

# 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

October 2025

Vol: LI Issue: 2



## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

As we approach *Yom Kippur*, perhaps the most contemplative day of the year, Jews around the world are preparing for the fast. For 25 hours, we step away from food and drink—not because food is inconsequential, but precisely because it is so indispensable. For those who are able to fast safely, the discomfort is real. Yet even those who cannot fast for medical reasons can still embrace the spirit of the day, finding ways to experience—even briefly—the distress of the day, because in that discomfort lies a vital lesson for how we are meant to live as Jews.

On Rosh HaShanah, I spoke about the shofar as a wake-up call to become the best versions of ourselves. The Yom Kippur fast serves the same purpose. It unsettles us, awakening compassion for those who live with hunger every day. As the prophet Isaiah challenges us on Yom Kippur morning: *“Is not this the fast I choose: to loosen the chains of wickedness... Is it not to share your bread with the hungry?”* (Isaiah 58:6–7). Self-denial is meaningless unless it stirs us to action—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the vulnerable.

Tradition calls for construction of our sukkah to begin the same night the Yom Kippur fast comes to an end (*Shulchan Arukh, Orach Chayim* 624:5). Generally speaking, this is in fulfillment of the Jewish legal concept that we should always fulfill commandments at our earliest convenience, but I think there's more to it in this particular situation.

(continued on the next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **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

### **Sunday, October 5**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Monday, October 6**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Friday, October 10**

6:00pm: Pizza in the Hut

7:00pm: Shabbat Evening Service

Sukkot Observance

### **Saturday, October 11**

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom

### **Sunday, October 12**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Saturday, October 18**

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

Simchat Torah Observance

### **Saturday, October 25**

TBD: Chaverim Trip to Jewish Museum

### **Sunday, October 26**

9:30am: Hebrew School

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

On the surface, the two holidays seem completely different: Yom Kippur is solemn and austere; Sukkot is joyful and celebratory. Yom Kippur is about self-restraint; Sukkot is about abundance and gratitude. But in truth, they are deeply connected.

Torah insists: *"You shall rejoice in your festival—you, your son, your daughter... and the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow"* (Deuteronomy 16:14).

At first, this seems obvious. Of course we should celebrate with our families! But there's more, because Torah insists our joy is incomplete unless we share beyond the boundaries of our homes. The Levite who has no land of their own, the stranger who may feel out of place, the orphan and widow who lack support—these are the very people who must be included if our joy is to be complete.

Torah teaches that joy is not measured by how much we keep, but by how much we share.

*When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field ... you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger.* (Leviticus 19:9–10)

Here at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, we strive to live these values in real ways. Our **Yom Kippur Food Drive** is not a side project. It's not an afterthought—it is central to our observance, transforming our fast into a commitment to feed others. Similarly, our Mitzvah Garden, which has provided fresh produce all summer to local food banks, embodies the Torah's call to leave the "corners of our fields" for those in need.

When we fast on Yom Kippur, we will taste hunger. When we celebrate Sukkot, we will taste abundance. Connecting the two is our responsibility.

This year, as we prepare for Yom Kippur, let each pang of hunger remind us of our shared obligations. Bring food for our drive. Lend a hand in our garden. Support the pantries that nourish our neighbors.

Then, as we sit in the sukkah next week, surrounded by family and friends, may our joy be full—not because our table overflows, but because we have ensured that others can rejoice, too.

May this season move us all from hunger to harvest, from fasting to feasting, from reflection to responsibility.

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה – *Shanah Tova u'Mtukah* – A Good and Sweet New Year to All,

*Rabbi Dubin*

## President's Message

As we begin the 2025/26 season, I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributes to the vibrant life of the JCNWJ. From Rabbi Dubin, Ms. Apsel and our dedicated Board of Trustees to each individual member, each individual Hebrew School student, and the service contractors who keep our building clean & ready for use - every contribution, no matter how small it may seem, is vital to our collective success.

It is natural for US to feel a sense of pride and ownership in the areas where WE specifically contribute our passions and energies. However, as WE look ahead to 5786, I encourage each of US to set aside any personal ego and focus on what WE can collectively achieve for the ongoing prosperity of the JCNWJ. Let US roll up our sleeves, dig in, and actively volunteer to help, and participate in this year's planned activities.

