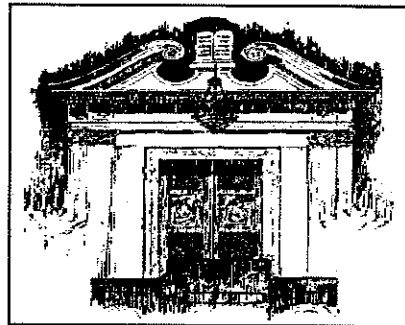


Astoria Center of Israel Bulletin

The only CONSERVATIVE Synagogue in the
Astoria—Long Island City—Woodside Area



Volume LXXXIV

December 2009

No. 4

Candle Lightings: 4:11, 4:10, 4:12, 4:15

14 Kislev 5770

Rabbi Jonathan Pearl, Ph.D.

Cantor George Lindenblatt

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



With the approach of a season that boasts cheer in abundance and present-buying galore, it behooves us to once again take stock of the wonder of our unique and distinct heritage and history, and particularly of the place of the lights of *Chanukah* therein. We are happy during Chanukah for a very specific reason—we are celebrating our miraculous survival in the face of near extinction at the hands of foes some 2,000 years ago. More than that, we are celebrating the Maccabees' burning desire to stand up for who they were and what they believed—to not be led astray by the easy allures of the eyes and heart, nor the fashionably correct faddish practices and beliefs of the day. And above all, we are celebrating our commitment to the strength and resolve they showed by making it ours today.

It is wonderful to take something great that was and that endured, and embrace it as our own today while committing to its preservation and eternity. We do this often in Judaism—we do this on Chanukah, and we did this at a ceremony last month marking ACI's being named to the National and the NY State Registers of Historic Sites. We treasure our past, which serves as the foundation and core of our present and future. The bright lights of our past illumine our paths in life as we forge ahead.

So shouldn't we start Chanukah with the brightest lights? Indeed, the rabbis asked why we don't light eight candles on the first night of Chanukah, and then—as the holiday progresses, just as that bit of oil diminished until there was none remaining—we light one less candle each subsequent night until we light only one on the last night of Chanukah?

The answer lies in our desire and ability to add light to our lives and to the lives of others, rather than diminish its intensity. The light emanating from the Chanukah candles increases each night. The luminance can at first mesmerize and transfix, but its intensity, coupled with our willingness to understand the true message of Chanukah, ultimately gives us the courage and strength of our ancestors to uphold and be true to their convictions.

Rather than purposely diminish the glow, we indeed do all in our power to add to the bright wonder of family, Judaism, and celebration in our lives, and in the lives of those whom we know and love. As a congregation, we thank all those who help to do this for our synagogue, keeping its paths always warmly and brightly illuminated.

Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Jonathan Pearl

The Festival Of Lights

*The Rabbi, Cantor, Presidents, and Officers
extend wishes for a happy and healthy Chanukah*

Schedule of Services

MAKE SATURDAY CENTER MORNING
WORSHIP TOGETHER WITH YOUR FAMILY

Friday, December 4

Late Friday Night Service

Candles..... 4:11 pm
Services..... 8:00 pm

*Potluck Dinner starts at 6:30 pm
followed by service in the Sanctuary*

Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday, December 5

Services..... 9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYISHLACH
Bar/bat mitzvah class follows kiddush
Sabbath ends 5:16 pm

★★★

Friday, December 11

Shabbat Chanukah

*Light 1st Chanukah candle
before Sabbath candles*

Candles..... 4:10 pm
Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday, December 12

Services..... 9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYESHEV
Lunch & Learn follows service
Sabbath ends 5:15 pm
Light menorah after Sabbath ends

★★★

Friday, December 18

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

*Light 8th Chanukah candle
before Sabbath candles*

Candles..... 4:12 pm
Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday, December 19

Services..... 9:30 am
Weekly Portion: MIKETZ
Bar/bat mitzvah class follows kiddush
Sabbath ends 5:17 pm

★★★

Friday, December 25

Candles..... 4:15 pm
Sabbath Morning Service

Saturday, December 26


Services..... 9:30 am
Weekly Portion: VAYIGASH
Sabbath ends 5:20 pm

★★★

The Center will host the kiddushim

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday Night Service & Potluck Dinner

Dec. 4, 8:00 pm in the
Sanctuary, preceded by Pot-
luck at 6:30 pm in the Social 
Hall. Bring a kosher item,
either pareve or dairy. This is the only
Friday night service in December, so be
sure to join us for a spirited and spiritual
evening.

