

Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey



Journal



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

May 2012
Vol. XXXVII, Issue 17

Rabbi's Message

Sometimes I feel a sense of helplessness about teaching Israel. It isn't about the Israeli government or its politics; we could debate Israeli politics forever and it wouldn't bother me. It is about how you teach love of a country you have never visited yourself. It is about how you convey the feeling you get when you at last find yourself in what Theodor Herzl referred to as the Altneueland, the "old new land." It is about how to impart what the country smells like when the orange trees are in blossom. It is about how to help American Jews feel connected to Israel in a deep way, not through what you read in the newspapers or see on television, but through what you feel in your heart.

As we get further and further from Israel's birth 64 years ago, it is too easy to focus on Israel's impossible political situation and forget that Israel is a modern miracle. Israeli Independence Day Yom HaAtzmaut is a moment in which we stop and celebrate that miracle. The Israeli humorist Ephraim Kishon once wrote, "Israel is a land in which they don't hope for miracles; they expect them." The miracle of modern Israel is no accident. It is a result of hard work and defiant faith.

Sixty-four years ago, it wasn't clear what was to happen to the remnant of European Jews who had survived the Holocaust. The United Nations Commission on the Partition of Palestine met and debated their fate. It fell to David ben Gurion to go before the Commission and persuade them of the need for a modern Jewish state. How could Ben Gurion help the Commission understand that Israel had always been our home even when we lived dispersed to the four corners of the earth. Israel remained the heart of the Jewish people no matter where we lived and prayed.

Ben Gurion's appearance before the Commission happened right before Passover. He worried about how to anticipate the objections of the British and the Americans before whom he would appear. This is what he said:

"Three hundred years ago, a ship called the Mayflower set sail to the New World. This was a great event in the history of the English. Yet I wonder if there is one Englishman who knows at what time the ship set sail? Do the English know how many people embarked on this voyage? What quality of bread did they eat? Yet more than three thousand three hundred years ago, before the Mayflower set sail, the Jews left Egypt. Every Jew in the

Rabbi's Message, continued

world, even in America or Soviet Russia, knows exactly on what day they left the 15th of Nisan. Everyone knows what kind of bread the Jews ate. Even today, the Jews worldwide eat matzah on the 15th of Nisan. They retell the story of the exodus and all the troubles Jews have endured since being exiled. They conclude this evening with two statements: this year, slaves, next year free. Next year in Jerusalem, in Zion, in Eretz Yisrael. That is the nature of the Jews."

Was it the impact of Ben Gurion's words that led the Commission to the Partition Plan? We will never know. We just know that, with the establishment of Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel, we who had spent most of history under the control of others once again began to control our own lives, politics, and religious activities. For the first time since antiquity, Jewish religious leaders had the opportunity to compose a prayer for the Jewish leaders of a Jewish state.

That prayer was not in the prayerbook we used previously but it appears in edited form in the new prayerbook of the Reform Movement. Last week, Cantor Elana sang one version with us during Shabbat services. The authorship of the prayer is unclear. Some say Chief Rabbis Yitzhak Herzog and Ben Zion Uziel wrote the words in the 1940's with the assistance of other rabbis. Others say those rabbis revised the prayer utilizing suggestions made by a pioneer of modern Hebrew literature, Shmuel Yosef Agnon. Still others claim that Agnon wrote the prayer himself and that it was later adopted by the Chief Rabbinate. The origins of the prayer matter less than the meaning of its words, which remain as fitting today as when they were first composed.

Avinu Shebashamayim,

O heavenly One, Protector and Redeemer of Israel,

bless the State of Israel which marks the dawning of hope for all who seek peace.

Shield it beneath the wings of Your love; spread over it the canopy of Your

Peace; send Your light and truth to all who lead and advise, guiding them with Your good counsel.

Establish peace in the land and fullness of joy for all who dwell there. Amen.

Rabbi Ellen J Lewis



President's Message

If you aren't excited about our temple, you simply are not paying attention. Last weekend we had a special congregational meeting to discuss and approve the purchase of a new lightweight Torah in honor of Rabbi Lewi's 18th year with us. We are also using the occasion to honor the memories of two of our most consistent Torah learners and teachers, Eric Edelstein and Charlotte Fels. The enthusiasm at this meeting was contagious. We discussed a few issues surrounding the purchase, and then voted unanimously to purchase the Torah. We have 2 B'Nai Mitzvahs upcoming this spring. The Sisterhood is sponsoring a tour of "Walking Delancey Street" in New York City on May 6th with a late lunch at Noah's Ark Deli. We will have our own newly ordained "Cantor" Elana Rosen-Brown leading us in song at Shabbat services on May 18th. We have Cantor Daniel Pincus teaching a class on shofar blowing. We do need folks to blow the shofar on the high holidays, confirmation students are especially welcome. This event is in memory of our long time shofarist Eric Edelstein. We have our general congregational meeting on June 10th.. And to top it all off, we are thrilled to be celebrating Rabbi Lewis's Chai year with us during Shabbat service on June 22st and a special Saturday morning service followed by a luncheon on the 23nd.

