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JewishStandard

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Playing with 'Fragments'

American-Iraqi-Ashkenazi Jewish musician
Yoni Battat puts the pieces together

Getting Ready for the Holidays

Free High Holiday services in Teaneck

The Jewish Learning Experience of Bergen County offers supportive, non-judgmental High Holiday services, providing a slower pace and explanations of the prayers for Jews of all levels of observance.

Services will be held at Torah Academy of Bergen County in Teaneck. Rosh Hashanah morning services are on Monday, Sept. 26, and Tuesday, Sept. 27. Both services will be followed by a kiddush with refreshments. Yom Kippur services will be held on Tuesday evening, Oct. 4 (Kol Nidrei), and Wednesday morning, Oct. 5, which includes Yizkor, the memorial service to honor relatives who have died.

While a voluntary donation of \$36 per person is requested, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Founded in 1985, the JLE of Bergen County is dedicated to helping Jews who are looking for more meaning or religious practice in their lives. "We create environments that nurture Jewish engagement," said Rabbi Jesse Shore, JLE's new director. "We build on-ramps for individuals, couples, and families who are seeking a deeper connection with their spiritual and religious heritage."

No knowledge of Hebrew or the prayers is necessary. It is suggested that reservations be made by Sept. 22 to guarantee seats. Reservations can be made at jle.org or by contacting Rabbi Jesse Shore at RabbiShore@JLE.org or (610) 329-2953.

Jewish-Italian desserts for the High Holy Days

L'Arte Bakery in Ramsey offers a dessert menu for the High Holy Days.

The Jewish community in Italy dates back to the second century BCE; it is the oldest Jewish community in Europe. Yet, despite its important influence on Italian culture and cuisine, Italian Jewry's culinary heritage is mostly unheralded. Many of the iconic foods and dishes associated with Italian cuisine first originated among Italy's Jews. Eggplant, artichokes, peppers, tomatoes, and fennel once were considered exclusively Jewish foods in Italy.

The Jewish community in Italy has been declining for decades, in large part because of the Holocaust. Desserts that were once considered standard have largely been forgotten, or exist only in specialized cookbooks. But there is some hope for them.

The synagogues of Venice are being renovated and the first new synagogue in Palermo in more than 500 years opened recently. Interest in Jewish-Italian



COURTESY L'ARTE BAKERY

Crostata Ricotta e Amarene is a traditional ricotta pie with a pasta frolla crust, Sicilian ricotta, and sour cherries.

cuisine has also been slowly growing in both Italy and Israel.

It is estimated that there are about 10,000 descendants of Italian Jews in the United States. Most Jews here are either Ashkenazi or Sephardi and naturally observe their own culinary customs. Italian Jews belong to neither group.

L'Arte Bakery menu this year offers delicious traditional and contemporary Jewish Italian desserts for the holidays.

Its goal is to spark interest in Jewish-Italian desserts – for people to try them, enjoy them, and ultimately help keep the endangered Jewish-Italian dessert traditions alive.

Chef Andrea is happy to share his recipes with anyone who is interested; he plans to teach a class about how to make some of these desserts at home early next year. L'Arte Bakery in Ramsey is not kosher but none of the ingredients used is prohibited by Jewish law.

For information, call (201) 934-3211, ext. 6, or go to www.larte.biz. The bakery is at 109 E. Main St., in Ramsey.



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