



The Voice of West Clarkstown Jewish Center

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Rabbi Jill Hackell

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2024 May/June

Message from Our Rabbi

Hillel said, "Don't separate yourself from the community. Don't be overconfident until the day of your death. Don't judge your fellow human being until you have stood in that person's place." [Pirke Avot 2:4]

It is the beginning of May and the news is filled with campus protests, building takeovers, student arrests. I can't help but look back to 1969, my sophomore year at college, the peak of protests against the Vietnam war. The students were feeling strong and powerful and believed they knew everything.

Now, older, and hopefully wiser, I offer some reflections on where we went wrong. An atmosphere was created on campus such that if you did not support the demonstrations, you were the enemy.

Students who wanted to attend classes and learn could not do so. Students in ROTC - who were both going to school with us and training for leadership in the US Military, were ostracized, screamed at, and threatened. Finally, the university had enough; they cancelled the rest of the semester and sent us all home.

Today, protesters are feeling strong and powerful. They believe they know everything. They see themselves as children of light, and everyone not on their side as

Children of darkness. They are sure they are right, backed by the echo chamber of their peers, their social media silos, and those from outside who encourage them. They support themselves with slogans, as if the deeply complicated picture of the Middle East could ever be compressed into a single sentence. They have occupied campus quads and buildings - totally oblivious to the irony of using occupation to fight what they call "the occupation". They have created an atmosphere on campus where anyone not in support of them is demonized and attacked. Not only do a majority of Jewish students and Moslem students say they feel unsafe on campus, but so do a majority of students who are neither Jewish nor Muslim. These students have separated themselves from the university community and violated the rest of Hillel's good advice. It is a privilege to attend a university. Where else can you go where you are free to learn as much as you can about the world - surrounded by other students from all different backgrounds, who should want to do the same thing? Where else (especially in this divisive world where we surround ourselves only with those who agree with us) is there the opportunity to view things through totally different eyes and discuss it? How else can our country raise leaders who will be able to tackle the deeply complicated issues that the world must deal

with in years to come, when this generation will be in charge?

By refusing to hear any viewpoints except their own, by denigrating and threatening anyone who disagrees with them, by interfering with the running of the university, by denying access to graduation ceremonies to students already dealing with the hurt of having their high school graduation ceremonies cancelled by a pandemic - they have separated themselves from the community that they have signed up to live in for 4 years, and have wreaked havoc on it. Shame on them!

It doesn't have to be this way. Here's an example of a bright spot. There is a choir from Jerusalem that is now touring in the US. It is made up of Jewish and Palestinian students. Although they agree on virtually nothing regarding the politics of the region, they not only sing together in harmony - they talk to each other, and most importantly, they listen to each other. They are friends; they respect each other. They can agree to disagree - while they learn that there are different narratives in the Middle East, different understandings, different perspectives. It is people like this that will be needed to provide leadership for our world.

Our college students were handed this opportunity, and many chose the path of self-righteousness and denigration of others instead. Free speech is an important value - a value that I support - but disparagement of others and violence is not free speech. It is my fervent hope that the universities find the way to remember what their mission is, and that they must be the adults in the room.

Changing the subject - some dates to be aware of in May and June

May 6: Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day); May 13 - 14: Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) followed by Yom Ha'atzma-ut (Israel Independence Day); June 2 - Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC
Shavuot falls on June 13 - 14. We will do Erev Shavuot Torah study with CSI on the evening of June 12, and have Shavuot services at WCJC on the morning of June 13 with Yizkor.
Shirah choir will perform at the JCC in Tenafly on Sunday, June 23.
L'hitraot (see you soon),
Rabbi Jill

Ask Our Rabbi 2024 May/June

Q: What is the purpose of wearing Tallit (prayer shawl)?

