Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur Memories and Thoughts

Rosh Hashana greetings for you to send,
Happy New Year, good health, happiness and joy
For family and friends always to enjoy.
The aroma wafting from the kitchen
The wine that makes your mouth tingle
The sweetness of the honey cake
All begin to mingle.
The goodies are ready, waiting in place,
For nibbling and eating-give thanks and say grace.
Spread the good wishes to one and all,
Be kind, charitable and helpful,
When needed, heed the call.

Fast forward to Yom Kipper, the days of awe,
Repentance, redemption, forgiveness and so much more,
Wipe the old slate clean, begin anew
With all the good you intend to do
Fast and pray, clear your heart and soul
A new year, a new beginning, and a new goal,
A new Book waiting to be inscribed and filled
With only the good that has been instilled
Have an easy fast—Good Year

By: Bea Freihieter, Weston Resident

Thank you to all the residents who have contributed to this month’s edition of the Lester Chronicle.
If you have an article, work of art, expressive writing etc. that you would like to share with your fellow residents and see in the newsletter, please contact Cheryl at 973-929-2731
**Administrator’s Corner**

Dear Residents:

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is celebrated this year from sundown Sunday, September 13, 2015 to nightfall on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The Hebrew date for Rosh Hashanah is 1 Tishrei 5775.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish High Holy Days, or Yamim Noraim (the Days of Awe), and is followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur, the “day of atonement.” This year celebrated from sundown Tuesday September 22, 2015 through nightfall Wednesday September 23, 2015. The Mishnah refers to Rosh Hashanah as the “day of judgment,” and it is believed that God opens the Book of Life on this day and begins to make decisions. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are viewed as an opportunity for Jews to repent (teshuvah, in Hebrew) and ensure a good fate.

A beautiful Holiday schedule has been created. Rabbi Richard Kirsch will be with us during the High Holidays and the schedule will be included in your September packets. Please see calendars enclosed with packets to see all upcoming September events.

As a representative of the JCHIC, I would like to wish each and every one at Lester Senior Housing Community a Good, Sweet Year and May You Be Written and Sealed for a Year of Good Life and Peace.

With regards to some new happenings in our building:

Please join me in welcoming our new JCHC staff members - Jay Greenberg our new Facilities Manager, Christian Viera our new Dining Services Manager, Security Staff: Jay Gaskins, Richard Vieira, LaToya Alexander, Lorraine Wilson, Qaysir Woods and our new Heller Concierge Services Coordinator, McKenzie Walsh. She will be located in the library area of the Independent Heller building and will shortly have a direct line for you to contact her. She will be able to assist you with work orders, transportation, private duty aide orientations and other concerns. Chativa V’Chatima Tova to All

Marlene Glass

Administrator

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**Welcome New Residents**

To all of Lester’s new residents, we would like to wish you a warm welcome and Bruchim Haba’im

- Joanne Wood
- Leonora Cohen
- Ruth Muraskin
- Julies & Mae Goldman
- Harriet Dermer
- Betty Neuweit

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**“LESTER LEGACIES” by Naomi Zaslow, Lester Resident**

Rachel Benet is a Lester resident, who is small in stature, but rises to significant heights with her energy, insights, strength and ability. Her willingness to help, and her participation where needed in many areas of Lester life, make her and her strong voice well known and greatly appreciated.

Born in Harlem, NY in 1919, Rae is proud of her family background, and being a Sephardic Jew. Her father was born in Damascus, Syria, and her mother in Aleppo, Syria. Both families left Syria in the first decade of the 1900’s as a result of the effects of the Spanish Inquisition. They spoke Arabic and met in the U.S. as teenagers, were married and had 3 sons and 4 daughters, with Rae being the oldest.

In Harlem, her father, Basil Cohen, started “Paris Decorators”, and five other stores, that were closed on Shabbat and Jewish Holidays. He then opened a department store that was very successful. He was religious, Orthodox, philanthropic and was always involved in synagogue life. When the family moved to Brooklyn he spearheaded the formation of the Sephardic synagogue which also included Sephardic Jews from Spain. He supplied free living quarters for the author of the famous book “Man in a White Sharkskin Suit”, in which he is credited.

Rae is grateful for her very happy family life growing up. She attended school and enjoyed learning and participating in choral and music programs. She then went to work in her father’s department store. While in her cousin’s store, she heard someone speaking Arabic and Hebrew. He looked dapper, was a salesman, and after they met they pursued their Sephardic connection. Paul was born in Cairo, Egypt, he was less Orthodox, came to the Bronx in 1937 and lived in Manhattan. They were married and had a son before Paul went into the U.S. Army in WWII. He spoke five languages and was chosen to be an interpreter in Europe.

When he came home in 1946 they both worked in sales. A chance meeting at Atlantic Beach influenced their lives. As young boys, Paul and his friend, Emanuel Mizrahi had been to Palestine together. Their adventures without passports and joining the Pioneers was unforgettable for both. Mizrahi was now highly successful in the travel industry.

Paul and Rae went to work for the Mizrahi company dealing with foreign tours, and they lived in California, Chicago and New York. After learning the new computer mystery in 1970, they arranged foreign tours for El Al and American Airlines.

