

# Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



## Journal



PO Box 2, 115 Youmans Avenue,  
Washington, NJ 07882  
(908)689-0762

January 2012  
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 13

### Mark your Calendar

#### Tuesday Jan 3

7:00 pm Conversational Hebrew

#### Sunday Jan 8

9:30 am school

9:30 am pto meeting

10:30 am confirmation

#### Monday Jan 9

730 pm **Board Meeting**

Tuesday Jan 10

7:00 pm Conversational Hebrew

#### Friday Jan 13

7:30 pm Service

oneg: Braunstein, May, Robins.  
Gutkin, Needleman.

Sunday Jan 15

9:30 am School (music)

9:30 am Sisterhood meeting

10:45 am Adult Ed

#### Tuesday Jan 17

7:00 pm Conversational Hebrew

#### Sunday Jan 22

9:30 am School

#### Tuesday Jan 24

7:00 pm Conversational Hebrew

#### Friday Jan 27

7:30 pm Service

oneg: Jordan, Friedlander. Hall.  
Goldner/Post. Trachtenberg.

#### Sunday Jan 29

9:30 am School (music) K/1

9:30 am pto meeting

10:45 am Adult Ed

#### Tuesday Jan 31

7:30 pm Conversational Hebrew

### Rabbi's Message

I have been thinking about how traditions come into being. When we took our first Confirmation Class retreat eighteen years ago, we didn't know we were creating a new tradition. We were just doing what seemed right at the time. Now it would seem strange for us not to be climbing onto the bus to go up to Camp Harlam in early December. When I first left Camp on Saturday night to find pizza as a treat for the class, I didn't know that would be the first of eighteen visits to Frank's Pizza over the years. Frank and I are happy to see each other even though we only see each other once a year. There was the year he had surgery and the year he was recovering from surgery. So we ask after each other's well-being as if we were old friends.

Most traditions develop in that way, starting with a one-time event and growing into a regular practice. That is the way much of our Jewish tradition developed over the years. Chanukah now doesn't even resemble what Chanukah then looked like. Chanukah in Israel doesn't look quite like Chanukah in New Jersey. The traditions have changed but are recognizable enough in relation to the first Chanukah. And so we still celebrate the holiday that was established over two thousand years ago.

Tradition and change are words that go hand in hand in our Reform movement. We are always evaluating what traditions to keep and what to change with an eye toward retaining the core of who we are as Jews. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist Movement, once famously said that the past should have a vote but not a veto. We agree.

As a movement, we Reform Jews have much for which to be proud and much to work on. We have just observed a major transition in our leadership. At the recent URJ Biennial in Washington, DC, Rabbi Eric Yoffie retired after fifteen years as the president of the

Reform Movement. In his tenure, he focused on increasing Torah study, Shabbat observance and Jewish literacy, in addition to supporting social justice and adding new worship initiatives to make our congregations pray with greater joy. He doesn't delude himself by thinking that he finished the work but rather knows there needs to be more change than he was able to accomplish if our movement is to remain vibrant. And so, in his parting words, he cautioned us that, "Each generation gets the synagogue their parents wanted." His words laid the groundwork for the words of our new president, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, who laid out three goals for the next two years: Catalyzing congregational change. engaging the next generation, and extending the circles of our responsibility. I encourage you to go to the website [urj.org](http://urj.org) where you can read or watch the thoughtful messages from both of my colleagues (as well as President Barack Obama's entertaining ruminations on how to choose what his daughter Malia is allowed to wear to the b'nai mitzvah she is attending).

If I could implement one change for us in the coming year, I would want us to become more engaged in our national movement. We are so isolated on our own little plot of land in Warren County. We could benefit in so many ways from joining with our Reform brothers and sisters across and country and around the world. We, too, can feel inspired by the excitement in our movement as we welcome Rabbi Rick Jacobs at the start of his tenure. And in two years, we could send a delegation to the next URJ Biennial and feel what it is like to be a part of something so much greater.

I write during Chanukah, where one of our blessings includes the phrases "Bayamim Ha Hem" (in those days) and "Bazman Ha zeh" (in these days). We live poised between those two phrases, those days of the past and these days of the present. May this coming secular new year be one in which we engage fully in our commitment to both tradition and change, with the goal of building a meaningful Jewish life for the present and the future.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis



## *President's Message*

When people join our temple, one of the things that impresses them is that we care about each other. This implies that we are a caring community. What is a caring community? The name simply implies that as a group, we care about each other. We are there to share the joys of life with each other, we are there to help ease the pain and suffering of others, and generally we are there for each other. There are many components in forming a caring community. In the Saturday morning prayers, there is a section that lists some of the "rewards without measure". The one I would like to focus on is visiting the sick.

In our community, when one of us is ill, we cannot assist you as a community if we do not know. I know some of you are very private people and prefer to keep your illness to yourself so you do not burden others. Others have so much pride that they feel that asking others for help means that they are not capable of taking care of themselves. My first request of all of you would be to let me know when you are ill, so that I can let the community know. This gives us the chance to perform this Mitzvah, whether it is sending a get well card, making a phone call or making a visit to see that you are ok.