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Classes

Dec. 5 & Dec. 19. Rabbi Pearl con-
tinues with classes directly after Sab-
bath kiddush. Call the Center office
(718-278-2680) to register or to leave
message for Rabbi.



Chanukah December 11-19



Shabbat Lunch & Learn

Dec. 12, in the Social Hall following
services. Open the Festival of Light with
our monthly forum of great ideas over
a casual lunch. Led by Rabbi Pearl, it's
guaranteed to provide food for thought.
For this month only, bring a bag lunch
(kosher—dairy or pareve) if desired;
cake & coffee provided.

Chanukah Latke Party

Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:00 pm

Bring your favorite menorah for a com-
munal lighting, as we celebrate every-
one's favorite holiday. Latkes deluxe with
all the fixins' for an afternoon of festivi-
ty and fellowship. Add your spark to
the bright doings! Cost: Members: \$10,
Nonmembers: \$12, Kids 6-10: \$5, Kids 5
& under: free.

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 20, 10:00 am.

see p. 5 for details.

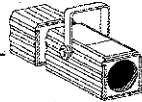


POEM OF THE MONTH

As your menorah glows
with glorious light,
DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES
to keep our treasury bright.

TAKE NOTE

We are updating and refreshing our *Misha B'ruch* list. Please submit names of those currently ill by Dec. 10, to start a new list on Dec. 12.



Spotlight on...

Historic Site Celebration

A huge and effusive crowd of members, friends, and dignitaries filled the Center on November 15 to witness our being named to both the New York State and the National Register of Historic Places. Watch for Judy Pearl's exciting recap of the historic afternoon in the January Bulletin.

As we go to press, here we list the behind-the-scenes people who helped make it all possible—and convey to each of them our deep gratitude.

Rabbi Pearl-who oversaw all aspects of the comprehensive and dynamic program with his customary blend of enthusiasm and expertise.

Sydelle Diner-Event Chair, whose years of work on this project culminated on Sunday with her officially accepting the document of historic status.

Judy Pearl & Judy Markowitz-Outreach Committee Co-Chairs

Cara & David Bernstein, Sue Ann & Mitchell Blas, Sally Constain,

Steve Markowitz, Andrea Pack, Phyllis Pack-Outreach Committee members

Mitchell Blas-Exhibits of artwork, Ladies Guild Room

Sue Ann & Mitchell Blas-Publicity, donation of collation soft drinks

Markowitz Family-Donation of collation pastries

Steve Markowitz-Videotaping

Susan Mickel-Invitation mailing, donation of collation coffee & tea

Andrea Pack & Phyllis Pack-Donation of sanctuary flowers

Ayelet Pearl-Invitation & program designs, lobby displays

Pearl Family-Publicity, donation of program printing & collation fruit platters

Joyce Kerrigan & Mike Tello-Our ever-ready office staff

Also: Milch Photography, Chicago Palmer House Hilton hotel,

NY Waldorf-Astoria hotel

More next month! And see p. 7 for our new Landmark Fund.

Follow-up on...

Trinkets-to-Treasures Sale

Our fall Trinkets-to-Treasures Sale was a resounding success, thanks to the donations of merchandise, time, and effort by so many of you. Start collecting your new & gently used items now for the next sale: specifically Judaica, jewelry, art work, antiques & collectibles, giftware, books (we're expanding our book display!), and raffle prizes. All items must be clean and in excellent condition.

