

THE PATH SEEKER

CONGREGATION M'VAKSHE DEREKH
133 Popham Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
(914) 725-3064

Ned J. Soltz, Rabbi
Naomi Chiel, Cantor
Emanuel S. Goldsmith, Rabbi Emeritus
www.mvakshederekh.org
Joan Silver—President

Tevet/Shevat 5776



January 2016



From Our Rabbi's Desk

Chanukah is long over but I believe Chanukah has a subtle message that our entire country needs to hear. No, it isn't just a story of Maccabees and liberation and self-determination. That's important, too. But let's take a typical Rabbinic dialectic and make it a lesson for today.

The first halachic debate in the Talmudic discussion of Chanukah was a Hillel and Shammai argument over the lighting of Chanukah lights. Shammai maintained that one starts with 8 lights and take away a candle every night. Hillel argued that we start with one candle and add. We obviously know that Hillel won. What is significant for this lesson, though, is the rationale. Hillel wins the argument on the basis of the principle that "we ascend in holiness and never descend."

We find ourselves in perhaps as vile and ugly a national political climate as any of us have ever experienced. I would leave it to historians to debate whether it is as ugly as other periods in our history. Yet I think we can all agree that levels of discourse within national politics, within the Jewish community and within our total community has never reached lower depths.

The Hillel rationale is sorely needed in our world. Rising in holiness is not merely enhancing levels of piety and observance. Rising in holiness means ascending in our levels of personal ethics, conduct and indeed levels of discourse.

So let's keep the lights of Chanukah kindled within us well beyond those 8 days. Spread the message both of freedom as well as elevation of holiness. And that to me means rising in civility and not descending.

Rabbi Ned Soltz

M'vakshe Derekh Extends a Hearty Mazal Tov to:

Carole and Evin Rubin on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. All their children helped them celebrate this wonderful milestone with a party at the Performing Arts Center.

Carole and Evin on the wedding of their son, Martin, and Kathy the same weekend.

Irene Wisoff on the anniversary of her marrying her beloved Hugh, 65 years ago. All her children and grandchildren celebrated with her on this wonderful occasion.

The Wisoffs and Rubins share this milestone, having been married on the same evening.

Harriet and Joe Fibel on the engagement of their grandson, Scott Steinhardt to Christy Hall.

A VICIOUS PRANK WITH A GOOD ENDING

By Joe Fibel

My daughter, Marcia, her husband, Alan, and their older son Max, live in Syosset, a little over an hour's drive from New Rochelle. Their younger son, Jacob has moved to Boca Raton, Florida.

One day last week, I received a telephone call and when I answered it the person calling said "Grandpa, This is Jacob. I'm in trouble. Do you remember my friend Sam, who has cancer? Well, I'm visiting him in Bergenfield, New Jersey, and I had an accident. Somebody slammed into the back of my car and I can't drive it. I need help. "

I talked to "Jacob" for a few minutes and the call just didn't sound right. Harriet got on the phone and asked if he was all right. He answered, "No." He said that he was visiting his friend , Sam, and that some driver had slammed into the back of his car and in order to get it fixed he needed \$2,135 right away.

At this point, I was very suspicious and said, "Jacob, call us back in a few minutes" and I hung up. I 'phoned my daughter in Syosset, who answered right away. I asked her if she had heard from Jacob today. She answered, "No. why?" I explained the call I had

just received and she agreed it was a hoax.

We had been involved in a similar experience several years ago, when we received a call advising us that friends of ours, members of our congregation, were in Europe, and had been robbed of their cash and their passports and needed \$2,500. to get home. We didn't send the money and, of course, our friends were at home in Westchester. I reported this to the New Rochelle police department but they were not interested. I even reported it to the FBI and they were equally uninterested. They said that hoaxers make a couple of such calls and then dump the phones. If they followed up on these hoaxes, they'd have no time for anything else.

In any case, about a half hour later, I got a call from my daughter to bring me up to date. She had called Jacob on his cell phone and he said he was fine. A few minutes later, Marcia's doorbell rang and when she opened the door, there was Jacob. As a surprise, he had flown up from Florida to join his family for Thanksgiving. A happy ending, indeed. Incidentally, there was no friend, Sam in Bergenfield.