The second request I have of you is that when you hear of someone who is ill, please make an effort to send a card, make a phone call or visit someone who is ill. I know that I have not been good enough about performing this mitzvah this year, and one of my resolutions for next year is to be better about this, and to encourage the congregation to improve upon this mitzvah for 2012. May we all be healthy in 2012, but when someone is ill, let's make sure that we support each other with much love.

Shalom, Howie

## *CONTRIBUTIONS*

In honor of Ezra Yarmush, the newest great- grandson of Bernard Robins  
Judy and Paul May

In honor of the bar mitzvah of Jonathan Rosenbloom  
David Rose

In memory of Mildred Sobine and Walter Sobine  
Leslie and Murray Heller

In memory of Sally Zemel and Jack Zemel  
Ralph Zemel

In memory of William Robin  
Bernard Robins

In memory of Max Weil  
Ruth Schutzbank

In memory of Richard Herson  
Edythe Herson

In memory of Rita Hecht  
Rona and Stan Schick

In memory of Steve Tarlowe  
Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Anna Wartel and Judith Blohm  
Lauretta Koch

In memory of Henrietta Goldstein  
Iris and Howie Hirsch

In memory of Mitchell Hirshberg  
Dan Hirshberg

In memory of Molly Finkelstein  
Shelly Finkelstein

In memory of Jean Siegel  
Rhonda Jordan

## *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

Bill and Melissa Parson in honor of Alex's Bar Mitzvah

## EDUCATION/PTO

January is a month to wind down from the holidays. Hope yours were happy. There is no Hebrew School on Sunday, January 1, 2012 -- Happy New Year to you all!

January 8th at 9:30 a.m. we will have a PTO meeting, and at 10:30 a.m. Confirmation class meets.  
January 29th at 9:30 a.m. we meet again for a PTO meeting.

On February 5th we are planning a Tallit Making workshop for the 6th/7th grade class, confirmation class, and any member of our congregation wishing to make their own Tallit. Look for details in the near future which will include how much fabric to purchase and what other supplies are needed.

Marsha Gross, Education Chair

To Parents of Sunday School Students and Everyone Else

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the Feb. 24 Sunday School Service. Classes from kindergarten up will lead prayers and songs that they have practiced. All students and parents should plan to participate in this joyful service, which has become a congregational tradition over the years. Members who don't have children in the school should come, too, and worship with this wonderful group.

### **Mind-Body-Spirit Connection**

A group of 27 women, spanning three generations were enlightened by the insight and expertise of holistic health practitioner, natural foods chef and yoga instructor, Delia Quigley at the Jewish Center on November 30, 2011. This Sisterhood event was made possible by the insight and generosity of congregant Diane Margolin. Diane sponsored, coordinated and even provided the goodies for this program! The JCNWJ would like to thank Diane and Delia for educating the women of our Temple and leading us down the path to better health! Look for more interesting and uplifting Sisterhood programs to come!

### **February Journal Deadline**

**The deadline for submitting articles, advertisements and photos to be included in the February issue is: January 19, 2012. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Barbara Simons at [bjbs@comcast.net](mailto:bjbs@comcast.net)**

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**atlantic city electric** G2P0 200042845

PAGE 2  
**Account Number:**  
#### #### ####

CUSTOMER NAME  
1234 STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE 54321

Service Location:  
1234 STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE 54321

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**Electric Meter Information**  
Meter Number 26421908

Current Meter Reading, May 11 (actual)	048857
Last Meter Reading, Apr 12 (actual)	047910

**PSEG** April 2010 Page 3 of 3

Account number 00 000 000 00 meter number: 000000000000  
24-hour customer service and energy advice 1-800-436-7506 (7734)

**PSEG Electric**

Usage: Meter 00000000	Charges: P20 D FE3333113333136/247	Rate: L1P3
Reading: May 3	Delivery	
Actual On-Peak	Service charges	\$705.44

**Orange & Rockland** 390 West Route 59  
Pike County Light & Power Co. Spring Valley NY 10977-5300  
Rockland Electric Company 1-877-434-4100 www.oru.com Page 1 of 2

CUSTOMER NAME  
234 STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, ST 54321

☒ Your next Meter Reading will be: Aug 23

☐ If you have questions about this bill, call toll-free 1-877-434-4100 or go to www.oru.com

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**ELECTRIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICE**

at 22 reading (Actual)	1401	<b>BILLING DATE</b> 07/22/10
on 23 reading (Actual)	-0005	<b>BILLING SUMMARY</b>
at 23 reading (Actual)	2426	<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b> 0000-0000
Basic Service Charge	\$3.66	Last Bill \$430.04
Distribution Charges		Payment - EFT -430.04
at 22 reading (Actual)	10.45	
on 23 reading (Actual)	105.95	

**Charges from JCP&L this billing period**

When contacting an Electric Generation Supplier or CleanPower Supplier, please provide the customer numbers below.  
Call JCP&L at 1-800-662-3115 with questions on these charges.

