

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey Journal

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November 2025

Vol: LI Issue: 3



## Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

The month of *Tishrei* is behind us. The shofar blasts have faded. The final notes of *Kol Nidrei* and *Neilah* have settled into memory. The *sukkah*'s been packed away for next year. until next year. The Torah has been rolled back to its original state. Once again, we stand ready to be created. We are ready to begin our story, to grow into the people we will become.

And now, suddenly, the calendar goes still as we step into the month of *Marcheshvan*, a month with no holidays, no feasts, no celebratory rituals. After the dramatic crescendo of *Tishrei*, *Marcheshvan* feels like the quiet backstage, when the curtain closes and the real work actually begins.

During the High Holidays, we asked some courageous questions. We explored what makes life worth living: love and relationships, ethical responsibility, the meaning we uncover in struggle, and the yearning for something higher than ourselves. We promised to soften our hearts, deepen our commitments, and bring more compassion into the world. Those promises glowed in the sanctuary. *Marcheshvan* asks whether they will continue to glow just as brightly in our homes, workplaces, and everyday interactions.

This month holds a subtle sacredness, a holiness that does not require a stage. There are no festival days in *Marcheshvan*, yet our tradition suggests that this absence creates space for integration. All the spiritual seeds we planted in *Tishrei* now take root beneath the soil. Growth rarely begins with fireworks.

(continued on the next page)

## Calendar of Events

### **Sunday, November 2**

9:30am: Hebrew School

### **Monday, November 3**

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Saturday, November 8**

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service  
Kristallnacht Remembrance

### **Sunday, November 9**

9:30am: Hebrew School  
12:30pm: Adult Ed—BYO Lunch & History  
of Modern Zionism Part I (see Pg. 9)

### **Wednesday, November 12**

6:30pm: CPR Training with Sam & Jeff  
(see Pg. 5)

### **Saturday, November 15**

11:15am: Torah Study on Zoom  
4:30pm: Havdalah & Chaverim Jewelry/  
Judaica Swap (see Pg. 6)

### **Sunday, November 16**

9:30am: Hebrew School  
12:30pm: Adult Ed—BYO Lunch & History  
of Modern Zionism Part II

### **Saturday, November 22**

10:45am: Shabbat Morning Service

### **Sunday, November 23**

12:30pm: Adult Education—History of  
Modern Zionism Part III (Zoom only)

## Rabbi's Message (continued)

It begins quietly, under the surface, in hidden places where our choices become habits and our intentions become behavior.

The world around has not paused. We continue to face complicated global crises, tensions and heartbreaks that didn't magically resolve when the machzor went back on the shelf. Our hearts may still be raw. Our prayers for peace and justice are still unanswered. *Marcheshvan* reminds us that transformation happens not only on days of great emotion, but through the steady, quieter months that follow. Choosing compassion when the news is heavy. Reaching out to someone with whom we have had a falling out. Practicing optimism even when the world feels so fragile. That is the spiritual courage of this month.

This is a perfect moment to build rhythm. Students in our Hebrew school are learning new prayers and blessings, absorbing the melodies of Shabbat not just as performance pieces but as companions to their Jewish identity. Adults continue their own journeys: showing up, learning, giving, healing. Every small act of connection becomes a note in the ongoing song of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey.

I love that *Marcheshvan* sits between the brilliant intensity of *Tishrei* and the brilliant *Hannukah* lights of *Kislev* waiting in the distance. It's a bridge month. A breathing month. A reminder that meaning doesn't come only from the highs, but from what we do with those highs once life returns to normal.

So let us each choose a promise we made to ourselves during the High Holidays and make it real this month. Let's strengthen a friendship, volunteer our time, call a lonely person, pray more often, rest without guilt, study Torah, hug a child, listen deeply. Let's heal and grow where possible.

Last month called us toward a life more loving and purposeful. *Marcheshvan* invites us to live as if we meant every word.

May this quiet month become the soil where our holiest intentions take root. May we discover that the quiet is not empty after all. It is where lives worth living actually grow.

