

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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Rabbi's Message

When I first came to the Center 18 years ago, it was the self-appointed job of Matty Schneider to retrieve our mail from the post office. When he brought it to the temple, he never left it in the same place twice. I would find it on the banister leading downstairs, on a pew in the sanctuary, in the kitchen and only occasionally in my office.

I once asked why we didn't get mail delivered directly to the Center. I was told that there had once been a discussion of putting a mail slot in the front door but people were afraid of what else might be put in that mail slot. The Ku Klux Klan had once had a large presence in Oxford centered in the Colonial United Methodist Church. The Center experienced some early anti-Semitic incidents about which I have only heard rumors and vague memories.

It would be nice if we could say that all that danger is behind us now, but the incidents in Bergen County would prove us wrong. Over the past month, there have been four separate incidents of anti-Semitism, including the fire-bombing of the rabbi's home attached to the synagogue in Rutherford.

How frightened should we be? We should be careful but not frightened. We aren't living in Europe in the Middle Ages or Germany under Hitler. Our law enforcement agencies are on our side. They will find the perpetrators. So yes, we should be alert and keep ourselves as safe and secure as possible. But we shouldn't let fear get in the way of living openly as Jews in New Jersey.

That this comes on the heels of Martin Luther King Day reminds me of Dr. King's unflagging optimism about human goodness despite all evidence to the contrary. When he received the Nobel Peace Prize, he said: "I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality."

Rabbi's message, continued

The same scripture that inspired Dr. King inspires us. We, too, hold onto hope and refuse to be defeated by racism and war. Our people have seen both the best and the worst of humanity over the centuries. We would have reasons for pessimism about human nature. And yet our tradition commands us to search for righteousness and justice and peace, no matter the obstacles.

We can't let our fears deprive us of being open to the world. We have not just seen the Promised Land; we have been there. And anti-Semitic incidents should just strengthen our resolve to fight that much harder for a just world.

Rabbi Ellen J. Lewis



President's Message

I would like to discuss the concept of security at the temple this month. In light of the events of the past few weeks in Bergen County, the Board will be discussing security again at our upcoming meetings. If you have anything that you would like to bring up to the board in regards to this subject, please either contact me, or attend the next board meeting on Monday February 6th at 7:30 PM. The board wants to do our best to make everyone feel safe in the building, and we need to know what your concerns are in this regard. Remember that ideas that will cost money could result in increased dues, and this board is extremely conscious of additional costs and we discuss items that will cost more than a trifle of money over and over to ensure that we spend our money wisely. We also want very much to retain the cozy and comfortable feeling that you get when you walk into our temple, and some practices and procedures that may work for larger congregations may not work here. Our board is composed of highly motivated, but very busy people, who dedicate part of their lives to make sure that we remain a viable Jewish organization in Warren County. So we need your help in this matter. Security is everyone's business. So when you come to temple, maybe you want to be the one to walk the perimeter of the building to see if anything looks out of place. Maybe while you are waiting for your child to come out of Sunday school, you can keep a vigilant eye on the neighborhood to see if anything looks out of place. And if you see something, say something.

Love, Howie

Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, Feb. 5 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Sisterhood meeting
10:15 a.m. Purim spiel rehearsal
- Monday, Feb. 6 7:30 Board meeting
- Friday, Feb. 10 7:30 Shabbat service
Oneg: Romanczyk, Torine, Bauch, Longenecker,
Shelofsky
- Sunday, Feb. 12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Purim spiel rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Tu b'shevat seder
- Saturday, Feb. 18 10:30 a.m. Torah study
- Sunday, Feb. 19 No school—Presidents' Day weekend
- Friday, Feb. 24 7:00 a.m. Lay-led Shabbat service
(see announcement under Worship Services)
Oneg: McNamara, Heller, Heller, Fitzsimmons, Parilis
- Sunday, Feb. 26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School K/1
(hamantashen bake & music)
10:15 a.m. Purim spiel rehearsal
- Sunday, March 4 9:30 a.m. Purim service (Megillah reading) and Purim spiel
(see announcement under Worship Services)
Noon Purim carnival
- Friday, March 9 6 p.m. Shabbat across America: Eat—Pray—Eat
(see announcement under Worship Services)
- Saturday, March 10 10 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Hutt

Worship Services

Shabbat. On Friday, January 13, the first service of 2012, we began our experiment with a shorter Shabbat service. As most of you know, the congregation has been praying using Mishkan T'filah for the past two years. This prayer book is full of beautiful liturgy, in both Hebrew and English, and offers us, as worshippers, a great deal of choice. Under the leadership of Rabbi Lewis and student cantor Elana Rosen-Brown, we will continue to experiment in the coming months with variations on the shortened service. Your comments to the Rabbi, the Cantor, and/or members of the Religious Practices Committee will be most welcome.