I realize you could read this in the calendar section of this newsletter, but I just wanted to remind everyone of what a thriving Jewish community we have here in rural Warren County, and how proud I am of the board of trustees for making the Jewish Center of Northwest Jersey a place I am glad to call home.

Love Howie

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, May 4	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services
Oneg:	The Gross Family
Saturday, May 5	10:00 a.m. Bat mitzvah Heather Gross
Sunday, May 6	9:30 a.m. Sunday school (music)
	9:30 a.m. PTO meeting
	12:30 p.m. Delancey Street bus leaves from temple
Monday, May 7	7:30 P.M. Board meeting
Saturday, May 12	10:30 a.m. Torah study
Sunday, May 13	No Sunday school
Friday, May 18	7:30 p.m. Shabbat services
Oneg:	Knobelman, Nagorsky, Orenstein, Tarlowe, Webb

Sunday, May 20	9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school (music) 9:30 a.m. Sisterhood meeting 10:30 a.m. Confirmation (details below) 12:00 p.m to 2:30 p.m. Shofar workshop
Friday, June 1 Oneg:	7:30 p.m. Shabbat services Margolis, Goldberg, Wilson, R&J Berkowitz, Yanow
Sunday, June 3	9:30 a.m. K/1 Sunday school Confirmation followed by lunch for all attendees
Sunday June 10	9:30 a.m. Congregational Annual Meeting
Friday, June 15 Oneg:	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service The Marr Family
Saturday, June 16	10:00 a.m. Bat mitzvah Grace Marr
Friday, June 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbaton service part I
Saturday, June 23	Saturday morning Shabbaton, part II followed by luncheon

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Shabbat Service/Concert on May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Please join us on Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. for a festive Shabbat concert to celebrate Cantor Elana's last weekend with us at JCNWJ. Cantor Elana (a full cantor as of her ordination on May 6) will be accompanied by pianist Shinae Kim to bring us new melodies and present some of her favorite cantorial works on the themes of Shabbat joy, love, rest, celebration, and contemplation. The music will include songs in Yiddish, traditional chazzanut, and Israeli art song, as well as songs that we know and love at JCNWJ. There will be plenty of opportunity to sing and celebrate together. We look forward to seeing you there! An Oneg Shabbat with delicious delicacies will follow.

Shofaron in Memory of Eric Edelstein on May 20, 12:00 noon–2:30 p.m.

Led by Cantor Daniel Pincus, we/you will learn how to blow the shofar. In this first session, ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED to hear Cantor Pincus's introductory remarks about the history of the shofar and to remain to watch the teaching session, if they choose. Cantor Pincus will bring extra shofars so that every active participant will have one on which to learn. There will be no shofars for sale on that day. We will provide options and information about where to purchase one.

Light lunch will be available for observers and participants. Please contact Sharon Herson if you will be staying for the lecture portion of the session and will want lunch.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE THIS DATE because your child is graduating from college on that weekend, you will be able to watch this session on video and then participate in the follow-up teaching sessions that will be held live via video conference. Cantor Pincus will return for a final in-person session in early September. ALL ATTENDEES: Please bring your calendar so that the in-between and final sessions can be scheduled.

Shabbaton in Honor of Rabbi Ellen Jay Lewis, June 22-23

What do we mean by a Shabbaton? A special time set apart to honor and celebrate someone, in this case, Rabbi Lewis, through prayer, ritual, song, study, and food. On Friday night (part I), the service will include music by Cantor Elana and sermon by Rabbi Mindy Portnoy; this will be followed by a singularly delicious Oneg. On Saturday morning, Rabbi Lewis will again lead the service (more details in the next newsletter about this). You all received an invitation to the luncheon following the service; the menu is top secret, but the “caterer” is our own Jeannie B., so you know how fantastic it will be. The luncheon is open to all members (adults and children) and invited guests, but a plate requires an RSVP to Jeannie Berkowitz by May 15. We must know how many people to prepare for.