Organizing events for the JCNWJ community takes considerable time and effort. The most meaningful way to show our appreciation for these efforts is by RSVP'ing and ensuring a strong turnout for these gatherings. Volunteering to help set-up or clean-up is always appreciated too. Your active participation truly makes a difference.

As always, if you have ideas or wish to learn more about how you can contribute, please do not hesitate to speak with any Board member or me directly.

Thank you for your commitment to the JCNWJ community. Wishing each of you a good and sweet year.

Shana tova umetuka!

Suzi

## 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/>

# 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> with Beth: 908.303.3868 jcnwj@outlook.com 115 Youmans Ave 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  
immediately following.

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

## FOOD DRIVE

It is our tradition, on Yom Kippur, to hold a food drive. Kindly fill a bag of non perishable food and/or personal hygiene products. Such items could include shelf stable items such as canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned tuna or chicken, rice, beans, soups, stews, peanut butter, cereal, boxed milk and oil. Also beneficial are can openers.

The food pantries are busier than ever due to the high cost of food so please be a generous a you can.

A box is in the front lobby to place your bags.

Thank you!  
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.



# Updates & Events

## CHAVERIM

Chaverim is open to all adult members of the congregation.

The next event will be a group trip to the Jewish Museum in New York City on October 25. We will be exploring the Ben Shahn exhibit. Since it is Shabbat, admission to the museum is free. Late lunch to follow at Chinese restaurant. We are looking for drivers to be part of the carpool. RSVP to Marilyn at 609-651-2674. More details will be sent by email and posted to the WhatsApp.

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 Musika at [msmusika@gmail.com](mailto:msmusika@gmail.com).





# 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.*

# Adult Education

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

**THE TEMPLE EMANU-EL STREICKER CENTER** offers numerous 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>. *Below is a selection of available programs for the month of October. For the full calendar, see the Temple Emanu-el website (the accompanying texts are quoted from the Temple's website). Most programs are free, but some do have a cost to attend.*

**Tuesday, October 7, 8 p.m.** Eli Sharabi (former hostage) on his captivity and survival in conversation with Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson.

**Thursday, October 16, 11:30 a.m.** Geraldine Brooks joins us to discuss the geography of grief, the shattered landscape it creates, and the complexities of navigating it; in conversation with **Zibby Owens**, author, podcaster, bookstore owner and CEO of Zibby Media.

**Tuesday, October 21, 8 p.m.** A Stranger No More: Rabbi Angela Buchdahl in conversation with Stephen Colbert, and then with Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Abigail Pogrebin, and Sulja Yi Warnick. The first Asian-American ordained as a rabbi, Rabbi Buchdahl was chosen by President Barack Obama to lead prayers at the 2014 White House Hanukkah celebration. When a gunman took four hostages at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, in 2023, she was the rabbi he demanded to speak with to negotiate their release. She was the first woman ordained as both a cantor and a rabbi, serves as the spiritual leader of New York's Central Synagogue and has even been a clue on *Jeopardy*.

**Wednesday, October 22, 7:30 p.m.** Individual Liberty or Centralized Power: The American dilemma, with Jeffrey Rosen. One of America's most distinguished legal scholars, Mr. Rosen joins us to discuss the opposing views of Jefferson and Hamilton, how these rival forces have influenced our country, and how they continue to fuel the debates playing out in the highest offices of the land.



# 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 October 11 at 11:15am.

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

## Yahrzeits

Arlene Gordon	Friend of Edythe Herson
Barbara Simons	Wife of Gerry Simons
Esther Newman Lewis	Grandmother of Rabbi Lewis
Bernie Robins	Husband of Nancy Robins
Frank Bronico	Father of Jeannie Berkowitz
Belle Fromer Shure	Aunt of Helen Mattson
Nora Lessne	Cousin of Edythe Herson
Thelma Rivera	Sister of Stuart Goldberg
Henrietta Goldstein	Mother of Iris Hirsch
Michael Levin	Cousin of Rabbi Lewis

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

## DONATIONS

In memory of Ben Kaplan, Arlene Gordon, and Nora Lessne  
- Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, Edythe Herson

In memory of Susan and Stan Waxman  
- Debbie Kahan

In memory of Fred and Edie Kahan  
- Sandy Kahan

In honor of Howie Hirsch's 70th Birthday  
- Erwin and Marcia Guberman  
- Sharon Herson, Daniel Fleckles, Edythe Herson  
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

For the Building Fund  
- Kalisher Family

## 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).



# 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 Cemetery

*Honors!*

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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*

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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.