



NAPLES JEWISH CONGREGATION



APRIL 2018 Quarterly Newsletter



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SHABBAT SERVICES (BOTH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY)

**Friday March 30-NJC Seder-Rabbi Herman
 (no Shabbat service)**

Friday, April 6-7:00 pm-Rabbi Herman

Friday, April 13-7:00 pm-Jane

Friday, April 20-7:00 pm-Rabbi Herman

Saturday, April 28-10:30 am-Rabbi Herman

Friday, May 25-7:00 pm-Rabbi Herman

Friday, June 15-7:00 pm-Rabbi Herman

ONEG AND KIDDUSH LUNCHEONS

Friday, March 23-Nancy & Hal Fogelson

Friday, April 6-Donna & Richard Goldstein

Friday, April 13-Harriet & Marvin Crell & Sandy & Barry Demovsky

Friday, April 20-Maraline Rane

Saturday, April 28-Kiddush luncheon-Marcy & Richard Berenson

& Rob & Rob Obler

Friday, May 25-

Friday, June 15-

Over the Rabbi's disc



Fair is Fair

At times we are disillusioned when we read of incidents in the lives of great and idealistic leaders which seem inconsistent with their moral pronouncements. But we need to realize that, all of us – no matter how great—struggle all of our lives against overwhelming impulses. Rather than judge others smugly, we need to recall the Talmudic proverb that teaches: “Do not judge a person until you have stood in that person’s place.

I think the point is that all of us must struggle with problems. Our truly great heroes had such problems, but overcame them, finding ways through great idealism to help their people. Thus, for example, in Jewish history we find that Moses was not permitted to enter the Promised Land because of an incident in which he acted incorrectly. Moses failed to realize his life’s dream, not because he was a bad person but simply because he was human. He made mistakes. With great pain, the Bible points out that he was neither saint nor sinner. In looking at him as a model, we are to understand that we, too, are neither saints nor sinners but simply human beings, trying the best we know to live our lives and meet our responsibilities.

Oliver Cromwell was once having his portrait painted, and the artist asked, “How should I do you Mr. Cromwell?” Cromwell replied, “Paint me warts and all.” We all have our spiritual warts. We are indeed a mixture: good and bad, hateful and loving, malicious and kind, intransigent and compassionate. But we need to strive with all of our might through idealism and through rationality to control our base impulses, and emphasize our positive characteristics. When we judge others, let us judge them as we would wish to be judged—with understanding, compassion and insight. In our Torah, in the Book of Leviticus, chapter 19 it says “Judge your neighbor fairly.” We know that this is the way we would like to be judged as well.

Blessings,

Rabbi Howard S. Herman DD

SERMON SYNOPSIS

The Passover Seder is a meal replete with rituals. We tend to look at each custom as having significant meaning and significance. Yet the meaning we have been taught and we have been inspired by might not, in actuality, have much in common with the origin of the custom itself.

If we look at a piece of the Seder, that everyone knows the best, the Four Questions or “Mah Nishtanah” we see it describes several of the strange customs we engage in. Those customs that we engage in are:

1. Matzah and not a choice between Matzah and leavened Bread.
2. We don't normally dip even once, tonight we dip twice.
3. On most night all veggies, tonight bitter veggies
4. We might lean or not lean when we eat normally, but tonight we lean.

The problem with customs is that as they pass from one generation to the next, they can be over-interpreted, misinterpreted, or simply changed to reflect current realities.

The original “Mah Nishtanah” of the early rabbis mentioned only three practices.

1. On all other nights we dip once, tonight we dip twice.
2. On all other nights we eat unleavened bread or Matzah, tonight only Matzah.
3. On all other nights we eat roasted, broiled or cooked meat, but tonight we eat only roasted meat.

Notice that only one of the traditional four questions is the same. It assumed that the vegetables get dipped. It seems to be assumed that everyone is reclining. It is assumed that you are going to be eating a special roast, maybe even the Passover sacrifice itself. So what is going on here?

To answer these questions, we need to first understand the Seder's creator's original intent. It is only then that we can understand what so many generations afterwards forgot.

The Seder was created after the destruction of the Temple, so after the year 70 CE. It was modeled on something called a symposium, common in the Greco-Roman culture. It was a meal at which philosophical discussions took place. It was customary to recline on couches there and eat appetite-whetting hors d'oeuvres like vegetables dipped in a pungent sauce or in a tangy mixture made of local fruits, nuts, wine or vinegar.

Any of these things sound familiar? Now you know why people recline at the Seder; why we dip foods at the Seder, and you just heard the original recipe for charoset.

