

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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

(908) 689-0762

www.jcnwj.org

jcnwj@outlook.com

Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

September 2025

Vol: LI Issue: 1



## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to enter the Days of Awe, Rosh Hashanah arrives not just as one of the new years on our calendar, but as a spiritual imperative – perhaps more urgent this year than ever.

In a world reeling from unrest, injustice, war, division, bigotry, and increasing antisemitism – both near and far – the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur call us back to our core. They remind us that renewal is not only possible, but necessary. That even when the world feels heavy and about to fall, our tradition gives us a rhythm for repair: *Teshuvah* (return to our best selves), *Tefillah* (prayer), and *Tzedakah* (justice).

Rosh Hashanah asks us to pause. To take stock. To see not just what's broken out there, but what needs healing within ourselves and in our relationships. It's a time to ask hard questions: Have I listened deeply? Have I acted justly? Have I been present – with compassion, with courage, with generosity, with hope?

In the face of so much noise, our shofar cuts through with clarity – a wake-up call to what matters most. It urges us to re-center our values, to reconnect with community, and to recommit to the work of creating a more just and loving world.

To be sure, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are deeply personal, but they are not intended to be experienced alone. These sacred days require our presence – not only before God, but before one another. There is power in coming together,

(continued on the next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Friday, September 5**

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

### **Saturday, September 6**

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom

### **Sunday, September 7**

9:30am: Hebrew School,  
Breakfast with Chaverim &  
Meet Marilyn

### **Monday, September 8**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Sunday, September 14**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Monday, September 22**

7:00pm: Rosh Hashanah Evening Service

### **Tuesday, September 23**

10:00am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service  
Tashlich following service

### **Wednesday, September 24**

10:00am: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service  
Luncheon following service

### **Wednesday, October 1**

7:00pm: Kol Nidre Service

### **Thursday, October 2**

10:00am: Yom Kippur Morning & Yizkor  
4:00pm: Torah Study  
5:00pm: Ne'ila & Break Fast

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

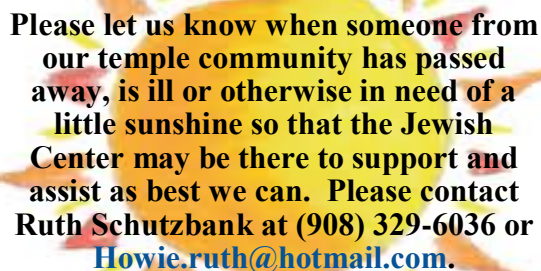
hearing the shofar as one, standing side by side in prayer, and being part of something greater than ourselves. Please make the effort to join us in person as you are able. Your presence matters. Whether you come with a whole heart or one that has been shattered, we will meet you with open arms, and thank you for supporting our efforts as a community to become the best version of who we can be.

May this new year be one of introspection and action, humility and hope. And may the sweetness of the season carry us forward – with strength, with clarity, and with a renewed sense of purpose.

לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה L'Shanah Tovah U'Metukah – Wishing you a good and sweet year,

*Rabbi Dubin*

## A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee



Please let us know when someone from our temple community has passed away, is ill or otherwise in need of a little sunshine so that the Jewish Center may be there to support and assist as best we can. Please contact Ruth Schutzbank at (908) 329-6036 or [Howie.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com).

## President's Message

As we conclude our Summer break, we eagerly anticipate the High Holiday worship season, the commencement of Hebrew School, and a vibrant year of programming that promises to inspire and uplift us. To ensure the success of these endeavors, we rely on your active participation and attendance.

At our all-Congregation meeting in June, I posed a question: what does the JCNWJ mean to you, and how can we collectively enrich our experiences, foster a stronger community, and build a sustainable future? This inquiry remains a guiding theme, inviting each of us to contribute our unique perspectives and talents. Let us consider the profound impact we can have when we work together towards a common goal.

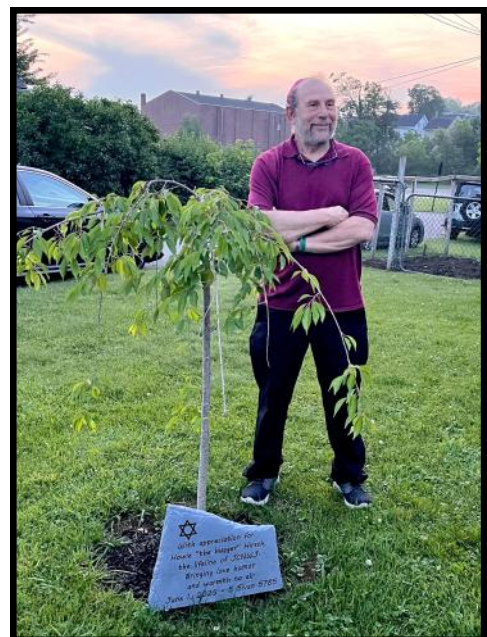
What would our lives and community be like without the JCNWJ? I firmly believe that together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate future. The JCNWJ has been a cornerstone in my life, a sacred space where I've celebrated milestones and forged lasting connections.