We salute our tireless workers, led by Special Events Chair Judy Markowitz, who organized, set up, sold, and cleaned up: Cara Bernstein, Sue Ann & Mitch Blas, Susan Cohn, Sally Constain, Sydelle Diner, Lotte Finnochiaro, Phyllis Hochberg, Andy Kertesz, Cantor & Elaine Lindenblatt, Andrea Pack, Rose Ratnoff, Ruth Schloss, Sylvia Steinberg. We missed the helping hands of recovering Ruth Blumenthal—see you next time. Thanks to Phyllis Pack for her delectable homemade cupcakes—and to Joyce & Mike for all their help.

CREATIVITY CORNER

I'm looking for Center members to meet once or twice a month to make one medium-sized quilt, to be raffled off at the Spring Trinkets-to-Treasures Sale. The group would also create various handmade items to be sold at a craft table at the sale. I need a minimum of six people—men or women—although the more that join us the more variety we'll have to sell. You don't have to be an expert stitcher; everyone is welcome. If sewing isn't your thing, bring whatever talents you have to the table (woodworking, painting, drawing, crochet, knitting, etc.).

The first meeting, slated for January, will be a planning meeting. Please think about joining us. No stress, no pressure, just a group of talented people gathering for a social and productive few hours. If interested, call Joyce at the office (718-278-2680) and leave your name and number.

Thank you,
Phyllis R. Pack

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

I cannot believe that another calendar year is ending and we soon begin 2010. Time flies when we're involved with beloved ACI—activities, services, special events, enjoying friendship in a caring community.

This past year featured so many events that enriched our lives, enchanted our palates, and embraced our souls with the love of Judaism. Lunch & Learns, hosted monthly by generous congregants and by the Pearl Family, were a nourishing means of sipping from the Rabbi's cup of knowledge. We welcomed new members into the ACI family and converts to Judaism into the fold. Shabbat Across America was wonderful, with learning and music and a delicious meal. We had a festive Chanukah party, a Purim costume party, an extraordinary communal Passover seder, a Shevuot blintze luncheon. Martha Michaels was our Journal honoree, with an evening of recollections and tributes. There were summer trips to the Greek Synagogue and the Queens Botanical Gardens, learning experiences for all who attended. Our children in the Shabbat Program were awarded end-of-year certificates. ACI was the site of aufrufs, a wedding, an anniversary, and a bris. The High Holy days were exquisite, full of meaningful prayers, oral readings, the music of the choir and participation by The Pearls' precious gems.

I found it a joy to chant haftorahs, to help give *davar torah*, and to speak at Shabbat services. What is meaningful to me is that I will be completing two terms as your co-president, and Jay and I have successfully completed one full term serving together. Helping ACI grow and be a vital part of our community is our continuing goal.

We thank Rabbi Pearl, with his compassionate and dynamic leadership, and Cantor George, with his melodic voice, for making services so inspirational. We thank the Board of Trustees and Governors, officers, heads of committees, and each of you. Without your attendance, your loyalty, your donations and support, we would not have ACI as our treasured worship home.

As we approach Chanukah, the festival of lights, of a victory of the few over the many, let us savor freedom's precious light and God's miracles. Let us remember the good things of this past year and move forward to make 2010 the best year yet for all of us.

Blessings and peace,
Cynthia Groopman

We Are Grateful

The Board of Trustees & Governors, on behalf of the entire congregation, extends sincere thanks to Cynthia & Dr. Jacob Groopman for their generosity in matching all donations to the Kol Nidre Fund Appeal (*see Center Funds for complete list of donors*). This was a most successful campaign to bring in much needed operational funds for ACI.

FAMILY NEWS

Simcha Street

Mazel tov to Dr. Bob & Grace Felsher on the engagement of daughter Lynn to Joseph Nacmias.

Appreciation Alley

We thank Amelia & Jason Weinberger for hosting the Nov. 7 kiddush in honor of daughter Sophia Miriam's birth; the Pearl Family for hosting the Oct. 31 Lunch & Learn; the Markowitz Family for hosting the Nov. 21 Lunch & Learn in honor of Steve Markowitz's birthday.

Road to Recovery

Speedy get well wishes to Ruth Blumenthal, Sydelle Diner, Florence & Bill Melnick.

