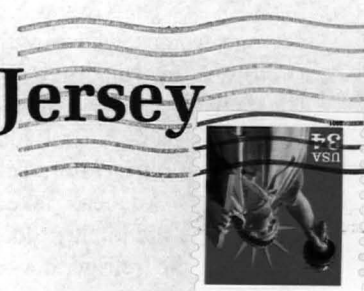


# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey ★Journal★



*April 2002*

JCNWJ Journal  
c/o Lynn Ganz  
105 Hillside Terrace West  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Klau Library  
Hebrew Union College  
Jewish Institute of Religion

3101 Clifton Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45220

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey

## ☆Journal☆

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April 2002

### RABBI'S MESSAGE

If there is such thing as a mantra in Jewish tradition, it is this: "Remember that you were slaves in Egypt." The Torah does not just encourage us to remember; it commands us, again and again, not as an exercise in nostalgia but as an impetus to action. Remembering is not a passive act in our tradition but requires reliving, since only when you live as if you yourself had gone forth from Egypt can you truly appreciate the meaning of freedom. This kind of remembering inspires the gratitude that moves us to work for the redemption of all humanity.

I had an opportunity to re-experience redemption in a profound way a few weeks back when I was privileged to spend a day with the Giving Network. Their premise is simple: "We all have the gift of giving. One donation is a miracle for someone else." There are people who are in need; there are people who have something they no longer need. And there are people who give their time to match giver and recipient, literally to pick up donations and deliver them directly to those in need.

The Giving Network was the brainchild of one woman who saw the devastation left in Bound Brook by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and could not walk away. You have a refrigerator you are no longer using? Call Jody; she knows someone who needs a refrigerator. Tell Rene; he will walk into the donor's kitchen, take off the refrigerator door, remove the kitchen door from its hinges in order to carry the refrigerator out through the too narrow space, load it on the truck and deliver it. Clothing? Toys? What about a bed? The recipients and their friends appear as if out of nowhere to help unload the truck. Their gratitude is written on their faces. Anyone watching this scene would simply observe pick up and delivery. In our tradition, however, we would call it *gemilut hasadim*, deeds of loving-kindness, a way of infusing holiness into the mundane and becoming partners with God in repairing of the world.

Maimonides teaches us that all eight levels of the ladder of *tzedakah* are desirable. One of the highest forms of giving requires that the giver not know the name of the beneficiary and that the beneficiary not know the name of the giver. I believe that, but I have to tell you how moved I was to see

someone else's children clutching the stuffed animals once loved by my own now-grown children. Many of these people, as reported at the time in an article in Garden State Woman, "lived in rented apartments with their extended families, worked two different jobs to feed and clothe them, and commuted to these jobs with other co-workers that lived in town. These are victims who build, paint and clean homes, mow lawns, take care of children. These are the manual laborers and factory workers businesses willingly hire knowing they will work diligently at jobs and wages most Americans won't. They are the small business owners whose life savings were put into their dreams for independence and fortune like those of our fathers and grandfathers. They are the hard-working low income additions necessary to our society that are always hardest hit by these natural disasters."

Even though the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Floyd has largely been addressed, the Giving Network has continued to serve those in need. Many of its clients left their countries for the same reasons as did our ancestors in recent memory: They want a better life for their children. Maimonides again reminds us that the highest rung on the ladder of *tzedakah* is to teach people a profession so that they can be financially independent. Giving people what they need and cannot afford is one way of helping them to do just that, freeing them from some little worry so they can focus on earning a living and improving their lives.

I received more than I gave that day. I gained the opportunity not just to remember but also to relive the experience of redemption, to remember being redeemed from the narrow places of *Mitzrayim* and brought forth on eagles' wings to freedom. In this time we call *z'man herutenu*, the season of our freedom, we remind ourselves that no one of us is free until all people are free, whether the enslavement is political, economic, religious or otherwise. The Passover season reminds us that redemption was not an event that began and ended at one time in ancient history but rather is an ongoing process carried out by human beings who manifest God's presence in the world. The words of our sages are clear: It is not your duty to complete the work, neither are you free not to begin it.

