



# The Voice of West Clarkstown Jewish Center

Box 1722 New City, NY 10956 • 845-352-0017

March/April 2024 AdarI,AdarII,Nissan 5784

Rabbi Jill Hackell (email [jghackell@gmail.com](mailto:jghackell@gmail.com))

## Message From Our Rabbi

It's that time of year. Daylight savings time will allow daylight to extend an hour later into the evening hours. Shabbat official candle-lighting time jumps an hour later than before. Can spring be far behind? (I hope not!)

The Jewish month that begins on March 10<sup>th</sup> is Adar Sheni – the second month of Adar. We add a second Adar seven times every 19 months, to keep the calendar in sync with the seasons, making sure Pesach will occur in the spring. In Hebrew, a leap year is referred to as *Shanah Me'uberet*, or “pregnant year”.

Purim is coming this month, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month of Adar II, aka March 24<sup>th</sup>. Since it falls on a Sunday, we will celebrate together in-person at WCJC at 10:30 on that Sunday morning. Together we will read the Megillah (in English) – in parts, as we usually do. We will celebrate with a nosh of Hamantaschen and coffee. Costumes are welcome and noisemakers will be provided.

Mark your calendars for Passover. The first Seder falls on Monday, April 22 this year.

I write this on the 150<sup>th</sup> day since the Israeli hostages were taken. There is no deal yet, and the situation remains grim. So, I was happy for an opportunity this week, to visit a place that celebrates the richness of Judaism and Jewish heritage, a

reminder that whatever set-backs we experience, AM YISRAEL HAI – the people Israel live!

I visited YIVO – the Institute for Jewish Research, which is based in lower Manhattan. The YIVO Archives contains some 24 million items, including sound and music collections, theater and art collections, communal and personal records, photographs and films, manuscripts, diaries, memoirs, personal correspondence, and much more. [YIVO's Library](#) has nearly 400,000 volumes in all European languages and contains the largest collection of Yiddish-language books, pamphlets, and newspapers in the world. It is open to the public, who can do research from its archives, see the many exhibits that are set up utilizing material from the archives, and attend all kinds of adult education (lectures, concerts, conferences) most also available on Zoom. During my visit, I saw a presentation about the Yiddish language in pre-state Israel. Like Yiddish everywhere, the language picked up words from the surroundings, and so the Yiddish spoken in pre-state Israel contained many Arabic words. One of the items on display was a Yiddish-Arabic dictionary.

I learned that there was some Yiddish spoken in pre-state Israel as early as the 1500's. How do we know this? In the Cairo

Geniza was found a letter from a mother in Jerusalem to her son in Cairo written in Yiddish in the 1500s. What did it say? Paraphrasing, "I never hear from you; why don't you write to me?" Some things never change.

YIVO is a treasure that I didn't know much about before my visit. I encourage you to check them out at their website

[www.yivo.org](http://www.yivo.org).

Wishing you and yours a *freilichin* Purim and a *zissen* Pesach.

*Rabbi Jill*

### 2024 Mar/Apr Ask Our Rabbi

**Q: What are the Dead Sea Scrolls**

**A:** The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in the Judean desert, when they were accidentally stumbled upon by a Bedouin boy. Ancient parchments, found preserved in jars, were subsequently dated to be from the period of the Second Temple (520 BCE - 70 CE). They contain writings that are believed to be from a Jewish sect called the Essenes - a sect known for their piety and distinctive theology, that these manuscripts helped us to learn about. Also among the manuscripts were excerpts from Biblical writings, showing that these ancient people had the same texts as we do today.

Some of the Dead Sea Scrolls are on display in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. There, one of these ancient scrolls is open to the book of Isaiah. We visited the museum when my kids were

teens, and my son was excited to find that the scroll was open to his Bar Mitzvah haftarah - and he actually chanted the words of his haftarah from the scroll (which was behind glass, of course). What a connection from the present back to ancient Israel!

