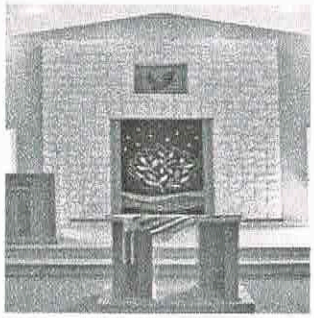

The Voice of West Clarkstown Jewish Center

Box 1722 New City, NY 10977 · 845-352-0017

Nov./ Dec. 2019 Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5780

Rabbi Jill Hackell (email jghackell@gmail.com)

Rabbi's Message Nov/Dec 2019

As I write this, the holidays are over, my lulav has been discarded, and my sukkah has been dismantled, its decorations boxed up for next year. We have come through the month of Tishri with its non-stop holidays, and we are entering the month of Heshvan - a month called Mar-Heshvan (bitter Heshvan) by the Rabbis, because it doesn't have even a single holiday.

But just as my *etrog* is sitting on my table, still imparting its amazing scent to my home and carrying a reminder of the holidays into the new month, so may it be that we all take something from the holidays forward into the New Year. Remember, all the soul-work that we did throughout Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was only a beginning. Let us keep our good intentions going as we go forward into 5780.

I am so grateful for the work done by this community to make sure our holiday experience was a good one. So many things - big and small - by so many people.

So I want to take this space to say "todah rabbah" (a big thank you!) to those of you who changed our bimah colors to seasonal white (and back again), set up chairs, moved our regular prayer books out and brought our holiday prayer books in (and visa versa), provided hospitality for our cantor (and his father), ordered flowers and organized aliyot, found head-coverings, sold tickets, handed out readings, brought wine and challah and apples and honey, and food for our break-fast and our Sukkot luncheon, prepared the food and set up the social hall.

Thank you to those who sat by the door to make sure we were safe, who bought a new microphone for our sound system, who adjusted the sound system to minimize feedback, who set up the sukkah and took it down, who found the bag of decorations, who put them up, who worked as volunteers to make more decorations with residents of a nearby group home.

Thank you, to those who took aliyot, did readings, led prayers, opened and closed the ark, acted out the Book of Jonah, made announcements, made the Kol Nidre appeal, collected the donation cards. And thank you to all of you who made donations to keep our synagogue whole, to purchase the many items I've already listed above, and to allow us to hire our wonderful cantor (and now shofar blower) for another year.

Thank you to all of you for coming to shul, for standing and sitting and raising your voices in prayer, for sharing your families with us, for standing in front of the ark during the *Neilah* service, for always being an inspiration to me.

For all this (and for all the things I've forgotten to mention) -

Gratefully yours,

Rabbi Jill

Ask our Rabbi

Q: Why do we wear *a tallit*?

A: Wearing a *tallit* is commanded in the Torah, as it says in the third paragraph of the Sh'ma:

> "Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages...look at it and recall all the commandments of God and observe them..." [from Numbers 15:37-41]

The *tallit*, with its fringes, serves as a reminder of God's commandments. (It's similar to the act of tying a string around your finger when you want to remember something.)

Some Jews wear fringes all the time, on a *tallit katan* (small *tallit*) worn under their clothing, with the fringes hanging out. The *tallit* that we wear on Shabbat is a *tallit gadol* (large *tallit*), which also sports fringes on its four corners, as instructed by the Torah.

I find that putting on my *tallit* helps me get into the mood for the prayer service. When I wrap myself in it, it's as though I am entering a different space. Just as Havdalah separates the holiness of Shabbat from the mundane of the rest of the week, the *tallit* helps me separate from the ordinary and move into a more spiritual space.

Important Websites

West Clarkstown Jewish Center: www.westclarkstownjc.org

Rockland and Jewish: https://www.facebook.com/RCjewish/

Donations

Gloria Levy in memory of her husband Leo Levy

Susan & Stanley Alpert in memory of Stan's father Benjamin Alpert

Steve & Diane Klein in memory of Howard Berg & Anna Ellner

Alfred & Linda Scherzer in memory of Linda's brother Allen Shomberg

Gill & Lillian Zinn in memory of his mother Bessie Zinn

Orri & Ilene Kessler in memory of Israel Harry Keffler

Jonah & Barbara Jacobson in memory of his father Benjamin Jacobson

Alan & Roberta Shane in memory of her father Clarence Sanford Davis

David & Marilyn Tessel in memory of her mother Gertrude Prager

Arlene Janis in memory of her brother Donald Kletsky

Steve & Diane Klein in memory of-Diane's father Paul Weiss, Steve's Father Abraham Klein is Mother Loretta Klein and his Grandfather David Ellner.