## **GOALS: DEALING WITH OUR FUTURE, OUR PRESENT, AND OUR PAST**

*Donald Meltz, VP*

At eight o'clock in the morning on March second, Barbara Meltz lifted the huge coffee maker out of her trunk. She had already carefully balanced a large box of bagels, muffins, cheese and other breakfast goodies in her other hand when Ed Nagorsky helped her carry her load into his office where the goals meeting would soon begin. A bit later, Helen Mattson made the same trip with even bigger boxes, this time filled with lunch. It was going to be a long, long day. Long enough to require Rochelle Ostenfeld to bring a platter of fruit.

There were only two topics, the future of the congregation and membership. We are nothing if not optimistic. Our building is showing its age. With a mixture of strong opinions and hard facts, we grappled with our need to make changes. Sharon Herson, to her enormous credit, managed to keep our emotions leashed for the entire discussion.

We tossed around some ideas for attracting new members and providing opportunities for current members to interact. We agreed that we should improve our marketing—perhaps creating a brochure that could emphasize what makes our congregation special. We also agreed that we should work to create events that would allow our members to interact, for example, brief Oneg presentations on Mitzvah projects, class pizza parties that include parents, and some special Shabbat service themes. That was the easy part.

Discussing the building was MUCH harder. Ideally, many of us would like to be able to expand our facility where it stands. Due to space and environmental laws, that seems to be impossible. Some of us wanted to stay at any cost, some wanted us to move just as badly. Some of us wanted to improve the current facility while we searched for future locations in the Washington area. Most of us found it difficult dealing with a subject we would prefer to ignore.

Unfortunately, doing nothing is never a good solution to any problem. The new congregation in Clinton has had a verifiable impact on our membership. Our lack of adequate facilities leaves us vulnerable. We reluctantly agreed that, whether we moved or stayed at our current location, we must make changes. We are gathering information about the costs of various options such as purchasing an existing building, upgrading the current building, and starting from scratch. These figures will be presented to the entire congregation when they have

been assembled, along with information about our current problems.

How can we talk about our beloved Temple as if it were a used car lot? We have to because it is a building: a collection of floors, ceilings, walls, doors, and windows. Viewed in that perspective, it is often an inadequate building, lacking parking facilities, handicapped access, and amenities that would make life easier for our oldest and youngest members.

The needed upgrade would be massive. Should we renovate or move our sanctuary to a different set of walls down the street? Typical of Jewish discussions, there were more opinions than people; strong opinions in all directions. It could have been a disaster, but here is where the unique nature of our congregation took over.

We disagreed fervently, but we would not endorse any actions that would hurt those with whom we disagreed. As a congregation, we will have to make some difficult decisions. Some of them may be a few years off, others must be covered at our next general meeting. Somehow, we must find a way to work together and do what is best for the congregation. Because we are small, know each other, care about each other, and trust each other, we will somehow find both the strength and means to take action.

Doing nothing is easy, but leads to inevitable failure. Those who founded this congregation and those who have nurtured it for over half a century always discovered a way to do what was right and we will do the same. The hard part is deciding what is right.

### **SHABBAT SERVICES** will be held:

**FRI, 4/5, 7:45pm**, Guest Speaker, Rabbi Kim Geringer (who recently returned from Israel); hosted by Wyckoff family in honor of Brett's Bar Mitzvah

**FRI, 4/19, 7:45pm**, hosted by Goldner family in honor of Genna's Bat Mitzvah

### **MAZEL TOV to BRETT WYCKOFF**

on the occasion of his **BAR MITZVAH, SAT, 4/6.**

### **MAZEL TOV to GENNA GOLDNER**

on the occasion of her **BAT MITZVAH, SAT, 4/20.**

Services will begin at 10 am and the congregation is invited and encouraged to attend and share with Brett and Genna and their families in celebration of this milestone in their life.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will meet:  
4/7, 4/14\*, 4/21, 4/28\* (\*Kindergarten)

**THANKS** to Suzanne Colby, Rochelle Ostendorf, Laurie Post and Sandy Seidorf for helping with the beautiful Torah Box Passover Craft. **THANKS** to Barbara Meltz, Rene Marinich, Laurie Post and all of the other volunteers for helping with the Model Seder.

