buses and advance LGBTQ rights.
- **Supporting Immigrants and Converts:** Through the Legal Aid Center for Olim (LACO), founded in 1992, IRAC provides legal assistance to immigrants and converts facing bureaucratic challenges in obtaining Israeli citizenship and recognition.
- **Combating Racism and Hate Speech:** IRAC monitors and takes legal action against incitement to racism and violence, particularly by public figures and religious leaders, aiming to foster a more inclusive society.

IRAC's work is guided by the principles of Progressive Judaism, striving to build a democratic and pluralistic Israel where all citizens enjoy equal rights and freedoms.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://www.irac.org/>



Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

The **Israeli Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism** is a leading organization in Israel dedicated to promoting Reform and Progressive Jewish values, practice, and community life. It advocates for religious pluralism, equality, and inclusion within Israeli society and the broader Jewish world. The movement supports synagogues, educational programs, and social initiatives that emphasize personal autonomy, gender equality, and social justice, offering an alternative to Orthodox Judaism's dominance in Israel. It also works to advance civil rights related to marriage, conversion, and religious expression. The movement is affiliated with the global World Union for Progressive Judaism and plays a vital role in fostering a vibrant, diverse Jewish identity in Israel.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://reform.org.il/en/>



Founded in 2011 by Rev. Canon Nicholas Porter and Dorothy Porter, Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB) is an interfaith nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering peace and understanding among Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Druze. JPB's mission centers on creating a better future for humanity by promoting transformational, person-to-person encounters among Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans. Through a variety of programs—including youth leadership institutes, in-school courses, and professional development initiatives—JPB equips participants with the skills, relationships, and experiences necessary to become effective leaders and peacebuilders in their communities.

The organization operates both in the U.S. and through its sister nonprofit, JPB Leadership Development, in Jerusalem. Together, they strive to empower a new generation committed to building peaceful and just societies across the Middle East and beyond.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://www.jerusalempeacebuilders.org/>



Kehilat Kol HaNeshama is a prominent Reform Jewish congregation located in the Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem. Established in 1985 by Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, it stands as one of Israel's most influential Progressive Jewish communities. The congregation is affiliated with the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) and emphasizes values such as pluralism, equality, social justice, and Zionism.

Kol HaNeshama offers a vibrant and inclusive environment for spiritual and community engagement. It hosts egalitarian Shabbat and holiday services, educational programs, and social action initiatives. The synagogue serves a diverse membership, including both Israeli-born and international congregants, and is recognized for its commitment to gender equality and LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Under the leadership of Rabbi Oded Mazor, the community continues to play a significant role in shaping Progressive Jewish life in Israel. Kehilat Kol HaNeshama remains a beacon of Reform Judaism in Jerusalem, fostering a welcoming space for all who seek to connect with Jewish tradition in a contemporary and inclusive manner.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://reform.org.il/en/communities/kol-haneshama-jerusalem/>



Mechina Arava Faran is a pre-military leadership academy located in Israel's Central Arava region, with campuses in Hatzeva, Paran, and Ein Yahav. This coeducational, pluralistic program spans ten months, from September to June, and is conducted in Hebrew. It welcomes participants from diverse Jewish backgrounds, fostering a uniquely inclusive environment.

The academy's mission is to instill values of Judaism and Zionism, promote community contribution, environmental stewardship, and prepare students for meaningful service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Its curriculum combines intensive study, community volunteering, agricultural work, and exploration of Israel, aiming to develop leadership with social ethics and human sensitivity.

Established by the second generation of the region's original settlers, Mechina Arava Faran emphasizes personal growth, leadership development, and a deep connection to the land and society of Israel.

For more information, visit their official website (Hebrew): <https://www.aravaspirit.org.il>



The **National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)** is a grassroots organization founded in 1893 by Hannah Greenebaum Solomon during the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Initially established to strengthen Jewish women's connection to Judaism and pursue a wide-ranging social justice agenda, NCJW has grown into the oldest Jewish women's grassroots organization in the United States. Today, it boasts over 225,000 members and supporters across 60 sections in 30 states .

Guided by the Jewish principle of "Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20), NCJW is committed to improving the quality of life for women, children, and families, and safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. The organization engages in advocacy, education, and direct service to address issues such as reproductive rights, voting rights, civil liberties, and social justice in both the United States and Israel .

