

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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

April 2012
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Rabbi's Message

I walked up to the registration desk at the 123rd annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. This was the first CCAR Conference (other than the atypical Jerusalem Conference in 2009) I had attended since San Diego in 2006. I learned quickly how things have changed. "There is an app for the convention schedule," said the pleasant young man who processed my registration. "I don't have a smart phone," I replied. He looked at me (was that pity in his eyes?) and handed me a printed program schedule.

This convention only contributed to my sense of inevitability that a smart phone – or at least an ipad – lie within the near future. There will simply be no choice. At this convention, text materials referred to by speakers were flashed up on large screens or downloaded onto ipads and iphones. Mishkan Tefila has its own app so you didn't need to hold a prayer book in your hands if you had your ipad. While I was taking notes on paper pads, the people sitting next to me were taking notes on their ipads (I also noticed colleagues – not to be named – who were checking Facebook during speakers and services).

I don't consider myself a Luddite; I am not opposed to technological change. I just like to make judicious use of these changes. I don't get my email on my cell phone because I am usually near my desk top computer. I don't give out my cell phone number because I am usually near a land line. I don't tweet because I don't think my minute-to-minute thoughts are all that special that they need to be shared. And yet I see the value in reaching congregants, especially those under the age of 30, through Facebook (nope, don't do that either). I see how technology can be used to support teaching and enhance worship. I am pleased that I can get rid of my old tape recorders because I can make and email mp3s of Torah portions on my computer. And I do think that having computers in our classrooms would allow for wider curricular possibilities.

These amazing technological changes do not obscure the deeper issues of our CCAR conferences. We are always concerned with the spiritual and practical welfare of the Jewish people. We are also concerned with our own spiritual practice and quality of life as rabbis. This year, I attended the Conference for three particular reasons:

Rabbi's message, continued

First, I was invited to a special meeting for “Coaches,” a loose term for professional consultants, lawyers, spiritual directors, and therapists/supervisors (that was the hat I wore) who work to help rabbinic colleagues have successful and meaningful rabbinate. We talked about the challenges that face rabbis and how we can offer professional support. At these conferences, rabbis can sign up for pro bono 30 minute consultations with any of these coaches and can decide whether they want to establish ongoing working relationships with those people.

Second, I also sit on a five-person Board of Appeals for colleagues who have been charged with violations of our ethics code. We are the final court of appeal for colleagues whom the CCAR Ethics Committee has recommended for censure, suspension or expulsion from the CCAR. We usually meet on the phone but were able to meet in person at this conference. While there are times I find myself wondering why on earth I said yes to this position (both because of the time involved and also because of the pain of the process), at the same time I understand the importance of the process and the honor of being asked to serve.

Third, this year marked the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Reform rabbinate. We celebrated with the CCAR at large and within our Women's Rabbinic Network. For the moment, I can answer a question I usually can't answer: the answer is 611. The question is, how many women rabbis have been ordained by the Reform movement since 1972. (Don't ask me to answer this after June when a new class will have been ordained.)

When I attended my first CCAR convention in 1980, the registrars directed all us women rabbis to the “wives' line.” Now these conferences are fully integrated male and female and representative of our membership. The Old Boys' Club and the smoke-filled rooms are long gone. The CCAR is a more inclusive welcoming place, a place to catch up with old friends and meet the newer ordinees. That is the best learning of all; no matter how advanced we get technologically, no app will ever replace time spent with old friends.

As I write on the eve of the month of Nisan, I pray that your Pesach celebration be filled with fluffy matza balls, love, laughter and personal redemption.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis



President's Message

A few weeks ago, I sent out an e-mail informing you of a special congregational meeting in which I told you that the Board of Trustees is asking for the congregation's approval for the purchase of a lightweight Torah for our sanctuary. In the 7 years that I have been president of this congregation, this is only the second special meeting that I have called. The first one was for the approval of the lift in our building. So you can see that I do not take this lightly. I sincerely ask you to make every effort to attend this meeting on Sunday April 15th at 10:30 AM.

In discussions with the board, one of our board members found that one of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah is that every Jew is commanded to write a Torah during their lifetime. Since I do not think that all members will actually write an entire Torah themselves, contributing to the purchase of a Torah will fulfill this mitzvot.

One of the things that I love about our congregation is that we have never had anything in the sanctuary that shows that different people contribute different amounts, such as gold, silver and bronze level contributors. So in keeping with this tradition, I ask you to be as generous as you can with this fund raising effort. This is the first and maybe the only time in my life that I will be able to perform this mitzvot, so I intend to take this seriously. I would like to see 100% participation in raising the money to purchase this Torah. This is a community effort and I need everyone in the community to participate. Please don't let me down.