Report on General Meeting of April 15

At the meeting, led by President Howie Hirsch, the question of whether to spend up to \$25,000 for a restored, lightweight Torah (including Torah covers, yad, etc.) was discussed and voted upon. More than thirty members were present, and the question passed unanimously. Treasurer Paul May reported that about \$12,000 had already been received or pledged. Purchase of the new Torah is in honor of the completion of Rabbi Lewis’s 18 years with us, and also to honor the memory of Charlotte Fels and Eric Edelstein. Since not everyone attended this meeting, it is worth repeating that one of the 613 mitzvot is for every Jew to write a Torah scroll—and given that is something most of us cannot do, helping to pay for a Torah counts in its stead. [DONATE WHAT YOU CAN! WE WANT 100% PARTICIPATION!](#) We do plan to have a symbolic Torah writing, still to be scheduled, during which members in good standing may, with guidance, write a single letter or portion thereof.

Reminder

All members (adults and children) are welcome and are encouraged to attend all b’nai mitvah services. There are two remaining this year: Heather Gross on May 5 and Grace Marr on June 15.

Adult Education

Torah study. This is an informal discussion group that meets monthly on Saturday mornings, from 10:30 to 12:30. Upcoming dates are: 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In Honor of Sabrina Hutt's Bat Mitzvah
Helen and John Mattson

In Honor of the B'nai Mitzvah Class of 5772
Marsha Gross

In Honor of Judy and Paul May's family trip to Israel
Edythe Herson

Simcha Leaf dedicated in honor of Heather Gross
Helen and John Mattson

In Memory of Eric Edelstein

Teri Stanton
Tracey and Mo Bauer
Helen and John Mattson
Edythe Herson

Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
Lehigh Valley Square & Round Dance Club

Please accept this donation in memory of Eric Edelstein, our friend and fellow square dancer. We danced with Eric for many years and truly enjoyed his friendship. Eric was a true gentleman and a gentle man.

In Memory of Marvin M. Leiter
The Sonzogni Family

In Memory of Fannie Garfinkel
Jan Romanczyk

In Memory of Charlotte Fels
Teri Stanton
Tracey and Mo Bauer
Helen and John Mattson
Edythe Herson
Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles
Eleanor Alper

In Memory of Lonnie Bier
Sharon Herson and Daniel Fleckles

In Memory of Herbert E. Shifrin and Norma Jasper Shifrin
Laura and Paul Tarlowe

In Memory of Sara L. Wurst
Carol and Marvin Eisenberg

In Memory of Saul Schutzbank
Ruther and Howard Schutzbank



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Rene Marinich
Helen and John Mattson
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Mercedes and Kenneth Weiland
Roseann and Edward Weinstein
Joanne and David Weiss
Ralph Zemel

Still time to sign up



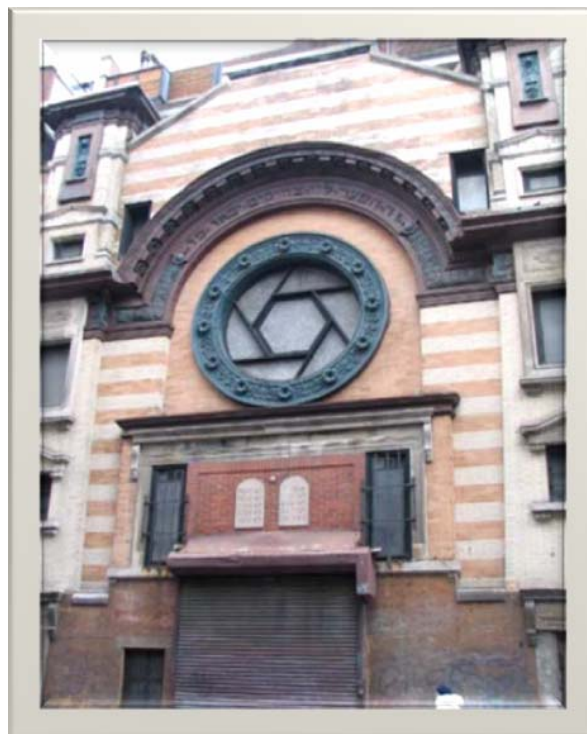
The JCNWJ Sisterhood Invites You to Join Us for

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!

LEARN TO SOUND THE SHOFAR (come blast your horn)!



The JCNWJ will present a *Shofaron* on Sunday, May 20, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

What is a Shofaron and why are we having one?

A *Shofaron* is a workshop for people who want to learn how to blow the shofar. We are doing this as a congregation to honor the memory of Eric Edelstein, our dear friend and longtime member who served as our shofar blower (*ba'al tekiah*) for many years (and before that, as the caller for the shofar blower).