As we embark on this new year, 5786, I invite you to join me in reimagining and revitalizing our community, fueled by our collective passion, creativity, and commitment to one another. L'shana tova!

respectfully,  
suzi marr



Hiking at Hunterdon Arboretum



Tree Dedication for Howie

## VP Corner

*Dear JCNWJ Members!*

**We are a close-knit, caring community, and many of you have offered to help in different ways.**

Some of the support we'd like to organize includes:

- Providing rides
- Sharing meals
- Assisting neighbors in need

If you are willing to help, please reach out to me and let me know the county (or counties) where you can provide assistance.

If you—or someone you know—are in need of support, please let me know that as well.

**Email:** gerriruthklein@gmail.com

**Cell:** (908) 455-1285

I've created a Google document that our Board can access. This way, when someone reaches out with a need, we can quickly connect them with a local volunteer who is able to help.

Looking forward to strengthening our connections and supporting one another within our community!

**Just a reminder that there are many ways to stay up to date with information relevant to JCNWJ!**

**Email, WhatsApp, Facebook (private Temple page) and our website: <https://jcnwj.org/>**



Hiking at Hacklebarney State Park



Hiking at Ken Lockwood Gorge



# From the Rabbi

Dear Friends,

Over a month later (but the first Newsletter since), I'm still beaming with joy and gratitude over our July picnic celebration in honor of my 10th anniversary as your rabbi. What a truly wonderful gathering it was! I remain deeply touched by the love and generosity that went into creating such a special day.

Thank you to those who made donations to the temple in my honor—your gifts will help sustain our community and ensure that our sacred work continues to thrive in a county where Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey continues to be the only public Jewish address. Thank you as well to everyone who brought food for the picnic; the tables overflowed with delicious offerings that reflected both care and creativity. I am especially grateful to those who took the time to write personal notes in my memory book. Reading your reflections and blessings was profoundly moving, and I will treasure them always. And of course, a very special thank you to the Berkowitz family, who—once again—opened their beautiful home to host our congregation with gracious warmth and hospitality.

As I reflect on these ten years together, my heart is full of gratitude—for your support, for your partnership, and for the sacred trust you place in me. I look forward with excitement to our future: to continuing to grow, to celebrate, to wrestle with big questions, and to build a vibrant and deeply meaningful Jewish life together.

With love and appreciation,

*Rabbi Dubin*



# Adult Education

## LET'S FIND OUT, Part I: Adult Education at the JCNWJ in the year 5786

Rabbi Dubin will teach two courses, one in the late fall and one in the spring, that will deal with questions of interest to many of us. Attendance in person is preferable, but Zoom will be available as needed.

The first will deal with the **History of Modern Zionism**. Rabbi Dubin will cover significant historical events, personalities, and writings, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and ending with the current situation in Israel/Gaza. Sessions will meet in the simcha room on Sunday afternoons, 1:00–2:30: BYO lunch and come around 12:30.

**Dates: November 9, November 16, and November 23 (Zoom only); December 7 and December 14.**

The second course will be a theological exploration of **G-d/Adonai/Elohim: Who? What? Where?** And any other questions that participants may have. The meeting time and place will be the same as for the first series; the precise spring dates and number of sessions will be announced later.

*If you have any questions or would like to do advance reading, please contact Rabbi Dubin.*

## LET'S FIND OUT, Part II: On-line Learning Opportunities, 2025–2026

**Thurs., September 4, 2025, 6:00–8:00 p.m.** [<https://ifa.nyu.edu/events>]

THE INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS of New York University is offering a new series (free) titled “New Directions in Photography.” The first lecture is by Matthew Biro, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art at the University of Michigan. In his lecture, *Black Jews, Jewish Photographers: Photography, Fluidity, and Distinctiveness*, he will discuss Jewish-American photographer Lawrence Shustak and Harlem synagogue Rabbi Wentworth Arthur Matthew, an avid proponent of the idea that African Americans were the true descendants of the ancient Israelites. If you want to attend this lecture online, you will need to register at <https://ifa.nyu.edu/events>.