### Donations

Harriet and Maxine Moskowitz in memory of their father David Gottesman

Harry & Marianne Bloomfeld in memory of his mother Cecile Bloomfeld

Philip & Joyce Ress in memory of her father Irving Wittlin

Steve & Sheila Paris in memory of their son Keith Paris and his mother Helen Pearlmutter

Michael & Ryan Paris in memory of Michael's wife and Ryan's mother Erica Paris

Arlene Janis in memory of her mother Estelle Greener

Lill Zinn in memory of her husband Gil Zinn

Al & Linda Scherzer in memory of her mother Yetta Schomberg

Joseph Vitale & Robert Talmas in memory of their father David Talmas

Stanley & Susan Alpert in memory of her brother Arnold Goldberg & her grandfather Isaac Goldberg and Stan's mother Rose Alpert

Shimmy Cohen in memory of his father Shlomo ben Shimon

Diane Klein in memory of her aunt Etta Berg

Myra Gordon in honor of her sister Susan Alpert

### Thank you

Thank you to Shimmy Cohen for buying and donating the fruits and nuts native to Israel for the holiday of Tu Bi'Shevat. We enjoyed eating them.

Thank you also to:

Barbara and Julie Shair and Susan Ravner for all of their hard work in the shop.

\* **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](mailto:templeisraelmemorialpark@gmail.com)*

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

### 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.

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](http://westclarkstownjc.org)

## **Sisterhood News**

Shalom Rav!

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Year, 2024, and spring is just around the corner. With spring comes the festive holiday of Purim in Adar II ( leap year) on March 24. As the saying goes:

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"Mesheniches Adar Marbeem Bsimcha". He who enters Adar increases in happiness. The greatest happiness will be when the war in Israel ends and the hostages are brought home to their loved ones. May there be an everlasting Peace - SHALOM.

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Sisterhood hasn't met since the Paid-up Brunch in the Fall, but WCJC members eat lunch together after Shabbat Services and many divergent topics and critical issues are discussed. We enjoy the togetherness. Isn't this one of the reasons we have joined WCJC? Attending Services puts consistency in our everyday lives. I personally have learned so much by reading the Torah and hearing the Rabbi's commentaries over the many years. Why don't you come and see for yourselves. One is never too old to learn.

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Becoming a member of Sisterhood is open all year. Dues are \$36.00. Checks should be made out to Sisterhood of West Clarkstown Jewish Center and mailed to:

**Fran Boxer**

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**6 Cygnet Road**

**Congers, NY 10920**

Our newest member is Fran Weiner. Thank you, Fran, for joining our fold. As presidents of Sisterhood & Men's Club, Steve and I have discussed future fundraisers and events for the year. Since we are a small group, we think it is best to combine any event between the two arms instead of running them individually. Everything is on hold until the weather is more favorable. Please be supportive and help us in any way you can.

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Sisterhood is appreciative of the Shoppe on Wed. and the hard work of Susan Ravner, Barbara & Julie Shair & anyone else who helps out.

My family joins me in extending good wishes for a very Happy Purim.

L'het'ra'ot,

## Sheila Paris- aka Sarah

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### Men's Club News

On the week-end of March 10<sup>th</sup> we change our clocks and move ahead one hour. This means that spring is just around the corner. We will be welcoming back our members who are down in Florida for the winter. The Men's Club will be having our Mexican Train game day event in late May or early June. Everyone will be notified via e-mail or phone.

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

Fraternally,

**Steve Paris**

### Sunshine Cards

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**from**-Lil Zinn-**to**- Jack H. Zinn -  
Happy Birthday

**from** - Lil Zinn -**to** Z. Daniel Zinn -  
Happy birthday with an abundance  
of love always.

**from**-Lil Zinn -**to**-- Darlene Fairman  
- Happy birthday with an abundance  
of love always

**from**-Lil Zinn-**to** Harriet Moskowitz -  
Happy birthday, enjoy

**from**-Lil Zinn-**to**- Marilyn & David  
Tessel - Happy anniversary sent with  
an abundance of love

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### In Sympathy

**from**- Sheila & Steve Paris -  
**to**- Amy Fox & Family - In memory  
of Ellen Breslaw

**from** -Sheila & Steve Paris -  
**to**- Michael Breslaw & Family - In  
memory of Ellen Breslaw

**from**-Sheila & Steve Paris -**to**- Seth  
Breslaw & Family - In memory of  
Ellen Breslaw

**from**-Fred & Michele Finkelberg -  
**to**- Amy Fox & Family - In memory  
of Ellen Breslaw

**from** -Susan & Stan Alpert -**to**-Amy  
Fox & Family -in memory of Ellen  
Breslaw

**from** -Sheila & Steve Paris-**to**- Ethan  
Ackerman - In memory of Laura  
Ackerman

**from**-Sheila & Steve Paris -  
**to**- Chad Ackerman - In memory of  
Laura Ackerman

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