חודש טוב—Chodesh Tov -- A good month to all,

*Rabbi Dubin*

## President's Message

Sharing my Yom Kippur State of the Temple address in case you missed it or would like to see in black and white. I am pleased to share a summary of our temple's accomplishments, specifically highlighting the dedication and hard work of our leadership and volunteers.

**Adam Tucker** ensured the timely publication of our monthly newsletter from September to June. He attended a lay-person cantorial training, generously sponsored and subsidized by the URJ (Union of Reform Judaism). He also successfully launched "*Hiking with Adam*," completing four hikes to date and fostering community and connection.

**Jeff Berkowitz** managed the conversion from oil to natural gas, including the installation of a high-efficiency multi-zone furnace and an on-demand hot water heater, as well as the removal of the old oil furnace and above-ground storage tank. He also oversaw the emergency reinforcement of this sanctuary's ceiling and roof beams to support our air handler, a crucial component of our HVAC system.

**Jeannie Berkowitz** planned and hosted a memorable 10th-anniversary celebration for Rabbi Dubin. She is currently planning our 80th Year Jubilee, scheduled for October 3, 2026, at the Belvidere Manor.

**Howie Hirsch and Roy Loomis** continue to manage our finances and report that we are close to achieving a break-even financial year. Howie successfully planted and harvested our annual Mitzvah Garden again, donating all produce to local food banks. He coordinated a security assessment with JFED (The Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon, & Warren Counties) and continues to coordinate High Holy Day security with the Washington Township Police Department. He also attended JFED's Active Shooter training, enhancing our ability to recognize, prepare for, and respond to an active shooter incident.

**Iris Hirsch** as Chair of Ritual, instituted a new monthly Saturday service, enriching our spiritual offerings. She ensured the smooth running of our Oneg schedule throughout the year and coordinated Adam, Faye, and Deb Kahan to lead us in High Holy Day (HHD) songs, with Andrew Ostenfeld as our talented keyboard accompanist. She also coordinated the High Holy Days flower fund, greetings, and the Yiskor list. She prepared and sent High Holy Days honors, including phonetic, transliterated, and actual copies of Torah portions. She organized the Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg, 2nd Day Luncheon, and Yom Kippur Break Fast, and continues to manage the ordering of all necessary kitchen supplies.

**Robin Hall** helped strengthen the vital collaboration between the Education Committee and the Rabbi. She prioritized attendance, punctuality, and Hebrew language proficiency for the past school year, resulting in noticeable improvements.

**Sharon Herson** has volunteered to coordinate Adult Studies for us. She will continue to coordinate the Torah study group which meets monthly on Zoom. They completed 1 Samuel and are now reading and discussing 2 Samuel.

(continued on next page)

## President's Message (cont'd)

Sharon has scheduled two upcoming Adult Education classes to be led by Rabbi Dubin:

1. **History of Modern Zionism:** A five-part series designed to cover significant historical events, personalities, and writings, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and extending to the current situation in Israel/Gaza.

2. **A Theological Exploration of "God/Adonai/Elohim: Who? What? Where?":** Further details on this class will be announced soon.

**Gerri Klein and Beth Lappin along with Deb Kahan and Marcia Guberman** are the new Membership Committee. They updated prospective member packets to include a letter about the JCNWJ and the Shabbat Service Schedule. Beth also compiled a lovely welcome packet for new members. We welcomed four new member families this past year. Gerri completed a comprehensive member survey to gather valuable feedback. Although we did not get a huge response, it still provides a baseline to work from. She is also coordinating a member outreach campaign, so please expect a phone call and be candid with your Board Member during the discussion. By committee, Gerri also updated our Bylaws, ensuring they reflect current practices and needs.

**Deb Kalisher** assumed the role of Secretary to the Board of Trustees. **Marilyn Muzikar** assumed the role of Chaverim chairperson. We look forward to their vision and leadership in these positions.

I attended various URJ training sessions, including Bootcamp, the Scheidt seminar, and several monthly Presidents' meetings, enhancing leadership skills and knowledge. I collaborated with Rabbi Dubin to develop and implement detailed job descriptions for the Rabbi, Music Teacher, and HS Education chair positions, clearly defining expectations and roles.

