

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

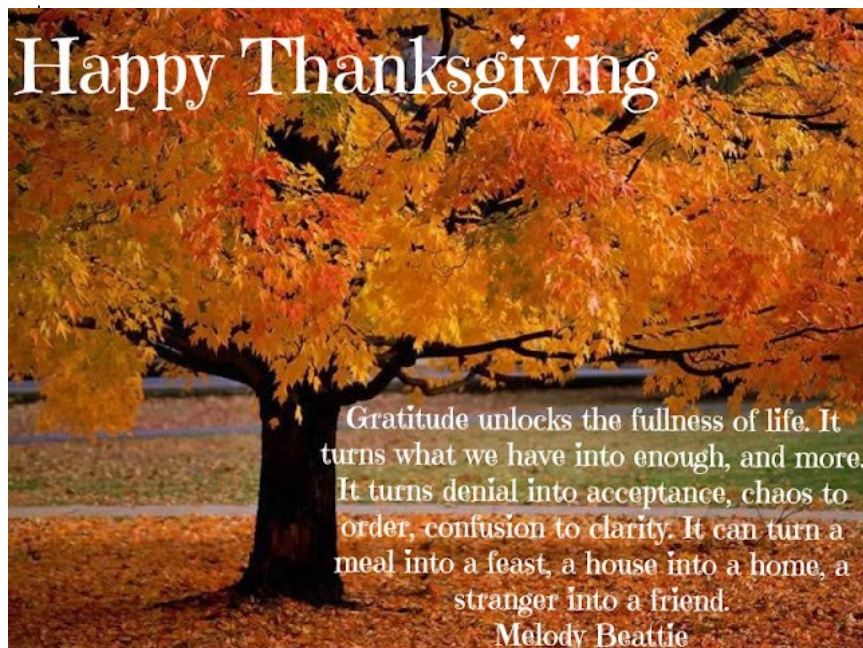
Inside this issue

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE	2
FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY	2
SISTERHOOD	3
CONDOLENCES	3
SUKKAH PICTURES	4-5
FAMILY SHABBAT	6
WHC CLASSES	6
DONATIONS	7
ADS	8

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Cheshvan — Kislev 5780



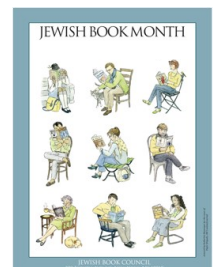
Sisterhood

Paid-Up Membership Meeting

Tuesday November 5th @ 12:30 PM

COME CELEBRATE "JEWISH BOOK MONTH"

Refreshments will be served



Family Shabbat

Saturday November 16th @ 10:00 AM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday November 26th @ 7:30 PM





WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
Sharon Samet
Patricia Smolker

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Steven Axelman
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718-208-5059



President's Message

If you were to go around and ask the individuals making up our congregation what they expected of our Shul how many different answers do you think you'd get? The stock answer is to provide a place where members, when they so desire may practice observance of our faith per our alignment with the Conservative movement. How this is done is a little more complicated. You see - I fear the answer for most is "to provide High Holiday services where I may say Yizkor for my departed loved ones or, God forbid, to be there when I need it in the event of family tragedy. These are not wrong answers - but they are not the answers that make the Shul a community.

With the conclusion of Simchat Torah - We come to the end of another High Holiday cycle. If you were committed enough to attend each and every prayer service offered at the WHC - one could hardly blame you for using the word "Shuled-out". Of course, no Orthodox practitioner would dream of using the expression - after all, we are commanded to do no manner of servile work in order that we may praise and offer thanks to God as a community. The Conservative movement looks at the issue in much the same way, but at the risk of coming off as a heretic - may I suggest that any time given to God in the peace of our Sanctuary is not only well spent, but acknowledged by the Almighty. I suspect what drives many people off from attending weekly Shabbat services is the thought that if you're not going to come every week - what's the point? Let me assure you we

(Continued on page 3)

The question about the perceived unfairness of life, sometimes stated as "why do bad things happen to good people" is one of those I am asked about most often. So I want to share a few thoughts that I have recently stumbled upon that may shed light or at least provoke thought on this subject.

Many of us feel that at times we have been sorely mistreated through no fault of our own. Some may believe they were the victim of an orchestrated campaign of slander and lies or were falsely accused of things that, ironically, they may have even gone to great lengths to avoid. Most people seem to believe they have been the victim of one type of injustice or another during the course of their lifetimes.