I look forward to seeing you on April 15th.

Love, Howie



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 1	9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school 10:30 a.m. Model Seder
Monday, April 2	7:30 p.m. Board meeting
Wednesday, April 4	Cantor Elana Senior Recital in New York, see details below
Sunday, April 8	No school
Fri.-Sat. April 13-14	Sisterhood retreat
Saturday, April 14	10:30 a.m. Torah Study
Sunday, April 15	9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school (music) 9:30 a.m. PTO meeting 10:30 a.m. Confirmation

10:30 a.m. Congregational meeting

Friday, April 20 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
Oneg: Koch, Fenton, Simons, Kestecher, K & J Schaffer

Sunday, April 22 9:30 a.m. Sunday school
 9:30 a.m. Sisterhood meeting
 11:00 a.m. Yom HaShoah Service

Sunday, April 29 9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school (Yom
 Ha'atzmaut/Israel breakfast)

Education/PTO

Spring is Here! April 1st is our Model Passover seder for our Hebrew School students, and there is no Hebrew School on April 8th as we celebrate Passover with our families. The confirmation class meets on April 15th. Yom HaShoah will be observed on April 22nd. The Sunday School students will celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut on April 29th with an Israeli Breakfast.

Marsha Gross, Education Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cantor Elana will be giving her senior recital at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City on Wednesday, April 4, at 10:45 a.m. (The concert will be about an hour or so.) She has invited all of us to attend this milestone event. No tickets or rsvp necessary. If you plan to go, try to get there by 10:30. Bring picture I.D. as you will be checked at the door. The address is: 1 West 4th Street, NY, NY 10012. [212-674-5300 HUC–JIR]

YOM HA SHOAH Commemoration. Sunday, April 22, 11 a.m. The film "THE SECOND GENERATION: Ripples from the Holocaust" will be shown as part of the JCNWJ's Holocaust commemoration. Harry Hillard, who directed the film, will be our guest speaker on that day. The documentary—which includes interviews, personal family photographs, and archival footage—features several New Jersey residents who are children of Holocaust survivors. Those who were interviewed are active members of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at RVCC. The

production is sponsored by the College's Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties. See the Jewish Life flyer later in newsletter for more details about the film that will be shown here on April 22nd.

Friday, May 18, 8 p.m. During or after the Friday night service (details to come next month), the congregation will be treated to a concert of Jewish music by Cantor Elana Rosen-Brown, followed by a special Oneg Shabbat in her honor. Cantor Elana will be ordained in early May, and the weekend of May 18-20 will be her last official one with us. Save the date and come and say shalom at this mutual tribute.

Friday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m. The congregation will honor Rabbi Lewis on this special weekend with a Shabbaton celebrating her EIGHTEENTH (chai) year with the JCNWJ. Friday night and Saturday morning will be services led by Rabbi Lewis. There will be a guest speaker at one or both services. At the Saturday morning service, the new lightweight Torah will be presented to the congregation in honor of Rabbi Lewis and in memory of Charlotte Fels and Eric Edelstein. A special Oneg Shabbat in Rabbi's honor will follow the Friday night service, and a luncheon, also in her honor, will follow the Saturday morning service. SAVE THE DATES and don't forget to RSVP for the luncheon to Jeannie Berkowitz (invitations will be mailed in early April).

High Holy Days 2012. Any adult member who would like to read Torah on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur should contact Sharon Herson by June 15, 2012 (sharonherson@comcast.net). If you have read Torah in the past, please confirm that you will read your assigned passage again in the fall; if you are unable to read next fall, please contact Sharon so that a replacement can be found. Thank you in advance. The Ritual Committee will be assigning honors for the High Holy Days in LATE JUNE.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of Sabrina Hutt becoming a bat mitzvah

The Parilis Family

In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah class of 5772

The Gross Family

In memory of Eric Edelstein

**Nancy and Bernie Robins
Rhonda Jordan
Judy and Paul May
Joan Chase
Freda Reinhold
Martha and Jack Needleman
Ed, Roseann, and Sarah Weinstein
Marsha Gross**

In memory of Rose Schutzban

Ruth and Howard Schutzbank

In memory of H. Wayne Bardy

Laverne Bardy

In memory of my father, Jules Katz

Marsha Gross

In memory of Helen and Henry Steinhardt

Lawrence Steinhardt

In memory of Pauline Schick

Rona and Stanley Schick

In memory of Arthur Tarlowe

Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In memory of Gertrude Post and Adolph Goldner

Laurie Post and Steven Goldner and Family

In memory of Charlotte Fels

**Rhonda Jordan
Ed, Roseann, Sarah, Weinstein
Martha and Jack Needleman
Marsha Gross**

In memory of my father, Harry Siegel

Rhonda Jordan

In memory of Lillian Jay and Theodore Jay, Jr.