Dear Members;

Please let us know if there is a simcha in your family. Kindly call or phone Mary Soltz if you would like to share an important event in your or your loved ones' lives. Let us all be happy with and for you.

Mary's phone: 817-654-9572

E-mail: masoltz@aol.com

KIDDUSH SPONSORS – DECEMBER 2015

December 5 --- Thanks again to Joan Silver for generously providing Kiddush. Her homemade mac and cheese hit the spot on a chilly day, and we all enjoy her tasty lemon mousse.

December 12 --- We were all treated to a delightful and delicious Hanukkah luncheon again this year. A great big thank you to:

Vera Kaplan for her unique and tasty cheesy latkes, a special green salad, and of course, what event would be complete without herring and whitefish salad, and of course, more desserts?!

Iris Farber for her incredible apple cake

Joan Silver for the delicious spinach casserole

Harriet Fibel, Cora Freedman, Jack Chachkes, and Mary Soltz also donated desserts and side dishes to help round everything out

We all enjoy the food and camaraderie of Kiddush.

Please consider helping to sponsor one in the future, either by cooking or baking yourself, buying goodies, or a financial contribution to offset our ordering costs. Just contact Rita or Harriet to let them know when you'd like to sponsor.



In the Book of Remembrance

Yahrzeits during January and February

The following names will be read on the dates indicated

Esther Edelstein	Mother of Arnold Edson	1/2/2016
Muriel Klein	Mother of Stephen Solomon	1/2/2016
Moricz Klein	Father of Vera Kaplan	1/2/2016
Lewis Krieger	Father of Irma Volk	1/9/2016
Jack Edelstein	Father of Arnold Edson	1/9/2016
Fannie Reiff	Mother of Nathan Reiff	1/9/2016
George Astrove	Husband of Judy Astrove	1/16/2016
Sarah Clark	Mother of Jack Clark	1/23/2016
David S. Fisch	Father of Florence Baskas	1/23/2016
Bertha Miller	Mother of Daniel Miller	1/30/2016
Marcia Rivkin	Sister of Bernice Schwartz	1/30/2016
Lois Abel	Mother of Mary Soltz	1/30/2016
Sylvia Soltz	Mother of Rabbi Ned Soltz	1/30/2016
Philip Adler	Father of Herbert Adler	2/6/2016
Deborah Ann Fortier	Sister of Jimmy Fortier	2/6/2016
Marion Stern	Mother of Florence Reiff	2/6/2016
Harris Wasserman	Grandfather of Helene Miller	2/13/2016
Jack Seligman	Father of Philip Seligman	2/13/2016
Claire Seider	Mother of Carole Rubin	2/13/2016
Moses David Katz	Father of Jeff Katz	2/13/2016
Frances Dworetzky	Mother of Ed Dworetzky	2/13/2016
Mamie Sieger	Grandmother of Irma Volk	2/13/2016
Percy Wisoff	Father of Hugh Wisoff	2/13/2016
Michael Leonard Freedman	Husband of Cora Freedman	2/13/2016
Susan Sussman	Wife of Ken Sussman	2/13/2016
Minnie Urvant	Mother of Lorraine Weber	2/20/2016
Ann Newman	Mother of Leonard Newman	2/27/2016
Isaac Clark	Father of Jack Clark	2/27/2016

TRIBUTES

From:

Helene Miller

In memory of David Wasserman, beloved father of Helene and in memory of Nettie Wasserman, beloved aunt of Helene Miller.

Judy Astrove

In memory of my amazing and beloved husband, George. He loved his years spent at M'vaksho Derekh and all the many members. I love you all as well.

*Mary and Rabbi
Ned Soltz*

In memory of Sylvia Soltz, beloved mother of Ned Soltz and in memory of Lois Abel, beloved mother of Mary Soltz

*Florence and
Nathan Reiff*

In memory of Louis Reiff, beloved father of Nathan Reiff and in memory of Fannie Greenfield, beloved mother of Nathan Reiff

Irene Wisoff

In honor of Harriet Fibel for coordinating another year of Kiddush for the Sabbath

In honor of Vera Kaplan, "to a Ballabuster", baker, and Bulletin Writer, to say thanks.