Some people find themselves becoming bitter and angry - not only at people but perhaps at God himself, even believing that God has somehow forgotten about them.

Most of us are content when things are going the way we want them to. But when life deals us a hard blow, when the bottom drops out, when we face conflict or adversity, suddenly we are no longer content.

Most people believe in fairness or at least they profess to. Most of us believe that if someone does what is right, he should be rewarded. If someone does what is wrong, he ultimately should face some kind of punishment.

Yet, we all know people who do the wrong thing and still seem to do well. They still prosper. (As we read responsively from page 99 every Friday night, "when the wicked bloom like grass and all the doers of iniquity blossom".) Their lives don't necessarily fall apart. In fact, sometimes they even do a little bit better than we are doing.

So we ask God why. Why is it that he would allow someone who is breaking his

(Continued on page 4)



Monday November 11th

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Message

Sisterhood will have its Paid-Up Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 5th. Iris Kirschner, our Program Chairperson, will once again provide a great program. Thank you, Iris, for all the work you put into our programs.

Sisterhood will have a General Meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd at 12:30 PM. We will be celebrating Chanukah. A lite lunch will be served. Save the date. We hope to see you at the General Meeting.

SISTERHOOD DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue.	Nov 5th	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 AM
Tue.	Nov 5th	Sisterhood Paid-Up Membership Meeting	12:30 PM

Sisterhood Donations

Thank you to Anna Fussteig for her generous donation in memory of all her loved ones.

Thank you to Doris Shankman for her generous donation.

Condolences

To Michele Splain
on the loss of Allen Simon

**המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים**

May his memory be a blessing

Prayer Book Fund—October 2019

Inscribed Prayer Book
in memory of Richard Silverman

- Sisterhood WHC

New WHC Phone System



Due to the increase of business being conducted more on the internet than in the past, coupled with our new virtual phone system, we no longer need someone staffing the office during the day. Anyone phoning the shul will be presented with options to hear hours of services, directions, or to be connected to me or the Rabbi. If you are not connected directly to me or the Rabbi, please leave a message and your call will be returned in a timely manner. When the calendar states that the office is closed, that means that messages may not be returned on the same day. When you need to conduct business in shul in person, please leave that in your message and we will arrange to meet you.

Sharon Samet

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

have no secret "Shabbat Police Force" marking your comings and goings every week.

We're happy to see you when you come and miss you when you're not here but that's as far as it goes. Shabbat is the second holiest day of the Jewish calendar – and it comes every week. If you're not quite ready to commit to Saturday mornings (excepting of course the popular once a month Family Shabbat extravaganzas) a fine way to experience the joy of prayer can be found on Friday nights in a warm, friendly service conducted by

our own Rabbi Axelman. Starts 7:45pm year round – and generally clocks in at just under an hour. I think you'd be surprised at just how addictive a habit it can be. You can literally feel the anxieties of the workweek dropping away, in a manner more therapeutic (and healthier) than the secular Happy Hour. Come and join with your Community. As the old commercial went "Try It – You'll Like It" See You in Shul!

Bruce Berenson



Some of our Hebrew School students decorating the Sukkah on Sunday October 13th with the Rabbi's assistant teacher (and WHC Hebrew School) alumnus, Michael Laufer



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)

commandments to do better than we are? Why would he allow us to go through hardship when we are trying, to the best of our ability, to do his will?

Yet an argument can be made in the opposite direction. Thank goodness life is unfair.

If life were fair, we would all suffer for every bad thing we've done. And since none of us are perfect, our imperfection could only lead to devastation. If we had to pay for every misdeed and would have to earn everything positive before experiencing it, what would we have? Maybe we should be glad that life is less than what we perceive as fair.

Often, when people say that life is unfair, what they usually mean is that someone else has something that they don't, and they want to have that thing, too. It's essentially complaining that God – our Father – is showing favoritism to another person.

Many of us are (self-proclaimed) experts in what we don't have but how much do we think about what we do have? Were we born into a loving family, with parents who raised us, fed us and clothed us? If so, we did nothing to earn that; it was a gift. Do we have a roof over our head? Food on our plate? Relatively good health? An education? Family? Friends? Some of us may not have all of these particular things but each of us surely has some things. Whatever we have, it's a gift. We did

little or nothing to earn it. How terrible life would be if it were "fair" and we had to earn all the good things in our lives!