Rabbi Ellen Lewis

Dear Friends at the JCNWJ:

I was shocked and saddened to learn of Eric's tragic accident and death. Enclosed is a memorial donation in his memory. I miss all my friends at the Center. I read the Journal with interest, and hope to visit at shul sometime soon. Thanks to all who wrote and called when I was recovering from surgery.

Best wishes, Joan Chase

THANK YOU to Bernie Robins for his donation of the multivolume Babylonian Talmud. This valuable set is now living on a bookshelf in the second-grade classroom and is available to all for reading in that room.

THANK YOU to Lynne Kowski for purchasing and donating the film "THE SECOND GENERATION: Ripples from the Holocaust," which will be shown at our Yom HaShoah commemoration on Sunday, April 22, at 11 a.m. See details under UPCOMING EVENTS.

THANK YOU to Lois Goldberg and Jeannie Berkowitz for ensuring the success of the Shabbat across America dinner. Thanks to everyone who participated and brought such delicious dishes.

Dear Temple Community,

It is with so much love that I write to you today. I could not imagine a more wonderful or meaningful place to celebrate Sabrina's Bat Mitzvah than the Jewish Center. The last few years have been truly wonderful, and we knew the Temple was special the very first day of Hebrew School for Sabrina, as we felt welcome from the start, as well as James and his boys.

My family loved the Shabbat Across America dinner, and all commented on how special the Temple is, and the people. I loved watching Sabrina on the Bima with Rabbi Lewis, Cantor Elana and Howie. Whether or not you were there that day, all of you have touched us with your kindness in some special way, and helped to make Sabrina comfortable for her big day. You are all an important part of her community. I don't know which of us will miss our weekly sessions more with Helen!!

I would like to say a very special thank you to Sabrina's class. Unless she really wasn't feeling well, she got up every Sunday morning to attend Hebrew School. Sabrina says if you look up "perfect" in the dictionary, her class would be the definition. Thank You for being there to help celebrate with us. Gracie, we missed you, sorry you were ill, and look forward to your upcoming Bat Mitzvah!

Last, but absolutely not least, thanks to the wonderful Jeannie B. Sabrina got to have her dream party! Jeannie really outdid herself and I know several people were asking for recipes!!

All the best,
Gerri and Sabrina

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 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: 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.

Sisterhood Retreat with Rabbi Lewis

**Join your sisters for a week-end of
Reflection, Relaxation and Friendship**

Friday and Saturday, April 13th & 14th

**Can't stay overnight, come Saturday for part or all of the
day**

**For more information email Jeannie Berkowitz at
berkowitz18013@yahoo.com**

JCNWJ Sisterhood offers

Gentle Yoga Classes

Led by student instructor Diane Margolin

Join us on four consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30pm in the temple basement starting on April 3, 2012. Adult temple members (13+years) interested in learning about yoga, breathing, and simple meditation are welcome. Classes will be very basic and geared toward increasing mobility, strength, and piece of mind. Anyone under 17 must bring a parent with them.

You need not commit to the full 4 sessions and you may start any week. Wear comfortable clothing, bring water, and be ready to start at 6:30. If possible, also bring a yoga mat (not a squishy exercise mat) and a men's necktie (old).

There is no cost for this program. Please RSVP and direct any questions to Diane Margolin at dimike1@comcast.net or 908 637 6028.

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 May issue is April 19, 2012. Please email articles, ideas or news items to Journal Editor, Barbara Simons at bjbs@comcast.net



The JCNWJ Sisterhood Invites You to Join Us for

Jewish Heritage Walking Tour of Delancey Street in New York City

Highlights Include:

- Gus's pickles
 - Forward Building
 - Tenement Museum
 - Mikveh
 - Henry Street Settlement
-
- America's Oldest Park
 - America's Oldest Synagogue
 - Dinner at Noah's Ark Deli



When: May 6, 2012

Time: 12:30pm from Temple

Lunch: Bring Bag Lunch to Eat on the Bus

Cost: \$36.00 per person (does not include dinner)

RSVP by April 22, 2012 to: Iris Hirsch at irishirsch@comcast.net

Please mail your check, made out to "JCNWJ" to
Iris Hirsch, 52 Russling Road Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Make Sure to Bring the Kids!

