

The Elizabeth Kehilla Is Ready to Welcome You

By Harris Salzburg

If one wonders what factors influence a family when they are looking for a warm and open community in which to settle, whether to raise their children or to retire, the best way to determine this is to ask those who have done so. T

prise the kehilla of Greater Elizabeth. Among them are the Jewish Educational Center and its comprehensive day school system, the diversity and warmth of t , t f intrinsic and extrinsic conveniences associated with its location in the greater tri-state area.

Now in their "chai" year as Elmora Shul Elizabethans, Rachie and Lee Niren relocated to town for all of the aforementioned reasons. Both graduates of Yeshiva University, R lived in Washington Heights—the "Breuer's Side"—and, remaining within the great metropolis, moved to Brooklyn for the sake of proximity to Lee's work with OHEL. A ed their family, they were increasingly disheartened by life in the boroughs.

"Despite there being such an overwhelming Jewish presence, there was simply no sense of community," related Rachie, "and there was very little opportunity for the children to have their own [safe] space to play—on Shabbat or at any other time." Rachie and Lee (and close friends) stumbled upon Elizabeth, and the rest is history. "We have felt like integral members of the kehilla since day one," offered Rachie.

Lee became involved with the development of Hatzalah of Union County, and, as a charter member of the organization, has remained an active member throughout its years of operation, having a significant impact, one life at a time. R

ployed at the business office of the JEC almost since the day of their arrival, and as such is a fixture in the administration of the institution that binds the kehilla. Both Rachie and Lee are members of the board of directors of the JEC Elmora Shul, responsible for many of its myriad daily and weekly functions, but none more than Lee's management of the shul's extensive youth department. Together with Youth Director Elie Bodner, Lee oversees activities for Shabbat and the chagim, as well as social activities throughout the academic year. In short, Rachie and Lee have embraced their hometown and have been indispensable in shaping its ever-present and future course.

Chanie and Elly Miller are an interesting hybrid couple in the Elizabeth kehilla. A

I never truly put down roots anywhere," whereas Elly was raised in Elizabeth and forever remains a "JECer" through and through. Together as newlyweds they were searching for a community that would resonate "home"—a welcoming place offering educational and social opportunities for themselves as well as their future, planned family; an established community that had growth potential yet was still affordable.

f all worlds here," confirmed Elly, "a wonderful chevra of our

peers and their families..great friends for us and our kids." "For example," enthused Chanie, "there is an incredible pla

llwage, calls it the Shabbos Park! On any given Shabbat the park is bursting at the seams with our friends and their children. It is a social happening!"

Chanie and Elly are dedicated parents whose daughters are satisfied, thoroughly integrated, happy students at the JEC. "The new principal of the lower school, Rabbi Uzi Beer, is fa less energy and enthusiasm," added Elly.

Their children absolutely love the school and have endeared themselves to

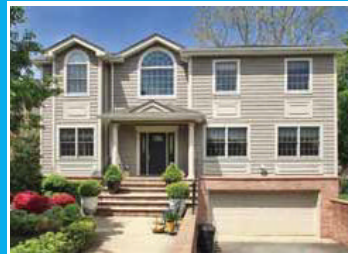
one and all, from administrators to faculty and staff to the beloved women and men who maintain the physical plant. Neither Chanie nor Elly can believe that their oldest child will be moving up to middle school at Bruriah in the fall.

As enamored as they are of the offerings of the kehilla, Chanie and Elly are extremely fond of the rabbinic leadership of the Elmora Avenue Shul, Rabbi Avrohom Herman and his rebbetzin, Rivky. "Both the rabbi and the rebbetzin are totally available, at any time, night or day. They are fantastic people who care for their kehilla as few I have ever observed do," said Chanie,

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Bris Avrohom Hosts Lag B'Omer BBQ

Bris Avrohom of Hillside and Congregation Adath Israel of Elizabeth held their Annual Lag B'Omer Family BBQ at the Gan Yonina Pla . The children had fun jumping on the inflatables, and everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ. The event finished off with Rabbi Avremy Kanelnsky reciting the 12 pesukim with the children.



Daughters of Israel Donates to St. Jude's Children's Hospital



The Resident Charitable Fund at Daughters of Israel donated the funds it raised this year to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Pictured (l-r) - tola and Yetta Greenstein announcing the Resident Council's designated charity at their monthly meeting on May 3.

Shavuot Happenings at Chabad of West Orange

May 19: All Night Learning—begins midnight

Explore the meaning and justification for mitzvos, rationally and mystically, through the lens of the Talmud, Rambam, Kabbalah and Chasidus.

Shiur given by rabbinic intern and YU semicha student Elisha Pearl.

Ma

—10:30 a.m.

Lavish dairy luncheon sponsored by Jerusalem Restaurant's proprietor, David Matthew, including baked ziti, lasagna, mac 'n cheese, salads, cheese platters.

Bagels and cream cheese sponsored by Coby Adler of Super Duper Bagels. Ice cream party sponsored by Dell and Tobias Sahl.

Ma

11:00 a.m.

1 Service—

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"They are tremendous role models as leaders and parents." Elly mentioned, "I have been learning with Rabbi Herman, and it is incredibly special. His classes are simultaneously fun and absorbing...and the nosh can't be beat!" Chanie and Elly are clearly the future of the Elizabeth kehilla—d

lessly to make their chosen home the very best that it can be for generations to come.

Brooklynites until very recently, Fran and Chezky Medetsky were seeking a new home to inspire them, a welcoming place where they felt they could yet make a difference while simultaneously being appreciated and encouraged for their contributions. "Brooklyn was an odd place; we raised our family there, but there is no sense of community," lamented Chezky, "You can literally walk down a street on Shabbat, offer greetings to a fellow Jew, and receive absolutely no response."

Ultimately, with their children no longer at home, the Medetskys actually felt isolated. They had the opportunity to

spend a Shabbat in the Elmora Shul kehilla and knew immediately that they had found their new home. "The people were so friendly and interested...there was a simple warmth, a heimishness that was incredible," enthused Chezky.

I do not believe that we have eaten a Shabbat meal at home yet," offered Fran, "And there is no cliquishness. Everyone, but everyone, has welcomed us, and it feels as though we have been living in town for years." "I was a gabbai at our shul in Brooklyn, and would love to become in-

lla, stated Chezky, "The community really beckons me to become

active, it's fantastic." Fran and Chezky have embraced their newfound hometown and anticipate welcoming newcomers in the future, just as they were welcomed only a few short months ago.

All together, these three families represent the width and breadth of the Elizabeth JEC Elmora Avenue Shul community. Each had their own reasons for choosing Elizabeth, but combined they truly embody the type of families you will find here. Warmth, openness, f

f what you will find if you are looking for a place to put down roots. Hope to see you in Elizabeth one day soon.

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