Continued on next page

# Adult Education

**THE TEMPLE EMANU-EL STREICKER CENTER** offers numerous free on-line programs during the academic year. (Rabbi Dubin teaches at Temple Emanu-El.) If you want to take advantage of these online opportunities, you will need to register individually at <https://streicker.nyc>. Here are the September dates and programs. October and November programs will be listed in our October newsletter, as well as on the Streicker Center website.

**Wed., September 3, 6:30–7:45 p.m.** [<https://streicker.nyc>].

**Yaakov Katz, co-author of WHILE ISRAEL SLEPT, in conversation with Bret Stephens.** The book deals with the failure of Israeli intelligence and military that enabled the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, and Israel's strategy in fighting the war that ensued.

**Mon., September 8, 7:00–8:45 p.m.** [<https://streicker.nyc>].

**Antisemitism in the United States: Senator Chuck Schumer and Bret Stephens in conversation with Bianna Golodryga.** “How did we arrive at this grim moment in American Jewish life and why did we deny it so long? Why is the entire nation not in an uproar about the clear danger? As Jews, can we continue to pretend that the time has not yet come to go into crisis mode? If we do, what should that look like?”

**Wed., September 10, 6:30–7:45 p.m.** [<https://streicker.nyc>].

**Sarah Hurwitz in Conversation with Dara Horn, Dan Senor, and Abigail Pogrebin.**

“Hurwitz joins us to discuss how millennia-old myths about Jewish power and depravity have pushed Jews to recoil from our own birthright, and about her process of stripping away layers of antisemitic lies and learning to live as a Jew without apology. She will be in conversation with an all-star cast of American Jewish commentators:

**Dara Horn** is a novelist professor of literature and author of *People Love Dead Jews*.

**Dan Senor** is coauthor of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Genius of Israel* and *Start-Up Nation*. He is also the host of the *Call Me Back* podcast.

**Abigail Pogrebin** is a journalist, author of *My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wandering Jew* and *Stars of David* and a moderator of public conversations.”

**Tues., September 16, 7:00 p.m.** [<https://streicker.nyc>].

**The Metropolitan Opera's *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. Discussion and Selected Performances.** See the website for details.

**Wed., September 17, 6:30–7:45 p.m.** [<https://streicker.nyc>].

**Inside the Mossad with a Master Spy and Elite Spymaster**

Yossi Cohen, former director of Mossad, will discuss his new memoir, *The Sword of Freedom: Israel, Mossad, and the Secret War*. “Cohen pulls back the curtain on how Israel has defied existential threats by outwitting its adversaries and building the world's most cutting-edge defense system. Blending personal stories and tales of his own escapades into Israeli history, he reveals how Israel transformed itself from a vulnerable state to a global power.”

# Updates & Events



The Jewish Center of NW Jersey  
invites you to ....

## High Holy Days

SERVICES

---

### Shana Tova!

Let's welcome the New Year together!

---

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 7:00 pm - 9.22.25                        | <b>RSVP</b><br>with Beth:<br>908.303.3868<br>jcnwj@outlook.com<br>115 Youmans Ave<br>Washington, NJ 07882 |
| 10:00 am - 9.23.25                       |   |
| 10:00 am - 9.24.25                       |   |
| 7:00 pm - 10.1.25                        |   |
| 10:00 am - 10.2.25                       |   |
| Break-the-fast<br>immediately following. |   |

Reservations are required, but tickets are free.  
Donations to the JCNWJ in support of our  
good work are welcome and encouraged.

## CHAVERIM

Chaverim is open to all adult members of the congregation.

The first event of the year will be a breakfast meeting on September 7 in conjunction with the first day of Hebrew School.

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 events this year!

Questions, please contact Marilyn Muskar at [msmusikar@gmail.com](mailto:msmusikar@gmail.com).

## FOOD DRIVE

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

Thank you for your continued support!  
-Iris

## BUILDING UPDATE

If you notice that something is running low and needs to be replaced (either in the bathrooms or kitchen), please let me know.