In Sympathy

Sincere condolences to Bonnie & Allen Steinberg on the passing of Bonnie's father Herbert Beloff. *May his memory be for a blessing.*

Words from the Wise

On Chanukah we are given part of the primordial light that has been hidden away since creation and is preserved for righteous people in the world to come. With this light, you can see from one end of the earth to the other. With this light, we are not allowed to kindle mundane lights but only other holy lights, the souls within each of us.

—B'nei Yissacher

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members:

**The annual meeting of the Center membership will be held at the Center
Sunday, December 20, 2009.**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Coffee and cake
2. Presentation of annual reports
3. Questions, comments and suggestions
4. Election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees and Governors
5. Consideration of such other business as may legally be presented.

The official candidates are as follows:

OFFICERS 2010-2011

Cynthia Groopman, Dr. Jacob Groopman	Co-Presidents
Judy Markowitz	Vice President
Ruth Blumenthal	Treasurer
Murray Lambert	Financial Secretary
Cara Bernstein	Recording Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Three-Year Terms Ending 2012

Sydelle Diner	Dorothy Horowitz	Alex Siegel
Steven Guralnick	Steven Markowitz	Mark Sohmer
	William Melnick	

BOARD OF GOVERNORS Term Ending 2010

Cara Bernstein	Davina Gelber	Susan Mickel
David Bernstein	Phylis Hochberg	Rose Ratnoff
Sally Constain	Andrew Kertesz	Sylvia Steinberg
Lotte Finnochiaro	Judith Markowitz	

The following continuing members of the Board of Trustees are not due for election or reelection at this time.

Three-Year Term Ending 2010

Ruth Blumenthal	Jonah Cohen	Martha Michaels
Elaine Brichta	Murray Lambert	Al Opoliner

Three-Year Term Ending 2011

Mitchell Blas	Dr. Robert E. Felsher	Dr. Jacob Groopman
Robert Bluh	Cynthia Groopman	Andrea L. Pack

Additional candidates for Governors or alternative candidates for Trustees may be placed in nomination by petition signed by ten members in good standing. Such a petition must be filed with Alex Siegel, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at the Center, at least 6 days prior to date of election. Only members in good standing may be nominated.

Join us to exercise your membership rights, and help guide ACI's future.

*Cynthia Groopman, Dr. Jacob Groopman,
Co-Presidents*

Dahzeit Anniversaries

*The following names will be read from the pulpit
immediately preceding the kaddish at our sabbath services.*

The families of the dear departed ones are invited to attend our services and participate in the kaddish prayer.

DEC. KISLEV

1	14	Max Brecher Bernard Klein Lee Eppsteiner Dinah Cohen
2	15	Isadore Block Julian Walter Fondiller Anna Shapiro Sarah Leah Shraberg Dr. William Telsey Hyman Hoffman
4	17	Joseph Hauptman
5	18	Rebecca Mishler
6	19	Herman Horowitz Minnie Nadel Ethel Kaplan Esther Eisenberg
7	20	Joseph Heller Dr. Joseph Mitchell
8	21	Max Gold Anna Moss Rosalind Lederer
9	22	Samuel Ostrov
10	23	Mamie Amster Morris Klein Theodore Grunwald
11	24	Basha B. Kupfer Joseph Kamlet
12	25	Rose Blumenfeld Dr. Ludwig H. Mendelson Henrietta Leinwol
13	26	Ida Greenberger
14	27	Dora Suntheimer Dr. Jacob Telsey Emma Cohn Irving Ostrow
15	29	Celia Lambert
16	29	Sylvia Robbins

