Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey
Journal

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Facebook: JCNWJ & JCNWJ Members Only

September 2026
Volume: LII Issue: 1

Rabbi's Message

Dear Friends,

There is something wonderfully Jewish about September.

Our secular year begins in January, but for us at the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey, September feels like the real beginning.

Summer comes to an end. Children return to school. Our building, somewhat sleepy over the summer, comes alive again.

And, with the impending arrival of Rosh HaShanah, we hear the familiar call of the shofar reminding us that we, too, are beginning again.

Of course, we don't actually begin again as blank slates. We bring the previous year with us.

We bring our accomplishments and disappointments, our joys and our regrets. We bring relationships that have deepened and relationships that have become strained. We bring the things of which we are proud, and the things we wish we had done differently. This is precisely the point.

Rosh HaShanah is not simply a celebration of the beginning of another year. It is an invitation to pause and ask ourselves where we have been and where we want to go.

One of my favorite images for this comes from one of the traditional descriptions of the shofar sounds. Why do we sound

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Calendar of Events

Friday, September 4
7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service

Tuesday, September 8
7:00pm - Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, September 11
7:00pm - Rosh Hashanah Evening Service

Saturday, September 12
10:00am - Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, Taschlich following

Sunday, September 13
10:00am - Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, Lunch following

Sunday, September 20
7:00pm - Kol Nidre Service

Monday, September 21
10:00am - Yom Kippur Morning Service, Yiskor following
3:00pm - Torah Study
4:30pm - Neilah Service, Break Fast following

Friday, September 25
5:30pm - Pizza in the Hut
7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service, Sukkot observance

Friday, October 2
7:00pm - Shabbat Evening Service, Simchat Torah observance

Rabbi's Message (cont'd)

the horn with the particular notes that we do? Why the drawn out *tekiah*? Why the broken, stuttering *shevarim*? Why the rapid succession of *teruah*?

Perhaps, our rabbis of tradition suggest, the sounds of the shofar are meant to remind us of the different ways a human heart can sound.

Sometimes we feel whole and confident.
Sometimes we feel broken.
Sometimes we feel confused and scattered.
And sometimes, miraculously, we manage to put ourselves back together.

The shofar makes room for all of these experiences.

This is one of the things I love most about a Jewish approach to life: there is no requirement to pretend everything is fine when it in fact isn't.

We come together carrying whatever it is we are carrying.

Some of us are celebrating new beginnings. Others are grieving losses. Some are worried about children or grandchildren. Some are facing changes in their work or their health or their relationships. Some are simply exhausted by the state of the world.

And yet we come. We hear the ancient words. We sing melodies our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents sang. We sit beside people with whom we have shared decades of Jewish life.

In doing so, we remind ourselves that we are part of something larger than our individual lives.

That is especially important at this time of year because September is also the beginning of another kind of Jewish year: **the synagogue year.**

Our education programs return. Shabbat services resume their regular rhythm. Committees begin meeting again. We see friends we may not have seen since the spring. Our temple newsletter resumes it's regular monthly schedule.

This may all seem like ordinary synagogue business, but it really is something much more profound.

Every time we gather as a Jewish community, we are making decisions about the kind of Jewish future we want to create.

When step foot into our temple, we connect spiritually to Jews in every corner of the world.

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Rabbi's Message (cont'd)

When we study Torah together, we continue an argument begun thousands of years ago.

When we celebrate a new marriage, we watch another generation take its place among the generations of our Jewish people.

When we welcome someone new to our community, we expand the Jewish family.

When we reach out to a member in need, we bring a piece of serenity and love where it is needed most.

When we reach out to our neighbors of different faith traditions, we are pave the way ever closer to a time of true peace and prosperity for all.

And when we simply sit together on Shabbat, sing together, laugh together, or share a meal, we are create something that cannot be created alone: **community.**

That may be the most important reason to come back together in September.

Not because we are supposed to. Not because we have to. But because Judaism was never intended to be a solitary endeavor. There is a reason so much of Jewish prayer is written in the plural.

Avinu Malkeinu: ***our*** Parent, ***our*** Sovereign.
Selach lanu: forgive ***us***.
R'fa'einu: heal ***us***.
Barecheinu: bless ***us***.

We pray as a ***we***, rarely as an ***I***. Even when our individual circumstances are very different, tradition asks us to imagine ourselves as part of a larger whole.

