

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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March 2012
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 15

Rabbi's Message

There are two empty spaces in the pews of our sanctuary, one in the front where Charlotte sat and one in the back where Eric sat. We shall miss hearing Charlotte read Maftir Yonah on Yom Kippur; we shall miss Eric's blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Their absences are already palpable and will be for some time. The enormity of this great loss to our small congregation is still hard to appreciate.

The very location of Charlotte and Eric's respective sanctuary seats reflects the differences in their personalities. Charlotte liked being front and center, in the thick of the action; Eric preferred being behind the scenes, unobtrusive in his presence. Charlotte basked in the love of her students; Eric dismissed praise and shrugged off gratitude. Yet both came from backgrounds that valued Jewish learning. What they shared was their love of learning Torah and of being part of our Jewish Center.

They have left us with the challenge of how to grieve their loss in a way that is in keeping with their commitment to our temple. We honor them best if we can support the congregation they both loved. Giving tzedakah to the temple represents one traditional way of honoring their memories. We will have time to decide whether that tzedakah should be dedicated to a particular goal. Remembering the importance of the giving of yourself to the ongoing life of the Center is another. Worshipping together as a community is a third way of honoring their memories.

In honoring their memories, we are guided by the words of **Pirke Avot** which tell us Al shloshe devarim ha'olam omed: al ha'torah, al ha'avodah, v'al g'milut chasadim: "The world stands on three things, on Torah, on worship and on deeds of lovingkindness." Eric and Charlotte were committed to living these values. It would make them both happy to think they had inspired us to do the same.

Rabbi's message, continued

In the middle of March, I will be attending the 123rd annual convention of the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) in Boston. The convention theme is Creation, Revelation, Revolution. In honor of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Rabbi Sally Priesand, our Women's Rabbinic Network is offering a pre-convention Yom Limmud (Day of Study) at Mayyim Hayyim: Living Waters Community Mikveh in Newton, Mass. Mayyim Hayyim is a recently-built creative place that describes itself as, "... a threshold into Jewish life—a place where the spiritually diverse needs of 21st century Jews are met by reclaiming the ancient tradition of immersing in the mikveh." It has been too many years since I have attended a CCAR Conference: I promise to return with a full report.

The month of Adar begins Feb. 24 with a familiar phrase: Mishenichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha: When the month of Adar arrives, we should increase our joy. Rashi says that the reason given for increasing joy in Adar is because they were days of miracles for Klal Yisrael, specifically Purim and Pesach. (Rashi) Why mention Pesach when it doesn't occur until next month, the month of Nisan? One commentator says it is to teach us that, "Purim isn't a one-time miracle that was performed like Chanukah, rather it ushers in an era of Geulah and redemption, beginning with Adar and running through Pesach." We are entering a season marked by hope and deliverance. Despite – or perhaps because of– our feelings of sadness, we pray that our joy increase.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis



President's Message

This is going to be one of the hardest columns I have ever written. When I left for California to celebrate my father's birthday, little did I know what would happen while I was away. The passing of both Charlotte Fels and Eric Edelstein has left a giant hole in my heart. Charlotte and I had the pleasure of teaching adults to read Hebrew over the last four years. This experience has changed my life, as it was my first "real" teaching experience. Charlotte taught me that slow progress is still progress, and that learning is never a straight line from point a to point b. I learned that each student learns at a different pace and that some students need a gentle pat on the back and some need a little more prodding and encouraging. But the main thing that I learned from Charlotte was that you can teach and learn at the same time. I thought Charlotte and I made a very good team, because I was able to assist the class with the actual reading, and Charlotte was the one who could make the words come to life and give them meaning. I am going to miss my time spent with Charlotte and we will always have her always stimulating reading of Jonah to remember her by.