As a vibrant and supportive community, we celebrated three significant "simchas":  
Royce Fletcher's Bar Mitzvah.  
Howie Hirsch's 20+ years of dedicated service to our temple.  
Rabbi Dubin's 10-year anniversary as our beloved spiritual leader and counselor.

These achievements are a testament to the collective spirit and commitment of everyone involved. And proof that we must put individual ego aside for the great good of our Jewish community. With that, I want to thank Rabbi Dubin, Ms. Apsel, the Board of Trustees and each and every member making the JCNWJ the unique and wonderful community we know it to be. Let's continue that dedication to our temple community so we can sustain our presence here in Warren County New Jersey.

# Updates & Events

## FOOD DRIVE

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our annual Yom Kippur food drive.

Because of your generosity, we collected over 30 bags of food, personal items and cleaning items to help stock the shelves of our local food pantry.

I know your donations were very much appreciated.

Iris Hirsch  
Ritual Chair

## 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.



## Basic First Aid & CPR Training

Learn how to save a life at the JCNWJ

JCNWJ  
Wednesday  
Nov. 12 – 6:30pm  
Pizza & Salad  
included!  
[@beth@lappin.com](mailto:@beth@lappin.com)

Taught by fellow members –  
• Sam Rosenfeld  
• Jeff Fenton





# Updates & Events

## CHAVERIM

Chaverim is open to all adult members of the congregation. There is an \$18 membership fee per family.

The next event will be a Jewelry, Judaica, and More Swap on Saturday, November 15. We will start with Havdalah and a potluck dinner.

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 [msmuskar@gmail.com](mailto:msmuskar@gmail.com).

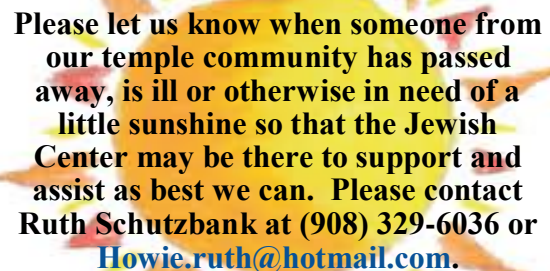


A circular poster with a brown background and a large orange circle in the center. At the top of the orange circle is a blue and gold Star of David. Below it, the text "SWAP - JEWELRY JUDAICA & MORE!" is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath, in smaller black text, it says "SAT NOV 15TH - 4:30PM" and "JCNWJ SIMCHA ROOM". A horizontal line separates this from the main text: "Have items stored away that you never wear or use? Come to JCNWJ's annual swap to exchange items for something new to you, arrive at 4:30pm Havdalah at 4:45pm followed potluck dinner and swap". Below that, in even smaller text, it says "ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD, USABLE CONDITION & EASY TO CARRY. PLS BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE! RSVP TO SUZI AT: [PREZ.JCNWJ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PREZ.JCNWJ@GMAIL.COM) OR 908.343.1135".



Chaverim trip to the Jewish Museum

## A Reminder from the Sunshine Committee



A logo featuring a stylized sun with rays in various colors (yellow, orange, red, pink, purple) emanating from a central yellow circle.

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).

# 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 November 15 at 11:15am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89728604184?pwd=L0tBSmhoSDZ3Vk5sdIRRC1Y4QmY4UT09>

## Yahrzeits

Bea Kaplan	Cousin of Sharon Herson
Stanley Shelofsky	Father of Andy Shelofsky
Joyce Shubs	Aunt of Helen Mattson
Stephen Margolin	Father of Diane Margolin
Sarah Fromer Zeiden	Aunt of Helen Mattson
Pory Margolis	Mother of Bob Margolis
Myra Novy	Aunt of Robin Hall

Yahrzeits are observed on the anniversary of the passing of loved ones, based on the Hebrew calendar. If any Yahrzeit information is missing or incorrect, please notify the Temple.