**MEN'S CLUB** Sun., 4/7, 8:00 am, clean-up on Route 57 followed by breakfast

### **ADULT EDUCATION: SPRING 2002**

RABBI LEWIS'S CLASS will discuss selected Psalms. Please let her know if you will be attending. Class meets MONDAY EVENINGS: APRIL 15, APRIL 22, MAY 13, AND MAY 20, 7:45-9:15 P.M.

TORAH STUDY continues on Saturday morning, APRIL 13, AT 10 A.M.

DISCUSSION OF RICHARD ELLIOTT FRIEDMAN'S BOOK *WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?* SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 7-9 P.M. Order from publisher Harper San Francisco at 800-331-3761 or from your regular bookseller. R.S.V.P. to Sharon Herson at 908-537-4378 by Friday, April 19. [There is no guest speaker; this is intended as a participatory discussion for interested adult members.]

### **LIBRARY UPDATE**

**LIBRARY HAS JUST ADDED 7 NEW BOOKS**  
**3 GREAT NEW BOOKS FOR ADULTS:**  
*JEWISH DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE-*  
*TOUGH MORAL CHOICES OF OUR TIME A*  
*GIFT OF PRAYER*  
*THE SPIRITUALITY OF JEWISH WOMEN THE*  
*BOOK OF MIRACLES*  
*A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO JEWISH*  
*SPIRITUALITY*

**4 GREAT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:**  
*A THOUSAND AND ONE CHICKENS*  
*COME, LET US BE JOYFUL, THE STORY OF*  
*HAVA NAGILA*  
*JOSEPH'S WARDROBE*  
*THE MATZAH BALL FAIRY*

The library will be made available on Sunday, April 14 during Sunday School.

## **YOM HA SHOAH OBSERVANCE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 10:30 am**  
(PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TIME FOR THE SERVICE HAS BEEN CHANGED)

Guest speakers at our Center for Yom Ha Shoah are Ben and Anne Abeles. Both were children during the years of World War II. Dr. Abeles was born in Prague; his parents arranged for him to be part of the Kindertransport to England in 1939; he will talk about his experiences as part of the Kindertransport (several thousand Jewish children from Eastern Europe were sent to England to keep them from perishing under the Nazi regime), leaving his native city and making a new life without his family. Mrs. Abeles and her parents managed to escape from Vienna late in 1941, just before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. She will talk about leaving Europe and making a new life in the Jewish community in Cuba, where they lived for a number of years before emigrating to the USA.

**MANY THANKS** to the Hirsch family and Lynn and Mike Ganz for putting together a great Purim Carnival. Both the kids and adults had a wonderful time. Also, thanks to the confirmation students who ran the booths and to those who worked the kitchen and cleaned up.

**THANK YOU** to the dedicated team of members who spent their Saturday at the goals meeting discussing the future of our Center. It was a very productive meeting filled with lots of views and ideas that will be shared with the Congregation at the general meeting on June 2. Those in attendance were Andrew Colby, Suzanne Marr, Ken Weiland, Sharon Herson, Helen Mattson, Don and Barbara Meltz, Jim Arvesen, Laurie Post, Rochelle Ostendorf, Mike Weiner, Gwen Nagorsky and Rabbi Lewis.

**THE BOARD WOULD TO THANK RHONDA JORDAN AND LAURIE HESSELS**, along with those who worked on their committee, for the outstanding job they did at organizing Shabbat Across America. Everyone enjoyed the home cooked food while schmoozing with 80 of our their close friends! Job well done!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Once again the Weiner family has volunteered to have the annual picnic at their home on August 25. Be sure to mark the date!

**MAZEL TOV** to Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles on the birth of their grandson. How wonderful to be first time grandparents!

### FOOD VOUCHERS

Remember to support the Center by purchasing A&P and Shop Rite food vouchers. Please contact Suzanne Colby at 852-7304.

The UAHC announces the formation of the Reform Jewish Nurses Network. This group will give nurses in the Reform Movement the opportunity to connect with one another for spiritual, educational, and ethical support. If you are interested contact Rabbi Richard Address at 212-650-4294 or deptjewfamcon@uahc.org.

### A REMINDER TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

There are a few toddler and pre-school books which have been purchased for you to use with your child in or out of the sanctuary. They are in a wooden rack near the kipot. Also, please remember that no food or beverage is to be used in the sanctuary.