Who is eligible to participate?

Children in 4th grade and above, and adults.

Who is teaching this sacred skill?

The workshop will be presented by Cantor Daniel Pincus.

How much does it cost?

Free for members (and their children) in good standing. The Board of Trustees has allocated funds to underwrite this workshop.

How do I sign up?

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as the number of places is limited (15). To reserve a place, contact Sharon Herson (sharonherson@comcast.net or 908.537.4378) by Monday, April 23. After April 23, we will open this up to other congregations.

Where do I obtain a shofar if I don't have one?

One of the shops that sells Judaica, including shofars, will be invited to come and show its wares at the workshop. Cantor Pincus recommends waiting till the end of the session before deciding on what kind of shofar to purchase. He says: “They [participants] then know what they are trying to accomplish and can find the shofar that suits them best.” If you have a shofar, bring it, even if you want to buy a new one; someone else can use it to practice on during the first session.

Food

A light lunch will be provided for participants between noon and 12:30 on the day of the workshop because many of you will be at Sunday School for the morning.

Details of the Program

Cantor Pincus will provide our temple community with the following *Shofaron* program:

1. a two-hour introductory lecture/training session (the workshop noted above and scheduled for May 20).
2. mp3's or other media, study materials, and sheet music to each participant.
3. a second technique lesson soon thereafter via video-conference (date TBA).
4. one 1-hour lesson per month via video-conference, including during the summer months (dates TBA).
5. an in-person visit during Elul “to conduct a *siyyum* [celebration and summary] of our learning together.”

(Elul: August 19–Sept. 16; date TBA. Note that Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown 9/16)

Cantor Pincus concluded his proposal with the following: “I look forward to raising up new *ba'alei tekiah* [shofar blowers] in your temple community, and, in so doing, memorializing your recently deceased shofarist. I will work with your people and adjust the program details to ensure success.”

Cantor Pincus

Cantor Daniel Pincus is a member of the American Conference of Cantors and of the National Association of Jewish Chaplains. Together with shofar master Michael Chusid, he co-founded Shofar Corps. You can learn about their efforts at www.shofarcorps.org.

Dear PTO Volunteers,

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank You for all your hard work and dedication this past year. Please join us for our Thank You Breakfast that will be on Sunday May 6th at 9:30. Just bring yourselves, something to drink, and of course your little ones that are not in Hebrew School.

Gerri

Education/PTO

May is a quiet month as Hebrew School slowly winds down. We have a PTO "Thank You" breakfast on May 6th. There is no school on Sunday, May 13th, as we celebrate our mothers on Mother's Day. May 20th is Cantor Elana's last day with us and we will honor her with music sung by the students. Confirmation class also meets on May 20th. And there is no Hebrew School on May 27th for Memorial Day weekend.

Our last day of Hebrew School is June 3rd with our Closing Assembly and Confirmation Service. All students will participate in the Confirmation Service so parents should plan to stay with their children that day. Mazel Tov to our three confirmands Sally Weiner, Scott Marinich, and Ben Parilis.

Thank you to Rabbi Lewis, Cantor Elana Rosen-Brown, our teachers and their assistants, and all of the PTO families who have made our Hebrew School so successful. It has been a great year ... have a wonderful summer.

Marsha Gross (Education Chair)

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

May Journal Deadline

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

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PAGE 2
Account Number:
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CUSTOMER NAME
1234 STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 54321

Service Location:
1234 STREET ADDRESS
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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: 0000000000 Invoice number: 000000000000
24-hour customer service and emergencies 1-800-436-2506 (7734)

PSEG Electric

Usage: Meter ##### Charges: Paid ID FE0000113333136/247 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
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CITY, ST 54321

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

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

BILLING DATE 07/22/10
BILLING SUMMARY

ACCOUNT NUMBER
#####

Basic Service Charge \$3.88 Last Bill \$430.04
Distribution Charges
First 250 KWH @ 4.180¢ each 10.45
Rest 2176 KWH @ 4.690¢ each 103.05
Payment - EFT 07/06/10 -430.04

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

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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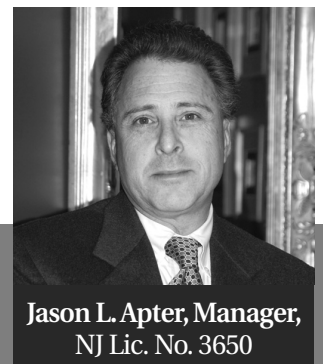
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