February 24 Shabbat service, 7 p.m. At this service, the children of our Sunday School will lead many of the prayers. Each class has at least one, and full participation by students is needed in order to make this service work. There will be a lot of music, with guitar accompaniment by Debbie Fesinstine. Parents: please plan to bring your children. Other members: please plan to come and support the young ones in their efforts.

Purim, to be celebrated on Sunday, March 4, starting at 9:30 a.m. The order of things will be different this year. We will have the Megillah reading first, and the Purim spiel (which on occasion has been quite rowdy) second, followed by the Purim carnival. Don't miss any of this upbeat celebration—from “you go, Girl” (our traditional encouragement of Esther during the Megillah reading) to The Wizard of PerOz (this year's spiel), to the fun carnival games and yummy treats organized and prepared by PTO.

Shabbat across America (Friday, March 9, 6 p.m.). EAT—PRAY—EAT! This is a time to get together as a community, share dinner and worship, and then, this year, celebrate with Gerri Klein as she hosts the Oneg (following the Kabbalat Shabbat service) in honor of the bat mitzvah of her daughter, Sabrina Hutt. This Shabbat across America is also a time to bring your favorite dishes for the potluck meal and to invite friends who may be searching for a temple to call home. Please contact our Shabbat across America coordinator, Lois Goldberg at dewieandlouie7@verizon.net by Monday, March 5, if you plan to attend, and let her know what you would like to bring; be sure to include your telephone number in your email. This is a dairy Shabbat meal.

Adult Education

Rabbi's classes. Discussion about kashrut and its history, intentions, and meaning continues. All are welcome. If you have The Sacred Table by Mary Zamore, do some reading. If you don't have it, come anyway. A review of the book follows; it is quoted from an anonymous reviewer at Amazon.com and will give you an idea of topics being

discussed. Class meets at 10:45 on Sunday, March 25, and Sunday, April 29, and perhaps (still to be decided) May 20 at noon. (No class in February.)

"Written from the Reform (Progressive) Jewish perspective, this thoughtful volume explores the traditions of kashrut and modern ethical concerns about food and food production. The numerous essays cover many topics, all focusing on the sacredness and holiness of food, food production, cooking and eating--daily activities that can link us more closely to the divine. This is not an effort to create or impose a standardized Reform version of kashrut. Rather, the book seeks to provide background, history, information and resources so that individuals can develop their own forms of spiritual and ritual observances about food in a conscientious way. The essays survey the origins and bases of traditional kashrut, the history of kosher observance in the Reform movement (including discussion of the famous treifah banquet of the late 1800s which still has repercussions today), and ethical issues of modern kashrut and food production, including issues of cruelty to animals and the treatment of agricultural and food processing workers. This useful book will spark endless discussions and reflection, which is its purpose. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the spiritual and ethical issues raised by our need to nourish ourselves!"

Torah study. This is an informal discussion group that meets monthly on Saturday mornings, from 10:30 to 12:30. Upcoming dates are: February 18, March 17, April 14, May 12, and June TBA. The group has hard-core members who have participated since 1998, and additions and subtractions over the years. We read Torah in English, using several translations and commentaries, from Rashi to contemporary. All are welcome to participate. If you decide to come, you might be surprised at what you learn and how, not to mention how much fun you may have.

EDUCATION/PTO

On **February 5th** from 9:30 to 12:00 we are planning a Tallit-Making Workshop. This should be a fun time as we create Tallitot and wrap tzitzit together. The 6th -7th grade class and the Confirmation class will participate in this workshop, as well as any member of the congregation wishing to join us to make a Tallit.

On **February 12th** the Hebrew School children will enjoy a TuBishvat seder. There is no Hebrew School on **February 19th** for President's Day. And on **February 26th** we begin to celebrate the upcoming holiday of Purim by making hamantashen.

On **March 4th** we celebrate Purim with the Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel beginning at 9:30, and the Purim Carnival after Hebrew School at 12:00 noon.