The symposium began with questions, usually easy ones, to encourage all the guests to participate...The discussion then turned to a more intricate discussion of philosophical or political issues. Either during or after the discussions a major meal was served to the guests. At the end the participants would sing songs of praise to the gods or the king...After the symposium the participants would go carousing.

What about going “carousing”? That is not part of the Seder. Perhaps! The Greek word for “carousing” is “Epikomion” which we came to know as “Afikomion”. The early rabbis instructed us not to have “Afikomion” after dinner, meaning “don't go carousing”! The later Babylonian rabbis didn't understand Greek, so they concluded that it meant “don't have dessert” and eventually our custom of “Afikomion” as the final bite of matzah was born.

Over the course of history we invested ordinary practices like reclining, dipping, charoset and the afikomion with sacred meaning. We have rewritten “Mah Nishtanah” to reflect our own realities.

The Seder is not an historical artifact, and not even just a ritual, it is a process. It constantly evolves, as we seek to find, in these time-honored practices, relevant, spiritual and communal meaning for what is occurring in the present moment.

A NEW ERA FOR NAPLES JEWISH CONGREGATION (NJC)

As NJC is about to enter its second score of existence, we can take much solace in not only surviving, but in thriving during our first two decades, contributing to the enhancement of Jewish life in the greater Naples area. Although I have only been a part of NJC for four of those years, the impact of NJC on Shelley and my lives has been significant. Because we were warmly embraced by NJC members from our initial visit in February, 2014, we quickly made a wonderful circle of friends and got very involved in congregational life. As we have warmly welcomed Rabbi Howard Herman and Mona, as they have us, and have officially made him our Rabbi, we eagerly look forward to a new era for our NJC family. We have witnessed firsthand over the past six months or so how Rabbi Herman exemplifies and exudes the very essence of what it means to be a rabbi, that is, a teacher. His messages/sermons combine insight, intellect and probity to highlight how Judaism can often shape and enhance our lives. He views his pulpit as an opportunity to impart to us some of the rabbinic knowledge he has gleaned over forty years, so that we can be better informed about Judaism and how we can make some meaningful contribution to improving some aspect of our world. Rabbi Herman's view is that all of us can do something to repair our world. This theme resonates with most of us and will be one of our focuses going forward.



Rabbi Herman has also committed to assisting us in growing our membership and in retaining our current membership. He will be instrumental in this effort. Anyone who has observed Rabbi Herman and Mona, since they first came to us at the end of last August, well know that they are so warm and so at ease with our members. They have had Friday night Shabbat dinners with a number of our members and are always among the very last to leave following the Oneg, Kiddush luncheon or other NJC event. Their eagerness to engage with and get to know our members evinces a genuine willingness to bond with our NJC family and bodes well for our focus on membership retention and growth going forward.

Rabbi Herman has a fervent devotion to social action and social justice. As he has often pointed out, social action and social justice is one of the very fundamental tenets of Judaism in general and Reform Judaism in particular. The URJ's Religious Action Center (RAC) in Washington, DC embodies Reform Judaism's allegiance to Tikkun Olam through the pursuit of social action and social justice. We at NJC, under Rabbi Herman's guidance, are forming a Social Action Committee that will be seeking out ways to do NJC's part in furthering the goal of improving the lives of others through the hard work of fighting for the rights of others less fortunate. We are contemplating partnering with the UU to help us implement our action plan for social action and social justice, since the UU has been involved in this endeavor for years now.

The newly formed NJC Strategic Planning Committee will be working with Rabbi Herman to formulate our goals for NJC for both the near and long term. As a pulpit rabbi for forty years or so, Rabbi Herman has been confronted with all of the usual congregational challenges and is well equipped to assist us in meeting them. Rabbi Herman will also be conducting adult education sessions which many of our members eagerly await. We are quite confident that these sessions will be not only informative but also will enrich our Jewish experience at NJC. As we welcome not only Rabbi Herman and Mona, but also a new era at NJC, let us remember that if we are not actively involved in NJC life, then we are not invested in the NJC experience. Every member has something to offer and to contribute to make NJC an even better congregation.

Steve McCloskey, President



APRIL & MAY HAPPYGRAMS



Here's a easy way to send Birthday and Anniversary greetings to fellow NJC members. Recipients will receive an NJC note card "signed" with all the names of the well wishers

Please place a check mark next to the event you wish to acknowledge with a HAPPYGRAM.

Remember to print your name the way you wish it to appear in the HAPPYGRAM.

Return your requests by March 25th. HAPPYGRAMS are \$1.00 each.