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



# 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 September 6 at 11:15am.

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

## DONATIONS

In memory of Marianne and Nechel Rachel Fleckles  
- Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

To the Building Fund  
- Lappin family  
- Benjamin Schneider  
- Rhonda Jordan

To the Education Fund  
- Kahan family

To the Membership Fund  
- Rhonda Jordan

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
- Leon Glass  
- Adam Tucker  
- Kahan family  
- Rhonda Jordan

## Yahrzeits

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Beattie Felberbaum     | Grandmother of Howie Hirsch    |
| Nechel Rachel Fleckles | Relative of Daniel Fleckles    |
| Sophie Zaret           | Mother of Lois Goldberg        |
| Joseph Goldstein       | Cousin of Mo Bauer             |
| Mari Hall              | Mother of Colson Hall          |
| Isaac Merein           | Grandfather of Stuart Goldberg |
| Arthur Bauer           | Father of Mo Bauer             |
| Gloria Jacobs          | Aunt of Howie Hirsch           |
| Joseph Gelberman       | Rabbi Emeritus                 |
| Thomas Frank           | Father of Grace Marr           |
| Edward Margolis        | Father of Bob Margolis         |
| Charlie Hall           | Father of Colson Hall          |

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

## THANK YOU

On a personal note, I'd like to thank my Temple family for their support, good wishes, phone calls, texts and many caring gestures during the past few weeks.

You are all loved and appreciated.

Ruth Schutzbank

# New Year's Greetings

To Rabbi Dubin and Family from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

To the JCNWJ Congregational Family from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

L'Shanah Tovah to our JCNWJ Family From the Lappins

To our JCNWJ family, L'Shanah Tovah Love Robin and Colson

L'Shanah Tova from the Smith family

To Howie and Iris Hirsch from Marcia and Erwin Guberman

To Gerrin Klein from Marcia and Erwin Guberman

L'Shanah Tova to the congregation from Jerry Berkowitz family

L'Shanah Tova to my JCNWJ family & friends from Suzi

To my friends at the Jewish Center from Rabbi Ellen Lewis

To Jerry and Rita Berkowitz from Gina and Jeff

To the congregation L'Shanah Tovah from Jeannie and Jeff Berkowitz

L'Shana Tovah from the Margolin/Weiner family

To the Board of Trustees from Adam Tucker

To the Purim Spielers from Adam Tucker

To the Torah Study group from Adam Tucker

L'Shanah Tovah to everyone from Ed, Roseann and Sarah Weinstein

To the JCNWJ family from the Gross family

To the Congregation from Ginger and Jerry Nathanson

To my temple family from Ruth Schutzbank

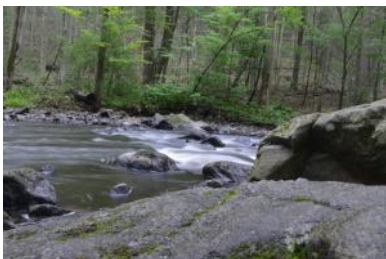
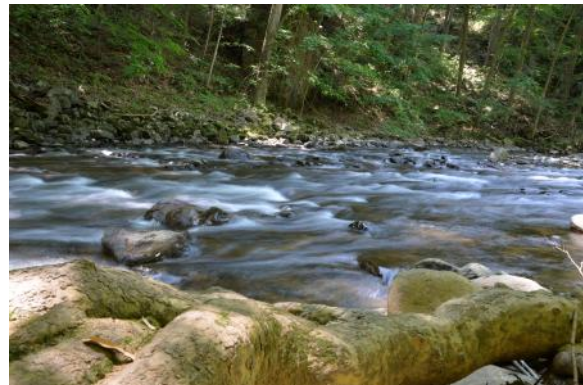
To Howie and Iris and Rabbi Dubin from Helen and John Mattson

To the entire JCNWJ family from Howie and Iris Hirsch

L'Shanah Tovah from the Jordan Family.

To the congregation from the Bauer family

# JCNWJ Hiking Pictures



Photos by Adam and Howie

Also see the group pictures under the President's Message and VP Corner

Want to join the hiking group? Email Adam at [adamt180@gmail.com](mailto:adamt180@gmail.com) or look for updates on the Chaverim WhatsApp.