Tevet

18	1	William Schumacher
19	2	Louis Fondiller Harriet Levene
20	3	Joseph Baer Rachel Smith Dr. I. Morton Braunschweig Arthur William Young Samuel Rosenzweig
21	4	Rebecca Jacovsky Dr. Harold Fruhter
22	5	Jonah Pritz Anne Sager Eugene Wigod
23	6	Bernard Krum Lena Frank
24	7	Henry Gressey
25	8	Henry L. Goldberg Morris Kuhl Mildred Janofsky Alice Mito
26	9	Annie Schiffer Miksa Schiffer Milton Siegel
27	10	Elsie Fassler Paula Neuburger Celia Risik Gertrude Rubin
28	11	Dora Arian Hinda Kopelman Jennie Friedlander
29	12	Harry Finkelstein Joseph N. Redisch
30	13	Ruchel Kilsslinger Benjamin Markowitz
31	14	Samuel H. Greiff Max Miller Jennie Diner Abraham Gedalia Cohen Norman Kempin

OUR CENTER FUNDS

We are grateful to our friends for their contributions to our...

Center Fund

Cynthia & Jacob Groopman-In appreciation of these individuals who gave us the honor of matching their Kol Nidre Appeal donation: Ruth Schwartz, Ruth Blumenthal, Sydelle Diner, Diane Giorgi, Eric Black, Elaine Brichta, Julie Pujol, Beryl Rosendorf, Mark Sohmer, Suzanne & Boaz Gilad, Shira Kavon, Sue Ann & Mitch Blas, David Rosenberg, Andrea Pack, Alan Sachs, Albert Sager, Steve & Judy Markowitz, Luther Golding, M. & P. Gelber, Davina Gelber, Jennifer Romacher, Roberta Saltzman, Susan Mickel, Sylvia Steinberg, Phylis Hochberg, Donald Cohen, Bradley Turner, Elise Karras, Alex & Jeanne Siegel, S. Rose, Harold Fink, Martha Michaels, Jonah & Maurine Cohen, Cara & David Bernstein, Diane Mansdorf, Alan & Marion Suekoff, Irit Tau Webber & David Webber.

Elaine Brichta-In honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage; happy birthday to Helen Berman; get well to Ruth Blumenthal & Sydelle Diner.

Martha Michaels-Yiskor for loved ones; Shemini Atzeret yiskor for loved ones, get well to Ruth Blumenthal & Sydelle Diner, in honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage.

Beryl & Lenny Rosendorf-Shemini Atzeret yiskor for parents Gussie & Joe Kamlet, Minnie & Meyer "Sheely" Rosendorf.

Phylis Hochberg-In memory of mother Pauline Hochberg; get well to Bill & Florence Melnick; in honor of Elaine Brichta's granddaughter's bat

Funds (continued on next pg.)

mitzvah, Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage, the birth of Teresa & Arthur Bailey's son, & the birth of Suzanne & Boaz Gilad's son; special thanks to Sue Ann & Mitch Blas, Judy & Steve Markowitz, Rabbi & Judy Pearl.

Mark Sohmer-In memory of father Hyman Sohmer; Shemini Atzeret yiskor for parents Sarah & Hyman and other loved ones.

Ruth Blumenthal-In honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage, the birth of Rabbi & Miryom Kass' granddaughter, Bob & Grace Felsher's daughter's engagement.

Alvin Friedman-In memory of wife Esther Ellen Friedman and parents Bertha & Hyman Friedman.

Rose Ratnoff-Get well to Ruth Blumenthal & Sydelle Diner; in honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage and the birth of Amelia & Jason Weinberger's daughter.

Edith F. Kaufman-In memory of brothers George, Myron, & Julian Fondiller.

Susan Mickel-To thank the Pearl & Markowitz families for their hospitality; in honor of Steve Guralnick being Hatan Torah, Roberta Saltzman being Kallah Bereishit, Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage.

Elinor Saler-Congratulations to Cantor & Elaine Lindenblatt and Suzanne & Boaz Gilad on the birth of grandson & son.

Sydelle Diner-In honor of the birth of Suzanne, Boaz, Noa, & Ella Gilad's son & brother, and of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage.

Ann Marrero-In memory of uncle Isaac Roth.

Brenda & Robert Hamby-In memory of mothers Beatrice Hamby & Ruth Redisch.

Phyllis Hanlon-In memory of father Theodore Weiss.

Jack & Barbara Schreiber-In memory of uncle George Scotch.