Marsha Gross, Education Chair



Tallit-Making Workshop

Make your own tallit. Please join us on Sunday, **February 5, 2012** from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Materials you will need:

Fabric: 36 inches wide by 60 to 70 inches long (cotton works well)
4 packages embroidery yarn (any color(s) you want)
1 spool of matching thread



We **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that you pre-sew your fabric. All you need to do is:

- *Fold the fabric in half lengthwise – right sides together – and pin;
- *Sew around the three sides (one side is the fold) leaving a space of a couple of inches;
- *Turn the tallit so the right side is out;
- *Press (iron) the edges flat; and
- *Sew up the space you left (by hand or machine).

We will tie the tzitzit together.

If there is no possible way you can sew the tallit together before the class, we will have a sewing machine there and will do it for you. In that case, please bring a spool of matching thread for us to use.

If you have any questions, call Marsha Gross at 908-689-8347 or e-mail at marshagross36@verizon.net.

In response to the President's Message: What is a caring community?

The past 2 months I learned firsthand just what a caring community is. I was exactly like the person Howie described: a very private person thinking I should keep my illness to myself so I would not burden others. Also as Howie described, I felt that by asking others to help me it meant that I was not capable of taking care of myself.

Then along with cards and well wishes from temple members, came an offer to help me. After some hesitation I thought, yes I could use some assistance. Rene Marinich proceeded to organize a group of extremely generous, caring, loving women. These women not only brought wonderfully delicious meals to feed our bellies, they brought me their love, good wishes, words of encouragement, hugs and strength.

None of these women are doctors, but all 14 of them brought me their amazing healing powers which managed to lift my spirits each week and for that I am truly grateful. Although I have thanked each of them privately, I wanted to thank them publicly for being the perfect example of a caring community.

Robin Hall

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of

Tracey Bauer, Jeannie Berkowitz, Rita Berkowitz, Debbie Fesinstine, Sharon Herson, Iris Hirsch, Gerri Klein, Diane Margolin, Rene Marinich, Suzi Marr, Barrie McMullen, Jan Romanczyk, Sandy Seidorf, Alison Shelofsky, Doreen Webb

Robin and Colson Hall

In memory of Laurette Pinn

Helen and John Mattson

Purim is A Time for Giving!!!

The Sisterhood is sponsoring the JCNWJ Michloach Minot Fundraiser! Purchase a gift bag for a few or all of your friends at the Temple! All proceeds will go to the installation of a new drainage system so that the building will stay dry during inclement weather. An order form and directions to participate in this special program will be sent to all congregants in the mail. Please submit your order form by February 10, 2012. For more information go to the JCNWJ website at www.jcnwj.org or contact Debbi Longenecker spencellen@earthlink.net or 908-238-1185. Show your Temple family that you care.

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!

DISCOUNTS FOR SHOWS

The discount show offers that we have been keeping on the piano downstairs is being replaced by an online version.

To sign up for the offers, you must join the e-mail list.

To do this, visit: www.schooltix.com

"You don't have to be a student" to use this service.

March Journal Deadline

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

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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Service Location:
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CITY, STATE 54321

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: 0000000000 Invoice number: 000000000000
24-hour customer service and emergencies 1-800-436-2506 (7734)

PSEG Electric

Usage: Meter 0000000000 Charges: Paid ID FE0000113333136/047 Rate: LPLS
Reading: May 3 Delivery
Actual On-Peak Actual Off-Peak Service charge \$705.44

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

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

ELECTRIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICE BILLING DATE 07/22/10

Jul 22 reading (Actual) 1461
Jun 23 reading (Actual) -9035
Total Usage KWH 29 Days 2426

BILLING SUMMARY
ACCOUNT NUMBER 0000-0000
Last Bill \$430.04
Payment - EFT 07/06/10 -430.04

Basic Service Charge \$3.88
Distribution Charges
First 250 KWH @ 4.180¢ each 10.45
Next 2176 KWH @ 4.690¢ each 103.59

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
Total Basic Generation Service 53.10 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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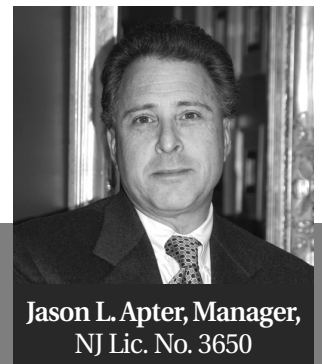
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