NCJW's work includes mobilizing grassroots action, supporting judicial nominations, promoting reproductive health and rights, and advancing civil rights and religious freedom. Through its efforts, NCJW continues to uphold its mission of turning progressive ideals into action, inspired by Jewish values.

For more information, visit their official website: ncjw.org.



Neve Shalom–Wahat al-Salam (Hebrew and Arabic for "Oasis of Peace") is a unique intentional community in Israel where Jewish and Palestinian citizens choose to live together in equality and mutual respect. Founded in 1970 by Father Bruno Hussar, a Jewish-born Catholic priest, the village is situated between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on land leased from the Latrun Monastery

The community is renowned for its commitment to coexistence and peacebuilding through education and dialogue. It operates several educational institutions, including the first fully integrated bilingual (Hebrew-Arabic) primary school in Israel, established in 1984, and the School for Peace, which offers programs fostering understanding between Jews and Palestinians

Despite its achievements, Neve Shalom–Wahat al-Salam faces challenges. In May 2025, a proposed Israeli law threatened to impose an 80% tax on foreign donations, jeopardizing the village's educational institutions that rely heavily on international support. Additionally, the community has navigated internal tensions, particularly following the events of October 7, 2023, which strained relationships and prompted residents to engage in difficult but necessary dialogues to maintain their shared vision.

Neve Shalom–Wahat al-Salam stands as a living example of the possibility of peaceful coexistence, continually striving to uphold its founding principles amidst a complex and often divided region.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://wasns.org/>

Operating Together

Operating Together is a collaborative initiative based in Holon, Israel, that brings together Israeli and Palestinian healthcare professionals, educators, and communities. Through joint projects, training programs, and creative endeavors, the organization aims to promote healing, understanding, and shared humanity via the field of medicine. By fostering cooperation across divides, Operating Together seeks to build bridges and inspire hope for a healthier, more peaceful future in the region.

Operating Together offers programs such as Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) courses, which provide essential hands-on skills and knowledge. These courses bring together Palestinian and Israeli surgeons, residents, and nurses, providing them with a platform to interact, collaborate, and share their knowledge and experiences.

For more information, visit their official website: operatingtogether.org



The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization comprising over 800 bereaved families who have lost immediate family members to the ongoing conflict. Founded in 1995 by Israeli and Palestinian families, the PCFF operates under the principle that reconciliation between nations is essential for achieving sustainable peace.

The organization facilitates dialogue meetings, educational programs, and public events where members share personal narratives of loss and their choice to pursue peace over revenge. Notably, the PCFF co-hosts the annual Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Ceremony, emphasizing shared humanity and the importance of dialogue.

Through its initiatives, the Parents Circle – Families Forum aims to foster understanding, prevent further bereavement, and promote a future of coexistence and mutual respect.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://www.theparentscircle.org/en/homepage-en/>



Planned Parenthood of Northern, Central, and Southern New Jersey (PPNCSNJ) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality, comprehensive, and affordable reproductive and complementary health care services across 18 counties in New Jersey. With 17 health centers, PPNCSNJ emphasizes privacy, confidentiality, dignity, and sexual self-determination in its care.

PPNCSNJ offers a wide range of services, including birth control, STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, abortion services, and health insurance enrollment assistance. The organization is committed to ensuring that everyone—regardless of income, insurance status, or immigration status—has access to compassionate health care.

In 2023, PPNCSNJ reported approximately 96,000 patient visits and conducted 13,000 cancer screenings, including Pap tests and breast cancer screenings.

Beyond clinical services, PPNCSNJ actively advocates for public policies that guarantee reproductive rights and access to care. The organization also provides comprehensive sex education through its Center for Sex Education, which publishes educational materials and hosts the annual National Sex Ed Conference.

For more information or to book an appointment, visit ppncsnj.org.



Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR) is an Israeli nonprofit organization founded in 1988 that brings together rabbis and rabbinical students from across the Jewish denominational spectrum—including Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Renewal traditions—to advocate for human rights and social justice in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Rooted in Jewish ethical teachings and the belief that every person is created in the image of God, RHR works to protect the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of nationality or religion. The organization's initiatives include:

- **Human Rights Advocacy:** Providing protective presence for Palestinian farmers during olive harvests to prevent violence and harassment.
- **Social Justice Programs:** Assisting marginalized populations in Israel, such as asylum seekers and migrant workers, in accessing their socio-economic rights.
- **Educational Efforts:** Conducting workshops and seminars to educate the public about human rights from a Jewish ethical perspective.
- **Interfaith Dialogue:** Promoting cooperation and understanding among different religious and ethnic groups to build a more inclusive society.

RHR is led by Executive Director Rabbi Avi Dabush, who survived the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Kibbutz Nirim. Under his leadership, the organization continues to advocate for peace, justice, and equality for all people in the region.

For more information, visit their official website: rhr.org.il



Road to Recovery (Hebrew: *Derech Hachluma*) is an Israeli nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free transportation for Palestinian patients—primarily children—from the West Bank and Gaza to hospitals across Israel for critical medical treatments unavailable in their home regions. Founded in 2006 by peace activist Yuval Roth, who lost his brother in a terrorist attack, the organization channels personal tragedy into humanitarian action, fostering connections between Israelis and Palestinians through acts of compassion .

With a network of over 1,300 Israeli volunteers, Road to Recovery facilitates approximately 10,000 patient journeys annually, covering more than 1.6 million kilometers . Volunteers use their own vehicles to transport patients from border checkpoints to hospitals, bridging a critical gap in the healthcare system, as public transportation options are limited and taxi services are often prohibitively expensive for many families.

Beyond transportation, the organization also assists in procuring medical equipment for families in need and organizes recreational outings for patients and their families, aiming to provide moments of relief and joy amidst challenging circumstances . Through these efforts, Road to Recovery not only addresses immediate healthcare needs but also promotes mutual understanding and peacebuilding between communities.

For more information, visit their official website: <https://www.theroadtorecovery.org.il/>



Roots (Shorashim/Judur) is a grassroots initiative founded in 2014 in the Gush Etzion region of the West Bank by Palestinian activist Ali Abu Awwad and Israeli Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger. The organization brings together local Palestinians and Israelis to foster understanding, nonviolence, and transformation through dialogue and shared experiences.

Operating from a central meeting space near Beit Ummar, Roots facilitates various programs, including interfaith study groups, youth leadership initiatives, women's circles, and cultural exchanges.

These activities aim to challenge mutual stereotypes, build trust, and create a new discourse around the conflict within their respective communities.

Roots also engages in broader outreach through international speaking tours and partnerships with organizations like Atidna International, which promotes dialogue among Jewish and Arab students on college campuses.

By emphasizing mutual recognition and respect, Roots strives to build a shared society where both peoples can coexist with dignity and equality.

For more information, visit their official website: friendsofroots.net



Seeds of Peace is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 that empowers young leaders from regions of conflict to work toward peace and justice. Headquartered in New York City, with offices in Jerusalem, Amman, Lahore, and Mumbai, the organization is renowned for its flagship summer camp in Otisfield, Maine, where youth from opposing sides of conflicts—such as Israelis and Palestinians—engage in dialogue, leadership training, and relationship-building.

Beyond the camp, Seeds of Peace offers year-round programs that focus on dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, and leadership development. These initiatives aim to equip participants with the skills and relationships necessary to effect positive change in their communities.

Since its inception, Seeds of Peace has cultivated a global network of over 8,000 alumni from 27 countries, many of whom are actively involved in peacebuilding efforts, including leading local organizations and initiatives.

For more information, visit their official website: seedsofpeace.org.



רוח גלילית
روح جليلية
SPIRIT OF THE GALILEE

קידום יהדות פלורליסטית, שיח בין דתות וקיום משותף (ע"ר)
جمعية مسجلة لتطوير اليهودية التعددية، الحوار بين الأديان والتعايش

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PLURALISTIC JUDAISM, INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND CO-EXISTENCE

Spirit of the Galilee is a nonprofit organization based in northern Israel dedicated to fostering religious pluralism, interfaith dialogue, and Jewish-Arab coexistence. Through educational programs, community events, and spiritual initiatives, the organization aims to build a shared society in the Galilee region and beyond.