Make checks payable to Naples Jewish Congregation and mail to
P.O. Box 111994 Naples, FL 34108



BIRTHDAYS

<input type="checkbox"/>	4/1	Robert Klein
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/4	Sandra Neiman
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/8	Jane Galler
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/12	Richard Goldstein
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/20	Mr. Joseph Feldstein
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/25	Mr. Neil Moss
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/29	Stephen Cacciatore
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/4	Marilyn Goldenberg
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/11	Jennie Elias
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/12	Richard Berenson
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/14	Erwin Neiman
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/14	Ruth Ruskin
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/19	Barry Demovsky
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/28	Pamela Szczesny
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/29	Toni Jacobus
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/30	Margaret Bush
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/30	Sidney Rosen
<input type="checkbox"/>		



ANNIVERSARIES

<input type="checkbox"/>	4/4	James & Karen Stone
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/14	Robert & Susan Klein
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/14	William Korson
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/26	David & Margaret Bush
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/12	Dr. Michael Krakow & Dr. Frances Olick
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/17	Richard & Marcy Berenson

Please print your name as you would like it to appear.

CLICK TO PRINT PAGE TO MAIL



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NJC's TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY IS COMING
We are beginning to collect photos/videos/soundtracks/flyers from the past.
If you have some, please let us know by clicking 20 YEARS!

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A new member reception was recently held at the beautiful home of Marilyn and Barry Goldenberg. It provided an opportunity for new members to “share their stories,” make new friends and explain how they found a home at Naples Jewish Congregation. The new members present were Fran Olick and Michael Krakow, Nancy and Jeffrey Siegal, Jennie Elias, Linda and Harvey Rosenfeld and Cindy and Lewis Farber. A wonderful hors d’oeuvres and dessert menu complemented the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere provided by our hosts.

In listening to the conversations shared by new members, two things were readily apparent. First, we have new members who have much to offer our congregation. Their strengths range from organizational skills and facility with computers to artistic endeavors. The new members all indicated a willingness to share their knowledge and talents with our community, if asked to participate. Secondly, it was apparent to us on the Membership Committee that we, as NJC Congregation, must do more to make our new members feel fully integrated.

Being friendly on site, that is, at our weekly Shabbat services, is not sufficient. Being inclusive in social activities outside of the UU is just as important. Inviting new members to events and including them in seating for luncheons, dinners, etc. is critical in making people feel a sense of belonging. We have done well at bringing new members to NJC. Now we need to fully integrate these same people into our NJC community. They are excited to belong and offer much to the continued vitality of NJC.

This summer, a subcommittee, involving Marilyn, Jennie and Shelley, will develop an action plan that we hope will further the conversation. Look for exciting opportunities to expand your circle of relationships and to provide an even greater sense of belonging to our NJC community.

Thanks to all who participated in the new member reception: the Goldenbergs, our hosts, the Lechners, the Paleys and the McCloskeys. It was a terrific event that energized all attendees. Shelley McCloskey, Co-Chair, Membership Committee



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Nancy & Jeffrey Siegal

Jeffrey and Nancy Siegal joined NJC in December of last year. The Siegals have been full time residents of Naples for the past 27 years. Prior to their retirement ten years ago, they raised their son and built their Food Brokerage business in Naples. The business serviced the prison systems and school systems through out the nation and the Caribbean. Their son Steven went to University of Miami and then to University of Florida Medical School. Steven and his wife Brooke reside in Portland, OR while he continues his surgical residency. Early in their retirement

Nancy and Jeffrey were Guardian ad Litem for the children of Collier County. Jeffrey is a very active with Grace Place for Children and Families. He also enjoys his twice weekly games of golf and the gym. Nancy enjoys yoga and spends her time at Claymore Ceramics creating pottery items.

NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION

Long time NJC members, Thelma and Harvey Sandberg are moving back to Boston in April. Please join us on Friday, April 6 for Friday night Shabbat services and a special Oneg on the patio to honor Thelma & Harvey for their many contributions to our NJC family. We will certainly miss them and wish them good health and nothing but the best as they return to their Boston roots.

Steve McCloskey

ANOTHER WIN FOR SISTERHOOD

The NJC Sisterhood Annual Game Day was held Monday, March 6th at the beautiful Cypress Woods Country Club. One hundred and eighteen participants at thirty-one tables enjoyed their games and indulged in a delicious buffet lunch. At the break a record number of 65 gifts were raffled. The extraordinary profits will benefit Temple.

The event's success was due to a dedicated team led by Sandra Nieman. Committee members Marilyn and Barry Goldberg and Rowena Galetston worked with Sandra in this achievement.