A: The Torah tells us, "God spoke to Moses and said: Speak to the children of Israel and tell them to put tzitzit on the corners of their garments throughout all their generations..." [Numbers 15:37-38]. We read this each morning and evening service - it's part of the Sh'ma. It goes on to tell us that the tzitzit are there so that "each time you look at them you will remember and do all My commandments, and you will be holy to your God." [15:40]

Now, at the time of the Torah, garments typically had corners, and so, tzitzit could be easily accommodated. In our day, our garments usually do not have corners. Therefore, special garments with corners were created, so that the tzitzit could be appropriately attached.

There is the tallit katan - a small rectangular document with tzitzit on the four corners - that Orthodox Jews wear under their outer clothing, with the tzitzit hanging out. And then there is the prayer shawl - a larger rectangular garment, again

with tzitzit on the four corners, that is meant to be worn to synagogue for prayer services.

While the configuration of the tzitzit is very specific (my rabbi used to call it "Holy Macrame"), there is no required size or color or design for the tallit. I, for myself, prefer a larger one, so that when I recite the prayer for putting it on, which ends with "...who commanded me to envelop myself in tzitzit", I really feel enveloped.

Shalom Rav!

Say good-bye to the winter and hello to the spring, which in my opinion, is one of the loveliest times of the year. Greenery meets our eyes and flowers are blooming. Enter the month of Nissan in which Pesach falls on the 15th. Nissan is also the month of early blossoms appearing in Israel. So, it is a new beginning in more ways than one. Importantly going from slavery to freedom as mentioned in the Rosh Chodesh prayer. All of us are preparing for the big holiday of Pesach.

I along with Sisterhood, express deepest sympathy to Frann Rappaport & Amy Murphy and their families on the passing of their beloved mother, Sandy Wolk.

I, along with Sisterhood, express deepest sympathy to Susan Alpert & Sharon Alpert on the passing of their beloved husband & father, Stan Alpert.

May their memories be for a blessing.

I would like to have our Annual Ladies Night Out on a Monday night in May or June.

Perhaps May 20 or June 3, 10. I'll let you know. It is always pleasant to get together and eat and gab. I was thinking of BJ's Brewhouse in Nanuet. Dairy & vegan are available. As a fundraiser by dining there, 20% of sales will go to our organization. Think it over and let me know.

Sisterhood is pleased to announce there will be a joint Sisterhood/Men's Club meeting on Sunday, May 19th @ 9:30am @ WCJC.

Please RSVP to me.

Let there be an everlasting Peace in Israel.

L'het'ra ot

Sheila Paris

Men's Club News

Hello congregants,

As I write this article, Passover will be starting the very next day. This means we will have most of our members back from Florida. During the first week of May, we will have the marking of Yom HaShoa. The information is in a separate article.

Save the date of Sunday, June 9th. The Men's Club will be holding their Mexican Train Game day event on that afternoon. Details will be coming out shortly via e-mail and announcements during Synagogue services.

The Men's Club and I remind everyone to try and attend at least one week each month of both Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services.

Fraternally,

Steve Paris

May Birthdays

Fred Finkelberg	May 2
Rabbi Jill Hackell	May 10
Susan Alpert	May 11
Stephen Paris	May 20
David Levine	May 24
Florence Simon	May 28
Sheila Paris	May 30

May Anniversaries

Linda & Al Scherzer	May 21
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May Yahrzeits

David Romm	May 1
Edward Stone	May
Max Boxer	May 1
Mac Boxer	May 5
Rose Weiss	May 7
Samuel Green	May 8
Meyer Finkelberg	May 9
David Stone	May 12
Milton Levine	May 15
Marilyn Nack	May 16
Abraham Bloomfeld	May 17
David Dubinsky	May 18
Samuel Massler	May 18
Sally Davis	May 18
Ira Yaruss	May 18
David Farb	May 22
Gary Wissner	May 22
Belle Citrin	May 24
Cynthia Bove	May 25
Bertha Gordon	May 27
Gussie Reinstein	May 27
Blanche Wechman	May 27
Eva Rubin	May 28
Laila Perlmutter	May 30
Phyllis Benson	May 31