Pamela Rugg in memory of Lita Hyman

Daniel & Sandra Seltzer in memory of Sandy's father Jerry Lite and Dan's mother Anna Seltzer

Susan & Stanley Alpert in memory of Susan's father Norman Goldberg

David & Roslyn Levine in memory of his mother Mollie Levine

Mark & Stefanie Benson in memory of Shirley & Gilbert Benson, Miriam & Henry Feuerstein

Irwin & Rene Davis in memory of their daughter Sarah Bloom

David Talmas in memory of his brother Abraham Talmas

Philip & Joyce Ress in memory of Rose Wittlin

OTHER DONATIONS

David Talmas sponsored an oneg in memory of his mother Goldie Talmas

Thank You

Thank you to the following people for donating to our kiddushes:

Marilyn & David Tessel
Lil & Gil Zinn
Susan & Stan Alpert
Sheila & Steve Paris
Linda & Al Scherzer
Susan Ravner & Al Tabin
Shimmy Cohen

Donations

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Sisterhood News

Shalom Rav!

Feeling refreshed, re-energized and invigorated after the quiet, lazy summer, we start a truly New Year. New Year means the High Holidays and our annual Paid-up Brunch which was on Oct. 20. Men's Club met on Oct. 13 to erect the Sukkah. There is a direct correlation between Sisterhood and Men's Club. We each strive to do our best for WCJC. When the going gets tough, the tough get going with assistance from each branch of WCJC.

With overzealous enthusiasm, we began a New Year. Awesome women belong to Sisterhood. We become empowered through direct action and help from you.

Dues remain the same at $36.00 per calendar year. Do not forget to include memorial membership to honor our deceased female relatives.

Sept. 16 - Ladies Night Out at local restaurant, 12 of us sat down to break bread and enjoy the evening. Several different conversations filled our area as we were too far apart logistically for one dialogue. An aura of camaraderie hung over us throughout the evening.

Steve and I immensely enjoyed our vacation in August in Finland, Russia & Israel. Finland was warm, welcoming & very modern. We even tried bear meat. Russia was totally awesome. The onion domes on churches are a sight to be seen and are very colorful. The Kremlin was crowded with tourists. We saw many icons (not from computer). I learned to read a few words in Russian.

Israel, as usual, was great and a pleasure to return to the Jewish Homeland. We went to Jerusalem, Mitzpe Ramon (in Negev & site of a huge crater), and lastly Tel Aviv. One highlight was "Shabbat of a Lifetime". Several families met in a private residence and celebrated Shabbat together. We each told a story about ourselves and our reason to be in Israel. Another adventure was a cruise on the Dead Sea. In a small boat 4 of us cruised and saw "Salt Chimneys" popping out from the water. Very warm water surrounded us. It was a great experience.

PAID-UP BRUNCH - Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019.

I always start meetings with a meaningful reading. Susan Alpert read "Live with Integrity" from the Siddur. Our newest members to date are: D. Klein, S. Ravner, S. Alpert (plus{ in memoriam-Rose Alpert, mother-in-law & Frieda Goldberg-mother}, S. Paris (plus {in memoriam-Helen Pearlmutter, mother, Roma Paris, mother-in-law, Julia Migden, aunt}, B. Shair, R. Geneslaw, L. Zinn, F. Boxer and M. Tessel.
It is still not too late to join us, even if you missed the Brunch.

THE HIDDEN GEM SHOPPE - It really is a gem in disguise. The Shoppe opened recently and is open on Wednesdays 10:00am - 2:00pm. Donations are always needed. Jewelry, good clothing, vintage stuff of all kinds, small appliances, toys and book are welcome. The room is completely transformed into a gift shop.
Both Barbara & Susan R. worked very hard on this enterprise. Your help is needed on Wednesday to

run things smoothly. Sisterhood thanks you for your hard work.