Additional thanks go to Rochelle, Elaine, Ruth, Thelma, Hedy, Pearl, Toni, Suzanne and Bonnie who stepped in to assist in the preparations and set-up. (We apologize if your name was missed).

The final Sisterhood Event will be Monday, April 17th, 12 noon at Quail Creek Country Club. We promise you a delicious lunch and an interesting program. The flyer with more information is below in the Newsletter. New officers will be installed at that time. They are:

President: Suzanne Paley

Directors: Irene Pormerantz, Maraline Rane and Ruth Ruskin.

We extend our special thanks to all Sisterhood members that led events throughout this season and of course to those that attended.

Shalom

Nancy and Helen

NAPLES JEWISH CONGREGATION OFFICERS:

President: Stephen McCloskey (724)747-3359
president@naplesjewishcongregation.org

Vice Pres.: Barry Goldenberg 566-1464
Treasurer. Richard Lechtner 734-3640
Ass't Treas: OPEN
Recording. Secy.: Chuck Naumof 776-7954
Corresponding Secy. Ruth Ruskin 352-6992

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Marilyn Goldenberg 566-1464
Richard Goldstein 401 447-4930
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Donald Pomerantz 596-9205

RABBI: Howard S Herman, D.D.
rabbi@naplesjewishcongregation.org

Cantorial Soloist: Jane Galler 566-2411
Musical Director: Alla Gorelick 481-6539

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Membership Chairs: Shelley McCloskey
(724)747-3359

Marilyn Goldenberg 566-1464
Publicity Chair: Chuck Naumoff 776-7954
Ways & Means Chair: OPEN
By-Laws Chair: OPEN
Social Chairs: Saundra Neiman 566-0674
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Ritual Chair
Care Connection: Dick Lechtner
Bonnie Lechtner 734-3640
Channukah: Iris Weissman 431-7944
Passover: Saundra Neima 566-0674
Oneg Shabbat: OPEN
Adult Enrichment: Donald Pomerantz 596-6189
Men's Club: OPEN
Sisterhood: Helen Blatt 592-9205
Nancy Fogelson 598-1451

e-Blast Editor Dick Lechtner 734-3640
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Web Maven: Marty Dorio 272-2279
NJCMaven@gmail.com

For other information, check the website
www.naplesjewishcongregation.org

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

On March 23, 2018, at the NJC Annual Meeting, the Congregation voted overwhelmingly to accept the recommendation of the NJC Board of Directors that the Congregation hire Rabbi Howard Herman as the Rabbi for Naples Jewish Congregation. We warmly welcome Rabbi Herman as NJC's spiritual leader and we look forward to a long and fulfilling relationship with Rabbi Herman and Mona. We will have a formal installation of Rabbi Herman as NJC's Rabbi sometime this Fall. When you see Rabbi Herman at our Seder on Friday, March 30, please extend a warm NJC welcome and your best wishes to Rabbi Herman and to Mona.

Steve McCloskey, President

April Yahrzeits

Name	Observed on (civil)	Jewish
Robert Morris Observing this yahrzeit Gayle Dorio	Sunday, 4/1/2018 Relationship father	
Elizabeth Shapiro Observing this yahrzeit Thelma Sandberg	Sunday, 4/1/2018 Relationship sister	Nissan 16, 5778
Benjamin Uressman Observing this yahrzeit Sheila Marks	Sunday, 4/1/2018 Relationship Father	
Dora Yellen Observing this yahrzeit Pamela Szczesny	Sunday, 4/1/2018 Relationship grandmother	
Kate Neiman Observing this yahrzeit Erwin Neiman	Thursday, 4/5/2018 Relationship mother	Nissan 20, 5778
Diane Shapiro Observing this yahrzeit Pamela Szczesny	Thursday, 4/5/2018 Relationship aunt	
Beatrice Demovsky Observing this yahrzeit Barry Demovsky	Monday, 4/9/2018 Relationship mother	
Sharon Bubrick Observing this yahrzeit Dr. Mel Bubrick	Tuesday, 4/10/2018 Relationship sister	
Pauline Leredu Observing this yahrzeit Suzanne Paley	Tuesday, 4/10/2018 Relationship mother	
Sadie Goldberg Cohen Observing this yahrzeit Ellie Cohen	Wednesday, 4/11/2018 Relationship grandmother	
Doris Robinson Observing this yahrzeit Donald Pomerantz	Wednesday, 4/11/2018 Relationship Aunt	
Berta Moss Observing this yahrzeit Mr. Neil Moss	Friday, 4/13/2018 Relationship Mother	

Community Passover Seder

Come join the Naples Jewish Congregation at Pelican Marsh Clubhouse for a fabulous first Night Passover Seder Friday March 30th at 5:00 PM.