Iris Farber, to say thank you for continuing to collect and deliver our donations of food for the needy.

In honor of Mary Soltz, to say thanks for over-seeing multiple tasks.

In honor of Marianne Buterman, to congratulate her for reaching the milestone of seeing her last child married

*Jimmy and
Ju Mei Fortier*

In memory of Deborah Ann Fortier, beloved sister of Jimmy Fortier

*Vera and Mark
Kaplan*

In memory of Philip Kaplan, beloved father of Mark Kaplan and in memory of Moricz Klein, beloved father of Vera Kaplan

***SHABBAT & HOLIDAY TORAH AND
HAFTARAH READINGS***

January 2

Torah: Parashat Shemot

Exodus - 1:1-6:1

Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3

January 9

Torah: Parashat Vaera

Exodus - 6:2—9:35

Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

January 16

Torah: Parashat Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-46:28

January 23

Torah: Parashat Beshalach

Exodus 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 5:1-5:31

January 30

Torah: Parashat Yitro

Exodus 18:1-20:23

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1—6:13

February 6

Torah: Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8 - 34:22;

33:25 - 33:26

February 13

Torah: Terumah

Exodus 25:1-27:19

Haftarah: IKings 5:26-6:13

February 20

Torah: Tetzaveh

Exodus 27:20-30:10

Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-43:27

February 27

Torah: Ki Tisa

Exodus 30:11-34:35

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-18:39

OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS – THE GARBERS

By Joe Fibel

In the small book in the series, Images of America about Port Richmond, Staten Island, on page 67, there is a wonderful picture of four generations of the Garber family; Abraham, the Immigrant, his son Louis, Louis's son, Harold, (Harriet's first cousin) and Harold's son, Barry. According to the story, Abraham was raised in Gaberna Shtetl, Poland. Gaberna, a spelling variation of the Russian and Yiddish word Guberniya means district, while Shtetl, in Yiddish means small community. To explain the reason for using this name, Harold simply said that "It was easier than figuring out the right answer."

In fact, Abraham came to the U.S. alone, on the S.S. Finland, sailing from Antwerp arriving in N.Y. on April 5, 1911. In the ship's manifest his name appears as Abraham Garbol, and his place of departure is given as Debzin, or correctly, Dobrzyn nad Wisla. Harold knew his grandfather very well as they shared a bedroom during his childhood.

Two years after arriving, Abraham sent for his family. They left their shtetl, Biesun, and arrived in N.Y. from Hamburg on the ship Cleveland on June 4th, 1913. Abe's wife Rachel, brought their six children: Meyer, Yetta, (Yiske), Louis,(Leib), David (Harriet's dad) Paul, (Peretz) and Max,(Mater) with her on this voyage. Louis, Dave and Paul began their work history in various parts of the shmatta trade. After they had saved a few dollars, they opened a small menswear store, called The Garber Brothers. Several

moves later, each time operating larger stores, they came to own one of the largest businesses on Staten Island. Everyone living on the Island knew and probably shopped in this store. Several of the brothers' children worked there.

Before they lived in Biesun, having lived in Radzanow and Zuromin, Rachel operated a bakery in each of these communities, having moved from place to place, to improve the family economics. They sold bread from the bakery and at the weekly community market. All of the places mentioned are within a few miles of each other, about seventy five miles from Warsaw.

I got most of my information from my father in law and records from the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI) project, on Jewishgen , which currently contains over 6,000,000 records .

Dave Garber, Harriet's father has written his biography, in long hand. It begins with his description of the trip by cart to the railroad. The family was waylaid by a group of robbers. Meyer, the oldest and strongest son, took a pole from the cart, attacked the bandits, and left them by the wayside beaten up and rescuing the family.

Shortly after arriving in New York, they all unofficially and later officially, changed the family name to Garber. My father-in-law told me they did this because the Christian kids on the street would chase them calling "Garbel, Garbel, Garbel, Jewish Turkeys".