# JCNWJ Services

*Lifecycle!*

JCNWJ.ORG • 908.689.0762

115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

## MEMBERSHIP~

Family, married and/or with children ..... \$1450.00  
Single, individual ..... \$ 725.00

## BABY NAMING~

Member at scheduled service ..... Donation  
Member at other-than scheduled service ..... \$ 180.00  
Non-member at scheduled service ..... \$ 360.00

## B'NAI MITZVAH~

Bar or Bat Mitzvah ..... \$ 360.00  
Bar or Bat Mitzvah when CIF is not PIF .....\$1476.00  
Additional \$1000 may be applied to CIF

## MARRIAGE~

Wedding.....\$ 360.00

## DEATH/BURIAL PLOT~

Funeral..... \$ 180.00  
Funeral, non-member..... \$ 612.00  
Located in Easton, PA ..... Market Price  
All other charges payable to Easton Cemetary

*Honors!*

JCNWJ.ORG • 908.689.0762

115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

## MEMORIAL & SIMCHA

Memorial plaque, member ..... \$ 324.00  
Memorial plaque, non-member ..... \$ 540.00  
Simcha tree leaf ..... \$ 180.00  
Pew plaque ..... \$ 252.00  
Prayer book ..... \$ 36.00  
Donation card ..... \$ 5.00 & up  
Library ..... \$ 10.00 & up

## EVENTS

Kitchen/Simcha room.....\$ 252.00  
+\$252.00 refundable deposit





# JCNWJ Services

Do you want to see new programming?  
Are you willing to coordinate a one-day event?  
Here are some ideas? Do you have another idea?

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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



- o Book Club
- o Dinner & a Movie
- o Mahjong
- o Hiking / Walking / Outdoors
- o NY / Philly / Other Day Trip
- o Museum / Art Gallery Visits
- o Photography Class
- o Plays / Concerts
- o Self-Care Day
- o Scavenger Hunt
- o Sleep Over / Retreat
- o Watch Parties – Sports, Movies

## IN LOVING MEMORY

YIZKOR & YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL CANDLES AVAILABLE



JEWISH CENTER OF NW JERSEY  
MINIMUM DONATION OF \$18 SUGGESTED.  
CONTACT SUZI MARR FOR DETAILS AT 908.343.1135

# Partners



67 E Washington Ave.  
Washington, NJ 07882



call/text (908) 689-3414



[mgalleries.org@gmail.com](mailto:mgalleries.org@gmail.com)



[mgalleries.org](http://mgalleries.org)

# Partners

Domestic Abuse  
& Sexual Assault  
Crisis Center  
*of Warren County*

Dear Members of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey,

"Just as despair can come to one only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings."  
– Elie Weisel

At the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center – DASACC, we believe that these challenging times have given us an opportunity for self-reflection, learning, and growth. The mission of the DASACC is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change.

We offer a wide range of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of those affected by interpersonal violence:

#### 24/7 Crisis Intervention

- ❖ Emergency Shelter *individual bedrooms & pet-friendly*
- ❖ 24/7 Hotline/Helpline  
908-453-4181
- ❖ 24/7 Web Chat  
[www.DASACC.org/web-chat](http://www.DASACC.org/web-chat)
- ❖ Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team

#### Additional Services

- ❖ Legal Advocacy
- ❖ Individual and Group Counseling
- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ Community Outreach & Prevention
- ❖ Volunteer Program
- ❖ Casa Hispana
- ❖ Wardrobe of Hope

As members of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, we invite you to join us in supporting the important work of DASACC. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of survivors and create a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered.

For more information about DASACC and how you can get involved, please visit our website at [www.DASACC.org](http://www.DASACC.org).

Thank you for your support and compassion.  
Sincerely,

**The DASACC Team**

24/7 Hotline/Helpline  
908-453-4181



HELPLINE: 1.800.8BE.SAFE | [WWW.DASACC.ORG](http://WWW.DASACC.ORG) | OUTREACH OFFICES: 28C BROAD STREET | WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07882  
OUTREACH: 908.453.4121 | OUTREACH FAX: 908.223.1145 | SAFE HOUSE: 908.453.4181 | SAFE HOUSE FAX: 908.453.3768

# Partners



*Serving All Families  
As Our Own*

WARREN HILLS MEMORIAL HOME  
RICHARD L. MAGUIRE, JR.  
Owner / Manager Lic No. 4434  
DENISE MAGUIRE  
Funeral Director Lic No. 4971  
234 W. WASHINGTON AVE.  
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882  
908-689-0119

[www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com](http://www.warrenhillsmemorialhome.com)

## Wanted: Advertisers for JCNWJ Journal

Kindly take note of the ads at the end of our Journal and whenever possible, support these establishments with your patronage. It's also a good idea to mention that you saw their Temple ad. If there are any businesses that you use regularly that might be interested in taking an ad in the Journal, please contact Rita Berkowitz ([berk721@aol.com](mailto:berk721@aol.com)) or Ruth Schutzbank ([Howie.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto:Howie.ruth@hotmail.com)). You can also go to our homepage, print out an advertising form and give it directly to them to mail in.