Almost all of us have been told at one time or another that "God only gives a person a test that he can pass." Many of us would far prefer to not have these tests at all, so how does that help anything? But a certain Rabbi, Shimshon Pincus, understands this phrase somewhat differently. God gives us tests that we can pass or fail. But, "the choice is what to do with the things you have no choice about in your life."

We have the choice to withdraw and lick our wounds or to use the strength, knowledge, experience and wisdom that we can gain from how we coped with adversity, no matter how severe, to be there for others in similar situations. And that can make us a far better person. Does that make the bad things easier? At the time, probably not. Many years later, depending on what we do with the things we had no choice about, quite possibly!

I recognize that this is an extremely difficult and complicated issue and I welcome discussion on this topic.

Ideas and wording for this article were taken from the following sources:

[The TorahAnyTimes" Newsletter Parshat Breishit](#)

[Do hardships make you bitter or better?](#)

[Life is Unfair \(Thank God!\)](#)



Hebrew School students blessing
and shaking the Lulav and Etrog and
enjoying the Sukkah
on Sunday October 20th

October Family Shabbat Sponsors



Evelyn Apter in memory of
the birthday of her sister, Rosalyn Stern

Rabbi Axelman, Sharon and family
in honor of Sharon's birthday

The Berenson family in honor of the birthdays of
Bruce, Hilarie, Lisa, Fabio and Sharon

Liliya Berezovsky and Alex Ratner in honor of
their anniversary and the birthdays of
their daughter, Rita and their granddaughter, Katya

Lisa and Julianna Hakim

Arthur Isman

Ellis Rosenblatt in memory of
the yahrzeit of his uncle, Arnold Lisak

The Smith Family in honor of Shirley's birthday

Jeffrey Young and Judi Glass in honor of
Ron Kohn's Simchat Torah Aliyah

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @12:45 PM -- Talmud Class

The goal of this class is to reintroduce people to the wisdom of the Talmud. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz writes in Essential Talmud:

"The Talmud is a very hard book to define ... from content to style, every definition is incomplete or contradictory. ... The Talmud is completely unique--a book that has no parallel anywhere.... If the bible is the cornerstone of Judaism, then the Talmud is the central pillar, soaring up from the foundations and supporting the entire spiritual and intellectual edifice.... In many ways the Talmud is the most important book in Jewish culture, the backbone of creativity and of national life. No other work has had a comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish life, shaping spiritual content and serving as a guide to conduct.... [t]he Jewish people have always been keenly aware that their continued survival and development depend on study of the Talmud.

Mondays @7:30 PM -- Judaism 101

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Minimum donation - \$36.

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Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund	\$10
Chai Fund.....	\$18
Prayer Book Fund	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".



Thank you for Donations -- October 2019

Yahrzeit

Jean Appel
 Jeffrey Bardekoff
 Laurie Chester
 Steven and Denise Lazarus
 Howard Newman
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Aaron and Shirley Safran
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 Jerry and Norma Strassler

General Donations

For the High Holidays

Anna Fussteig

In honor of Paula Hanover for sponsoring the Yom Kippur Break-fast

Pat Smolker

Dennis Grossman



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WHC BULLETIN BY EMAIL!



If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to haxelman@gmail.com and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!



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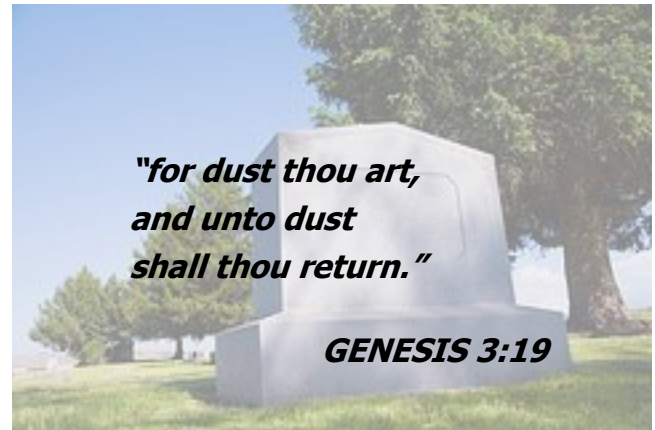
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