June Birthdays

Jerry Perlmutter	June 1
David Miliken	June 8
Ruth Geneslaw	June 9
Gavin Murphy	June 12
Ryan Paris	June 13
Barbara Schleier	June 29

June Anniversaries

Tammy & Randy Davis	June 8
Rose & Jerry Perlmutter	June 30

June Yahrzeits

Bessie Kaplan	June 1
Jonah Jacobson	June 1
Milton Ansel	June 3
George Reinstein	June 4
Barbara Schiffman	June 5
Fannie Goodman	June 7
Frances Bialo	June 8
Leah Goldberg	June 8
Zel Birenback	June 9
Bella Yaruss	June 10
Ruth Boxer	June 11
Sol Haber	June 12
Dorothy Novinsky Liebert	June 13
Phyllis L. Stone	June 13
Robert Granek	June 15
Elsie Wolkowitz	June 17
Lena Feingold	June 17
Rose Jacobson	June 17
Freida Goldberg	June 18
Harry Goldberg	June 18
Walter Hyman	June 18
Louis Prager	June 19
Rudolph Schleir	June 20
Abe Meyers	June 21
Harris Davis	June 22
Abraham Schreider	June 22
Albert Cytryn	June 24
Morris Citrin	June 27

Pauline Massler June 27

Paul Binenfeld Silberzam June 29

Sunshine Cards

from -Fred & Michele Finkelberg, Sheila & Steve Paris -**to** - Lil Zinn - Wishing you a speedy recovery.

from -Sheila & Steve Paris -to- Debra & Herschel Weinstein - Mazal Tov on the marriage of Jarrett to Allie. Twins marrying twins.

from-Susan & Stan Alpert, Sheila & Steve Paris -
to Harvey Ingber - Happy 80th

from -Sheila & Steve Paris and Susan Alpert –
to- Lil Zinn - Wishing you a very happy birthday. Mazal Tov!

from-Sheila & Steve Paris- **to**-- Debra & Herschel Weinstein -Mazal Tov on the marriage of Alec

In Sympathy

from -Sheila & Steve Paris -**to**- Ellen Fellner & Family - Deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved mother, Rose Herskovits Linden. She was the last of my Hungarian relatives.

from-Diane Klein, Susan & Stan Alpert, Fred & Michele Finkelberg, Sheila & Steve Paris, Lil Zinn -**to** - Frann Rappaport & Family - Deepest sympathy on the passing of mother, Sandra Wolk

from -Susan & Stan Alpert, Fred & Michele Finkelberg, Diane Klein, Sheila & Steve Paris, Lil Zinn -**to**- Amy Murphy & Family - Deepest sympathy on the passing of mother, Sandra Wolk

from -Fred & Michele Finkelberg, Sheila & Steve Paris, Diane Klein, Amy Valois & family, David Klein & family, Fran & Paul Weiner – **to**- Susan Alpert & Family - Deepest sympathy on the passing of beloved husband, Stan Alpert.

from-Sheila & Steve Paris – **to**-Sharon Alpert & family -deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved father, Stan Alpert

Thank you

Thank you to Rabbi Jill, Shimmy, the Sisterhood, Men's Club, and congregation for their kind deeds, and support during this difficult time.
Susan & Sharon Alpert and family

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 Babara at WCJC on Wednesday between 10a.m. and 2 p.m.

Call: **Barbara Shair 845-354-7223**

Remember before you throw away we use e-bay.

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

* INFORMATION ** Congregation Sons of Israel (CSI) in Nyack has a Cemetery in Blauvelt.....
Lovely, Peaceful, Small, Easy to Visit - Temple Israel Memorial Park (there's even a separate section for Jews with a non-Jewish spouse). Plots are available.
For general information please email: templeisraelmemorialpark@gmail.com

(For cemetery sales specifically: you can reach Larry Kintisch @845-353-0885)