## DONATIONS

In memory of Henrietta Goldstein  
- Howie and Iris Hirsch

In memory of Susan and Stan Waxman  
- Deb and Sandy Kahan

In memory of Edith and Fred Kahan  
- Deb and Sandy Kahan

In memory of Esther Newman Lewis  
- Rabbi Ellen Lewis

In honor of Howie's 70th Birthday  
- Tracey and William Heisler  
- Risa Smith  
- Robin and Leon Hall  
- Claudia and Roy Loomis  
- Ginger Nathanson

## 80<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE CELEBRATION

*Hold the Date*

*Let's celebrate the  
JCNWJ together!*

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026  
6:00 PM - until?

BELVIDERE MANOR  
689 WATER STREET  
BELVIDERE, NJ, 07823

Jewish Center of NW Jersey • Washington, NJ

# Updates & Events

## ONEG OPENINGS

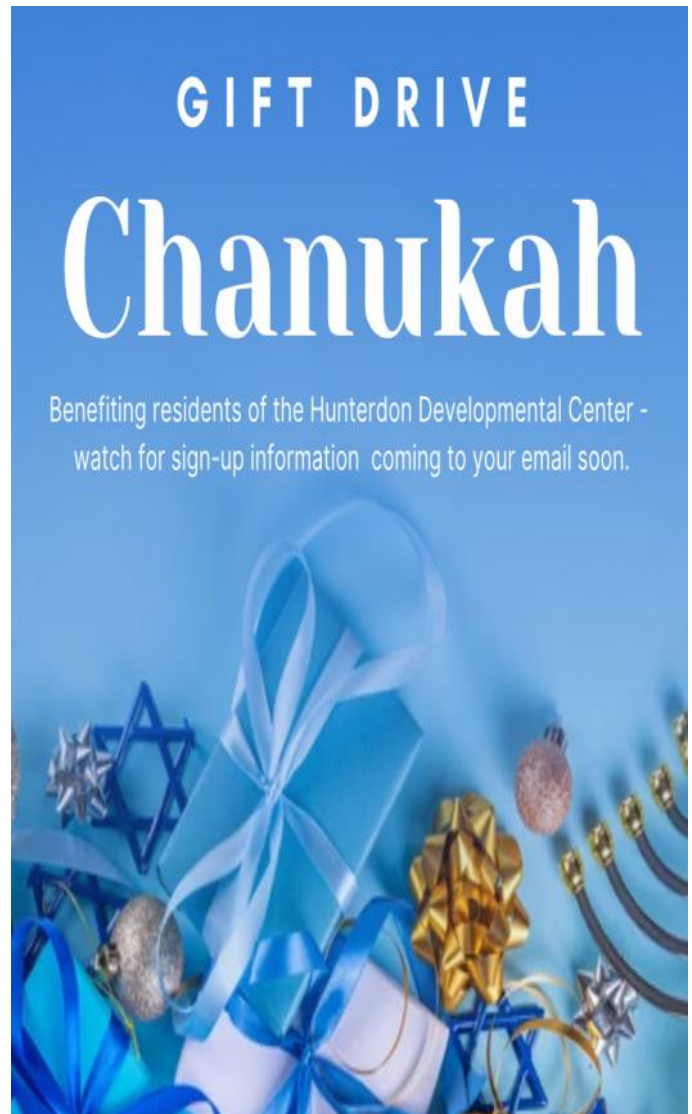
As you are aware, we request that every congregant participate in hosting an oneg. Please, if you have not yet signed up, please see what dates are still open and let me know which date you prefer.

The dates still open are:

11/8 Saturday - need 2 hosts  
11/22 Saturday - need 1 host  
2/21 Saturday - need 2 hosts  
3/7 Saturday - need 1 host Purim Spiel  
3/13 Friday - need 2 hosts Shabbat Across America  
4/25 - Saturday - need 1 host  
5/22 Friday - need 2 hosts  
6/19 Friday - need 2 hosts  
7/10 Friday - need 2 hosts  
8/14 Friday - need 2 hosts

Your early response is greatly appreciated.

Iris Hirsch  
irishirsch@comcast.net  
908 239 4585





# 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.*

# JCNWJ Services

*Lifecycle!*

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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

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  
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# Partners



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As Our Own*

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## 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.