*Ritual Committee*

### ♪ BENEFIT CONCERT ♪

*performed by*

**CHELSEA FRIEDLANDER**

**APRIL 28TH, SUNDAY, 3 PM**

**FERRY RECITAL HALL**

**CENTENARY COLLEGE**

**PROCEEDS TO AIDS FOUNDATION**

*Call 908-852-2760, if you have any questions.*

### ✈️ FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL ✈️

If you or someone else who is between 18 and 26 and have never been to Israel and would like to go free, contact the Keshet Israel Connection for the Birthright Israel trip by April 5. Call 212-650-4070.

**THE JEWISH LIFE**

**COMMUNITY-WIDE**

**YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 7pm**

The program will feature Yaffa Eliach, Creator of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "Tower of Life" "There Once Was A World", Commemorating a people and the culture that had been destroyed."

This program is open to the community and will be held at Temple Beth-El, 67 Route 206 South, Somerville. Anyone in need of additional information should call Temple Beth-El, 908-722-0674.

### THE SHIMON AND SARA BIRNBAUM JCC BRIDGEWATER ANNOUNCES THREE FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS IN ITS JEWISH LIFE SERIES:

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 10 A.M.** Michael Aaron Rockland, lecture and slide presentation of "The Jews of New Jersey: "A Pictorial History" Rockland will present a visual tour through Jewish neighborhoods of New Jersey, from the 17th century to the present. Rockland will talk about the texture of everyday life for New Jersey Jews and relate some of the stories that came out of the research for the book. Rockland co-wrote the book with his wife, Patricia M. Ard, an assistant professor of English at Ramapo College. Rockland is professor and chair of the American Studies Department at Rutgers University. He is the author of nine books, including "The American Jewish Experience in Literature" (University of Haifa, 1975). For more information on any of the JCC programs, contact Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213, or e-mail LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4** at 8 p.m. Laurie Krauz in concert

**SUNDAY, MAY 19** at 7 p.m. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, "Words That Hurt, Words That Heal"

### AMBULANCE FOR ISRAEL DEDICATION

**APRIL 17, 2002**

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT (ISRAEL  
INDEPENDENCE DAY)**

**6:45 PM**

**JCC 775 TALAMINI ROAD,  
BRIDGEWATER**

**THE 5TH ANNUAL UJA OF  
METRO WEST BENEFIT  
CONCERT**

**New Jersey Performing Arts Center  
Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m.**

This exciting musical program is conducted by Uriel Segal and performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Tickets range from \$20.00 to \$100.00. To order by phone, call 1-800-255-3476.

**UAHC, NEW JERSEY WEST  
HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL  
PRESENTS "TRADITIONS FOR  
TRANSITION - THE JEWISH  
WAY IN DEATH AND  
MOURNING".**

This seminar which covers shiva, bereavement support, making sacred decisions, and planning a funeral is being held at Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange on April 21 at 9am-12:30pm. and costs \$10.00 in advance. For more information, call the regional UAHC office at 201-722-9090.

**SOMETHING TO ENJOY  
AFTER YOUR SEDER.....**

A group of leading medical researchers have published data indicating that Seder participants should NOT partake of both chopped liver and charoses. It seems that this combination can lead to Charoses of the Liver.

At our seder, we had whole wheat and bran matzoh, fortified with Metamucil.  
The brand name, of course, is..."Let My People Go".

Old Jewish men in Miami get hernias from wearing chai's which are too heavy. This condition is called chaiatal hernia!

If a doctor carries a black bag and a plumber carries a tool box, what does a mohel carry?  
A bris kit!

**JEWISH JEOPARDY:** We give the answer, you give the question.....

A: Midrash

Q: What is a Middle East skin disease?

A: The Gaza Strip

Q: What is an Egyptian Belly Dance?

A: A classroom, a Passover ceremony, and a latke

Q: What are a cheder, a seder, and a tater?

A: Sofer

Q: On what do Jews recline on Passover?

A: Babylon

Q: What does the rabbi do during some sermons?

A: Filet Minyan

Q: What do you call steaks ordered by 10 Jews?

A: Kishka, sukkah, and circumcision

Q: What are a gut, a hut, and a cut?

And speaking of circumcisions: An enterprising Rabbi is offering circumcisions via the Internet. The service is to be called..."E-MOIL."

**HAPPY  
PASSOVER**