Dr. Ira Rothfeld, Susan & Angela Rothfeld-In memory of mother & mother-in-law Freda Rothfeld.

Suzanne & Gershon Berkson-Get well to Sydelle Diner.

Alan & Marion Suekoff-In memory of mother Anne Stieglitz; in honor of Elaine Brichta's granddaughter's bat mitzvah and of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage.

Frances Rand-In memory of mother Sarah Epstein.

Grace & Bob Felsher-Get well to Ruth Blumenthal & Bill Melnick.

Rose Nobel-In thanks for opening the Ark. Judy, Steve, Jill, Leah Markowitz-Get well to Sydelle Diner; to thank the Pearl Family for hosting the Oct. 31 Lunch & Learn.

Andrea Pack-Get well to Davina Gelber's parents after their auto accident.

Beryl Rosendorf-In memory of mother Gussie Kamlet; get well to Ira Mel Goldstein.

Hanna & Dani, Kristin & Ronen Harel-In honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage and the conversions of Josie Freeman, Laura Hafer, & Nevila Rasha; yiskor for loved ones.

Alex & Jeanne Siegel-Get well to Sydelle Diner.

Charlotte Kramer, Beverly & Harold Kaye-Yiskor for loved ones.

Meyer Steinberg-In memory of cousin Isadore Seiden.

Sandi Siegel Roth-In memory of sister Joyce Siegel Schuster.

Cantor Cohn Fund

Alex & Jeanne Siegel-In honor of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein's marriage.

Mitch & Sue Ann Blas-In honor of the conversions of Josie Freeman, Nevila Rasha, & Laura Hafer; get well to Ruth Blumenthal & Sydelle Diner.

Ruth Stern & Susan Cohn-In memory of mother Hanna, sisters Ilse Cohn & Herta Pressler, aunt Amy Geisenberg, and yiskor for loved ones.

Susan Cohn-Congratulations to Cantor & Elaine Lindenblatt on the birth of grandson Ben, to Rabbi & Miryom Kass and parents Drs. Danny Kass & Debby Gillman on the birth of granddaughter Nava Haviva; in honor of the marriages of Cara Mischel & David Bernstein and Kristin & Ronen Harel, Elaine Brichta's granddaughter's bat mitzvah, the law school graduation of Alex & Jeanne Siegel's grandson; get well to Ruth Blumenthal.

Cynthia & Jay Groopman-Happy anniversary to Hannah & Bob Bluh; happy October birthday to Susan Mickel, November birthday Steven Markowitz, December birthdays Mark Sohmer, Rabbi Pearl; mazel tov to the Lindenblatts on the birth of a grandson, to Amelia & Jason Weinberger on the birth of a daughter, and to Cara Mischel & David Bernstein on their marriage; in memory of mother Edith Groopman on her yearzeit; get well to Ruth Blumenthal, Abraham Amsilay, Sydelle Diner.

Kol Nidre Appeal Fund

Jonah & Maurine Cohen, Martha Michaels, Cara & David Bernstein, Diane Mansdorf, Marion Suekoff, Irit Tau Webber & David Webber, Harold Rose, Ruth Schwartz, Ruth Blumenthal, Mark Sohmer, Alan Sachs, Steve & Judy Markowitz, Elise Karras, Dani & Hanna Harel.

Landmark Fund

This Fund, in recognition of our achieving landmark status as an Historic Site, is earmarked for ongoing renewal and special projects connected with the maintenance of the building.

Martha Michaels, Sylvia Steinberg, Jeffrey & Marcia Kammerman, Marilyn Moss Hendershot, Marion Mito & Family, Hanna & Dani Harel, Kristin & Ronen Harel, Nina Matathias, Ruth Stern & Susan Cohn, Cynthia & Jay Groopman-In honor of ACI's being named a state and national Historic Religious Site.



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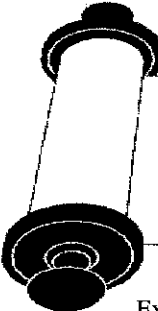
We have many interesting items for your Chanukah needs—and throughout the year. See our display cases in the lobby and on the lower level.

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