Key initiatives include the Interreligious Midrasha, a leadership program that brings together clergy from diverse faiths for study and collaboration, monthly interfaith prayer gatherings promoting peace and justice, and spiritual tourism experiences that highlight the region's multicultural heritage.

Founded by Rabbi Or Zohar, who serves as Co-CEO alongside Rabbi Raanan Mallek, Spirit of the Galilee collaborates with leaders from various communities, including Father Saba Haj of the Greek Orthodox Church. The organization envisions the Galilee as a model for peaceful coexistence, striving to create a more inclusive and harmonious society.

For more information, visit their official website: spiritofthegalilee.org.il.



Women Wage Peace (WWP) is Israel's largest grassroots peace movement, founded in 2014 following the Gaza War (Operation Protective Edge). With over 50,000 members, WWP unites women from diverse backgrounds—including Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze, and Bedouins—to advocate for a nonviolent, mutually agreed-upon resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The organization emphasizes the active participation of women in all stages of peace negotiations, aligning with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which highlights the critical role of women in conflict resolution.

WWP is known for organizing high-profile events such as the “March of Hope” and the “Mothers’ Call,” which bring together thousands of women to demand a political agreement. In collaboration with the Palestinian movement Women of the Sun, WWP works to foster dialogue and understanding between Israeli and Palestinian women.

The movement has received international recognition, including a joint nomination for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize alongside Women of the Sun, acknowledging their efforts to build bridges between communities.

For more information, visit their official website: womenwagepeace.org.il.



World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is the global umbrella organization representing Reform, Liberal, Progressive, and Reconstructionist Jewish movements. Established in 1926 in London, WUPJ now serves approximately 1.8 million members across over 1,250 congregations in more than 50 countries, with its international headquarters in Jerusalem.

Mission and Values

WUPJ's mission is to connect and support communities that seek a contemporary, inclusive expression of Jewish life rooted in tradition. The organization emphasizes values such as justice, peace, and pluralism, aiming to strengthen Jewish identity and promote *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

Key Initiatives

- **Global Leadership Fellowship:** A program designed to empower leaders in Progressive Jewish communities, enhancing their impact and fostering global connections.
- **Beit Shmuel:** Serving as WUPJ's international center in Jerusalem, Beit Shmuel is undergoing revitalization to become a global hub for Progressive Jewish leadership, learning, and culture.
- **Netzer Olami:** The worldwide Progressive Jewish youth movement, engaging young Jews through educational programs and community-building activities.
- **Tamar Olami:** An initiative focused on young adults, providing opportunities for leadership development and community involvement.

Recent Developments

In 2025, WUPJ is celebrating its centennial with a series of events and initiatives aimed at shaping the future of Progressive Judaism. These efforts include the reimagining of Beit Shmuel and the launch of the Global Leadership Fellowship, reflecting the organization's commitment to innovation and growth.

For more information, visit their official website: wupj.org.

President's Message

With summer and vacation season here, it's a great time to focus on personal well-being.

I recently enjoyed a staycation dedicated to catching up on unfinished home projects and tending to my garden and lawn. Despite the varied weather – rain, sun, clouds, and wind – I made good progress, thankfully with some help for the heavier tasks. It was a refreshing change of pace from my usual days spent in front of a computer screen to be outside for a full week, surrounded by nature and the local wildlife, including the neighborhood cats, backyard bunnies, my resident snake family, and even the visiting cardinal. And, of course, my trusty companion Lola!

Each evening after working outside, I returned home tired but content. It was a valuable reminder of how grounding and fulfilling time spent in nature can be, something I don't always appreciate enough. While I don't have any major travel plans this year, I have made spending time outdoors a priority. I encourage you to do the same, both on your own and with your friends and loved ones.

My aim in sharing this is to encourage you to use this time to recharge and refresh. Even with JCNWJ's lighter summer schedule, I hope you'll attend services, the picnic and programs to stay connected and build new relationships, to return in September feeling revitalized for the year ahead.



Updates & Events

ANNUAL MEETING

Shalom members,

We will be holding our annual meeting on Sunday morning, June 8. Breakfast will be at 9:30 AM with the meeting scheduled to last from 10-12 PM.

We require a quorum of 25 members for votes.

The current financial statements, budget for next year, and proposed changes to the bylaws were emailed out on May 11.

Please make every effort in attending this important meeting.