SUNDAY, NOV, 17, 2019 @ 8:00am - WCJC will be having a "DOUBLE FLOOR EXTRAVAGANZA" as a pre-holiday sale. On the main floor will be men's, women's & children's clothing. On the lower level there will be an assortment of goods - jewelry, ceramics, housewares, antiques, toys and books. Have a look for yourself. A surprise awaits you.
Through the Shoppe we hope to increase the coffers of WCJC. All profits will go to the synagogue.
Barbara gave an impassioned speech about the Shoppe. Both Barbara & Susan Ravner built it from the ground up. The beauty of the Shoppe is there is no need to pack up and put away. My heartfelt thanks and kudos to both of you for this enormous undertaking. Also, thanks to anyone else who has assisted.

TUESDAY, DEC. 24 at 1:30pm - There will be a movie. Admission price to be determined. Pizza, snacks & drinks will be served. Bring a friend or two. This is an early notice to mark the date on your calendar.

MAY 2020 - We are planning a Theater Party at the Elmwood Theater in Nyack. Date is to be determined. Play will be "Drowsy Chaperone" which is a musical comedy.

Sheila Paris

Men's Club News

The Men's Club had its first meeting of the New Year 5780 on Sunday, October 13th. We accomplished our mission of building our temporary home known as a Sukkah. We also had a business meeting and finalized our plans for our Fall fund-raiser.

We will have our fun-filled Mexican train Dominos game day on Sunday Nov.10th at 1:00 P.M. sharp. The cost remains at $5 per person and we will serve snacks throughout with soft drinks. Dessert and coffee will be served at the end of play. Prizes will be awarded to the winner at each table. Announcements will be made from the Bima during upcoming Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services.

The Men's Club is also planning on having a 50's night. Here we will reminisce and tell about our experiences when we were a lot younger and times were different.

The Men's Club and I urge everyone to attend at least one full weekend a month at W.C.J.C. for Friday night and Saturday morning services.

Fraternally,

Steve Paris

November Birthdays

David Tessel	Nov. 5
Roberta Shane	Nov. 25
Stuart Jacobson	Nov. 28

November Anniversaries

Edie & Al Bialo	Nov. 21
Roberta & Allen Shane	Nov. 23

November Yahrzeits

Alex Perlmutter	Nov. 2
Mollie Gottesman	Nov. 4
Joseph Michelson	Nov. 5
Hinda Lite Wecker	Nov. 7
Abraham Talmas	Nov. 8
Abraham Klein	Nov. 9
Stanley Littman	Nov. 9
Anna Finkelberg	Nov. 10
Becky Steinberg	Nov. 11
Sidney Silverstein	Nov. 12
Sara Bloom	Nov. 12
Norman Goldberg	Nov. 12
David Zall	Nov. 15
Barry Talmas	Nov. 19
Adele Trachtenbroit	Nov. 19
Emanuel Pensky	Nov. 19
Jack Yaruss	Nov. 22
Isidore Shapiro	Nov. 23
Esther Weinberg	Nov. 23
Seymour Cohen	Nov. 25

December Birthdays

Sharon Alpert	Dec. 1
Beth Benson	Dec. 9
Jamie Paris	Dec. 19
Scott Deutchman	Dec. 20
Marilyn Tessel	Dec. 23
Gerry Kaufman	Dec. 24
Stefanie Benson	Dec. 27

December Anniversaries

Marianne & Harry Bloomfeld	Dec. 24

December Yahrzeits

Jean Turner	Dec. 1
Sylvia Plotkin	Dec. 1
Meyer Levine	Dec. 1
Rubin Kosloff	Dec. 2
Eva Farb	Dec. 2
Leon Rothman	Dec. 2
Rebecca Hyman	Dec. 3
Harry Kleinman	Dec. 4
Lilly Schnur	Dec. 5
Monroe Ress	Dec. 5
Martha Jane Shrage	Dec. 8
Tessie Saltoun	Dec. 11
Beatrice Kosloff	Dec. 11
Selma Schleier	Dec. 11
Marion Fernand	Dec. 14
Nettie Zussman	Dec. 14
Rose Davis	Dec. 14
Henry Meyers	Dec. 15
Diane Fintz	Dec. 16
Benjamin Stein	Dec. 16
Jack Katcher	Dec. 17
Max Weiser	Dec. 18
Nathan Abramowitz	Dec. 19
Charlotte Scherzer	Dec. 19
Jennie Manashaw	Dec. 21
Joel Wolk	Dec. 22
Shirley Koffler	Dec. 23
Matyas Vadasz	Dec. 23
Dorothy Walker	Dec. 23
Jean Schreider	Dec. 24
George Breslaw	Dec. 26
David Gottesman	Dec. 27