This is what I hope 5758 will bring us: not perfection, but connection.

The opportunity to begin again.
To return to people and practices that nourish us.
To let go of some of what no longer serves us.
To make amends where we need to.

To learn something new.
To reach out to someone we have been meaning to call.
To come back to synagogue.
And perhaps simply to listen when the shofar sounds.

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Rabbi's Message (cont'd)

The shofar's message is remarkably simple:

Wake up.

Pay attention.

The year is beginning.

And so, too, are we.

May this new year be a year of health, learning, laughter, friendship, and peace for each of us, and for our entire community.

L'shanah tovah u'metukah.

May we all have a good and sweet new 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.

President's Message

Welcome back to my 17th year of being the president of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey. For those of you reading this, you are my second family. I love and care deeply for each and every one of you and I will continue to do my best to keep this synagogue alive and vibrant for as long as we can.

My message for you today and on the High Holidays is your mind. As we approach the days of awe, each one of us is commanded to do some introspection of our lives. What have we done that we are proud of? Who have we helped in the past year? Have I made other's people's lives better by some act, large or small? Who have I hurt in the past year? Have I made an honest effort to make peace with someone I have wronged or someone who has wronged me? What must I change to become a better person?

I have a magnet on my refrigerator that reminds me that the only thing that I truly have control over is my attitude. I may be able to control some aspects of my life, but other parts of my life are beyond my control. How do I react to those things? Do I constantly worry about them? Do they keep me up at night? Am I harboring grudges against an individual? If so, remember that the anger you hold towards others does not really affect them, but it certainly affects you.

My ask of you this year is to be kind to yourself. Love yourself. Be happy with who you are and what you have. If others do not see the beauty in you, that is their problem, not yours. You are a shining light to the world, and I love you just the way you are.

L'Shanah Tovah
President again,
Howie Hirsch

Updates & Events

80th Jubilee

A reminder to RSVP for the 80th Jubilee to be held the evening of Saturday, October 3 at Belvidere Manor.

The evening's festivities begin at 6:00 PM, with schmoozing and Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a Havdalah Blessing. Dinner and Dancing with live music. A Cash Bar (for alcoholic drinks) will be available.

Tickets are $72 per person. You can RSVP to jcnwj80@gmail.com and/or register online by using the link below:

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/80th-anniversary-jubilee

If you have any questions, please email jcnwj80@gmail.com.

Updates & Events

Oneg Hosting

Here are the remaining onegs that need hosts. Please contact Iris at irishirsch@comcast.net or 908-239-4585 to sign up.

Date	Time	Service	Oneg Hosts
09/04/26	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service	Need 2 families
10/02/26	7:00 PM	Shabbat Morning Service for Simchat Torah	Need 2 families
12/11/26	7:00pm	Shabbat Evening Service & Chanukah Celebration	Need 1 family
12/19/26	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service	Need 2 families
01/09/27	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning	Need 2 families
01/23/27	10:00 AM	Tu B'Shevat Seder	Need 2 families
03/06/27	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning Service	Need 2 families
04/02/27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service	Need 1 family
04/16/27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Evening Service	Need 2 families
04/30/27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service – Yom Ha Shoah	Need 2 families
06/11/27	10:45am	Shabbat Service -- PRIDE CELEBRATION	Need 2 families
07/09/27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service	Need 2 families
08/13/27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service	Need 2 families

Updates & Events

HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE

- Friday September 11th 7:00 PM - Erev Rosh Hashanah followed by an Oneg sponsored by the Ritual committee
- Saturday September 12th 10 AM - Rosh Hashanah followed by Taschlich
- Sunday September 13th 10 AM - Rosh Hashanah Day 2 followed by luncheon (Look out for Perfect Potluck notice)
- Sunday September 20th - 7 PM - Kol Nidre service for Yom Kippur
- Monday September 21st - 10 AM - Yom Kippur morning service followed by Yizkor
- Monday September 21st 3:00 PM Torah Study session
- Monday September 21st 4:30 N'eilah (concluding service) followed by Break the fast (Look out for Perfect Potluck notice)

Updates & Events

TORAH STUDY

The Torah study group is an informal discussion group, led by Rabbi Dubin and participants.

Since 1998, the group has read the five books of the Torah and part of Nevi'im (Prophets); in the latter, we have completed Joshua, Judges, and 1 Samuel. We are about to complete 2 Samuel, which concludes the story of King David.