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.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Save the Date: Shabbat & Annual JCNWJ Picnic

Celebrating Rabbi Dubin's 10 year Anniversary with us.

Sunday, June 22 at 12:30pm

Home of Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

721 Pequest Road, Oxford N.J.

A Potluck signup has been sent out.

Any questions contact Jeannie Berkowitz

berkowitz55@yahoo.com

484-767-3744

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 June 14 at 10:30am.

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

Yahrzeits

Alan Berkman	Relative of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis
Mary Bronico	Mother of Jeannie Berkowitz
Harry Zaret	Father of Lois Goldberg
Barnet Zaret	Grandfather of Lois Goldberg
Anthony Frank	Grandfather of Grace Marr
Marilyn Quintner	Mother of Marcia Guberman
Jack Leonard	Nephew of Marsha Gross

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

DONATIONS

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Royce Fletcher
- Helen Abramowitz

For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Aviva Okrent

In memory of Reuben Marcovitch
- Edythe Herson

In memory of Carol Fleckles White
- Daniel Fleckles

In memory of Anna Fleckles
- Daniel Fleckles

In memory of Keith Ehrenreich
- Edythe Herson

UPCOMING ELECTION

The primary election in New Jersey is coming up on Tuesday, June 10. Many voters are still trying to decide between the large number of candidates in the race.

I am sharing an email from the Jewish Federation of West-Central NJ. They sent questions to the candidates regarding issues of importance to the Jewish community, and shared out the answers that were received. The link below is to a PDF with the full text of the email. –Adam

[Candidates Responses on Issues of Importance to the Jewish Community](#)

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 is a Sisterhood pool party, scheduled for August 10. See the flyer below.

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.



Mah Jongg

SUMMER MAH JONGG at the JCNWJ!

The dates for the summer are June 29, July 27, and August 24.

All are on Sunday mornings from 10:30-12:30

Please let me know if you are coming before each date and if you have a Mah Jongg set to bring. If we do not have enough people on a particular date, I will cancel for that date.

Make sure you bring the 2025 card from the National Mah Jongg League. You can order it at www.nationalmahjonggleague.org. Use this official site only!!

My email is gnathanson@comcast.net and my cell is 908-963-1504.

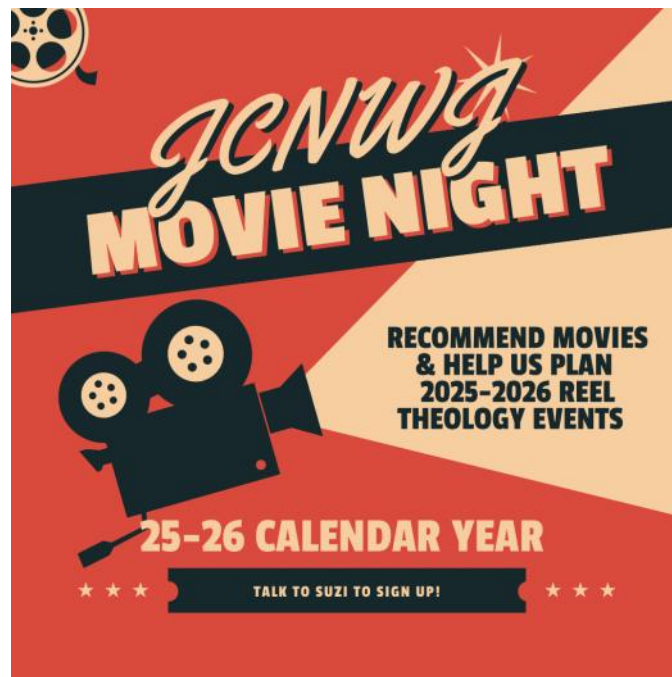
Looking forward to summer fun playing Mah Jongg!

Ginger



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, June 6, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / Bark Mitzvah / Fenton & Bauer
Friday, June 20, 2025	10:45 AM	SHABBAT Morning Service & Annual Picnic / Kalischer & Sylvester
Friday, July 11, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / OPEN – volunteers needed
Friday, August 15, 2025	7:00 PM	SHABBAT Evening Service / OPEN – volunteers needed



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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*Serving All Families
As Our Own*

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Funeral Director Lic No. 4971
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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.