**Basic Charges**

Customer Number: 0803505442 0005200417 Residential Service - JC\_RS\_01D

Customer Charge 2.20

Basic Generation Service	45 KWH	x 0.112444	5.06
	389 KWH	x 0.116350	45.26
	434 KWH	x 0.006406	2.78
<b>Total Basic Generation Service</b>			53.10

## Q. Who is Viridian?

Viridian is a socially responsible retail energy company based in Norwalk, CT. Viridian provides affordable green energy to commercial and residential customers in its service territories in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

## Q. How does Viridian save customers money?

Due to energy deregulation, customers can choose an alternative supplier like Viridian who can buy energy wholesale from competitive generators and pass the savings along to customers. The utility still provides delivery, service and billing.

## Q. How does our organization benefit?

The funds generated from this program will support our overall mission or any other projects we are working on.

## Q. What do I need to enroll?

Just your basic contact information and utility account information from your bill. (see bill samples to the left)

## Q. What will change when I enroll?

You won't notice any change except Viridian's name listed as your supplier and Viridian's rate per kilowatt hour under the supply section of your bill. The bill will still come from the utility and the lights will still turn on just like they always have. You still pay your bill to the utility and will still receive repair, maintenance and emergency response from the utility.

## Q. Does it cost anything to enroll?

No, there are no enrollment fees. There are also no cancellation fees.

## Q. Do I have to sign a contract?

No, there are no long-term contracts. Viridian's service is month to month and customers can cancel at any time with no penalty.

## Q. Will I get a separate bill?

No, you will receive only one bill from the utility just like you always have. You will still pay the bill to the utility just like you always have.

## Q. Why did our organization choose Viridian over other suppliers?

In addition to providing our supporters savings on their energy bill, Viridian is committed to helping the environment by providing greener energy to the grid. Plus, we earn residual income for our organization, while our supporters save.

## Q. Will it cost me anything extra to help our organization?

No. This fundraising opportunity allows our organization to earn income simply by referring customers to Viridian. As a customer, you will actually save money over time on a service you are already using and paying for.

## Q. What if I'm on a budget plan with the utility?

Enrolling with Viridian may affect your current payment plan if you are on a budget billing plan or receiving government assistance. Check with your utility to see how your billing will be impacted.

## Q. Can I choose how much green energy I use?

Yes. Viridian has two green rate plans. Everyday Green comes from 20% renewable sources and offers customers an affordable way to go green. For the most environmentally conscious customer, Viridian offers the Green-e Energy certified 100% Pure Green plan.

## Q. What if I don't choose a supplier?

As a resident of a deregulated state, you have the right to choose a third party supplier like Viridian. If you have not yet selected a supplier, you automatically get the utility's retail supply rate.

## Q. Can I talk to someone from Viridian?

Yes, you can reach a customer care representative by calling 1-866-663-2508.



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## Thurs. January 26

### Falafel & Films II Israeli Short Films

Thursday, January 26, 2012  
6:30 PM • FEE: \$10/advance, \$15/at the door  
Hosted by JCC (775 Talamini Rd, Bridgewater)



### Presented by Ma'aleh School of Television Film and the Arts in Jerusalem

#### "Willingly"

This film raises questions about love and commitment, about the advantages and disadvantages of "get" as a ceremony, and about Israel's non-separation of religion and state. All Jewish divorcing couples, regardless of their religious orientation, must divorce with this ceremony in the State of Israel.

*This film has been featured in several festivals around the world.*

#### "A Jerusalem Tale"

Lazer and Baila Hirsch, an older orthodox couple who have emigrated to Israel from America, struggle with financial hardship and general misfortune. Lazer, a Bretzlav Hassid, finds that his capacity for simcha (joy) is put to the test. The couple prays for a miracle, but miracles come in unexpected guises...

*This film has been featured in Haifa Film Festival 2007 and the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival 2009*



**The Ma'aleh School**

#### "Luz"

This is the story of the unique relationship between Lisa and her adopted daughter, Luz. Unable to have children, Lisa adopted Luz from Columbia when Luz was three months old. The bond between them is special and despite their differences, the two have built a home which is loving and strong. Now 18 years old and troubled by questions of identity, Luz re-opens her adoption file while Lisa builds a home with her new husband. A dramatic new development in their lives threatens to destroy all the old bonds, and forces Luz and her mother to confront the basic questions: What is a home? What is motherhood? And what is the meaning of a blood relationship?

*Awards include Best Short Film: International Film Festival Haifa 2007. Featured in the International Film Festival Haifa 2007 and International Documentary Film Festival Guandzo China 2009*

**Please call JCC Associate Executive Director Laura Friedman for details.**  
(908) 725-6994 x213 • e-mail: LFriedman@ssbjcc.org

EVENT	DATE	EVENT PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Falafel & Films	Jan. 26, 2012	\$10/advance, \$15/at door		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to pay by credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ M/C ☐ AmEx

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return the  
registration form with payment to:**

Jewish LIFE  
775 Talamini Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**Make checks payable to:**  
Shimon and Sara Birnbaum  
Jewish Community Center



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**www.theyouthcenter.net**

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**908-537-4594**

**Karen Vedus Ed.S. LMFT**

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NJ #F100137000

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