As we continue to discover, there is more to this story than most adults learned in Sunday School. Discussions often take unexpected turns, especially when we make connections between the ancient text and modern life.

Meetings are on Saturday mornings, monthly, on Zoom at 11:15 a.m. (till 12:30 or 1:00, depending). We will NOT have a September meeting due to the busy schedule of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The next meeting will be October 17. All are welcome to join us on Zoom—no prior experience needed.

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

YAHRZEITS

Isaac Merein	Grandfather of Stuart Goldberg
Gloria Jacobs	Aunt of Howie Hirsch
Joseph Goldstein	Cousin of Mo Bauer
Mari Hall	Mother of Colson Hall
Joseph Gelberman	Rabbi Emeritus
Thomas Frank	Father of Grace Marr
Edward Margolis	Father of Bob Margolis
Arthur Bauer	Father of Mo Bauer
Arlene Gordon	Friend of Edythe Herson
Barbara Simons	Wife of Gerry Simons
Esther Newman Lewis	Grandmother of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis
Charlie Hall	Father of Colson Hall

Updates & Events

CHAVERIM

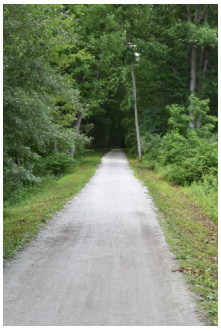
Thank you to those who participated in Chaverim Hiking & Trips during the summer. See below for some of the pictures.

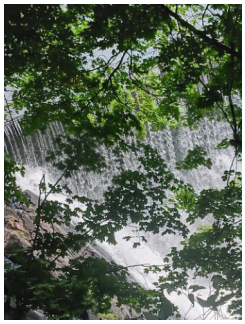
The schedule for fall events is to be determined.

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!

Continue to watch your email and the WhatsApp chat for updates on future events.

Questions, please contact Marilyn Musikar at msmusikar@gmail.com.





Updates & Events

PARENTS CIRCLE

Parents Circle Families Forum is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization made up of bereaved families who have lost loved ones to the conflict and who work toward reconciliation and peace. Members transform personal grief into public advocacy for dialogue, understanding, and nonviolence.

Through educational programs, public speaking, and encounter groups, they challenge cycles of hatred and revenge. Their testimonies are among the most emotionally powerful voices for reconciliation in the region.

One of our congregants, Debbie Berk, is a volunteer for the American Friends of the Parents Circle Families Forum.

From Debbie - You can watch the numerous videos, movie screenings, and webinars, and sign up for their newsletters, through their website. My favorite webinar is Listening from the Heart, which they offer periodically. All of their online events are free, with preregistration required.

To see how you can get involved, contact Debbie at debbieberk123@gmail.com or visit https://parentscirclefriends.org

AMERICAN FRIENDS
of the PARENTS CIRCLE
FAMILIES FORUM
Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace

Updates & Events

ADULT ED

From URJ—ARZA: Everything You Want to Know About the Israeli Elections from the IPF and URJ: Israeli Elections 101

September 9 at 2:00 p.m. ET | 11:00 a.m. PT

Join the URJ and Israel Policy Forum (IPF) for a webinar breaking down the process and key issues for the October 27 Israeli election. Join Shanie Reichman from IPF and Rabbi Josh Weinberg from URJ to discuss the procedures for the election, the major stakeholders, and issues most pertinent to Israeli voters. This webinar is part of a series of joint discussions between the URJ and IPF to educate North American Jews on the Israeli election.

Register now

A theological exploration of G-d/Adonai/ Elohim: Who? What? Where? a series to be led by Rabbi Dubin will take place after the High Holidays.

The first session is scheduled for October 11 at 12:30pm and sessions will continue on Sundays through November 15. BYO lunch if you would like.

Also, check out the website of Temple Emanu-el's Streiker Center for fascinating online programs, many of which are free. Visit streicker.nyc

MI SHEBEIRACH

Please continue to call or email Sharon Herson (908)-537-4378 or sharonherson@comcast.net) with names of friends and family to add to our Mishabeirach List.

Please ALSO REMEMBER let Sharon know when the time comes to REMOVE THE NAME.

Thanks for your attention.