They moved to Florida and lived there for 33 years. Rae worked until she was 90, planning cruises. In 2008, when her husband died of Leukemia, she moved to Lester, to be near her son, the owner of an insurance agency and their 3 grandchildren.

Rae is friendly, considerate, a leader, and a doer. As a singer, she is also part of choral groups, plays and performances in Lester and West Orange. She is an ardent member of the Lester Chapel which she supports and assists in all ways. “I’m a people person”, Rae says, “I love to be involved, and I hope to continue to be well, and to help others”.

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Naomi’s Rhyme Time

That’s Entertainment

A talented, hard working Lester crew
Helps us enhance what we see and do.

Varied activities are all arranged,
Always different, often changed.

We like classes, lectures, music playing,
Enjoy what performers are doing and saying.

There are highlights beyond compare,
And we are thrilled just being there,

A singer, a lecturer, or a musician,
Can go beyond any competition.

If the performer is a daughter, son, or a relation,
Of our Lester neighbor, there’s special elation.

Knowing someone’s child or grandchild will perform,
Makes our appreciation robust and warm.

We see the pride in the parent’s eyes and heart,
There’s a glow that sets us all world’s apart.

It’s a feeling to which we can relate,
Children give us all reason to celebrate.

So thank you performers of Lester folks,
Keep singing and playing and telling jokes.

You make us feel warm and glad,
Among the best performers we’ve ever had.

High Holiday Greetings from

Rabbi Richard Kirsch

Let us leave the shul today with the message of the Shofar: Ha-yom, today and not only yesterday and tomorrow. This very day we shall be more agreeable, more responsive, more cheerful, more charitable. This very day we shall make a friend feel good, compliment a neighbor, forgive a loved one. This Musaf we shall pray with renewed kavanah (concentration). This year we shall strengthen as never before our devotion to and love of everything Jewish.

May G-d give us courage- today; may He bless us- today; and may he endow us with genuine greatness- today.

With such commitment do we enter the new year, seeking to fashion lives of truth, dedicated to G-d, worthy of his blessing for a K’siva V’chasimah Tova, a good New Year.

Rabbi Richard Kirsch
SUKKOT: THE TIME OF OUR REJOICING

by Thelma L. Borodkin, PhD

Sukkot is the only biblical holiday called “the festival,” on which we are enjoined to rejoice. The holiday derives its name from the booths we occupy to remember our ancestors who dwelt in those kinds of huts in the desert for 40 years. To honor the booths of Sukkot, the holiday is referred to as Hag HaSukkot, the holiday of the booths. It is also called Hag HaAssif, the harvest holiday. And, finally, it is called Hag Simhataynu, the holiday of our rejoicing.

There is an obvious connection between Passover and Sukkot: both are harvest holidays. Moreover, Passover is the holiday of faith in that the Hebrews followed Moses out of Egypt. Sukkot is the holiday of faithfulness as the Hebrews struggled with the tribulations of desert life. Furthermore, on Sukkot, as on Passover, the ancient Jews used to bring their sacrifices to the Temple in Jerusalem in gratitude to G-d for His blessings. And yet, Sukkot goes beyond reenacting the long desert journey. Sukkot presents us with three challenges:

The first challenge is to improve the condition of the world-tikkun olam-involving all peoples, not only Jews. The second challenge is for us to realize that, as the world has shrunk, our responsibility for connecting with the entire world has increased. And, finally, Sukkot reminds us, through sukkah dwelling, of the need to recognize the parallel dangers of poverty and wealth, both of which can spell disaster. Thus, Sukkot has a social component which is entirely characteristic of holidays in our tradition.

The sukkah is the place where the family and guests eat their meals during the holiday. Many people decorate their sukkah with fruits and vegetables in recognition of this harvest holiday. They also hang pictures often drawn by the children of the family who are very proud to see their artwork on display. Another ancient custom is to invite special guest of antiquity with fruits and/or vegetables in recognition of this harvest holiday. They also hang pictures often drawn by the children of the family, together with family and friends.

Furthermore, we honor the four species grown in Israel by blessing G-d for His blessings. And yet, Sukkot goes beyond reenacting the long desert journey. Sukkot presents us with three challenges:

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Before the destruction of the Temple, Sukkot was the most important fall festival. However, after that, there was no longer a site in Jerusalem to which to bring sacrifices; the Jews were not an agricultural people living on their own land. Our ancestors were no longer farmers who prayed for rain for the Sukkot harvest. Rosh HaShana and Yom HaKippurim then became more important as Jews began thanking G-d for His bounty with the lulav (a palm branch), the etrog (a citrus fruit), the aravot (willow branches), and hadassim (myrtle branches). So great is the joy of Sukkot, that, according to the midrash, G-d, like a good parent, asked the people to stay in Jerusalem another day so that He could spend more time with His people, Israel. Thus was Sh’mini Atzeret born, which literally means the 8th day of delay or tarrying.

The next Hearing Screening is scheduled for:

Friday, September 25th; 9:30-1:00
in the 2nd Floor Heller Card Room
For More Information or To Make An Appointment Call: 973-656-1100

THANKS TO TOTAL HEARING CARE

JCHC Tribute Cards
Send cards to family and friends and support the JCHC
Get Well cards /Mazel Tov cards
In Memoriam cards/Blank cards
Cards can be purchased at the Business office or call Marcia at (973) 530-3966