The loss of Eric, on the other hand, was a complete shock to our community. Eric was an extremely private man, but was one of the most knowledgeable people in the

congregation in regards to Torah and Hebrew learning. On the days when I made it to Torah Study, Eric always had a fresh perspective, but he also loved to quote Rashi while discussing almost any topic. Eric did many things for the temple, but was a humble man and always requested that his contributions remain anonymous. Eric was our caller for the Shofar service for many years, and when our Shofar blower left the congregation, Eric took over the responsibility of blowing the Shofar at the high holidays. Eric was a proud man, and was embarrassed one year when he had issues blowing the shofar. After Yom Kippur, Eric took his shofar home and discovered that there was an actual bug in the shofar, and that was why he was having difficulty. I have had the pleasure of calling the shofar calls for Eric for the past few years, and I was always proud to have him on the bimah performing this mitzvah. My remembrances of Eric will be those of him being the ultimate “mitzvah man”. As I look towards the rear of the sanctuary during services, I will still feel Eric’s presence in the back row.

Charlotte and Eric, may you rest in peace.

You will be missed.

I love you both, Howie

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 4 9:30 a.m. Purim service (Megillah reading) and Purim spiel
9:30 a.m. Confirmation
Noon Purim carnival.

Monday, March 5 7:30 p.m. Board meeting

Friday, March 9 6 p.m. Shabbat across America: Eat—Pray—Eat
Oneg: Gerri Klein

Saturday, March 10 10 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Hutt

Sunday, March 11 9:30 a.m. Sunday school (music)
9:30 a.m. Sisterhood meeting

Saturday March 17 10:30 a.m. Torah study

Sunday March 18 9:30 a.m. Sunday school
9:30 a.m. PTO
10:45 a.m. Adult Ed

Sunday March 25 9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school (Passover craft)

Friday March 30 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
Oneg: R. Berkowitz, Melon, J&K Schaffer, Baeck, Herson/Fleckles

Worship Services

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](https://www.amazon.com) and will give you an idea of topics being discussed. Class meets at 10:45 on Sunday, March 18, 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: March 18. 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

We celebrate Purim on **March 4th** beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel. Then at 12:00 noon we continue our Purim celebration with our annual Purim Carnival. **KIDS SHOULD COME IN COSTUME!!** There will be a costume contest, along with games and activities for the kids, baked goods, theme baskets, and much more! **Thank you to our Hebrew School families and everyone else who donated items for our Purim Carnival. We really appreciate it.**

We have a PTO meeting on **March 18th**. On **March 25th** the Hebrew School kids will get creative with our Passover/Spring Craft project. **April 1st** is our Model Passover seder and there is no Hebrew School on **April 8th** as we observe Passover with our families.

Marsha Gross – Education Chair

Annual Talent Show

Join us for our Annual
Purim Carnival



Anyone who who like to perform in this year's show please see Mrs. Mattson on March 4th during the Purim Carnival. All ages are welcome.

The talent show will take place on March 31 at 7:00 p.m. Come see great performances and enjoy great snacks afterwards.

Games ~ Raffles ~ Refreshments
Great Raffle Items!!

Costume Contest

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Genevieve Sage Melon, to Jennifer and David Melon of Hilliard, OH

In memory of Charlotte Fels
Nancy and Bernard Robins
Deborah Longenecker
Ruth and Ira Melon
Gwen and Ed Nagorsky
Rona and Stan Schick
Diane Margolin and Mike Weiner

In memory of Rebecca Goldenthal
Bernard Robins

In memory of Tillie Ratzman
Steven J. Ratzman

In loving memory of Eric Edelstein
Ruth and Ira Melon
Rona and Stan Schick
Diane Margolin and Mike Weiner

In memory of Edward Lewis
Rabbi Ellen Lewis



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.

April Journal Deadline

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



— Learning Is For Everyone —

JEWISH LIFE SPECIAL MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE BEST SELLING AUTHOR MYLA GOLDBERG, COKIE & STEVE ROBERTS AND STEVEN KUSSIN

Jewish LIFE kicks off March with Myla Goldberg, author of *The False Friend* at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater. This novel by the author of the best seller, *Bee Season*, is a complex psychological drama of two eleven-year-olds who go into the woods, but only one comes out. The one friend, Djuna disappeared, and for twenty years the other friend, Celia blocked out how it happened. People assumed Djuna had been abducted, however, no clues were found. Celia returns to her home town to confess the details of the incident and to clear her conscience, however, no one believes her. The fee for the program, which includes lunch, is \$18/person in advance or \$22 at the door. This program is co-sponsored by Temple Beth El, Somerset Sisterhood and the Brandeis National Committee, Somerset Chapter.