My Mitzvah Project

As part of my Mitzvah Project I am collecting items to support the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. They helped my family when my brother, Max, was in Al duPont Children's hospital a couple of years ago for his back surgery, and I would like to help them now. I will be collecting items from their Wish List (a few suggestions are below) and delivering them to the Ronald McDonald house at the end of the Summer. If you would like to donate any of the items below, it would be greatly appreciated. **There will be a box in the lobby of the Jewish Center during the month of April 2012.** For more items on their Wish List you can go to www.rmhde.org/Wish-List/.

I will also be collecting Pop Tabs. The little tab you pull to open your soda, soup or any other aluminum can makes a significant impact on the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. The House recycles the tabs to generate funds to offset general operating costs. If you have any Pop Tabs you would like to donate to the Ronald McDonald House, you can leave them in the box in the lobby of the Jewish Center. They collect the tab instead of the can because there is more aluminum in just the tab than in the whole can ... and it takes up much less space.

Wish List Items:

Kitchen Items

- 1 or 2 gallon freezer bags
- Paper Towels
- Aluminum foil
- Napkins
- Plastic Wrap

Cleaning Supplies

- Fabric softener sheets
- Disinfectant cleaner - Lysol
- Soft Scrub
- Disinfectant wipes
- Mr. Clean Magic Eraser
- Febreze
- Scouring sponges

Additional Items

- Facial tissues
- Hair brushes
- Dust pan and brush
- New Toys - small - Barbies, trucks, games (no stuffed animals)
- New DVD Movies rated G or PG



Thank you for your support and for donating to the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware.

Heather Gross



Jewish LIFE

special events

**New
Date**

Tuesday, April 10

The Second Generation...

Tuesday, April 10 • 7:00 PM

Free to the Community

Please RSVP by calling 908-725-6994 x201

Hosted by Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC

(775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater)



"I don't believe I have ever seen a better film on the subject...It should be part of every Holocaust center's collection..."

Dr. William L. Shulman

"Ripples from the Holocaust"

A Documentary Film followed by panel discussion including several local community members featured in the film.

Building on dramatic interviews, powerful archival footage and first-hand accounts of the Holocaust. "The Second Generation" explores the difficulties and challenges of growing up as children of Holocaust Survivors. The rippling effects of their parents' trauma impacted the Second Generation. Many of them feel as though they are "replacements" for lost family members-sometimes losing their own identities. Others feel a need to protect their parents. This film stands as a testament to the resiliency of the Second Generation who, despite being raised by parents who were so ill-equipped to be parents, are accomplished adults-dedicated to Sharing The Legacy by ensuring that their parents' stories are never forgotten.

Co-Sponsored with Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties and the Institute For Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Raritan Valley Community College.

Program
Presented By:



Jewish LIFE

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Everyone

To register, please call the JCC
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e-mail: info@ssbjcc.org

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Our organization will receive an initial bonus of \$5,000 when we enroll 500 customers! Plus we'll earn up to \$2 every month for every customer we refer to Viridian Energy. Go green for less money and feel great about making a difference. Sign up today!

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2. **Call our Viridian representative at 908-689-0762**



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



atlantic city electric G2PD 200042845

PAGE 2
Account Number:
####

CUSTOMER NAME
1234 STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 54321

Service Location:
1234 STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 54321

Electric Meter Information
Meter Number 26421908

Current Meter Reading, May 11 (actual) 048857
Last Meter Reading, Apr 12 (actual) 047810

PSEG April 2010 Page 3 of 3

Account number 0000000000 meter number: 0000000000
24-hour customer service and emergencies 1-800-436-7506 (7734)

PSEG Electric

Usage: Meter 0000000000 Charges: P2D D FE332211333136/247 Rate: LPLS

Reading: May 3 Delivery

Actual On-Peak: 2534 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

last 22 reading (Actual) 1401
on 23 reading (Actual) -0005
Total Usage KWH 20 Days 2426

BILLING SUMMARY
ACCOUNT NUMBER 0000-0000

Basic Service Charge \$3.66 Last Bill \$430.04

Distribution Charges Payment - EFT 07/06/10 -430.04

last 250 KWH @ 4.100¢ each 10.45
last 2126 KWH @ 4.650¢ each 105.59

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: 0803506442 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

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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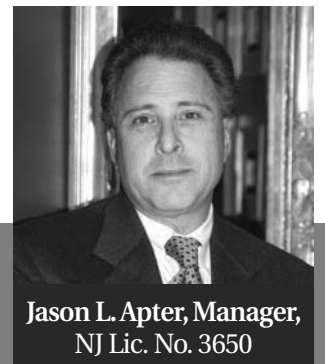
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Jason L. Apter, Manager,
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