Challah of the Month Club
The following families have joined and participated in the Challah of the Month Club:
Thank you to:
Maddie & Harvey Ingber
Susan & Stan Alpert
Fran & Paul Weiner
Marilyn & David Tessel
Herb & Fran Boxer
Diane & Steve Klein
Roberta & Allen Shane
Marc Levine
Shimmy Cohen
Roberta Schoenfeld
David & Anita Talmas
Marianne & Harry Bloomfeld
Barbara & Curt Schleier
Roberta & Allen Shane
Diane & Steve Klein
Lil & Gil Zinn
Ronnye and Barry Deutchman
Maddie & Harvey Ingber
Susan & Stan Alpert
Sheila & Steve Paris
Shimmy Cohen
Ronnye & Barry Deutchman Marilyn & David Tessel
Fran & Paul Weiner
Tammy & Randy Davis
Roberta & Allen Shane
Lil & Gil Zinn
Diane & Steve Klein
Anita & Dave Talmas
Anita & Dave Talmas
Maddie & Harvey Ingber
Ronnye & Barry Deutchman
Bob & Stephanie Wechman
Bob & Stephanie Wechman
Barbara & Curt Schleier
Marilyn & David Tessel
Tammy & Randy Davis
Roberta & Allen Shane
Susan Ravner & Al Tabin
Dave Talmas
Lil & Gil Zinn
Susan & Stan Alpert
Dave Talmas
Susan Ravner & Al Tabin
David Talmas
Diane & Steve Klein
Tammy & Randy Davis
Linda & Al Scherzer Sept.
Dave Talmas - Oct.
The next list is the families who have reserved a month in the near future:
Dave Talmas - Nov.
Marilyn & David Tessel - Dec.
Lil & Gil Zinn -Jan.
Susan Ravner & Al Tabin - Feb.
Barbara & Curt Schleier - March
Susan & Stan Alpert -April
Diane & Steve Klein - May
Please join the club and call **Susan Alpert** or **Herb Boxer** for information!

Help WCJC by Selling on E-Bay
Barbara & Julie Shair have access to an E-Bay website. Items can be sold here.
Please donate jewelry…costume, gold, silver, single earrings or parts of a piece are acceptable.
Small antique items can be listed.
You can bring items to Harriet in the office Tues. or Thurs. 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
The funds support our Kiddishes.
Call: **Barbara Shair 845-354-7223**
Remember before you throw away we use e-bay.

Sunshine Cards

from -Roberta Schoenfeld -**to-** Sheila & Steve Paris - Mazal Tov on Michael's engagement to Tiffany.

In Sympathy

from -Sheila Paris **-to-** Draizel Kaploun - In memory of your beloved daughter, Esther Kaploun

from -Fred & Michele Finkelberg -to- Randy Bernstein & Family - In memory of your father, Irving Bernstein

from -Fred & Michele Finkelberg **-to** Glenda Bernstein - In memory of your husband, Irving

Nov. Minyan List

Nov. 1 & 2 Plotkin, Ravner, Schleier
Nov. 8 & 9 Scherzer, Schoenfeld, Seltzer
Nov. 15 & 16 Shair, Shane, Talmas
Nov. 22 & 23 Tessel, Weiner, Zinn
Nov. 29 & 30 Alpert, Ansel, Benson

Dec. Minyan List

Dec. 6 & 7 Bialo, Bloomfeld, Boxer
Dec. 13 & 14 I. Davis, R. Davis, Deutchman
Dec. 20 & 21 Finkelberg, Geneslaw, Ingber
Dec. 27 & 28 Jacobsen, Klein, Levine

Reminder: You can find information about service times, synagogue activities, copies of our newsletter and more at our synagogue website: westclarkstownjc.org