DONATIONS

In memory of Marianne Fleckles & Neche Rachel Fleckles
- Sharon Herson & Daniel Fleckles

In honor of Shira & Becca's wedding
- Sharon Herson & Daniel Fleckles

In memory of Philip Weinstein, Phyllkis Weinstein & Mary Casciani
- Ed, Roseann & Sarah Weinstein

In memory of Beatti Felberbaum & Gloria Jacobs
- Howie & Iris Hirsch

In memory of Henriette Goldstein
- Howie & Iris Hirsch

In memory of Aunt Belle Shure
- Helen & John Mattson

Updates & Events

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Happy New Year from Marcia & Erwin Guberman

To Temple family from Rene

To members of the center with love for the coming new year

To the Congregation from Risa and Al Smith L'Shana Tovah

To JCNWJ members from Ruth Schutzbank L'Shanah Tovah

L'Shanah Tovah to our temple family Robin and Colson

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

Shana Tova to my JCNWJ Family with much love, Gerri

L'shana tova to the Purim Spielers from Adam Tucker

L'shana tova to Chaverim Hiking & Trips Participants from Adam Tucker

L'shana tova to the Torah Study group from Adam Tucker

L'Shana Tovah from the Margolin/Weiner family

To the JCNWJ family from the Gross family

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

To the JCNWJ Congregation from Sharon, Daniel, and Edythe

To our JCNWJ family from the Kahans

To our JCNWJ friends from Jerry and Rita Berkowitz

L'Shanah Tovah from the Loomis Family

To The Congregation from the Jordan Family

To the JCNWJ Membership from Helen and John Mattson

To Members of the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey with Love Rabbi Ellen Lewis

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Updates & Events

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS (cont'd)

To the congregation from the Glass family

To congregation from the Marr family

To our Jewish Center family from Jeff and Jeanie Berkowitz

To Jerry and Rita Berkowitz from Jeff and Jeannie

L'Shanah Tovah from the Nathanson family

To our Congregation from the Bauer Family

To the entire JCNWJ family from Howie and Iris Hirsch

FOOD DRIVE

As Yom Kippur approaches, we are once again providing bags in the front lobby for our annual food drive.

As the need to provide food for the needy has become even more urgent, please consider filling a bag with non-perishable food or personal (toothpaste, etc) items or making a monetary donation to your local food bank in the synagogue's name. Your local pantry can purchase double or triple the amount of food with your monetary donation than the equivalent amount of food you provide in the bags.

Thank you for your generosity.

Iris Hirsch

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
Burial Plot, Easton Cemetery ..... Market Price
All other charges payable to Easton Cemetary

Honors!

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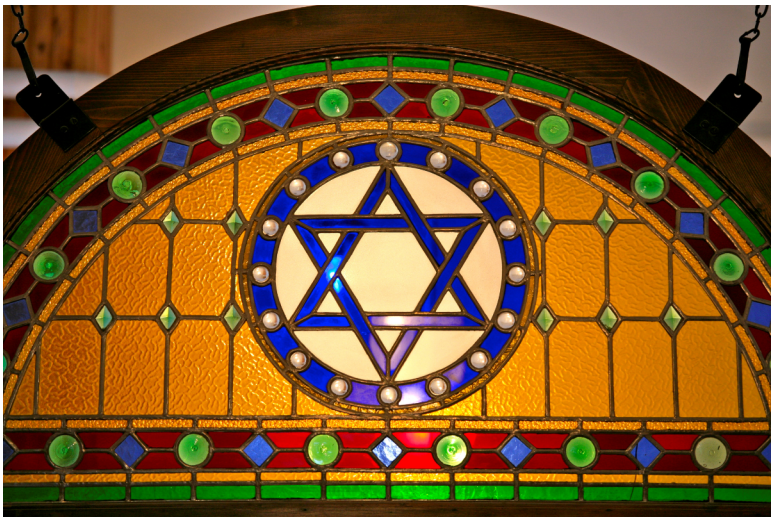
115 YOUMANS AVE. WASHINGTON, NJ

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



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: 1.888.8BE.SAFE | WWW.DASACC.ORG | OUTREACH OFFICES: 29C BROAD STREET | WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY 07882
OUTREACH: 908.453.4121 | OUTREACH FAX: 908.223.1146 | SAFE HOUSE: 908.453.4181 | SAFE HOUSE FAX: 908.453.3708

Partners

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.