Cokie and Steve Roberts will present *Our Haggadah: Uniting Traditions For Interfaith Families* The Roberts will share their Passover traditions in an engaging version of the Haggadah Sunday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Birnbaum JCC. They believe friend and family coming together and celebrating our freedom is the very heart of the Passover holiday. Integrating chronicles of their own marriage and family life, and partially a contemporary guide to celebrating Passover and other religious holidays, *Our Haddagah* is a thoughtful, moving take on the core values of togetherness, compromise and love. The fee for the program which includes breakfast is \$18/person in advance or \$22/person at the door. This program is co-sponsored by the Brandeis National Committee, Somerset Chapter.

Steven Kussin will be discussing his new book *Doctor, Your Patient Will See You Now: Gaining the Upper Hand in Your Medical Care*, Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. hosted at the Wilf Campus, 350 Demott Lane in Somerset. Steven Kussin will explain ways to encourage people to become empowered consumers in the medical world. Incorporating a physician-insider's perspective of the medical world, *Doctor Your Patient Will See You Now*, promotes the reader's independence, health literacy, consumerism, self advocacy and provides a sense of confidence to back it all up. The fee for the program is \$10/person in advance or \$15/person at the door.

The final Jewish LIFE program of the season will be the Community Wide Yom Hashoah Program featuring Felice Cohen, author of *What Papa Told Me*, Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. hosted by Temple Beth El in Somerset.

To register for all Jewish LIFE programs, please call the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201. For additional information, contact Laura Friedman, JCC Associate Executive Director at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@ssbjcc.org. Jewish LIFE also offers courses taught by Rabbis at the participating synagogues. For a complete listing, go to www.ssbjcc.org to view the Jewish LIFE brochure.

To register for programs, to become a Jewish LIFE Benefactor or Sponsor, and for further information, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center at 908-725-6994 x201;

LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

* * * *

Jewish LIFE Media Contact: Debbie Golden, Special Projects & Marketing Director
Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 908-725-6994 x210;



Dear URJ Community Leaders,

Registration for the Summer 2012 season of Taglit-Birthright Israel trips with URJ Kesher is OPEN at <http://www.gokesher.org>.

Give VIP Trip Selection Status in Your Community

If a member of your community is eligible for the Taglit-Birthright Israel gift, we will make sure that their application is handled with *priority status* so long as they sign-up with URJ Kesher.

Registration for summer trips will only be open for a few days. Please encourage eligible applicants to complete their registration with URJ Kesher today!

To refer a member of your community, simply respond to this email (info@gokesher.org), and let us know the name of the person who should receive priority status. Please make sure that the applicants you refer know to select URJ Kesher as their trip organizer by starting their application at www.gokesher.org

Thank you for helping us make sure URJ has the strongest possible Taglit-Birthright Israel delegation yet!

URJ Kesher Team
info@gokesher.org

POST THIS MESSAGE TODAY!

Registration for Taglit-Birthright Israel trips is now OPEN! Register today to get on a Summer 2012 trip with URJ Kesher at www.gokesher.org



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CUSTOMER NAME
1234 STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 54321

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 Account number 0000000000 Invoice number: 00000000000000000000 Page 3 of 3
24-hour customer service and emergencies 1-800-436-2506 (7734)

PSEG Electric

Usage: Meter 0000000000 Charges: Paid D FE0000113333136/247 Rate: LPLS
Reading May 3 Delivery
Actual Or Peak Service charge \$705.44

Orange & Rockland 390 West Route 59 Spring Valley NY 10977-5300 Page 1 of 2
Pike County Light & Power Co. 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
Rest 2176 KWH @ 4.890¢ each 106.59

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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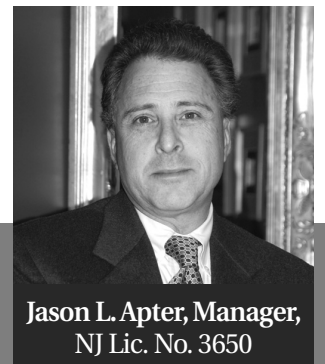
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