Our Seder will be led by Rabbi Howard Herman who will guide us through a feast of history, culture and rituals some old and some new. The Seder will be replete with questions and answers, music and text, rituals and customs. There will be surprises along the journey and your fulfillment of the Mitzvah of Seder will be one that you will remember long after it is over. Complete Seder meal- (chicken or brisket)

SOLD OUT

NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION

As of the end of March, NJC will need one or more volunteers to manage and update NJC's website, to compile and edit NJC's now quarterly (the next issue will be in April) Newsletter and to compile and edit NJC's Weekly Updates that are emailed to our members each Monday. Information is the lifeblood of any organization and it is true of NJC. I am sure that we have a number of members who are computer savvy who can handle this critical task for us. Marty Dorio, our current "web master" and Weekly Update and Newsletter publisher/editor will be available to help train our new volunteers to make for a seamless transition.

Steve McCloskey

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER/INQUIRE](#)

MEMORIAL BOARD PRICES

At a recent board meeting the board agreed to increase the cost of Memorial Board Plaques to \$180 to take affect July 1. Members should order a plaque now to take advantage of the lower cost between now and July 1. Reserve a plaque for future use now to get in on the old pricing.

GO TO PAGE 15 TO ORDER.

Thanks, Ruthie Ruskin Ritual Committee

DONATIONS & REMEMBRANCES

<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>	<u>REMEMBERED BY:</u>
Harry Hirschfield	Henry & Nancy Greenberg
Hortense Greenberg	Henry & Nancy Greenberg
Alvin Greenberg Sr.	Henry & Nancy Greenberg
Leon Ellis	Shirley Siegel
Abraham & Joseph Weissman	Barry & Iris B. Weissman
Clara Anchel	Mary Sabel
William Speen	Maraline Rane
Max Koenig	Elaine Koenig
Lindy Adelstein & Joseph Hepner	Harriet Adelstein
Milton Stein	Harriet Stein
Jacob Gamerman	Barry & Iris B. Weissman
Fannie Ferder	Sidney & Carolyn Ferder
Bertha Blankoff	Eleanor Tracy
<u>GENERAL DONATION:</u>	<u>FROM:</u>
For the recovery of Bonnie Lechtner	Bill & Harriet Gasway
In honor of the Paley's 50th Anniversary	Bill & Harriet Gasway
In honor of Sylvia Berg's birthday	Harriet Craig
In appreciation of NJC kindnesses	Larry Lechtner

ONEG AND KIDDUSH LUNCHEONS

JANUARY 1, 2018-JUNE 30, 2018

Saturday, January 6--Kiddush Luncheon-Iris & Barry Weissman

Friday, January 12-Gayle & Marty Dorio

Friday, January 19-Michael Krakow & Fran Olick

Friday, January 26-Jill Goode & choir

February 2-Ruth & Ken Ruskin

February 9-Bonnie & Dick Lechtner

Friday, February 16-Julie Silver-Artist in Residence-covered

Saturday, February 24-Kiddush luncheon-Suzanne & Adam Paley

Friday, March 2-Purim-covered-deli

Friday, March 9-Cathy & Scott Silver

Friday, March 16-Paula & Mike Himowitz

Friday, March 23-Nancy & Hal Fogelson

Friday, April 6-in honor of Thelma & Harvey Sandberg

(sponsored by the Congregation)

Friday, April 13-Harriet & Marvin Crell & Sandy & Barry Demovsky

Friday, April 20-Maraline Rane

Saturday, April 28-Kiddush luncheon-Marcy & Richard Berenson &

Rob & Rob Obler

Friday, May 25-Mary Sabel

Friday, June 15-Cindy & Lew Farber & Nancy & Jeffrey Siegal



NJC Memorial Board

Please consider purchasing a Memorial Board Plaque in memory of a deceased loved one. The procedure to order is relatively simple. Just fill out an application and send your check for \$150.

You may also buy a plaque/s for future use, thus providing a reserved space and plaque, paying for it now, so that your survivors will not have to deal with this expense.

It is important to provide NJC with the name/s of those persons who will be receiving notice of Yahrzeit observation. This will guarantee that the perpetuity of this meaningful act continues; and notification continues to be sent.

If you already have purchased a plaque, please take a moment to check back with the committee to see that you have updated any notification names and addresses. If not current, please update this information.

Don't put it off. Many of you have told me that you intend to do it. DO IT NOW!!!

Your Naples Jewish Congregation appreciates your support.

Ruth Ruskin

Ritual Committee

[Click here to order and pay online](#)